



Questions regarding children answered by Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat



Written pearls taken from the statements of Shaykh-e-Tareeqat, Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, the founder of Dawat-e-Islami, Allamah Maulana Abu Bilal Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri Razavi رحمۃ اللہ علیہ.

امیرِ اہلِ سنّت سے بچوں کے بارے میں سوالات

Ameer-Ahl-e-Sunnat say bachon kay baray mayn suwalaat

Questions about children from Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat

THIS booklet was presented in Urdu by Majlis Al-Madina-tul-‘Ilmiyyah. **Translation Department (Dawat-e-Islami)** has translated it into English. If you find any mistake in the translation or composing, please inform the Translation Department on the following postal or email address with the intention of earning reward [Sawab].

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Questions about children from Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat

An English translation of 'Ameer-Ahl-e-Sunnat say bachon kay baray
mayn suwalaat'



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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Du'a for Reading the Book

Read the following Du'a (supplication) before you study a religious book or an Islamic lesson, you will remember whatever you study, *إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ*:

اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ عَلَيْنَا حِكْمَتَكَ وَأَنْشُرْ
عَلَيْنَا رَحْمَتَكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ

Translation

O Allah *عَزَّوَجَلَّ*! Open the doors of knowledge and wisdom for us, and have mercy on us! O the One Who is the Most Glorious and Honourable! (*Al-Mustatraf, vol. 1, p. 40*)

Note:

Recite Salat upon the prophet ﷺ once before and after the Du'a.

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*This booklet comprises of questions asked to Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat
وَامَاتُ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةُ and their answers.*

Questions about children from Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat

Du'a of the successor of Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat

O Allah Almighty! Whosoever reads or listens to the 24-page booklet 'Questions about children from Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat', grant them blessings, in both religious and worldly affairs, grant them the ability to act upon religious matters, and forgive them without accountability.

اٰمِيْن بِجَاہِ النَّبِيِّ الْاَمِيْن صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

The excellence of Salat upon the Prophet

It is stated by the final Prophet of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ: Recite Salat upon me, Allah Almighty will send mercy upon you. (*Al-Kamil li-Ibn 'Aadi, vol. 5, p. 505*)

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

How should birthdays be celebrated?

Question: Your fostered grandson (a family tie caused from a child sharing the same milk), Hasan Raza Attari bin Ali Raza, became three years old on the 13th of Jumadal-Oolaa, 1440 Hijri, **بِمَا شَاءَ اللهُ**. There was a function held on this occasion, in which no cake was cut nor did anything similar take place. Rather, arrangements were made for the recitation of Na'at and distribution of Niyaz (food which was recited upon, therefore becoming blessed). Please explain: Can we use events like these to gain reward? Also, in which way should we celebrate children's birthdays?

Answer: **سُبْحَانَ اللهِ!** The way Hasan Raza's birthday was celebrated is a means of great blessing. This is because the home in which this takes place has within it the remembrance of Allah and His Prophet **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**, with Du'a also being made, and mercy descends on such occasions. Sayyiduna Sufyan bin 'Uyaynah **رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ** states: Mercy descends when the pious are mentioned. (*Haliya-tul-Awliya, vol. 7 p. 335, Raqm 10750*) So when the master of the righteous, the king of the elect, the Messenger of Allah **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ** is mentioned, and words in praise of him are recited, then will mercy not descend at that time? When mercy descends, then will all those who are present not be immersed in it? Then when all of the gathering is now saturated in this rainfall of mercy, and the Madani flower whose birthday is being celebrated is also present there, then will the sprinkles of mercy not fall upon that flower? Also,

the one who upon whom mercy has descended, will he not receive blessings? Without doubt, by means of this gathering, Dua's will be received and blessings will be attained. On birthdays and other such occasions, these types of gatherings and events should continue to happen. Moreover, whenever arranging a gathering of Na'at, then make sure to invite a muballigh to deliver a Sunnah-inspired Bayan and to give Madani pearls of wisdom and rectification. **اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ**, we have a custom of making Du'a so that children may receive the benefit of them, and also attain a share of it in the hereafter.

The benefits of having religious elders look upon children with their spiritual gaze

There are glad tidings found in the Holy Quran about the acceptance of Du'a: **ادْعُونِيْ اَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ** (24th Parah, Surah Mu'minoon, verse, 60) Translation from Kanz-ul-Iman: '*Supplicate to Me, I will accept it*' For those children who go on to become pious, decorate themselves with the adornment of knowledge and serve the religion of Allah Almighty, it is not unlikely that they received many Du'as during their childhood, and the outcome of those Du'as is what led them to attain such a lofty status, although nobody is aware of whose Du'a is accepted in their favour.

The earlier generations would take their children to the righteous elders **رَحِمَهُمُ اللّٰهُ**, ask them to make Du'a for the

children, look at them with their spiritual gaze and blow on them. When there was no issue of security measures for me, and I could freely go to the masjid for Salah, on countless occasions, I would see young men holding small children or utensils filled with water. This was so that every person who came for Salah could blow on the child or water. Perhaps this practice still takes place, and this is a good and righteous act. By doing this, the mercy of Allah Almighty is present, and numerous blessings are also attained. Nevertheless, we should celebrate the birthdays of our children in the ways that were just described.

The way to celebrate birthdays in a religious environment

Question: How are children's birthdays celebrated in the religious environment of Dawat-e-Islami?

Answer: In our religious environment, birthdays are celebrated with a gathering of Na'at. After this, Niyaz is arranged and its reward is presented in the court of the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, Ghaus-e-A'zam and other pious predecessors رَحِمَهُمُ اللهُ. Normally, birthdays are celebrated by cutting cakes, lighting candles and then blowing them out, and مَعَادَا لِلَّهِ popping balloons. Whereas, the popping of balloons is impermissible, as this is a wastage of money. This is not something that is done in the religious environment of Dawat-e-Islami, and if someone performs these acts, it should not be

said that he is associated with Dawat-e-Islami. The way in which birthdays are celebrated in an environment based on religious principles, this is permissible. No person of a right mind will label this as wrong. However, they (meaning the permissible gatherings that take place for birthdays) should not be referred to as Sunnah-inspiring. In this regard, if you wish to celebrate the birthday of your children, gather some family members together and conduct Niyaz for Ghaus-e-A'zam رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ. Invite a pious person, for example, the imam of the masjid, a scholar, or muballigh, and have them make Du'a for your children. **اِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ**, you will secure a vast treasure of reward.

Day by day, does one's age increase or decrease?

Question: It is said on birthdays that the child has become one year older. Is there truly an increase in the age of the child, and is there any problem in saying this?

Answer: Nowadays, people say on birthdays that the child has become so-and-so years old and become so big. In reality, he does not become bigger, but has actually become younger. For example, let's say that in the knowledge of Allah Almighty, Hasan Raza is to live for 92 years, and has so far lived 3, so apparently, he has become older and there is no harm in saying he is older, but he has actually 89 years of life left, meaning his

age has decreased by three years. When birthdays arrive, a lesson can be learned by thinking like this.

In the present day, those in old age celebrate their birthdays with happiness, whereas old age and happiness are both in opposition to each other. Even if an elderly person smiles, there is an entire world of sadness behind their smile and a storm of sorrow behind their laughter, however this is only for those elderly individuals with a thoughtful disposition, who keep their impending death at the forefront of their mind, and who fear Allah Almighty. I am not speaking about those elderly people who are victims of heedlessness, rather, I am speaking about those who understand what I am saying, and who recognize its importance.

How is it to pop balloons and cut cakes on birthdays?

Question: How is it to pop balloons and cut cakes on birthdays?

Answer: In our time, the condition of people is such that on birthdays, whilst laughing loudly and shouting 'Happy birthday', they also pop balloons. Doing this is wastefulness, and a useless action. Money is wasted doing this. It is not impermissible to have balloons altogether, rather, bursting them is wasteful. Therefore, these sorts of customs from which problems could arise should not be started in the first place.

