

Children's Devotion to Islam

1.) Children keep fast

● Rubbayi' bint Mu'awwaz (radhiAllahu naha) says: "**Once the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) told us to fast on the 10th of Muharram. Since then, we have always been fasting on that day. Even the children were made to fast with us. When they cried out in hunger, we turned their attention away with toys made of cotton till the time of Iftaar.**"

Lesson#1: We learn from this story that even the young children of those days would fast.

Lesson #2: Parents would encourage their children to practice deen, and not make excuses that they are too young.

2.) Aishah (radhiAllahu anha's) Zeal for Knowledge

● Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) was married to the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) when she was very young. She was only 18 at the time of the Prophet's passing away. Even though her age was young, she is responsible for many Ahadith and regulations of Islamic practices. This is due to her eagerness and zeal of learning from the Prophet as much as she could. This helped her later on where she became an authority and master of Islamic knowledge.

Masrooq (rahmatullahi alaih) says: "I saw many eminent Sahabah coming to Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) for seeking knowledge about Islamic jurisprudence."

● Ata (Rahmatullah alaih) says: "Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) was more learned than any of the men of her time."

● Abu Musa Ash'ari (radhiAllahu anhu) says:

"With the help of Aishah (radhiAllahu anha) a solution was found to each and every problem we had to face in the field of religious knowledge."

- The books of Hadith contain as many as 2,210 Ahadith narrated by Aishah (radhiAllahu anha).

Lesson #1: This clearly shows her great zeal and devotion for Islamic knowledge right from her childhood.

Lesson #2: This shows us that females are just as capable of excelling in Islam and knowledge of Jurisprudence just as males are.

3.) Ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anahu) memorizes the Qur'an in His Childhood

- Abdullah bin Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu) used to say to the people:

"Come to me for your difficulties in understanding the Qur'an. I memorized it while I was only a child."

He is also reported to have said:

"I had completed my reading of the Qur'an when I was only ten."

The reading of the Qur'an by the Sahabah was not done like the reading by the non-Arabs of today. Whatever they read, they read with full meaning and explanation. As the impression of something memorized in childhood is very deep and permanent, so Abdullah bin Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu) is accepted as Imam in Tafsir. None of the Sahabah have narrated more Ahadith in explaining the meanings of Qur'an than was done by Ibn Abbas.

- Abdullah bin Mas'ood (radhiAllahu anhu) says:

"Ibn Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu) is the best commentator of the Qur'an."

Abdullah bin Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu) was 13 at the time of the Prophet's death. It is miracle that he knew so much of the Qur'an and Hadith at such a young age. Many eminent Sahabah used to come to him to solve their difficulties about the interpretation of the Qur'an. This was, however, all due to the blessing of the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), who once coming out from the closet had found water lying ready for his use and asked: "Who put this water here?" Somebody said: "Ibn Abbas."

The Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) appreciated this service and prayed for Ibn Abbas saying: **“O Allah! Give him the knowledge and understanding of the Qur'an and practices of Islam.”**

Lesson #1: Learning something from a young age will benefit one later on life.

Lesson #2: We see from this story that the serving the pious and righteous people and getting their prayers and blessings will help us in this life and in the hereafter.

4.) Zaid bin Thabit (radhiAllahu anhu) Memorizes the Qur'an

- Zaid bin Thabit (radhiAllahu anhu) is one of those eminent Sahabah who are considered to be most learned and whose words in religious matters carry much weight. He was an expert in fiqh. It is said that he was among the top ranking jurists, judges and recitors of the Qur'an. He was only 11 when the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) emigrated to Madinah. He had lost his father when he was only six.

When the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) arrived in Madinah, people brought their children to him to receive his blessing. Zaid was also brought to him for the same purpose. He says:

"When I was presented to the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), he was informed that I had then memorized seventeen surahs of the Qur'an. In order to test me, he told me to recite some of these. I recited Surah Qaaf. He was very happy and rewarded me with his words of appreciation."

- The Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), when writing letters to the Jews outside Madinah, used to utilize the services of the local Jews. Once he said to Zaid, "I am not satisfied with what the Jews write and read for me. I fear that they might do miswriting or misreading. I want you to learn the Jewish language."

Zaid (radhiAllahu anhu) says:

"In fifteen days, I mastered Hebrew and after that I started doing all such correspondence for him."

According to another Hadith, Zaid (radhiAllahu anhu) is reported to have similarly mastered the Syrian language at the order of the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). He managed this within the short period of 17 days only.

Lesson #1: The Sahaba (radhiAllahu anhum) also learned foreign languages for the benefit of Islam and the Muslims.

Lesson you learned: