



Unfortunately, it is a normal practice in our society to expect from our younger generation to extend respect, honour and dignity to our elders, BUT, we (the elders) are often reserved or hesitant to show our Love, Affection and Kindness to children around us. Today, we will have a cursory look at the Sunnah of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) which reveals how far removed from reality the stereotype of a devout Muslim is these days.

“The Prophet’s Affection for Children”

The Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) treated everyone with utmost kindness. He did not subscribe to the pre-Islamic macho notion that expressing tenderness to children or showing kindness to women was a sign of weakness. On the contrary, he publicly expressed his affection for children.

According to an authentic Hadith, narrated in the *Saheeh Al-Bukhari*, Allah’s Messenger kissed Al-Hassan ibn Ali while Al-Aqra bin Habis Al-Tamim was sitting with him. Al-Aqra said, “I have 10 children and have never kissed one of them.” The Prophet cast a look at him and said, “Whoever is not merciful to others will not be treated mercifully.”

In another incident, Mother of Believers Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) narrated that a Bedouin visited the Prophet (pbuh) and said, “You kiss the boys. We don’t kiss them.” The Prophet (pbuh) said, “I cannot put mercy in your heart after Allah has taken it away from it.”

One of the Prophet’s (pbuh) closest young companions, Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him), said, “I never saw anyone who was more



Insha-Allah

Compassionate toward children than Allah’s Messenger. His son Ibrahim was in the care of a nurse in the hills around Al-Madinah. He would go there, and we would go with him, and he would enter the house, pick up his son and kiss him, then come back.” (Muslim)

The Prophet’s (pbuh) affection was not limited to his immediate family circle. For instance, he used to play with Usamah bin Zayd, a child of Abyssinian origin, and his grandson Hassan, holding them together. “The Messenger of Allah used to put me on one of his thighs and put Hassan ibn Ali on his other thigh, and then embrace us and say, ‘O Allah please be merciful to them, as I am merciful to them.’” (Al-Bukhari)

The Prophet’s (pbuh) treatment of baby girls was also a benchmark in the ancient times when a girl was viewed with scorn. The ‘real men’ in those days would rather kill a baby girl than allow her to grow up in their homes. However, the Prophet (pbuh) challenged this inhuman attitude and used to play with them in the same way he would with male children.

Abu Qatadah Al-Salami reports: "The Prophet (pbuh) prayed carrying Umama bint Zainab, a granddaughter: When he was standing he carried her, but when he prostrated himself, he put her on the floor." (Al-Bukhari). According to another report, "When he bowed in ruku he put her on the floor, and when he arose from prostration he carried her." (Muslim), The Prophet said, "I start the prayer intending to prolong it, but on hearing the cries of a child, I shorten the prayer because I know that the cries of the child will incite the mother's passion." (Al-Bukhari)

Another incident reported by Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) demonstrated how tender the Prophet (pbuh) was with babies. A child once urinated on the Prophet (pbuh) but he neither complained nor made a fuss. He simply cleaned his clothes by pouring some water over the soiled place. (Al-Bukhari)

The Prophet (pbuh) would have fun with the children who had come back from Abyssinia and tried to speak in Abyssinian with them. It was his practice to give lifts on his camel to children when he returned from journeys. The Prophet (pbuh) also used to pay attention to children and their hobbies. Anas bin Malik narrated: "The Prophet (pbuh) used to mingle with us to the extent that he would say to the younger brother of mine, Father of Umair, what you did with Al-Nughair (a pet bird)." (Muslim)

The Prophet's (pbuh) audience included kings, warriors and wise men. Yet he found time to cuddle babies and have fun with children. This is how a true Muslim should be because the Prophet (pbuh) is the role model and he made the lives of children he interacted with pleasant.

"112 YEARS AGO"

A CHALLENGE

Following is the re-production of what you see on your right

BACKS FAITH WITH HIS LIFE.

East Indian Wants to Prove Mohammed's Greatness.

LONDON, Dec. 2 – A curious proposition has been made to Lord Curzon of Kedleston, the Viceroy of India, by Mirza Ahmad, a well-known Mohammedan of Kadian. He wants the British Government to call a public conference of all the religions and submit them to competitive examination under two demonstrations of the sublimity of their moral teachings and an outward sign of Divine support by the performance within a year of some miracle transcending all human limits.

If he fails to prove that Mohammed was greater than all others, Ahmad offers to submit to crucifixion.