We do not hang balloons nor cut cakes on our birthday, as I do not like it. My birthday, meaning the 26th of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, is celebrated by Islamic brothers, but only I am aware of what I experience during this. (Persian line), 'I know about myself, what I really am.' Some Islamic brothers cut cakes, and these cakes also reach me. However, I tell those who do this that they may have cut a cake this time, but they should not do so in the future. This is because I do not wish to make these actions into a custom. Commonly, when a cake is cut during birthday parties, then clapping, loud exclamations of 'Happy birthday' and raucous laughter takes place alongside it. It is not known how many Sunnah acts are missed out on, then the major issue arises of the unveiled free mixing between men and women, as they cheer, clap and interact without restriction. 'Unveiled free mixing and clapping between men and women is Haraam.' (*Bahr-e-Shari'at*, vol. 3, p. 511, section 16, abridged)

Instead of cutting cakes and clapping, a gathering of Na'at should be arranged. Even if somebody does not feel anything during the Na'at gathering, he will still be protected from clapping hands and other sins. The Na'at of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ will cause sweetness in his ears, and in this way, it will begin to enter his heart and he will gain its blessings. *إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ*, a large reward will also be granted to him.

It is beneficial to take children into the presence of scholars and righteous figures

Question: The Imam of the two Harams, Sayyiduna Abdul-Malik bin Abdullah Jawani رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, who was the teacher of Imam Muhammad Ghazali رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, and Imam Muhammad Ghazali رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ became inclined towards acquiring Islamic knowledge upon simply observing Sayyiduna Abdul Malik رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ. He states: The apparent cause through which I attained my high rank and status was that my father would take me to visit the scholars and righteous luminaries, and have them make Du'a for me. Please explain, is it still of benefit to take our children to the scholars and righteous, and to have them make Du'a for our children?

(Question asked by the honourable Mufti)

Answer: Indeed, it is of great benefit to take children to the scholars and righteous, and there is absolutely no doubt or uncertainty in this. One can ask any pious person to make Du'a for their children, or to grant them spiritual attention. In relation to this, the Imam of the Ahl-us-Sunnah, Maulana Shah Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ mentions in Fatawa Razawiyyah, volume 22, page 394: Once, Sayyiduna Shaykh Shahabuddin Suharwerdi رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ was seen going from row to row in Masjid Khayf, which is located in Mina Shareef. So, somebody asked him why he was doing this, to which he replied: I am doing so, because there are some bondsmen of

Allah Almighty that when they look towards somebody, he is gifted with everlasting prosperity.¹

Remember! Taking your child to meet a sportsman, actor or dancer is not a matter of fortune, rather, it is an action which could become a cause of your destruction. If somebody is not known for his good deeds, but he is punctual in Salah, keeps a beard, ties an Imamah or wears a skullcap, or displays any commendable outward qualities that signify him to be pious, then you should take your children to him in order to attain spiritual blessings. Even if he does not blow upon him, simply stand your child in front of him or place the child in his hands. The virtuous gaze of the pious person will then fall on the child, and if they were to pick the child up and kiss him, then this would be even better.

An invocation to remove stammering

Question: Please inform us of a spiritual cure for the one who stammers whilst speaking.

¹ *Sayyiduna Allamah Muhammad Abd-ur-Ra'oof Manaawi رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ writes: Sayyiduna Shaykh Shahabuddin Suharwerdi رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ, during his stay in Mina, was moving around the various rows in Masjid Khayf. When somebody asked why, he stated: اللهُ عَيَّا رَادًا فَكَرَّرَ: اِلَى شَخِصٍ اُكْسَبِيَهُ سَعَادَةٌ الْاَبَرِ فَاَنَا اَطْلُبُ ذَلِكَ, meaning: There are some bondsmen of Allah Almighty, when their vision falls upon somebody, they are gifted with everlasting prosperity. It is in search of that gaze that I am moving from row to row. (At-Tayseer bi-Sharh-ul-Jami-us-Sagheer, vol. 1, p. 485)*

Answer: After every Salah, recite the following four verses, seven times. If they cannot be recited seven times, then read them once:

قَالَ رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي ﴿٢٥﴾ وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي ﴿٢٦﴾ وَاحْلُلْ عُقْدَةً مِّنْ

لِسَانِي ﴿٢٧﴾ يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي ﴿٢٨﴾

Said Moosa, 'O my Lord, open up my chest for me (to increase my confidence).' 'And make my task easy for me.' 'And untie the knot of my tongue.' 'In order that they may understand my speech.'

