

THE MENACE OF DRUGS

((Written by: Phool))

What are Drugs? Why is there so much talk about the drugs? Why do people become their victim? Are narcotics called drugs? These are some of those questions which are being asked by many of us. The elders try to answer but not satisfactorily. In spite of many warnings about the dangers of drugs, the number of addicts is increasing rapidly. About 1.5 Million people are said to be drug-addicts and have ruined their lives. Pakistan is one of the worst victims of this menace. Its annual heroin market is of \$1.2 billion. According to government sources, 600,000 people become drug addicts annually in Pakistan. It is an alarming situation. The drug-addict looks pale and intoxicated. He lives in a world of fantasy, forgetting everything else. Drugs make him sleepy and depressed. His condition becomes miserable and unfit for any kind of healthy activity. Opium, heroin, marijuana, hashish are the drugs that made the addict doleful. Marijuana and hashish are dried leaves and flowers of a plant called 'hemp'. The leaves, flowers even stalks of this plant are smoked and sometimes chewed. Heroin is a refined form of opium, fifty times more potent than the later.