

Contemporary Issues in

ISLAMIC COMMUNICATION

Editor

Mohd Yusof Hussain



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International Islamic University Malaysia

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The *Munkar* in Western Television Programs

MOHD YUSOF HUSSAIN

Introduction

The amount of *munkar* elements shown on global television has grown steadily in recent years causing concern to parents and teachers all over the Muslim world. The global entertainment programs are being watched by an increasing number of Muslims, particularly the youth. The concern is that these Western entertainment programs will corrupt the moral (*akhlaq*) of the youth

This chapter attempts to discuss the issue of *munkar* element in Western television programs from Western and Islamic perspectives as well as its effect on society. Strategies to combat the undesired effects will also be given.

The *Munkar* Elements

The word *munkar* which appear a number of times in the Qur'an, eg. in *surah* 3, verses 104 and 110 means "wrong" actions or behaviour. In this chapter *munkar* is translated as "actions or behaviour that transgresses the moral laws of Allah s.w.t."

A careful examination of Western television programs shown on global television, especially on channels AXN, HBO, Hallmark, Star World and Astro Box Office Movie in 2008 revealed the existence of the following *munkar* elements:

1. Scantily dress men and women.
2. Nudity.
3. Sexual acts
4. Dating, dancing and kissing.
5. Unmarried couples living together.