"The New York Times"

Published: December 3, 1899

BACKS FAITH WITH HIS LIFE. East Indian Wants to Prove Mohammed's Greatness.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—A curious proposition has been made to Lord Curzon of Kedleston, the Viceroy of India, by Mirza Ahmad, a well-known Mohammedan of Kadian. He wants the British Government to call a public conference of all the religions and submit them to competitive examination under two demonstrations of the sublimity of their moral teachings and an outward sign of Divine support by the performance within a year of some miracle transcending all human limits.

If he fails to prove that Mohammed was greater than all others, Ahmad offers to submit to crucifixion.

The New York Times

Published: December 3, 1899

Copyright © The New York Times

"THE CHALLENGE"



Muhammad Anwar Shaheed

Twenty five years later, his presence is greatly yearned for, his memories still living and his name still fills our hearts with tender sorrow. The late Imam Muhammad Anwar Shaheed, at the young age of 47, was martyred in Georgetown, Guyana on April 9th.

He left behind a dedicated wife, an infant daughter, countless mourning relatives and a desolate Jama'at. Anwar Shaheed was the Imam and Missionary of the Central Ahmadiyah Anjuman Isha'at-e-Islam (Lahore) and was posted in London, UK. He had devoted his life to the cause of Islam and optimistically faced up to all sorts of hardships in his conduct. He bravely, humbly and modestly stood for his faith and belief.

My memories of him are of pure love and getting spoiled by him. He'd wait for me at the airport with a bag of Gummy Bears every single time I visited him from Saudi Arabia. He'd whisper the same thing to my ear every time as well "I have surprises for you at home". The weekly trips to the Sunday market in London, followed by Cotton Candy still crawl my memories from time to time. The last doll he gave me is now played with by my daughter, Ayesha. I wish I had more memories of him.

Even more I wish he was still amongst us as this world would be a much better place with him around. May Almighty Allah grant him the promised Jannah and may his martyrdom be rewarded. Ameen

My late Grandfather and a very close friend of Mr. Anwar Shaheed, Mr. Muhammad Saleh Noor, wrote a poem for him at his passing away. The poem, written in Urdu is a beautiful piece of work; however I have humbly attempted to translate it in English.

"ANWAR"

**Leaving the sorrowful behind, he went away
An incident turned his fate and our lives
astray**

**Holding on to his devotion and piety
He crossed all hindrances with dedication and
loyalty**

**How beautiful is death given in Allah's way
Mankind is nothing, we come today and
tomorrow we go away**

**"O my friend, you have reached your
destination"**

**These words from my mouth are like the
qalima of fascination**

**On such a journey, alone, why did you leave?
I see how our friendship is, I see**

**Allah's decree is not to call the martyrs
deceased**

**Because of this command my heart finds some
peace**

**I wish to follow behind on your footsteps and
give my life a meaning
Anwar, you changed the significance of my
life by leaving.**

Siddiqa Sadiq

Quebec, Canada

siddiqa.sadiq@gmail.com

NOOR-I-ISLAM

CANADA

Tarbiyyati Course: *Chalo Chalo, Lahore Chalo*, Central Anjuman is organizing its Annual Training Course from 03 July to 17 July, 2011. A great opportunity to visit The Central Anjuman offices, enjoy their wonderful hospitality and learn all what you have been waiting for. Plan the trip, check is you need visa to enter Pakistan, apply if you need one, book your flight and there you go. We can guarantee you a wonderful fun time. Send a copy of your itinerary to Mr. Amir Aziz at amirazizgs@gmail.com

Canadians Go to Polls: The government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper was brought down in the parliament by way of a vote of no-confidence. Elections have been called in Canada to take place on the 2nd of May, 2011. For the information of everyone, Canadians can vote in FOUR different ways. Go to your nearest **polling station on the day of election**, May 2, 2011, OR Vote at **advance polling stations between 22 and 25 April, 2011**, OR Vote **by special ballot**, apply for registration before 26 April, OR Vote **by mail**, apply for Ballot Kit before 26 April and mail your ballot to read Elections Canada before the election date of 02 May, 2011. Life is easy eh?

Hazrat Ameer & Col. Shaukat: During the last few days, Hazrat Ameer {in Pakistan} and Col. Shaukat {in USA} were admitted in the hospitals and are still recovering / under-treatment. All of our members or anyone who come across this news is kindly requested to pray for the full and complete recovery of both. May Almighty Allah accept our humble prayers, Aameen.

رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ
صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ وَأَدْخِلْنِي بِرَحْمَتِكَ فِي عِبَادِكَ الصَّالِحِينَ

www.aaiil.org

