The Objectives pursued by Surah Al-Hujurat

The goal of this Surah is to elucidate upon a series of life-giving commandments of Akhlaq (Ethics and Morality) and social interaction which (if put into practice), would lead to an ideal civilization. These in turn could create and cultivate a pure society that is far removed from all sorts of blameworthy moral traits. This Surah incorporates a series of comprehensive and beneficial commandments for the purification of the soul and spirit for all of humanity. If the conditions and ethical injunctions mentioned in this Surah were acted upon within all societies, then we would definitely be able to bring about a calm and peaceful environment full of consideration (for others) and contentment for all – far removed from all sorts of wicked and evil ethical traits. This Surah gives us an overall view of a pure and uncontaminated society in which not only the tongue and ears of the individuals, rather even their thoughts and reflections are not given complete free reign, such that are free to say whatever they want to say, hear whatever they want to hear, or do whatever they wish to do in relation to other people.

The following is a list summarizing the commandments that are mentioned in this Surah:

1. Having discipline and order, while in the presence of Allah (SWT) and the Messenger (SAWW).
2. The people who have true faith are instructed and commanded how they should speak to their leaders.
3. The people who have true faith are also commanded that when they are given news or testimony about another person from one who commits sins in the open, is known for his wicked ways or is not scared of his transgressions that they must not accept such a testimony from him and must stay away from all forms of rumors and gossip.
4. The general thoughts and opinions of the people have absolutely no value when compared to the orders and directives of the infallible Prophet (SAWW).
5. Each and every person possesses an ethical conscience.
6. It is incumbent upon every Muslim that he strives for peace, and must stand up against the oppressors in order to uphold the truth and maintain the rights of the oppressed.
7. All Muslims are brothers (and sisters) of and equal to one another and it is incumbent that they all endeavor to ensure that peace and happiness are established amongst themselves.
8. A Muslim does not have the right to make fun of another Muslim.
9. It is forbidden to find or pick faults in other people according to the teachings of Islam.
10. A true believer does not have the right to call his brother in faith by a nickname or bad name.
11. It is forbidden *(haram)* to think bad thoughts about a believing brother (or sister).
12. It is expressly forbidden to spy on or pry into the secrets and private life and affairs of other people.
13. It is a major sin to speak bad things behind the back of another Muslim.
14. In this Surah, the issue of racial superiority has also been brought to an end and the only criteria for judging who is better (than another person) is one's merit, piety and abstinence from those things which Allah (SWT) has forbidden and by keeping away from all sins.

Today, we eat, we sleep, we check social media, we repeat ... without realizing that it isn't real. It has become second nature for us to pick up our phones and log on to our social media profiles immediately after waking up. We mindlessly scroll through hundreds of posts. We comment, we react, we 'like' and we 'share'. Many of us prefer not to think of the disadvantages of social media, because of how dependent we are on it as a form of entertainment — a way to kill boredom.

For many of us, it is an unknown addiction. Just like all other things in life, social media also requires that we are cognizant of etiquettes which are a pre-requisite. Here is a simple exercise that you can go through before you get on social media….

Social Media Etiquette

is it **T**rue
is it **H**elpful
is it **I**nspiring
is it **N**ecessary
is it **K**ind