[Kanz-ul-Iman (translation of Quran)] (Part 16, Surah Taha, verses 25-28)

In the beginning of the first verse, there is the word 'قَالَ', however, when performing this spiritual cure, do not recite this word. If it is recited, then it will become the narration of the words of Sayyiduna Musa عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام, as this was his Du'a. He had placed burning coal in his mouth as a child, because of which his blessed tongue developed a knot. Allah Almighty then taught him this Du'a. If a child stutters and cannot recite this Du'a himself, then his mother, father or anybody who can recite the Holy Quran correctly should recite it for him and blow upon him; Allah Almighty will open the knot of his tongue.

Safety measures and litanies for protection against kidnapping

Question: Many children are being abducted in the present day. Please give some litanies we may recite to remain safe from this and some safety measures we can take. (A question from Hyderabad)

Answer: Yes, indeed, there are many cases of children being abducted nowadays. May Allah Almighty have mercy; I do not know why children are being kidnapped in this way. I came to know through an audio message sent to me from an Islamic brother in Zam-Zam Nagar (Hyderabad) that a six-year-old girl was recently abducted. The next day, her body was found in pieces inside a bag, discarded at a dumpsite. To martyr a six-year-old girl in this way with such coldness, and then leave her body at a dumpsite, is an act beyond understanding. Generally, these incidents occur due to domestic issues or personal conflicts. In this situation, there is tremendous grief for the parents of the child; may Allah Almighty grant them patience.

Similarly, whenever someone's child is kidnapped to obtain ransom money, their family and household will lose their sleep completely. It is apparent that those who perform these kidnappings do not watch Madani Channel, for if they did watch it, they would not commit such acts. May Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ grant guidance to those who cause distress to people by abducting children, and may they be given the ability to

ponder over the fact that kidnapping is a sinful act, and that they are soon to die.

Never leave children alone

One measure that can be taken to ensure the safety of children is to never leave them by themselves, and whenever they go or come, they must be accompanied by an adult. This is because when they are alone, the risk of them being kidnapped increases, but when an adult is present with them, then this risk will decrease. Also, children should be taught to cry, wail, scream and shout if anyone attempts to abduct them. Like this, the kidnapper will panic and run away, fearful of people gathering and seizing him instead. Children should also be given the mindset that no matter how many sweets or toys someone offers them, they are not to go anywhere with that person. I was taught at home, from an early age, to not take money or any other thing from anyone, to the extent that my mother would say, ‘Even if somebody puts a heap of gold in front of you, you are not to go near them.’

A litany for the safeguarding of children

The litany for safeguarding children is as follows: with Salat upon the Prophet once in the beginning and end, recite ‘يَا حَافِظُ يَا حَافِظُ’ eleven times, and if the child is then blown upon, they will attain safety, and إِنَّ شَاءَ اللَّهُ, nobody will be able to kidnap

them. **اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ**, there are hundreds, rather, thousands of stalls established nationally and internationally under the supervision of Majlis Roohani 'Ilaj (Department of Spiritual Cures). There is also a stall established in the Global Madani Markaz, Faizan-e-Madinah, Karachi. As such, from the stalls of Ta'wizaat-e-Attariyyah, obtain a Ta'weez of protection and have children wear them. So, if anybody wants to abduct them, they will now remember to scream and shout, and begin doing so, or Allah Almighty will send somebody to aid them and the potential kidnapper will run away upon seeing them, or whenever someone extends their hands to abduct them, panic and fear will overcome him and he will run in the opposite direction. With the blessings of the Ta'weez, Allah Almighty will create the means through which children can be safeguarded, and like this, through the use of a Ta'weez, children can be protected.

A litany for the protection of adults

For adults, the litany to remain safeguarded is: whilst washing each body part during Wudu, recite **'يَا قَادِرُ'** once. For example, when starting Wudu, whilst washing the right and left hands, recite **'يَا قَادِرُ'** once. In this manner, once you have rinsed the mouth once, before rinsing it the second time, recite **'يَا قَادِرُ'** once. Moving forward, after sniffing water into the nose once, now stop and recite **'يَا قَادِرُ'**, then proceed to sniffing water into

the nose for the second time. Like this, when washing each body part and wiping the head, recite 'يَا قَادِرُ' once. In addition to this, Du'as can also be recited, but to recite Salat upon the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is superior, so this should be recited instead. If people continue to take precautions, as well as reciting litanies and invocations, إِنَّ شَاءَ اللهُ, things will improve.

When making Wudu in a basin, can we recite 'يَا قَادِرُ'?

Question: Can we recite 'يَا قَادِرُ' when making Wudu in the bathroom sink?

Answer: In the present day, there are a large number of amenities and comforts available in the homes of the wealthy, alongside fine items of decoration. Those of the middle class, who are only poor by name, also have decoration and ornamentation in their homes, but no place for a Wudu area. Even from those affiliated with the religious environment of Dawat-e-Islami, only a few have Wudu areas arranged in their homes, whereas encouragement to build a Wudu area in homes has been conveyed countless times. For more clarification, refer to the booklet published by Maktaba-tul-Madina 'Method of Wudu'; a blueprint for building a Wudu area is also given in this. Normally, within homes, Wudu is performed in sinks, and some of these are built as a part of the washroom. Remember, if the sink is inside the washroom, then you cannot recite 'يَا قَادِرُ' during Wudu or 'بِسْمِ اللهِ' before it.

Furthermore, reciting ‘بِسْمِ اللَّهِ’ before Wudu is Mustahab, and to only mention the name of Allah by itself is Sunnah Muakkadah (*Bahr-ul-Ra`iq, vol. 1, p. 39*). Thus, if one develops a habit of not reciting this, due to making Wudu in the washroom (within which no invocations can be read), then this will make him sinful. As such, in this situation, it will become necessary for a person to recite ‘بِسْمِ اللَّهِ’ outside of the washroom.

Kindly separate the sink from the W.C (toilet)

If the washroom is on the larger side, then install a sliding door or glass sheet to cover the W.C. Upon inspection, if they both appear separate from one another, then in this situation, when one is making Wudu in the basin/sink, there is no problem in reciting ‘يَا قَادِرُ’ and ‘بِسْمِ اللَّهِ’. Keep in mind, it will not be sufficient to simply install a plastic covering over the W.C., it is necessary use a solid thing, such as wood, cement, aluminium or hardwood, in order cover the W.C area. The washroom in my home, and the one I utilize in Faizan-e-Madina are both covered like this. Every now and then, whenever I happen to go to the homes of wealthy people, I do not enjoy performing Wudu in such places, because one must stand at the basin to perform Wudu. Those homes in which you have to stand at a sink to perform Wudu, either do not have any elderly person within them, or the poor souls stand and make Wudu. From this, these poor individuals must have pain in their legs, and may even fall down in some cases.

Keep this thought in mind: if an old person falls down and they land on a sensitive part or break bones in the process, then they cannot even stand up by themselves. In fact, they would have to be carried away by someone else. Then these poor souls would have to spend a year or two in pain recovering from this, as because of their old age, injuries and broken bones do not heal easily.

People nowadays construct all kinds of luxuries, swimming pools and fountains within their homes, but do not have two yards to build a Wudu area. Within your homes, build a Wudu area like those found in the masjid, in such a place that causes no trouble or reluctance in making Wudu, and add one or two taps therein; **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ** it will be very convenient. If you make an intention that you are constructing a Wudu area within the home so that the name of Allah Almighty can be taken, Salat upon the Prophet **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ** and **يَا قَاوُزُ** can be recited, then it shall become an act of worship to build it. To find out how to build a Wudu area, kindly read 'Method of Wudu' (Wudu ka Tareeqah), a booklet published by Dawat-e-Islami's Maktabatul-Madina. Madani pearls and images detailing how to construct a Wudu area are given in this booklet.

How is it to wear shoes with cartoons on them?

Question: Children in the present day insist on wearing shoes and buying toys which have images of cartoons upon them.

However, we have heard from our elders that we should not keep anything within the home that has an image upon it. Please give us the correct Shar'i guidance regarding this.

Answer: It is impermissible and prohibited to make such cartoons which clearly depict a living thing, for example, a living human or an animal which exists, because they fall under the same ruling as depictions. (*Mirqat-ul-Mafatih, vol. 8, p. 266, under the Hadith 4489*) Thus, remains the issue of shoes with images upon them; if there is any type of image upon shoes, even if it is the actual image of a human, there is no prohibition if a child was to wear them. This is because shoes are a place of disrespect, and the image upon them is not an obstacle for the angels of mercy nor do they cause any issue regarding Salah. (*Derived From, part 3, Bahr-e-Shari'at, vol. 1, p. 629*) However, the one who fashioned an image of a living thing upon the shoes is a sinner. (*Mirqat-ul-Mafatih, vol. 8, p. 266, under the Hadith 4489*)

Permissible toys can be played with, but they should be kept in a place of indignity. Some people have showcases or displays built in their homes, and toys which carry resemblance to living things are kept inside them. There are warnings concerning this, and angels of mercy do not the home for this reason. (*Bukhari, vol. 2, p. 385, Hadith 3225*) On the other hand, if such toys lay scattered around and they come under the feet then there is no prohibition.

Be gentle with children

Question: Should very young children serve their parents too?
(Question asked by a young child)

Answer: Small children should also serve their parents. If they begin to serve them now, then once they grow older, they will also continue to do the same. Furthermore, they will receive Du'a from their parents and they will also become happy. However, parents should take service from their children, as per their strength and ability. They should not make them serve them to such an extent that it becomes burdensome upon the child and exhausts them. When the child undertakes any of act of serving the parents, they should hearten and encourage him; bringing happiness to the heart is a means of reward, and encouragement is what spurs them to do more. A worldly benefit that comes with bringing happiness to the heart of the child is that they will go on to do more tasks with a willing heart. If the child is not encouraged, they will not make any advancement in life, and if they are chastised and told off constantly, they will eventually develop a broken heart and give up. When the child accomplishes anything major, they should be given a reward and Du'a should be made for them. It should not be the case that you abuse and curse the child constantly, for if it is a time of acceptance (of Du'a) and you make Du'a against them, then ultimately you will be the one who is left crying.

There is a lack of knowledge and education among those parents who constantly scold their children. On occasion, the mother incites the father by saying, ‘You regard this child too highly, you do not say anything to him, you do not discipline him, set him straight, a father should have awe, be harsh’, and if the father gets drawn into these statements, then the child becomes rebellious going forward, to such an extent that they go on to place their parents in care homes when they grow old. Safety for the parents lies in them being gentle and loving, but, if necessary, it is also fine if they are firm, whilst remaining within the boundaries of the sharia, however, reprimanding them over every little thing is not good, rather, it is harmful.

Why are children stubborn? (Question asked by a young child)

Question: Small children are exceedingly stubborn. How can we raise them in such a manner that they do not become so? Also, when they display stubbornness, what can be done at that time to make them desist from this? Please guide us in regards to the raising of children.

Answer: If they did not show any stubbornness, then who would call them children? A child will always display some form of stubbornness, and adults should learn from this. By being stubborn, the child is explaining to adults: I am a child,

but you are not, so you should not be stubborn. That is to say, stubbornness is the act of a child, not that of an adult.

The reason why children become constantly stubborn is because their parents have always given in to every act of stubbornness of theirs, and once the children grow older, they continue to be afflicted by this same habit. In the beginning, the child appears precious to the parents, and they are given more than what they request. However, as soon as they grow up and their every request is not fulfilled, then in this way, this concept sticks in the mind of the child that whatever I would previously ask for was given to me, and now my requests are no longer being fulfilled, thus, they become stubborn.

Sometimes, the stubbornness is displayed for no reason, but the answer to this is not to beat or scold the child, rather, the remedy for this situation is to stop responding and fulfilling the demands of the child. Slowly but surely, this habit of stubbornness will leave them. Also, in regards to this, do not immediately stop giving to the child; every now and then, their stubbornness should be given in to and their demand fulfilled, otherwise, the child will become rebellious towards the parents and begin to think bad of them, and it will unknowingly become fixed in the mind of the child that his parents are oppressing him. There are even some children who, after becoming older, have been heard to say that they did not receive love from their parents! Thus, it is better to put an end

to the habit of stubbornness within children, through the use of wisdom.

Remember! This habit cannot be brought to an end instantly. Some parents adopt an extremely unsuitable demeanour with their children, scolding them over every little thing, and even hitting them. They do not give them anything they desire, do not treat them with respect, and although they spend money, they do not get anything the child wants, rather, the parents continue doing whatever they deem fit. By doing this, children become rebellious towards their parents, and these poor souls then become disobedient to them, thereby ruining their hereafter.

A spiritual cure to remove stubbornness in children

If the child is being stubborn, and any one of the parents knows how to recite the Holy Quran correctly, they should recite Surah Falaq and Surah Naas once or thrice, with Salat upon the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ in the beginning and end once or thrice, then blow upon the child. **إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ**, things will improve.

Who are Ha`ou and Bha`ou?

Question: Adults sometimes say the following in order to scare children, 'Ha`ou will come', or, 'Bha`ou will come', or, 'O Ha`ou! Take him away!' Who are Ha`ou and Bha`ou, who

scare children but cannot even be seen? (Muhammad Daniyal Attari, student of Madrassa-tul-Madinah, Korangi number 2½, Karachi)

Answer: Ha`ou and Bha`ou are fictitious names; they do not actually exist. To say to children, 'Bha`ou will come and take you away, a beggar will snatch you away, look over there at Bha`ou', is a lie in some situations, and sins are the written in the book of deeds of the parents. (*Derived From, Abu Dawood, vol. 4, p. 387, Hadith 4991*) Another harm of this is that the child develops a fearful disposition and fear becomes fixed in his heart. Eventually, he will become too scared to go out in the dark to attend the Fajr prayer. Children should be made to be courageous, rather than fainthearted. On some occasions, the parents say, 'We will give you toys, biscuits and chocolates, and such-and-such thing', but their intention is to simply keep them appease, rather than actually bringing them anything. Lies should not be told like this. May Allah Almighty make us all truthful.

How is it to use a father's bike without permission?

Question: Some children use their father's bike without permission, and then quietly return it to its place. How is it to do this? (Muhammad Talhah Attari, Student of Madrassa-tul-Madina, Hifz department, Azizabad, Karachi)

Answer: There are three errors that come into view here. Firstly, the taking of the father's motorbike without permission; it is apparent that the father did not willingly allow the child to do so, and he would not be pleased if he came to find out about it. Secondly, the driving of a vehicle without a license, and thirdly, the driving of a vehicle at such a young age, whereas, it is not allowed for anyone under the age of 18 to do so, as there is greater danger of an accident occurring. Also, a child under the age of 18 cannot even obtain a license. To drive a vehicle without permission, and that too at such a young age, should not be done, as this is a danger to life, and the vehicle could be subject to damage, which ultimately results in loss for the father.

If anybody is hit or belongings are damaged, then a lawsuit could be filed, and there are youth detention centres in Karachi. In this case, the child will not be let off the hook and will be subject to imprisonment. Consequently, the mother, father and family members will also be left distressed, but there will be no benefit of crying and wailing, as their child will not be allowed to leave the jail. Also, there is no knowing of how much money will be spent in all of these affairs, hence, we must be very cautious and also adhere to Shari' and national laws.

Children should give salaam to others

Question: Certain children become shy when greeting others

with salaam; to whom should we give salaam? (A young child, Sayyid Muhammad Abbas Attari)

Answer: Children should also give salaam, so that they develop a habit of doing so. Whosoever is older, like the mother, father, brother, sister, uncle, aunt and those living in their vicinity, rather, whichever Muslim they come face to face with, should be greeted with salaam. When somebody visits your home, greet them with salaam, and when visiting the home of another, give salaam. If you develop this habit within yourselves now, then **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ** later in life this will prove to be useful.

Note: The questions posed on page 3, 4 and 10 were forwarded by the 'Malfuzaat-e-Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat' department, but the answers were kindly given by Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat **دَاعَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ** himself.

المنذ بلو نهد المنورين واعدوا واعداء كل من التوحيد كالبعد قاتلا بلو من المنطق الزبيره بنو الله الرحمن الزبيره

A statement of Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat

وَأَمَّت بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةَ

Give affection to children,
elders and the sick.

(15th of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, 1442 Hijri)



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