

Going to the Circus...is it permissible?

Question: O noble Shaykh may Allah grant you success. During the summer break there are many carnivals launched for the purpose of leisure. These carnivals contain circuses where some people walk on tight ropes; pull cars with their hair, eat hot coals and other things. Keeping in mind; some of them appear to have good characteristics with them. Thus what is the ruling for this?

Shaykh Fawzan: This is from Shaytan. This action is from Shaytan. No one is able to eat hot coals. I challenge him to drink boiling water. He will not drink boiling water. If you bring some boiling water and it touches him he will scream. Or if you bring a hot coal and place it on his leg he will scream. So how can he eat hot coals?! He is lying. He only makes it appear to the people that he is eating hot coals while in reality the hot coals don't touch him. The hot coals don't touch him or any of his body. Likewise the car is beside him it is not behind him. He lies and makes it appear to the people that it is behind him while it is beside him and not behind him. He swindles the people.

Okay let's remove these illusions of yours; lie on the ground and let's have a car drive over your back. Will he agree to this? He will not agree, he will never agree to this.

He stabs himself with a sword or a knife. Say to him: "I'm going to get a small knife and stab you with it." He will not agree because you are not a swindler, you are real; you will stab him for real. When he stabs himself it is not real he is only tricking the people. And there is a difference between this and that.

It is not permissible for the Muslims to validate these affairs, even if they call it tricks, or they call it art; regardless of what they call it. Meaning (it's not permissible) for us to open the door for magicians and swindlers. This is not permissible. It is obligatory upon the leaders to prevent this, they must prevent this immediately and not allow it. And the students of knowledge cannot remain silent about this.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee