

MY BELOVED PROPHET
MY MOST BEAUTIFUL MODEL

Nehir Aydın Gökdoğan

For Children 7-Year-Old and Up



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FOREWORD

Children who, centuries ago, were living with the Prophet (ﷺ)¹ loved him so much. The Prophet (ﷺ) greeted them smiling sweetly, sometimes joined their games, and they played together.

Each of them had remembrance of the Prophet (ﷺ) that they couldn't forget. Some of them couldn't forget the day when they played with him, some other couldn't forget that the Prophet (ﷺ) caressed their heads, some remembered the Prophet's joke with a smile, and some kept his gift like a secret.

Then, those children grew up but they never left the Prophet (ﷺ). Their love to the Prophet (ﷺ) not only never ended up but it always increased. They were so happy to be with him, and were pleased to meet his wishes. They took their most enjoyable journeys with the Prophet (ﷺ).

Happiness of those friends of the Prophet (who will be called companions) (رضي الله عنهم)² became the happiness of the Prophet (ﷺ), and his happiness was their happiness. Their eyes looked towards the same direction, and their hearts felt the same emotions.

Can we imagine what they experienced with our beloved Prophet (ﷺ)? Can we feel a little bit from their indefinable happiness in their hearts? What do you say?

Our beloved Prophet's (ﷺ) compassion, clemency and affection would warm up our tiny hearts, wouldn't it?

Allah sent him as a sun of mercy and compassion to this universe. How could it be possible for his mercy not to reach into our little hearts filled with the love of the Prophet (ﷺ) while beams of the sun can reach to the deep valleys of giant mountains and depths of oceans?

Inshallah we live in this world with a heart filled with his love. Then in the Hereafter, on the Day of Judgment, we will say:

"Look O Messenger of Allah (ﷺ)! I have brought you a great love in my little trembling heart."

¹ Sal Allahou Aleihi wa sallem (Peace Be Upon Him)

² Radhi Allan Anhoum (May Allah Please with them)- sentence used for the companions (Sahabis)

ZAID THE LITTLE SLAVE

Little Zaid was crying his heart out, for he was far away from his house and alone. Bandits had kidnapped him from his family and taken him to a place that he did not know. They wanted to earn money by selling him to the wealthy people.

Zaid was hungry, thirsty, and miserable for days. He got tired waiting to be sold in the slave market. Slave sellers had no mercy to anybody. They were consumed with the love for money. Zaid was afraid that his master would be a bad person. He was full of anger towards the people who separated him from his family.

That day, while Zaid was looking at the crowd with sad eyes, a cheerful man drew near to him.

— What is your name son? He asked.

— Zaid, sir.

— What is your father's name?

— Harithah, sir.

While pronouncing his father's name Zaid felt very sad. He felt a deep pang when he thought that he was so far away from him. This time, the man asked:

— Are you hungry?

Zaid nodded his head, and stayed quiet. He hadn't eaten anything properly for days. He was longing for somebody to rescue him from there.



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The man felt sorry about Zaid, and said:

— Do you want to come with me and eat some tasty food?

Zaid liked that cheerful man.

— I would like to come with you even if there is no food, he said.

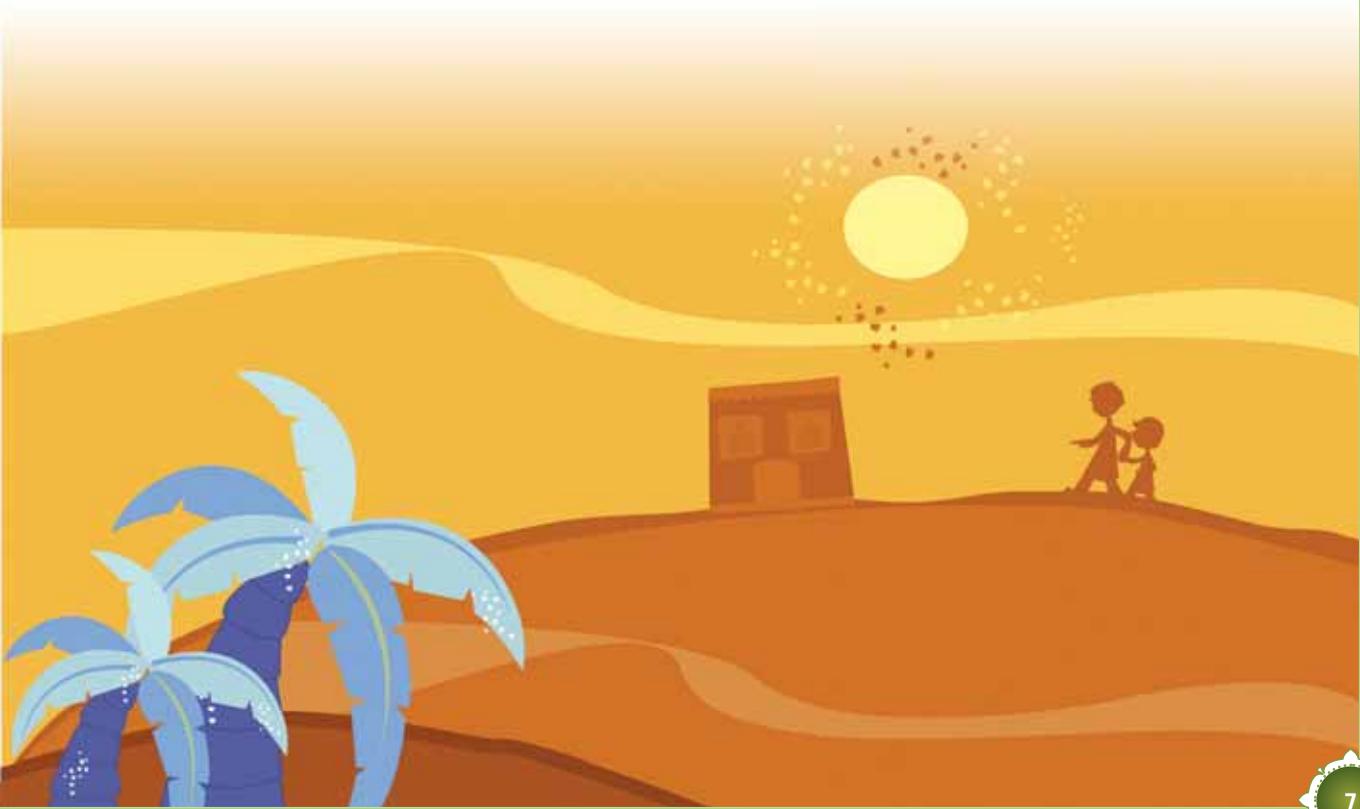
The man paid the sellers for Zaid. Then, he held the child's hand. They walked together and came to a house. That was the house of Khadija (ؓ). The cheerful man knocked on the door. Soon after, the hostess of the house appeared at the door. The man said:

— O daughter of my uncle! Here is the helper I bought for you.

Khadija (ؓ) caressed Zaid's head. Then, she invited them in to the house.

Zaid felt safe with these kindhearted people, and his sadness was alleviated a little bit.

After a while, they sat down to a rich table, and ate with pleasure.



ZAID'S DECISION

In the meantime months passed. Zaid was happy with his life in his new house. Khadija (t) had a kind heart. She accepted Zaid like her own child, not her slave. She neither got angry with him, nor rebuked him. She was so nice to him.

Sometime later, this nice woman married to Muhammad (r) the most trustworthy person in Mecca. Muhammad (r) was a cheerful and soft-spoken man. He loved children so much. He never passed by a child without caressing his head. He treated Zaid kindly from the first day on. Zaid also loved Muhammad (r) who behave him so gently and tolerant.

In this way, months passed. Zaid was happy and peaceful in this blessed house. Yet just like any other parent whose child is missing would do, Zaid's parents were very sad and looking for their child.

His father and uncle went out of Yemen, and looking for Zaid everywhere. Searching their child, they reached so far as to Mecca. Finally, they found out the house where Zaid lived.

Zaid's father came to the Prophet Muhammad (r), and said:





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— I heard that my son is with you. I want to take him back. I will give whatever you want. Please let him free.

Although he could easily reject to give Zaid back, the Prophet (r) said:

— Ok then, let's call Zaid here, and ask him with whom he wants to stay.

They called Zaid. Muhammad (r) asked:

— Zaid, do you know who these people are?

Zaid looked towards them with affectionate eyes. He said excitedly:

— Yes, of course I do! One of them is my father and the other one is my uncle.

Upon this, Muhammad (r) said:

— Zaid, you know how much I love you. Yet they are your father and uncle. They are here to take you. You can stay if you want or you can go with them if you prefer. You are free to choose.

Zaid looked with his black eyes towards his father and uncle. Then he said with all his heart:

— I want to stay with you. For me, you are as valuable as my mother, father and uncle.

Zaid's father was surprised with these words. He scolded him:

— You prefer being a slave over us.

Zaid walked to his father.

— Dad, I received a lot of kindness from him and I love him so much. I am happy and peaceful with him. Please leave me with him, he said.

After these words, Zaid's father couldn't insist anymore. He did not want to ruin his son's happiness. So, he let him to stay. He was going to visit him whenever he wanted. He was relieved while leaving his son with such kindhearted people.



THE BOY WHO WAS CLOSE TO THE PROPHET (r)

Zaid grew up as a true Muslim under the care of the Prophet (r). He dedicated his life to the religion of Allah. He (t) spent his life in the way of Islam, and years later he got martyred in a war. Our Prophet (r) was both happy for him because he had received the honor of martyrdom and very sad for losing him. He went to Zaid's house to console his wife and children. Zaid's younger son, Usama (t), was crying for his father. Allah's Messenger (r) always cared for orphans. After that day he never left Usama (t) alone. This cute child grew under the love and supervision of the Prophet (r).

Allah's Messenger (r) never treated Usama (t) and his grandchildren differently. He would place his grandson Hassan (t) on one of his knees, and Usama (t) on the other, kiss and caress them.

Once, Usama (t) tripped over the doorsill and fell down. And his face bled. The Prophet asked his wife Aisha (t) to wipe Usama's (t) face. Yet when our mother Aisha (t) acted a little bit slowly, Allah's Messenger (r) couldn't bear it. He hugged Usama (t) and wiped his wound. Usama (t) forgot his pain. Usama's (t) friends by witnessing the love of Allah's Messenger's (r) love for him used to call Usama (t) "the boy who was so much loved by the Prophet (r)"

How a child living in such a blessed house could be unhappy?



With the help of the Prophet's (r) love the little Usama (t) forgot the pain of being fatherless. He too loved the Prophet (r) so much and never disobeyed him.

When the city of Mecca was conquered, Usama (t) entered the city on the Prophet's camel, and went to the Ka'bah with him.

While the Prophet was destroying the idols with his friends, Usama (t) did not sit still. He took a bucket of water and erased the human drawings on the wall of Ka'bah.

Years passed... Usama (t) became a faithful brave young man. The Prophet (r) appointed eighteen-year-old young Usama (t) commander of the Muslim army.

Since that time Usama (t) became a brave Muslim, running from war to war.

HASSAN AND HUSSEIN (t)

Our beloved Prophet (r) had two grandson named Hassan and Hussein (t). Ali (t) was their father and Fatima (t) their mother. The Prophet (r) loved those two beautiful grandsons of him very much. He said about them "These two sons of mine are my roses in this world." He often visited his grandchildren and sometimes they would come to visit their grandfather. When they got together, the Prophet (r) would join their games. He would carry them on his back and entertain them by saying "what a nice carrier is yours, and how nice riders you are".

Once, the Prophet (r) was leading the prayer for his *ashab* (t) in the mosque. (*Ashab* means the Muslim friends or companions of the Prophet (r)) At that moment, Hassan and Hussain (t) came to the mosque. They looked for their grandfather with curious eyes. When they saw him praying in front of the congregation, they went next to him and began to watch him. After reciting a chapter from the Qur'an, the Prophet (r) went to prostration. Companions prostrated after him. When Hassan and Hussein (t) saw that their grandfather prostrated, they joyfully climbed on his back and began to play.

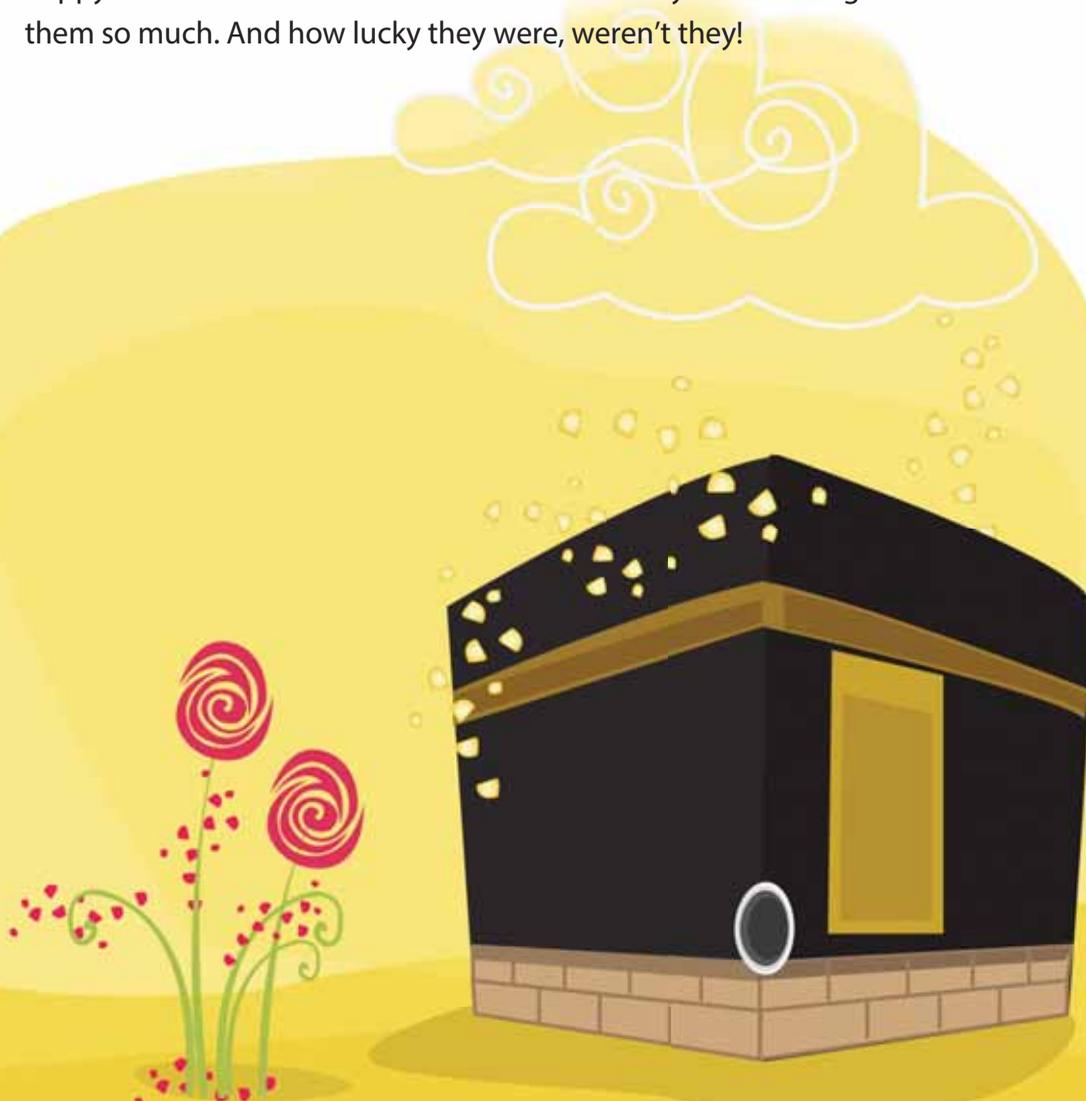
If the Prophet stood up from prostration, Hassan and Hussein (ؑ) would fall down from his back. That's why he prolonged the prostration and waited for them to climb down from his back.

These two little monsters were not aware that they were hindering the prayer. After playing a while they climbed down from their grandfather's back. The Prophet (ﷺ) stood up and continued to the prayer.

After the prayer ended, companions asked to the Prophet why he had prolonged the prayer, and he said:

— When my sons climbed on my back, I feared for them to fall down; so I prolonged the prostration.

In this incident how nicely Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) showed his love for kids. How happy Hassan and Hussein (ؑ) were because they had such a grandfather who loved them so much. And how lucky they were, weren't they!



WHO DRANK THE WATER FIRST?

The Prophet wanted Hassan and Hussein (ؑ) to be good Muslims. He always guided them to kindness and goodness. Besides he had them wrestle and race to be strong and healthy. The two roses of the Prophet (ؐ) never got jealous of each other while following their grandfather's advice, and got along with each other nicely.

One day, the Prophet (ؐ) went to see his grandsons as usual. In the evening Hassan and Hussein (ؑ) didn't want to leave him. They wanted him to stay with them. The Prophet didn't reject his grandchildren's wish. At night, he went to bed with Hassan (ؑ) in one side and Hussein (ؑ) in other side. Soon after, they fell asleep. In the middle of the night, Hassan (ؑ) woke up and wanted water from his grandfather. The Prophet got up immediately. He filled a glass of water from the water skin, and gave it to Hassan. Just then, Hussein too woke up and asked for water. The Prophet filled the second glass and gave it to Hussein. Fatima (ؑ) saw that and asked:

— O father, you gave water to Hassan (ؑ) first, do you love him more?

— No, first Hassan (ؑ) wanted water, because of that I gave him first, said the Prophet (ؐ).



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The Messenger of Allah (r) would never treat the children differently, even if they were his grandchildren. He treated all of them gently and equally... By giving the water to Hassan (t) first, he taught Hussein to be patient and not to violate his brother's rights. There is a nice lesson hidden in every act of our Prophet (r).





ANAS (ؓ) THE BOY WHO KEEPS SECRET

Anas (ؓ) was one of the blessed children who grew up under the care of the Prophet (ﷺ). After the Prophet (ﷺ) migrated to Medina, Anas's (ؓ) mother took her son to the Prophet and said:

— O Messenger of Allah, Everybody gave you something as a gift when you come to Medina. As to me, I am a poor woman. I have nothing to give you. This child is my son. I am giving him to your service.



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The Prophet was deeply affected by this sincere act of that woman. He looked at the child. Anas's (t) eyes were shining brilliantly. It was obvious that he wanted to stay with the Prophet (r). Who wouldn't have wanted such a cute child! On that day, the Prophet didn't refuse the offer of Anas' (t) mother and he readily accepted Anas (t).

Days passed... Little Anas (t) who was growing under the care and love of the Prophet was very happy for his life.

One day, the Prophet wanted Anas (t) to go someplace. Anas (t) instantly left the house. However when he saw his friends playing on the street, he forgot about the place he had been asked to go. He absorbed in playing with his friends. The Prophet (r) worried about him when he didn't come back home. He went outside and began to look for him. Soon after, he found Anas (t) playing with his friends. He went close to him, and asked with a soft voice:

— O Anas (t), did you go where I told you to go?

Suddenly Anas (t) remembered the job given to him when he saw the Prophet (r). He felt ashamed of what he had done. He said

— I am going right away my dear Prophet (r). He leaped up and soon went out of sight.

That night Anas (t) returned home after he had done his job. He informed the Prophet (r), and then went back his house. His mother asked Anas (t):

— Why are you so late sweetie?

— The Prophet sent me somewhere, said Anas (t).

— Where did the Prophet send you? asked his mother,

Without thinking for a while, Anas (t) answered:

— This is a secret between the Prophet and me, mother. I cannot tell his secrets to anybody.

The words of Anas (t) made his mother so proud that she said

— Good for you Anas (t). Do not tell the Prophet's secrets to anyone.

Keeping secret is a good virtue. And when it comes to keeping the Prophet's secret, it is more important than anything else. How happy Anas (t) was who understood this fact at such a little age!

THE FIRST MUSLIM CHILD

Mecca was a very hot place. Sometimes it would not rain for months which would mostly cause droughts. During such times people would suffer from famine. In one of such times of famine, there appeared dire poverty in the house of Prophet's uncle, Abu Talib. He was having hard times to look after his six children. The Prophet loved his relatives very much. He succored his uncle and took Ali (ؓ), one of his nephews, with him to lessen the burden of his uncle. After that day, the beloved nephew of the Prophet (ﷺ), Ali (ؓ) grew up in the Prophet's house, right beside him. Ali (ؓ) loved very much his nephew Muhammad (ﷺ) who never got angry with him and always treated him fondly.

Many years passed... It was one of the earlier days of of Muhammad's (ﷺ) prophetic mission. On that day the Prophet was praying with his beloved wife Khadija (ؓ). Both of them were looking peaceful and happy during the prayer. Ali (ؓ) was amazed when he saw them. He waited them patiently to finish their prayer. Then he asked:

— What were you doing?

The Prophet hugged him gently.

— Look Ali (ؓ), he said. What you've seen is the ritual prayer. By performing it, we are worshipping Allah. I am a Prophet appointed by Allah and invite you join us to worship Allah.



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After having reflexion about these words for a while because it was the first time that he heard it, he answered ambivalently:

— I cannot say anything before asking my dad.

Then the Prophet said:

— Ali (ؓ), if you wish, you can do what I say! Yet if you don't, then please keep it as a secret. Don't tell anyone!

The Prophet (ﷺ) said these words to Ali (ؓ) for he hadn't openly begun to invite people to Islam yet.

Ali (ؓ) thought over all night. He was full of love to the Prophet (ﷺ) who had never done anything wrong. He had no doubt that he was telling the truth. He went to him and said:

— Allah didn't ask anybody while creating me. Why would I ask anybody whether to worship Him or not ...

After saying this, Ali (ؓ) said the statement of *shahadah* and became one of the first believers. He was the first child who accepted Islam. How happy he was, and how happy all Muslim children are!

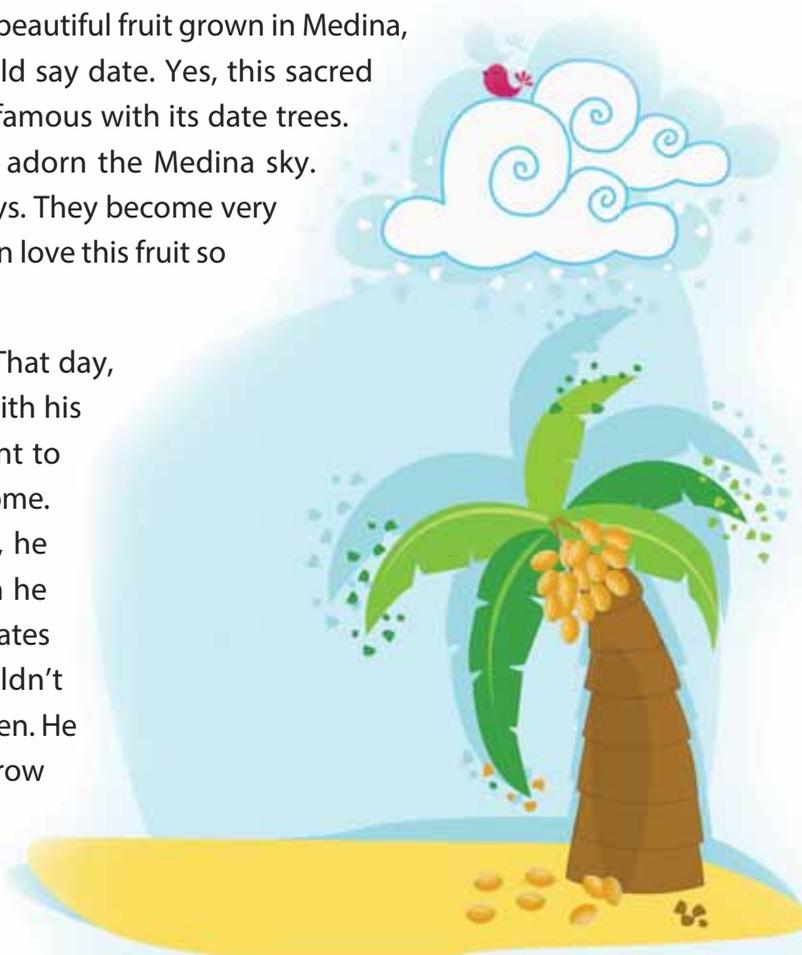


THE BOY WHO STONED THE DATE TREES

If I asked you what is the most beautiful fruit grown in Medina, I am sure that all of you would say date. Yes, this sacred city where the Prophet migrated is famous with its date trees. They open like a big umbrella and adorn the Medina sky. Dates ripen in the warm summer days. They become very sweet and delightful. Meccan children love this fruit so much.

Rafi was one of those children. That day, Rafi was on the street and playing with his friends. After a while his friends went to home. Yet Rafi didn't want to go to home. He began to take a walk. Just then, he saw the dates on a tree in a garden he was passing by. Mmm ... Huge ripe dates were looking so delicious. He couldn't resist this scene and entered the garden. He picked some stones and began to throw them at the trees.

Soon after, dates started to fall





from the tree one by one. Rafi happily picked the dates. He sat down under a tree and began to eat. Mmm... The dates were so sweet that the more he ate the more he wanted to eat. Just then a voice was heard among the trees:

— Hey you! What are you doing up there?

Rafi got scared when he saw the man running towards him.

— Uhhh well, he said. I have craved for dates sir.

— Oh! Well then, did you take the permission of the owner of this garden? These are my dates!

The man said so, and took Raif out of the garden as he grabbed his arm.

— You had better get moving, the man said. We are going to the Prophet (ﷺ).

Then they came to the mosque. The man told the Prophet what had happened. Rafi waited. The Prophet (ﷺ) called him and asked:

— Oh my little son, why did you throw stones at the trees?

Rafi answered with a trembling voice:

— I was hungry O Prophet! I couldn't help myself when I saw the dates.

The Prophet felt sorry for this child's innocent looking.

— O son, do not enter a garden without the owner's permission. Yet, you can eat the dates already fallen from the trees, he said.

The Prophet's soft voice deeply affected Rafi. He was filled with love for the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) who warned him gently.

— I promise, my Prophet (ﷺ). I will never do that again, he said.

The Prophet prayed for Rafi as saying:

— O Allah! Feed this beautiful boy.

That day little Rafi apologize to the owner of the garden. And from that day on, he never entered a garden again without getting the owner's permission first.



LITTLE ORPHAN GIRL

In a morning of a festival, Medina streets were filled of children's chirpy voices. The Prophet was out of his house and watching the happiness of the children. At that moment he caught sight of a girl who was weeping silently at the corner. He wondered what the matter with that girl was. The Messenger of Allah (r) went to her at once and asked:

— O my little, why are you crying on such a beautiful festival day?



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The little girl answered without lifting her head:

— In the former festival, my dad was with us, but he is not here anymore. In the last war, he fought side by side to the Prophet and he got martyred. I miss him so much. Anybody would cry when s/he becomes an orphan.

The Prophet felt very sorry upon the words of the little girl. He caressed her head and said:

— O my little, wipe your tears. Wouldn't you like if the Prophet became your father, Fatima (ؑ) your sister and Aisha (ؑ) your mother?

The little girl lifted her head slowly, hearing these words that warmed her heart. When she saw him, she instantly recognized the Prophet (ﷺ). Suddenly she stopped crying. Which child could reject such a good proposal of the Prophet? She held the Prophet's hand and began to walk with him.

When they reached home, the Prophet introduced her to his wife Aisha (ؑ) and his daughter Fatima (ؑ). They also loved their little guest. They washed her hands and face. They clothed her with a new dress. They prepared a delicious meal and fed her. Then they gave her some money and sent her to the street to play. The little girl was bursting with happiness.

Children on the street were shocked when they saw her in a new dress and a happy face.

— What happened to you, they asked.

— I also have a father now, said the little girl. Besides he is such a wonderful dad that there is no one like him in the world. Compassionate Aisha (ؑ) is my mother. I have Fatima (ؑ) as my sister, who loves me and dressed me new clothes. How could anybody not become happy when s/he has such a nice family? This is why, I am so happy.

One more time, the Prophet made an orphan happy. The happiness of the little girl became the happiness of the other children. Then they started to play together.



THE MOST TRUSTFUL PERSON

Ka'bah, the house of Allah had been damaged by years of rains. And its walls were shaken and cracked because of a recent flood. Meccans got into a flap. They wanted to protect the house of Allah by restoring it. They got together at once, and shared the task of reconstruction of Ka'bah. According to the taken decision, each tribe was going to restore a part of Ka'bah so that everybody would fulfill their own job. Building materials were supplied, and reconstruction of Ka'bah started.

Every tribe determinedly accomplished its mission. Thus restoration of Ka'bah was completed in a short time.

Then came the time to place the Hajar al-Aswad to its proper location. Hajar al-Aswad had been regarded as a sacred stone and protected since the day the Prophet Abraham and his son Ishmael built Ka'bah. Because of this, every tribal chief wanted to have the honor to place it to its location. They couldn't come to an agreement. So, they became angry and began to shout each other. They were about draw their swords and fought each other when one of them finally said:

— Wait! No point in arguing. It is best to assign an mediator amongst us.

They all liked this idea. Yet they didn't know whom they could choose for they did not trust each other. Finally they decided to appoint the first person who would enter the Ka'bah next morning as the arbitrator. The next day, early in the morning everybody

went to the Ka'bah and started to impatiently wait for the first person to enter from the gates.

Just then our beloved Prophet Muhammad (r) appeared at the gates. He greeted them and entered. Seeing that our Prophet (r) was coming, one of them said with happiness:

— Here, Muhammad al-Amin comes!

Everybody excitedly looked towards the Prophet (r). Muhammad al-Amin meant "Muhammad the Trustworthy." Everybody was happy that he was the one entering the Ka'bah. They told him about their argument and wanted him to be their arbitrator. The Prophet (r) happily accepted their offer. He asked a piece of cloth from them, then he put Hajar al-Aswad on it and asked each tribal leaders to get a hold from a corner of it. By this way the stone was carried to its place by everybody, and then the Prophet took the stone from the cloth and placed it to its proper location on Ka'bah.

By this fair treatment of the Prophet (r), the issue solved before turning into a big problem, and everybody felt relieved.



FATIMA'S (t) SADNESS

Ka'bah was the favorite place of our beloved Prophet (r). He loved to worship his Lord in the house of Allah which looks like a black pearl in the middle of Mecca.

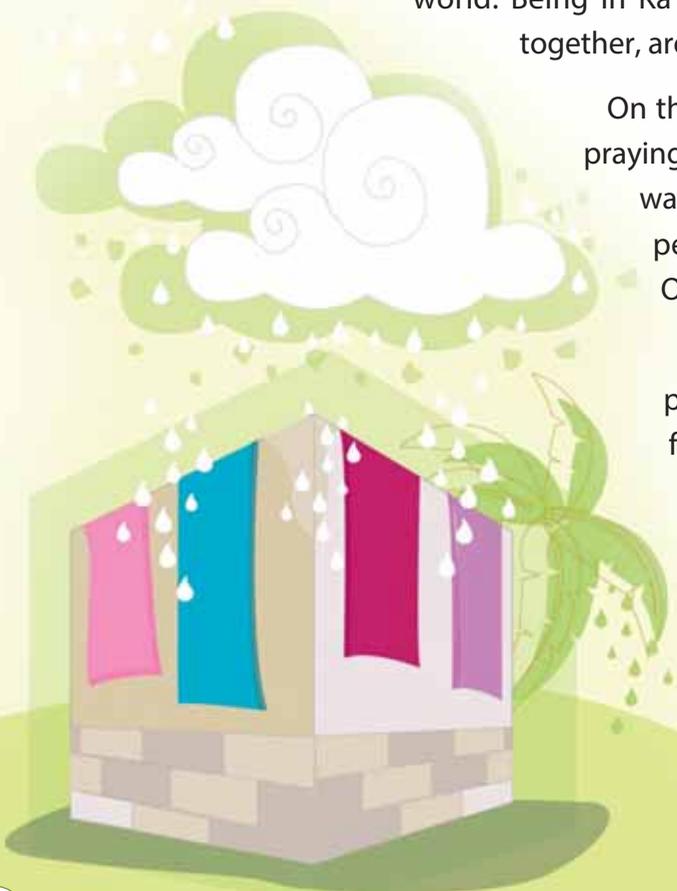
The Ka'bah is even today the meeting place of all Muslims in the world. Being in Ka'bah, praying and worshipping there together, are the greatest happiness of Muslims.

On that day, our beloved Prophet (r) was praying in reverence in the house of God. He was praying to his Lord by his all heart for people to let the idols and worship the One true God.

At that point, Abu Jahl, one of the prominent enemies of Islam, and his friends were sitting near the Ka'bah.

The Prophet's concentration during the prayer anger again Abu Jahl:

"How does Muhammad (r) dare to worship here?" he grumbled.





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He was afraid that people would be impressed from Muhammad (ﷺ) and became Muslims. His fear filled by jealousy, he immediately make a plan to invalidate the Prophet's prayer and asked:

— Who amongst you would put camel tripe on his back while he is praying?

The most evil hearted man among them cried:

— I would. Leave it to me. I will do that!

Then, he ran and found tripe of a recently slaughtered camel at once. The Prophet was continuing his prayer unaware what was happening. The man silently approached, and put the tripe on the Prophet's back while he was prostrating. Abu Jahl and his friends, who had seen this, began to laugh so loudly that that they crumbled on each other...

Our beloved Prophet stayed still in the state of prostration under the weight of the tripe. People, who saw his situation, ran and told immediately to his daughter Fatima (ؓ). Fatima (ؓ) couldn't believe her ears and immediately ran to Ka'bah in sorrow. Her eyes filled with tears when she saw her father's situation. She took and threw the tripe from his back.

The Prophet completed his prayer in reverence. Then he hugged his daughter and wiped her tears. Later on he looked towards Abu Jahl and his friends and said:

— Ô Allah! You know what you've to do with them !

Father and daughter, held hands and went back home. Our Prophet never got angry and shouted for the misdeeds done to him. He always responded them with patience and prayer and his prayers were always accepted.



SAHL AND SUHAIL BROTHERS

The Prophet after having done his migration to Medina wanted to build a mosque for Muslims to pray. On his migration's day his camel Qaswah kneeled down and sat in a land to take a rest. That land belonged to two orphan brothers, Sahl and Suhail, who were using the land to desiccate the dates. The Prophet (r) wanted to buy the land to build a mosque so he called Sahl and Suhail. Two brothers came to the Prophet (r) at once. He told about the situation and asked them to sell the land. However rather than selling, Sahl and Suhail brothers wanted to give the land to the Prophet (r) as a gift. Yet, the Prophet (r) didn't accept the land of these two generous brothers for free, thus he paid its price and bought it.

Then, a happy rush began on the land. *Ashab* (t) (Friends of the Prophet (r) are also called *ashab* whose singular form is *sahaba*) cleaned the land, brought stones and sand, and molded bricks. Allah's Messenger (r) placed the first bricks to the construction of the mosque together with Abu Bakr (t), Umar (t), Usman (t) and Ali (t). Therefore, the foundation of the mosque was laid by the most beloved companions of the Prophet (r).

Construction of the mosque continued without a pause. The Prophet (r) himself was also working in the construction of the mosque. When the companions saw him carrying heavy bricks, they said "Let us do it." Yet the Prophet (r) never backed off, and as seeing him so determined the companions became enthused and began to work harder.



MY BELOVED PROPHET MY MOST BEAUTIFUL MODEL



The construction of the mosque finished in a short time. Sahl and Suhail brothers were very happy and proud because there was going to be a mosque in their land for Muslims to pray. They unanimously named that place *al-Masjid al-Nabawi* (i.e. Prophet's Mosque.)

From that time on, there was a mosque for Muslims to perform their prayers in awe. Moreover, in that place they could see the Prophet (ﷺ) whenever they want and learn from him the principles of Islam. Besides, important issues would be discussed and decisions would be taken there. This Mosque was also like a house for Muslims and a place to socialize.

Al-Masjid al-Nabawi is one of the most beautiful mosques in the world that was built by means of the perfect solidarity of Muslims. Today, it is still continues to host all Muslims. People pray and worship there for centuries. The Prophet's Mosque is filled with sacred memories of him.

How happy Sahl and Suhail brothers who donated their land for this beautiful mosque are!





THE MAGNIFICENT CALL OF ADHAN

From that time on, Muslims had their mosque where they prayed together. It was filled with companions who were regularly coming to perform their prayer in congregation.

Praying in congregation was a great feeling but the companions (ؓ) had difficulties to know and define the exact prayer times.

Due to this problems they sometimes came late and missed the congregation, and some other times they came early and had to wait.



The Prophet (ﷺ) wanted to solve this problem and asked to the companions their opinions. Some of them said:

- We can ring a bell like the Christians do.
- We can blow a trumpet like the Jews do, some said.

And some others said:

- We can burn a huge fire.

The Prophet (ﷺ) approved none of these proposals. For, they all resembled the calls of other religions. He wanted something special for Muslims. Days passed and one day a companion came to the Prophet (ﷺ) and said:

— O Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), I saw a dream about how to call believers to the prayer, and told his dream to the Prophet (ﷺ).

The Prophet liked that dream, and said “God willing, it is a true dream. Teach the words you saw in your dream to Bilal (ؓ) and let him to recite.”

He went to Bilal (ؓ) and taught the words he had seen in his dream.

Bilal, (ؓ) who had a beautiful voice, climbed up a high place and began to recite clearly and movingly what he has learnt:

Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar,

Ashhadu an la ilaha illa Allah,

Ashhadu anna Muhammadan Rasulallah,

Hayya ‘ala’s-salah, hayya ‘ala’s-salah,

Hayya ‘ala’l-falah, hayya ‘ala’l-falah,

Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar,

La ilaha illa’-Allah.

Thus, Muslims found the correct way just as they do in all of their affairs.

For, they had the Prophet (ﷺ) who loved and always taught them goodness.

How nicely the meaning of adhan reflects the sublimity of Islam isn’t it?

THE HAPPINESS OF THE SLAVE

Once there was a man called Abu Mas'ud (ؓ). One day he got very angry with his slave and whipping him mercilessly. As he felt the pain of whip, the slave dissolved in tears. Yet Abu Mas'ud's anger didn't cool off. At that moment a voice was heard:

— Abu Mas'ud! Abu Mas'ud!

Abu Mas'ud (ؓ) was so angry that he didn't even hear the voice calling his name. He kept whipping his slave. Then the voice was heard again:

— Abu Mas'ud! Abu Mas'ud! You had better know!...

When he heard the voice, Abu Mas'ud (ؓ) bewilderedly turned back. He saw our beloved Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was watching him.

Abu Mas'ud (ؓ) turned as red as beet root red from embarrassment. He got in tizzy, and did not know what to do. He bowed his head because of embarrassment and waited.

"Khlas!" he said to himself, the Prophet (ﷺ) had witnessed my misdeed towards a weak person. I wish I would keep my anger under control and wouldn't whip that poor slave."



The Prophet (r) compassionately approached to the slave in pain, and turned to Abu Mas'ud (t) and said to him:

— O Abu Mas'ud! You had better to know that Allah has more power on you than you have on this poor slave.

Abu Mas'ud (t) had already realized his fault. His sorrow doubled with the words of the Prophet (r). He said to the Prophet wanting to rectify his mistake:

— O Messenger of God! I let this slave free for the sake of Allah. I promise I will never treat anyone in such a bad manner!

The Prophet(r) smiled. He was glad that Abu Mas'ud (t) realized his fault. And the slave who had been groaning under the whip of Abu Maus was very happy, too. With the pleasure of being freed, he felt like reborn.

Our beloved Prophet (r) always rushed to the help of people under oppression. He was the Prophet(r) of hungry, thirsty, poor, stranded, and helpless ones.

His heart was enough merciful for everyone.

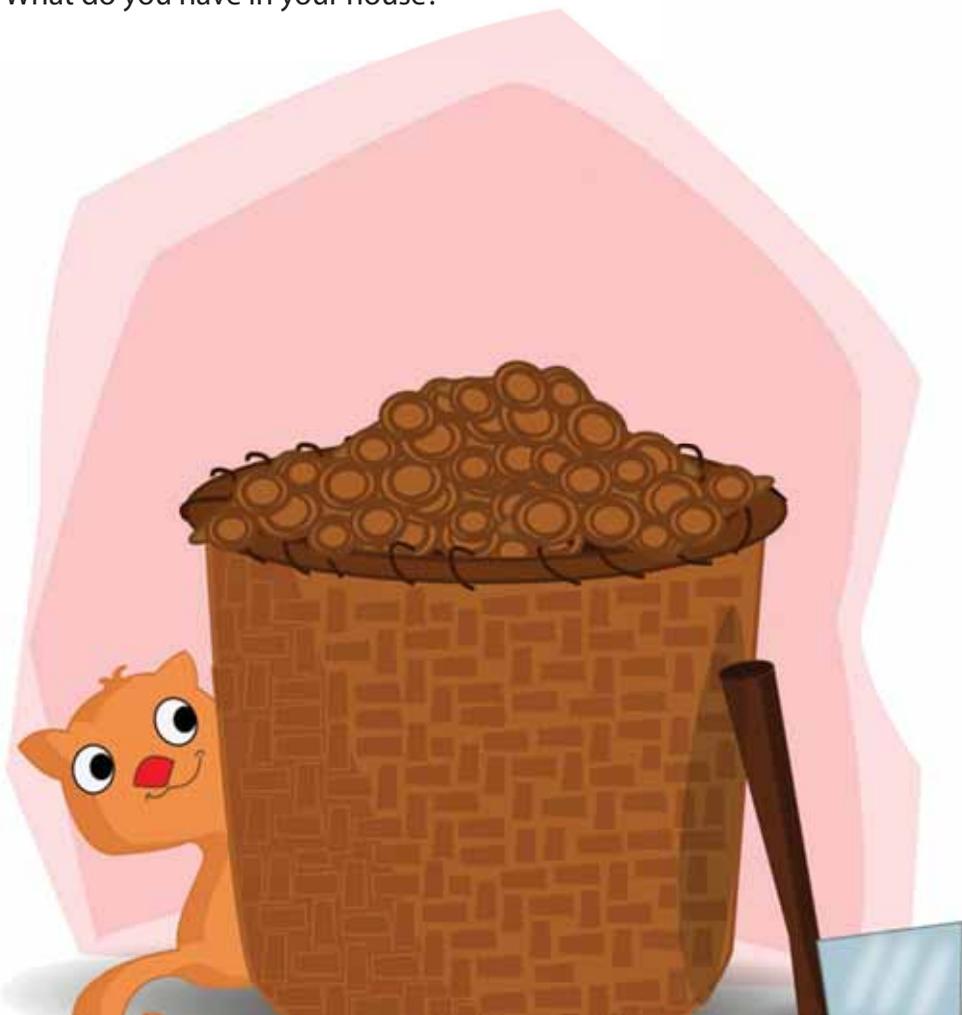


THE POOR MAN

There used to live a poor man in Medina. He was so poor that he did not even have food to eat in his house. He and his family were suffering from hunger and poverty. One day he went to the Prophet and told him about his situation.

The Prophet (ﷺ) listened to the man carefully. After the man finished speaking, they had the following conversation:

— What do you have in your house?





— I have nothing but a cloth that we lay on the ground and a water bottle, O Messenger of God.

— Go and bring the cloth and the water bottle to me, he said.

The poor man run to his house and took the cloth and the water bottle and brought them to the Prophet (ﷺ).

The Prophet took the stuff and showed to people:

— Is there anybody who wants to buy them?

A man from companions bought those items.

The Prophet (ﷺ) gave the money to the poor man.

— Buy some food for your family with some of this money, and with the rest of it buy an axe and bring it to me, he said.

The poor man did what the Prophet (ﷺ) said him to do and came back with an axe, soon after. The Prophet (ﷺ) took the axe and attached an handle to it. Then gave it back to the man and said:

— Go and cut some firewood from the forest, and sell them. Come to me fifteen days later and let me know your situation.

Thus fifteen days passed. Then a cheerful man dressed in new clothes came to the Prophet (ﷺ). He was the poor man himself. The Prophet (ﷺ) smiled with pleasure when he saw him.

— How are you? He asked.

— Thank God, O Messenger of Allah (ﷺ). I have cut firewood with my axe from the mountain, brought it to the market and sold them. I have earned a good amount of money in fifteen days. I have met my family's needs with some of the money, and bought new clothes for myself.

The Prophet (ﷺ) smiled to the man and said:

— It is better for you to carry firewood on your back to satisfy your needs, than having a sign of begging in your face on the Day of Judgment.

The man thanked to the Prophet (ﷺ). Due to the Prophet's guidance, he had managed to get rid of poverty.

After that day the man never left his axe and lived in pleasure and wealth.

ZAYD THE LITTLE SCRIBE

There was an orphan boy called Zayd in Medina. Zayd's father had died when he was six. Zayd was a smart boy. He could understand and fulfill everything said to him. Yet he was destitute as all orphans are. He was in need of care and mercy.

In those years there was battle between Muslims and Meccan polytheists in a place called Badr. Muslims won the battle.

Then the Prophet (ﷺ) said to Meccan captives:

— Whoever teaches ten Medinan children how to read and write will be set free!

After that day Medinan children began to take lessons from Meccan Polytheists. Zayd was the one who learned reading and writing in a very short time. The little boy began to read the Qur'an as soon as he learnt reading. He was so determined that he memorized several chapters of the Qur'an in a short time. This smart boy was brought to the Prophet (ﷺ).

The Prophet (ﷺ) smiled to the child and asked:

— What is your name son?

— Zayd, sir. Zayd the son of Thabit.

— How many verses have you memorized?

— 17 chapters, sir.

— Could you recite a little for us?

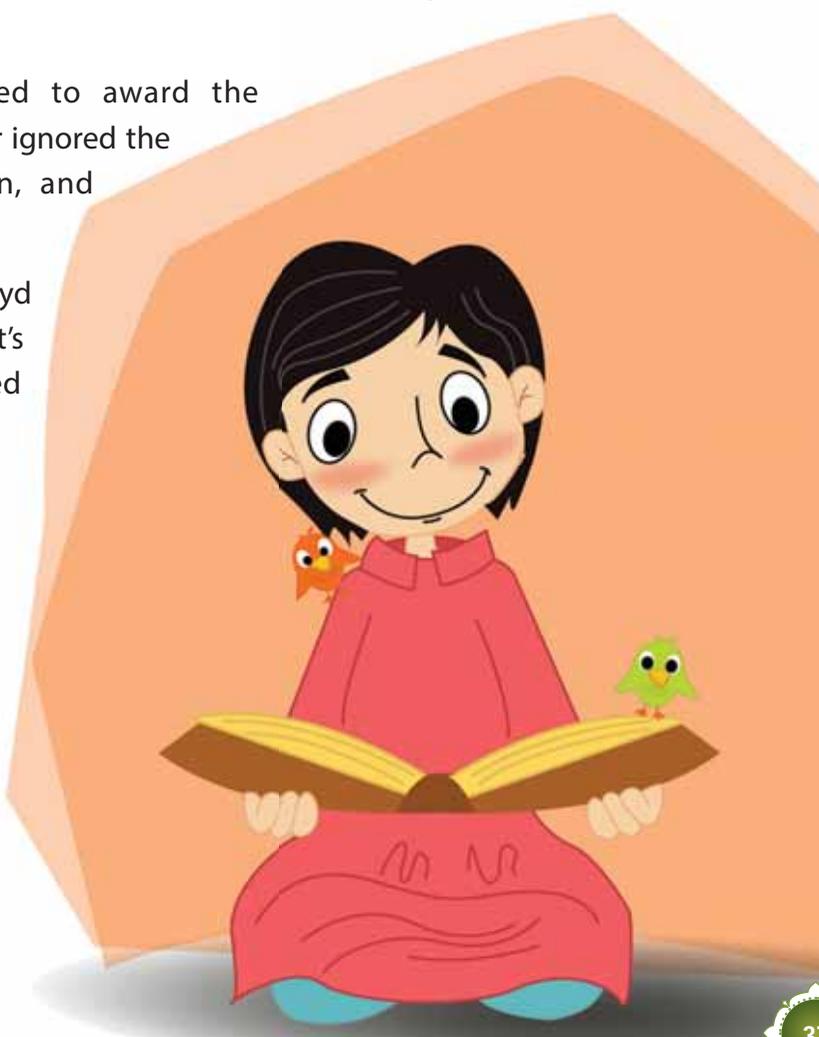
— Sure, sir.

Zayd recited portions from the chapters he had memorized. He didn't make any mistake. His recitation was clear and fluent. The Prophet (ﷺ) praised him when he saw his tenacity, and he wanted him to learn foreign languages. During those years Syriac was one of the common languages. Zayd (ؓ) worked heartedly after that day. He learned Syriac in a short period as well as he improved his writing.

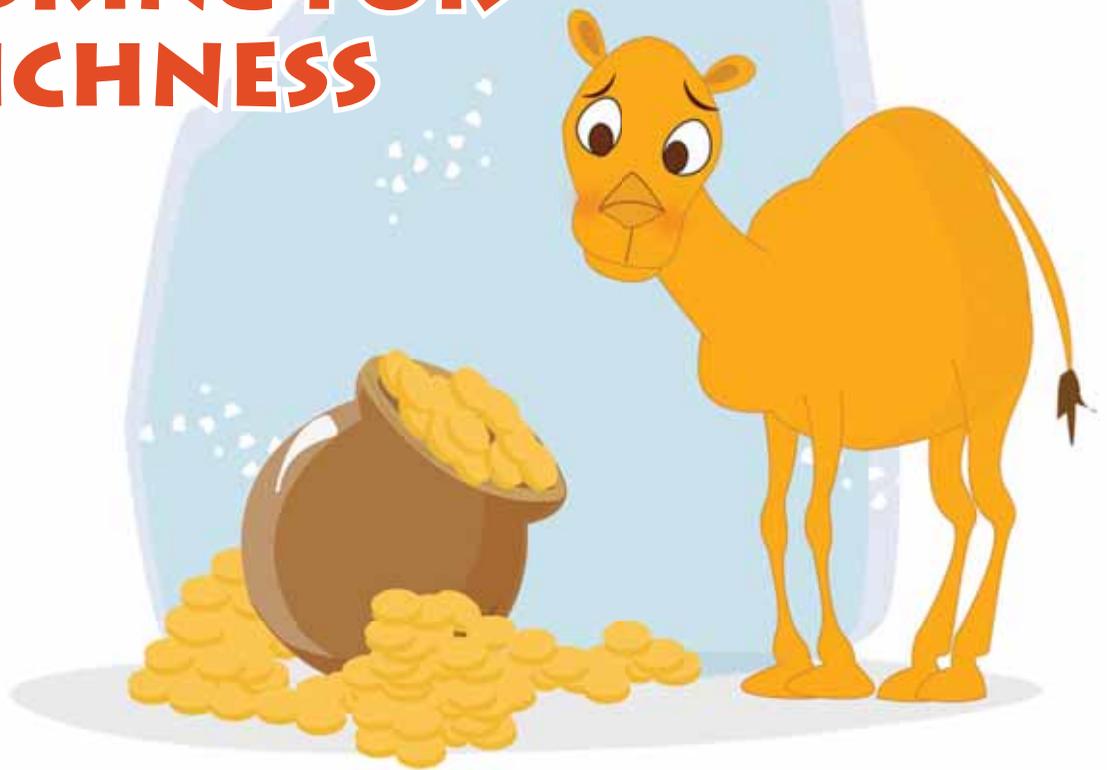
What happened then? The Prophet (ﷺ) appointed this child as his scribe. From that time on, Prophet's letters to foreign countries in the language of Syriac began to be written by Zayd (ؓ). Later, Zayd (ؓ) learned other languages, and served to Islam throughout his life. He led the commission of the compilation of the Qur'an.

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to award the children like that. He never ignored the achievements of children, and always encouraged them.

Smart children, like Zayd (ؓ), always followed Prophet's advises and never showed laziness.



THALABA IBN HATIB THE ONE WHO WAS ASKING FOR RICHNESS



Thalaba a muslim who lived in Medina wanted to become rich. His desire was so great that he couldn't think anything else.

One day he came to the Prophet (ﷺ) and said:

— O Messenger of God ! Pray Allah for me to become rich.

Upon his wish the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

— O Thalaba! The little wealth for which you can be grateful is better than great wealth for which you will not be thankful.

After these words Thalaba left. Yet soon after he returned and insisted to the Prophet:

— O Messenger of God, pray Allah to give me wealth.



Allah's Messenger (r) said:

— O Thalaba! Do not you want to take me as an example? I swear if I wanted these mountains to be gold and silver, they would turn into gold.

Thalaba didn't want to understand.

— I swear if you pray Allah for me, and if He gives me wealth, I will observe everyone's right.

Upon Thalaba's insistence the Prophet (r) prayed:

— O Allah, bestow Thalaba a good wealth.

Not so long after this prayer, Thalaba's wealth started to increase and his livestock began to proliferate so much so that he had to move to a valley to fit his livestock in. He began to neglect the mosque and get away from the Prophet (r) and the Muslims.

One day the Prophet (r), as he didn't see Thalaba in the mosque for a long time, asked:

— How is Salaba?

Companions (t) replied:

— Salaba moved to a valley. He don't pray because he has lots of things to do.

The Prophet (r) feeling very sorry for Salaba to having let the prayer, sent him, who had said "If I will be rich I will observe everyone's right," a message to remind his duty to give almsgiving.

But Thalaba refused to pay alms.

In fact he deserted almsgiving as he did it for the prayer.

When the Prophet (r) heard this, his beautiful face fell into sadness and he said:

— Shame on Thalaba! What a pity!

Salaba had become a slave of his wealth.

Yet if he had listened to our beloved Prophet's advises, he wouldn't have been lost in worldly things...

THE PROPHET (r) WHO LOVES SO MUCH CHILDREN

Our beloved Prophet (r) was very fond of children. He did not go out without greeting them, caressing their heads, and inquiring about their health and problems. Sometimes he joked with them and sometimes he played with them. Children loved the Messenger of Allah (r) too. When they saw him they gather around him to take and shake his hand. The Prophet (r) never hurt them, and paid attention to each one of them. He (r) liked to hug and kiss them. While stroking Hassan (t) and Hussein (t), he used to say "They are two flowers of mine in the world."

One day, while he was sitting in the mosque, he took Hassan (t) and Hussein (t) in his hands and kissed them with compassion. At that point a man entered the mosque. He saw the Prophet (r) stroking his grandchildren and said:

— O Messenger of Allah, I have ten children, yet I have never kissed them like you do.

The Prophet (r) who was astonished how the man was so careless and loveless towards his children told him to show his fault that

— What can I do if Allah has root mercy out of your heart?

By listening these words the man felt deeply sad, and regretted what he had done.



MY BELOVED PROPHET MY MOST BEAUTIFUL MODEL



The Prophet (ﷺ) always made a point of keeping the promises to children.

One day in Medina, a mother was calling her child, who had run to the street, to come back home:

— Come, look! What will I give you?

The Prophet (ﷺ) who saw this, asked:

— What will you give to your child?

When the mother said that she wants to give him date, the Prophet told her:

— Be careful! If the child comes to you and you give him nothing than you will commit the sin of lying.

The Prophet (ﷺ) never wanted children to be sad, and he couldn't bear to see them crying. He didn't deny his compassion and concern for children. Children always went to him and told him their problems. He was the Prophet (ﷺ) of all, young and old.



THE TENACITY OF ABOU MAHZURAH (t)

It was the year of the conquest of Mecca. Our beloved Prophet (r) was returning from Taif with his friends. He stopped in Jiranaḥ to perform prayer. Muezzin began to recite the call for prayer. A group of young Meccans, who were not Muslims at the time, heard adhan. They hid behind a corner and began to mock the recitation of adhan.

When the Prophet (r) heard the young, he called for them. The young Meccans got afraid because they thought that the Messenger of Allah (r) would get angry at them. They went to him faintheartedly. The Prophet (r) smiled and got to know them. He asked each one of them to recite adhan. One by one they began to recite it as far as they know. The Prophet (r) listened all of them and said to Abou Mahzurah (t):

— You have a beautiful voice. Go and recite for us the adhan of prayer!

Abou Mahzurah (t) didn't know how to recite adhan. He had just imitated the muezzin. He blushed of shame. Allah's Messenger (r) was still smiling and he recited the adhan and then encouraged him saying:

— Go on, repeat after me.



Abou Mahzurah (ؓ) repeated what he heard as best as he can. After the recitation, the Prophet (ﷺ) gave him silver coins. Then put his arm around Mahzurah's shoulders and prayed for him, "May Allah bless you, and bestow His blessings upon you."

Abou Mahzurah (ؓ) thought he would be punished for mocking with adhan. Yet he was very surprised for the Prophet's kind treatment instead of punishment. Suddenly he felt a deep love towards Islam. He believed with his whole heart that he is the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ). From then on he was so eager to recite adhan that he used to ask from the Prophet(ﷺ) :

— Could you appoint me as a muezzin in Mecca?

The Prophet (ﷺ) accepted this beautiful voiced young boy's request. From that day on Abou Mahzurah (ؓ) learnt how to recite adhan properly, and he

began to recite adhan with Bilal al-Habashi (ؓ) in Ka'bah.

Abou Mahzurah (ؓ) continued being a muezzin throughout his life. After his death, his descendants continued to recite adhan in Ka'bah.

With his cheerfulness and easiness the Prophet (ﷺ) was the beloved one of the children and young.

How nicely he gained the heart of Mahzurah (ؓ), didn't he?



THE LITTLE GIRL'S GIFT

Our Beloved (r) Prophet got along well with people. He (r) never got angry and shouted to anyone or broke their heart. He (r) paid attention to win people's hearts. sometimes he (r) gave them presents, and sometimes he (r) accepted their gifts.



MY BELOVED PROPHET MY MOST BEAUTIFUL MODEL

Children who loved our Prophet (ﷺ) very much were fond of walking around with him, because the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) always made children happy. He (ﷺ) never ate something presented to him without sharing it with children.

Once, a child called Saib visited the Prophet (ﷺ) with his friends while the Prophet (ﷺ) was eating date with his companions (رضي الله عنهم). When he (ﷺ) saw the children he (ﷺ) smiled and gave each one of them a handful of dates. Saib and his friends were delighted, and heartily ate the dates.

Once a little girl named Rubeyyi's mother put some dates and cucumbers into a plate and told her:

— The Prophet (ﷺ) loves date and cucumber. Take these to him.

The little girl took them with pleasure and went to the Prophet (ﷺ). When she came near to him, she said:

— My mom sent these to you.

In those days the king of Bahrain had sent the Prophet (ﷺ) costly jewels. The Prophet (ﷺ) took the plate of Rubeyyi. He (ﷺ) became happy with the little girl's gift, took a handful of jewels of the king of Bahrain and gave them to the little girl saying:

— Take these my little one.

Because of her happiness, she did not know what to say. She looked at the precious jewels and silvers in her hand.

— Thank you so much O my Prophet (ﷺ), she said and jubilantly run to her house.

The joy of the little girl became the happiness of the Prophet (ﷺ). He always advised to his companions (رضي الله عنهم):

— Exchange gifts among yourselves so that it will increase the love for one another.

Muslims, who follow the Prophet's advice, will continue to exchange gifts and love each other.

THE PROPHET WHO DRESSES WELL

Islam attaches great importance to purity. It commands believers to be clean, to keep their clothes clean, to tidy their belongings, and to maintain their houses beautiful under all circumstances. Our Prophet (ﷺ) also obeyed this command of Allah. He gave high importance to the cleanliness of his clothes, hair and beard. He always brushed his teeth with a tooth stick called miswak made from twig.

Once, the Prophet (ﷺ) was going to the mosque. To make himself presentable, he looked at the water in a cube and tidied his turban. He brushed his hair and beard and said:

— Allah loves his servants to dress up beautifully for his brothers and sisters while visiting them.

Just like the Prophet (ﷺ), companions also made a point of their appearance, and especially when they went to the mosque they would wear their best dresses.



Yet one day a man came to the mosque when the Prophet (ﷺ) was there. The man looked like something the cat dragged in. It can be easily understood that he didn't pay any attention to his appearance. The Prophet (ﷺ) didn't like the state of the man. He asked trying not to offend him:

— Do you have any possession?

— Yes I have, O Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), the man said.

— What do you have?

— Allah bestowed me camels, sheep, horse herds, and barley and wheat harvests.

Upon these words, the Prophet (ﷺ) said to the man:

— If Allah bestowed upon you possession, then

He would like to see the signs of His gifts upon you.

The man felt ashamed of the untidiness of his appearance. The Prophet (ﷺ) had reminded him to be more attentive on his apparel. For, he never wanted Muslims to be insulted because of their appearances. Muslims should be example both by their apparels and conducts.

The man paid attention to his appearance from that day on. He tried to wear clean and attentive.



THE MAN WHO LIVES IN DESERT

Our beloved Prophet (ﷺ) would never be unjust between his companions (رضي الله عنهم) and never spare his love from anybody. He showed special concern to the disabled, the weak and the needy. A companion named Zahir was one of them.

Zahir used to find himself ugly because of the defects of his body and he didn't want to go out in public. For this reason, he preferred to live in the desert. Because he loved the Prophet (ﷺ) so much, he sometimes brought him the crops that he produced in the desert, and the Prophet (ﷺ) would give him some items that would be found in the city. He (ﷺ) used to say to him:

— Zahir is our desert, and we are his city.

One day Zahir came to the city again. He started to wait for the Prophet (ﷺ) in the market. The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), who saw Zahir from far waiting sadly, came quietly close to him from behind. He (ﷺ) hugged him and closed Zahir's eyes with his hands. Zahir struggled with fear and began to shout:

— Who are you? Take your hands off me!

Yet, soon after from his beautiful scent, he recognized that he was the Prophet



(r). He felt pleased, because the Prophet (r) acted in such a warm way to him. He immediately stopped struggling, and leaned on Prophet's chest. The Messenger of Allah (r) continued his joke and began to shout:

— I have a slave, and I am selling him. Who wants to buy him?

People, who saw the Prophet (r) treating Zahir so closely, gathered around them and began to watch them with pleasure. Just then Zahir said with a sad voice:

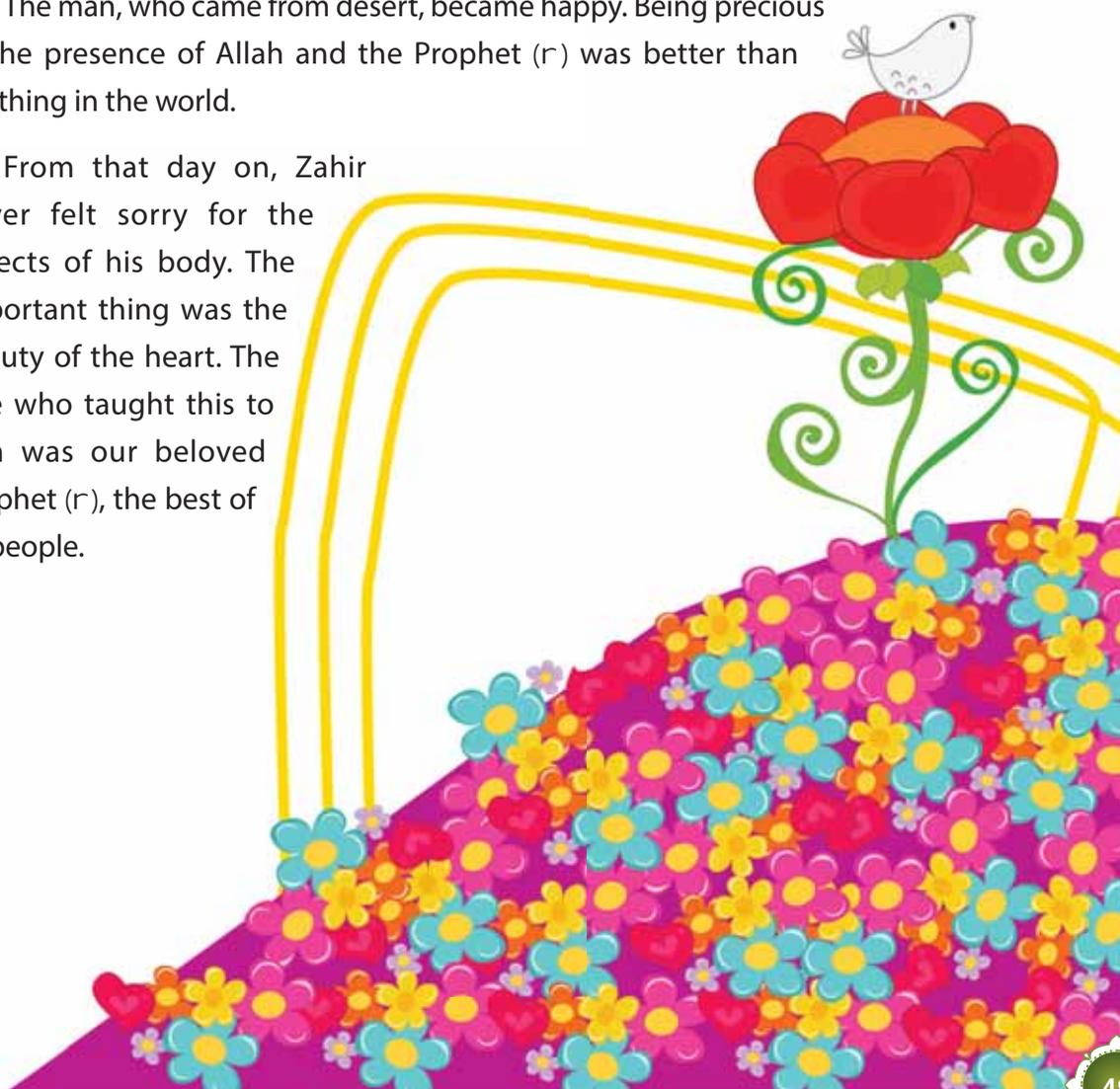
O Messenger of Allah (r), who needs such a worthless man like me!

The Prophet (r), who realized that Zahir's feelings were hurt, told him:

— No, O Zahir. I swear that you are priceless in the presence of Allah and His Messenger (r)! For that reason, we love you.

The man, who came from desert, became happy. Being precious in the presence of Allah and the Prophet (r) was better than anything in the world.

From that day on, Zahir never felt sorry for the defects of his body. The important thing was the beauty of the heart. The one who taught this to him was our beloved Prophet (r), the best of all people.





GIVE ITS NESTLING BACK

Our beloved Prophet (ﷺ) didn't want anybody to be hurt or suffer unjustly. He always wanted his companions (رضي الله عنهم) to act justly and kindly to each other. He was a Prophet (ﷺ) who treated kindly not just human beings but also towards animals. He protected the rights of animal and prevented people from persecuting them.



Before the rise of Islam in the Arab society, animals were treated as worthless beings. For instance, camels which had been used as mounts in those days used to be tied with torturous chains around their necks. Those animals used to carry people across deserts with no food or drink for days. Our Prophet (ﷺ) prohibited putting those chains around their necks and ordered his companions to treat these animals nicely.

Once, when he (ﷺ) was on the road, he (ﷺ) saw a camel whose belly was shrunk to his back out of hunger. He (ﷺ) turned to the owner of the camel and said:

— Fear from Allah while taking care of this speechless animal.

Another day, Our Prophet (ﷺ) was again walking around with his companions and one of them saw a bird on a tree. In the bird's nest, there was its cute nestling. Mother bird was singing cheerfully next to its baby. A companion (رضي الله عنه) wanted to caress the baby bird and took it into his palm. However, mother bird saw this and started to fly around the companion in a rush. Its cheerful singing was replaced by painful screams now. It looked as if it was trying to say "leave my baby alone!"

Our Prophet (ﷺ) saw this and said:

"Who hurt this bird by taking its baby away?"

Then he (ﷺ) ordered "give its nestling back."

The companion (رضي الله عنه) immediately left the baby in the nest.

Our Prophet (ﷺ) went on saying:

— "I swear to Allah that He loves his servants more than a mother loves her children."

The companions (رضي الله عنهم) were so delighted to hear this.

Who wouldn't like to be loved by the Lord of the worlds after all?



THE GUEST IN THE HOUSE OF OUR PROPHET (r)

The little Abdullah (t) was the son of Prophet's uncle Abbas. This well-mannered and smart boy loved the Prophet (r) and frequently went to the mosque to be able to see him. Listening to the Prophet's (r) advices and praying behind Him would make him very happy. Abdullah (t), however, would like to see the Prophet (r) not only in the mosque but also in his house. He was wondering what kind of a person the Messenger of Allah (r) was in his relationship with his family and how he would treat his wives (t) and children (t).



He was wondering the answers of these questions so much.

The Prophet's wife was Abdullah's maternal aunt (t). One day he came to his aunt and asked:

— Auntie may I come for a visit tonight?

His aunt (t) caressed his head by smiling:

— Of course you can, she said. We are very fond of guests.

Abdullah (t) looked forward to the evening on that day. Finally the sun set behind the mountains. Abdullah (t) happily knocked on the door of Prophet's (r) house. His aunt opened the door and invited him into the house. After a while, our Prophet (r) came also back home. When he (r) saw Abdullah (t), he cheerfully smiled. He would care about all his guests, be they adults or children. He inquired after Abdullah's health. Then they all sat down to dinner table and had their meal with pleasure.

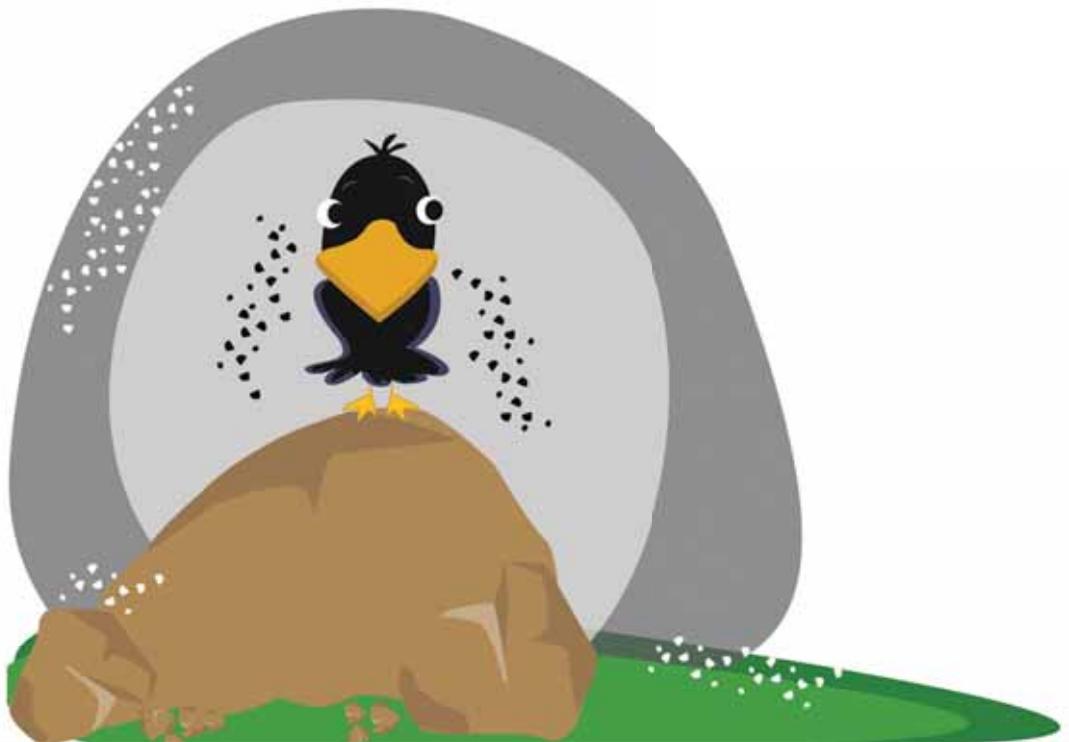
After dinner they talked for a long time. Abdullah (t) was so happy. Our beloved Prophet (r) showed so much interest in him that he felt himself really valuable. He wished that this night would never end and he did not want to go away from the Prophet's (r) presence. Then it was time for bed. Abdullah (t) wanted to sleep in the same room with the Prophet (r) but he was afraid to ask. Our beloved Prophet (r) would understand children's behaviors and it did not take long for him to recognize his little guest's wish. He held Abdullah's hand and took him to his room. He lied down in their beds and fell asleep.

Abdullah (t) woke up in the middle of the night. He could not see our Prophet (r) in his bed. When he looked into the room, he saw the Prophet (r) watching the sky. Meanwhile the Messenger of Allah (r) was reciting verses from the Qur'an. Abdullah watched Him admiringly. Then the Prophet (r) started to perform his prayer. He prayed for a long time. After finishing his ritual prayer, he (r) said prayers for a long time for salvation of his companions and all humanity. Just then, the call for dawn prayer was recited. Our beloved Prophet (r) came out of his home to go to the mosque.

This night, little Abdullah (t) had witnessed that our Prophet (r) was a wonderful human being in his house just like he was outside. In the morning he happily headed back home. He never forgot that night for the rest of his life.

THE OATH OF A LIAR

Our Prophet (ﷺ) attach great importance to truthfulness and wanted his companions (رضي الله عنهم) to be trustworthy in all of their works. The number of people who pretended to be with Muslims started to increase as Islam was getting stronger. some of them were acting hypocritically by sometimes taking side with Muslims and sometimes with the enemies of Islam based on their interests. These people were called "Munafiqs or Hypocrites."





Abdullah the son of Ubai was their leader. Since the day Our Prophet (ﷺ) migrated to Medina, Abdullah b. Ubai, because his heart was full of mischief and he did not like that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) invited people to Islam was feeling uncomfortable about the Prophet's (ﷺ) existence. That's why by teaming up with Jews he was waiting for an opportunity to harm our Prophet (ﷺ).

When Muslims became victorious in the Battle of Badr, Abdullah ibn Ubai and his friends felt so sad. To prevent the spread of Islam they began to make secret plans. Whenever he got a chance, he was talking against Islam to prevent people to embrace Islam. He was making up things which had not happened, or picking on everyone, and slandering innocent people.

Our Prophet (ﷺ) was aware of what this man was doing, for the companions (رضي الله عنهم) came to the Prophet (ﷺ) several times to complain about Abdullah's evil actions.

One day a complaint was delivered to the Prophet (ﷺ) about him. Our Prophet (ﷺ) would never judge a person without listening to him first. He called Abdullah ibn Ubai to his presence. And Stating the complaints about him, the Prophet (ﷺ) asked:

— I was informed that you said this and that. Did you say these words?

Abdullah ibn Ubai would never hesitate to lie. He did not hesitate to lie to the Prophet (ﷺ), either. He said

— No, absolutely I did not say these things. Whoever told this to you had lied. I swear upon the Book revealed to you that I am innocent.

Our Prophet (ﷺ) did not want to hold a person's lie against him who swore that he was telling the truth. He would never hold someone's fault against him. He would gently warn people. So that day he did not reprimand Abdullah ibn Ubai. In order to give Abdullah time to recognize his fault and a chance to correct it, Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) maintained his patience.

Just like that ... Our Prophet (ﷺ) would never rush to judge and punish people. He would even listened to a liar and gave him a chance to correct his faults. He prayed Allah for them.

As a result of his prayers, many evil things turned into goodness and many people found the right path.

THE LESSON GIVEN TO THOSE WHO BROKE THE AGREEMENT

Our beloved Prophet (r) was always loyal to his promises and agreements. When he (r) migrated to Medina, he signed an agreement protecting the rights of Muslims and Jews living in the city. According to this agreement neither sides would treat each other as an enemy, everyone would live in peace. But after a while Jews broke the terms of the agreement. They started to talk against Muslims and write teasing poems about Muslims. Above all they collaborated with enemies of the Muslims on plotting against Muslims.

Because of their inappropriate behaviors, our Prophet (r) called leaders of Jews to a meeting and invited them to Islam again by delivering them the message of our beautiful religion. But they did not even want to listen to the Messenger of Allah (r).

Then our Prophet (r) offered them to renew their peace agreement. But they refused it. In spite of all the good words of our Prophet (r) , they walked out of the meeting and challenged the Muslims by saying: "We do not want to make peace with Muslims. We are not afraid of fighting against you!" They increased their evil actions in the following days.

Our Prophet (r) was a patient and tolerant person but Jews overstepped the limits. What they had done could not be forgiven. Then Allah's command was revealed. Upon this command, the Prophet (r) gathered his army and walked up to Jews.



When they saw Muslims, the Jews who had said “We are not afraid of fighting against you!” immediately run into their castles. Muslims surrounded the castles so determinedly that they did not give the Jews a chance to escape. And at the end of the fifteen-day-siege Muslims took the control of all of the castles.

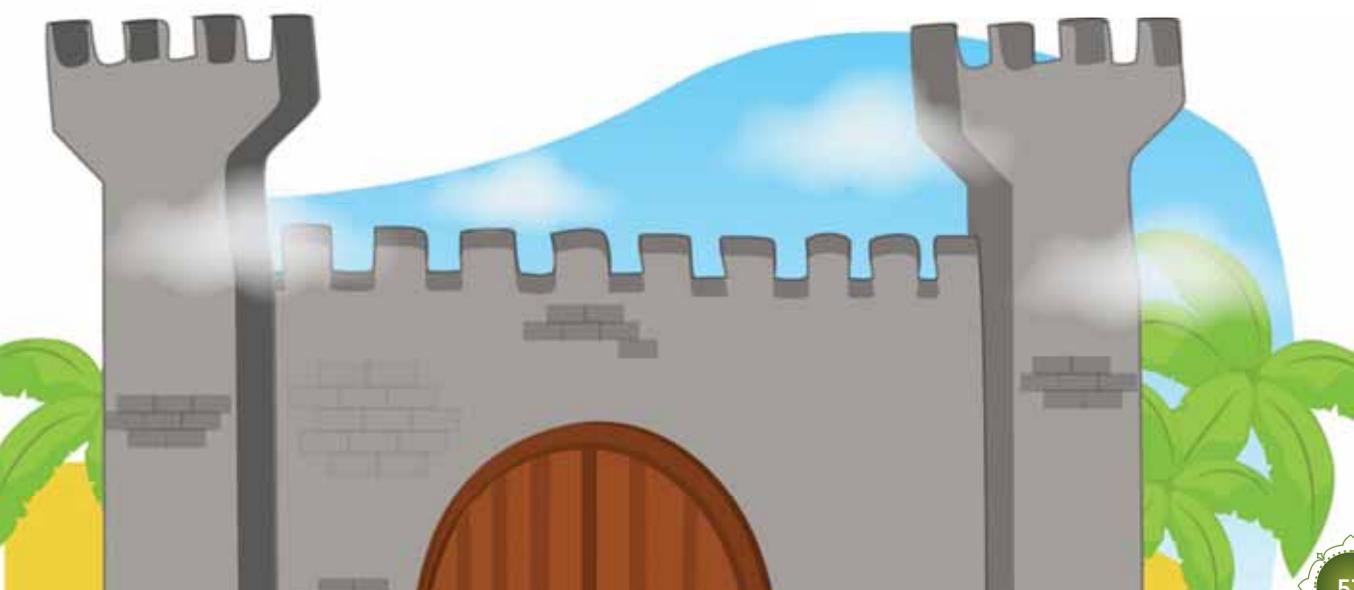
Our beloved Prophet (r) gathered the captives. He was going to make a decision about them. Just then Abdullah ibn Ubay showed up again. Begging to our Prophet (r) he asked from the Prophet (r):

— O Muhammad (r)! Please forgive my friends.

Our Prophet (r) turned his face away from this hypocrite. Because he did not trust the captives, he wanted to take some precautions. At the end he decided what he was going to do about them: “Jews had to be exiled from Medina.”

The very same day became the day that Jews were expelled from Medina. With the joy of saving their lives Jews hurriedly leaved the city. And Abdullah ibn Ubay covered with the grief of the exile of the Jews whom he called as “my friends.”

And thus, the peaceful days returned to Medina. Our Prophet (r) was tolerant and forgiving, but he would not hesitate to give the proper lesson to people insisting upon their faults.



THE ONE WHO OPENS ABU DARDA'S (ؓ) HEART TO ISLAM

Before the time that prophethood came to Muhammad (ﷺ), people were worshipping idols and hoping, from these non-living objects which could not even help themselves, to get help. Our Prophet (ﷺ), did not worship idols even in his childhood years and always believed in Allah the one and only God. After receiving the prophethood, he (ﷺ), invited people to worship only Allah and give up believing in idols. But instead of accepting his words, Meccan idolaters opposed him severely. They declared war against Islam saying: "We will not allow you to talk against our idols."

It was one of the days after our Prophet's migration to Medina. Even after some Medinan people had willingly invited the Prophet (ﷺ) to their city, there were still people left in Medina worshipping idols. One of them was little Abu Darda (ؓ). This little boy had a friend named Abdullah (ؓ). Abdullah (ؓ) had embraced Islam and was sorry TO see his best friend Abu ad-Darda (ؓ) worshipping idols. He said him several times that idols could neither bring him benefit nor give him harm, and invited him to Islam. But Abu Darda were not listening to him.

One day Abdullah (ؓ) wanted to prove his friend that idols had no power to do something. He entered Abu Darda's house when he was not at home. He found the idols worshipped by Abu Darda and he broke the idols into pieces with his stick.

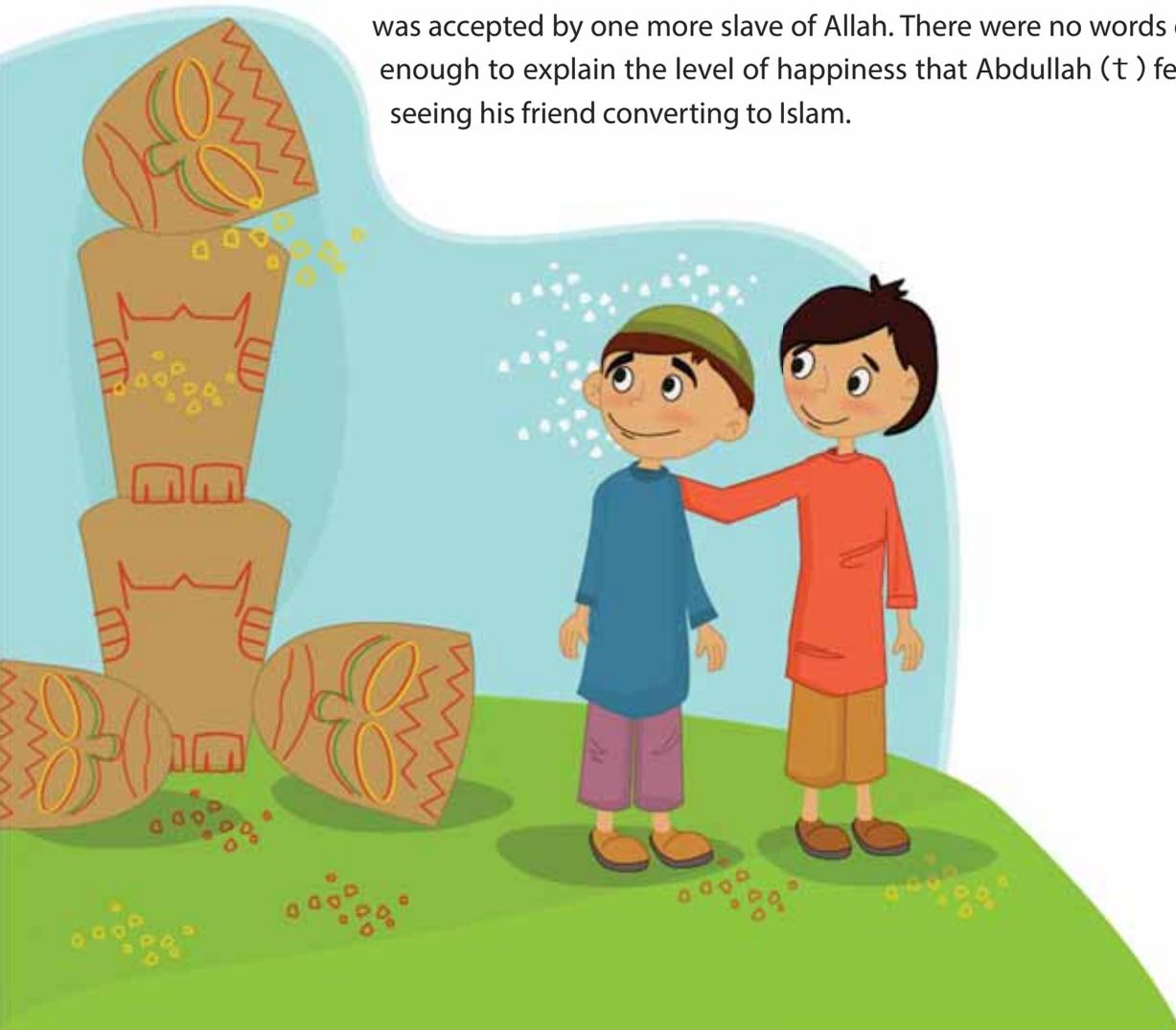


When Abu Darda (ؓ) came back, he saw that all idols were in pieces. He was so sad that he did not know what to do. Who could have done this? He was just about to go out to search for the culprit.

Then he suddenly stopped and thought: "If they had power, they could have defended themselves, which means they do not have power even to defend themselves." He decided to give up worshipping idols like his friend Abdullah (ؓ), to go to the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) and convert to Islam.

Abu Darda (ؓ) quickly went out and found his friend Abdullah (ؓ). He told him what happened. They together came to the Prophet (ﷺ).

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) welcomed this little boy. Our Prophet (ﷺ) recognized from the glimmer in his eyes that the faith had settled in his heart. The same day Abu Darda (ؓ) embraced Islam. Our beloved Prophet's (ﷺ) invitation to Islam was accepted by one more slave of Allah. There were no words deep enough to explain the level of happiness that Abdullah (ؓ) felt for seeing his friend converting to Islam.





THE YOUNG BOY ASKING FOR PROPHET'S PRAYERS

Our Prophet (r) used to do himself his own daily works, did not ask anything from anyone, and recommended to his companions (t) to do so. Once while travelling on a camel, Abu Bakr (t) dropped the rein which was in his hand. He quickly stopped his camel and got off the camel and picked it up. Those who saw this said:

— If you had ordered us, we could have taken it for you.



MY BELOVED PROPHET

MY MOST BEAUTIFUL MODEL

Abu Bakr (ؓ) said:

— Our Prophet (ﷺ) recommended me not to ask anything from anyone.

Once, our Prophet (ﷺ) was distributing war booty to its rightful owners. He also gave lots of things to people of Ban-i Tujib tribe which came from far away. Then he asked:

— Is there someone left among you whom I did not give any gift?

People from convoy said:

— Yes, we had left our youngest one with our riding animals.

The Prophet (ﷺ) asked them to send him this young boy. They went to the young boy and send him to the Prophet (ﷺ). The young boy came up to Prophet (ﷺ) and said:

— O Messenger of Allah, I am from the convoy that was with you a while ago. Would you meet my requests, too?

Our Prophet (ﷺ) asked to him:

— So, what would you like?

— I want you to pray Allah for my forgiveness, and ask Him to show His mercy on me and bestow richness into my heart, he said.

Our Prophet (ﷺ) prayed for this young person who had not asked any worldly thing from him and then gave him some presents.

And so, Ban-i Tujib tribe turned back to their homeland. Nearly a year later, some people from this convoy came to Mecca for pilgrimage and met our Prophet (ﷺ). He asked them:

— What is doing the young boy who came with you last year doing?

People of convoy:

— O Messenger of God (ﷺ), we have never seen a person who expresses his gratitude to Allah for the blessings bestowed upon him more than this young man. If the people on earth were to share the world among themselves, he would not even turn and look at them, they said.

Our Prophet (ﷺ) delighted with what he heard. This was a sign that his prayer had been accepted. He (ﷺ) prayed once again for that satisfied young man. Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) never refused the requests of those who did not work just for accumulating worldly benefits but also tried hard for achieving happiness in the Hereafter.

THE POOR GUEST

Our Prophet (r) used to take care of poor people and protect their rights. So much so that he (r) never sent a poor person away without meeting his needs. Once while he (r) was having a conversation with his companions (t) in the mosque, a poor man came to him. In a weak voice, the poor man asked:

— O Messenger of God (r)! I have been hungry for days. I have no power left to stand anymore. Do you have anything to give me?

The state of this piteous man made our merciful Prophet (r) very sad. He immediately sent a message to his house asking them to send whatever they have in the house to eat. But our Prophet's wives (t) and daughters (t) regretfully informed him that there was nothing in their house to get nourished other than water.

Then our Prophet (r) turned to his companions and asked:

— Who can take this brother to in his house for tonight?

A companion (t) from Ansar said:

— I can.

Then he took the poor man to his house. But the host himself was also a poor man. Just like the other days, on that day there was not much food in his house, either. His wife said that their food was barely enough for their children. The man said to his wife:

— We should make our guest comfortable. Take our children immediately to their beds to sleep and so they will forget about their hunger. Then lay the table. Place the

meal on it and turn the oil lamp off. And while he is eating, our guest will assume that we are eating, too.

The hostess did everything her husband said. Then the couple sat around the table with their guest. In half-dark room they pretended to eat. The poor man ate the meal heartily because of his hunger that he had been suffering for days. He ate his fill and thanked to the host. Then he went to his bed shown by the host, while the couple and their children slept hungry.

After sending his guest off the host went up to Prophet (r).

When our Prophet (r) saw him, he (r) began to recite the following verse as if he knew what had happened the night before:

“...And they give them (emigrants) preference over themselves even though they were in need of that.” (al-Hashr, 59; 9)

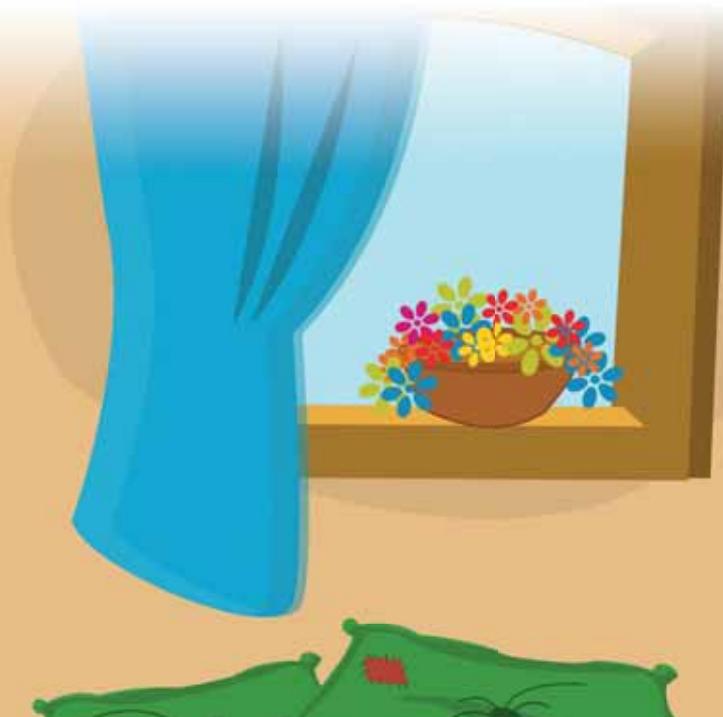
The poor companion (t) was so happy for hosting this poor brother in his house. He felt the tranquility in his heart for helping to someone even when he himself was in need. And so he gained the contentedness of God and love of our Prophet (r). There was not anyone happier than him on that day.



THE PROPHET (r) WHO LIVED A MODEST LIFE

Our beloved Prophet (r) lived a modest life, did not like the showing off and splendor and also advised his companions (t) to have the same life style.

Although she was the daughter of the Prophet (r), Fatima (t) lived also a modest life, do her works by herself. She grind her floor with her hands and just because she carried the water with a water-skin, her hands and wounds and neck were bruised. After finishing her housework and taking care of her children, she get really tired.





MY BELOVED PROPHET

MY MOST BEAUTIFUL MODEL

One day Ali (r) suggested to his beloved wife Fatima (t):

— What don't you go to your father and ask for a maid from him?

Fatima (t) agreed and went to her father. She told him about her situation. Certainly our Prophet (r) could help his beloved daughter but he wanted her to struggle against the difficulties of this life and not to keep her mind busy with this world by getting used to live in luxury.

That's why he (r) said:

— O Fatima (t), Fear from Allah! And worship Him! Do your housework! These are better for you than a maid.

Fatima (t) would never object to her beloved father and left there by saying:

— I am pleased with Allah and his Messenger (r).

Once Fatima (t) had bought new silk curtains for her house and put silver wristbands on her sons' Hassan (t) and Hussein (t) wrists. That day our Prophet (r) went to his daughter's (t) house and when he saw all these, he turned back without entering the house. Fatimah (t) who knew her father very well realized her fault. She immediately took down the curtains and took her sons' wristbands off.

Crying Hassan (t) and Hussein (t) went to the Prophet (r). Seeing his grandchildren sadness our Prophet (r) hugged them. And then he had their wristbands brought to him. He gave them to the companion (t) next to him and said:

— Eh Thawban (t)! Take these and give them to certain family who are in need, Hassan (t) and Hussein (t) are from my family. I do not want them to spend in this world Allah's blessings which are waiting for them in the Hereafter. Eh Thawban (t)! Buy a cheap bone necklace for my daughter Fatima (t) and two bone wristbands for my grandchildren (t).

By his modest life, our Prophet (r) became an example for both his family and his companions (t).

A person who holds his golden advices will never be disappointed both in this world and the Hereafter.

DO NOT MAKE GENDER INJUSTICE AMONG YOUR CHILDREN

Our beloved Prophet (r) discriminate not between boys and girls and love all children. But in those days in the Arab society, people used to prefer having boys than girls. And our Prophet (r) was unhappy about the unjust treatment to the girls. He (r) was the father of four beautiful girls which he (r) loved them very much, played with them, kissed and hugged them. He (r) used to take them on his shoulders and show them around the streets of Mecca.

After he received the mission of prophethood, he (r) started to warn parents about not to make gender's discrimination between their children. He would always protect girls and make them happy by giving them presents.

Once he was sitting in the mosque with his companions (t). While they were talking, a little boy entered to mosque. He looked around with curious eyes. It was obvious that he was looking for his father. Shortly after, he found his father. Immediately he went to his father and sat on his lap. His father loved him and kissed him on the cheek.

Just then, a little girl entered to masjid. She also seemed to be looking for someone. She glanced at the crowd and quietly moved forward. She smiled when she saw her father and brother. She immediately went to them. She was the daughter of the man

who had just hugged his son. The man did not pay attention to his daughter and even looked at her as if he was saying to his daughter “why did you come here?”

Then he reluctantly seated her right beside him.

Our Prophet (r) saw this and warned him about not to discriminate between his children by saying:

— Why did not you treat them equally?

The man could not give an answer because he had realized his fault.

After that day, he probably loved his daughter as much as his son and treated them equally.



THE PROPHET (r) WHO ENJOY TO JOKE

Our Prophet (r) had a serious, dignified and staid stance, while he was also a friendly and sincerely behaving person to the people around him. He liked to joke and enjoyed making people smile. That's why his companions would not be afraid to go to him when they had problems. They would easily talk to him, tell him about their problems, and ask his advice.

Once an old woman came to our Prophet (r) and said:

— O Messenger of Allah (r)! Can you pray for me to enter Paradise?

Our Prophet (r) joked with her by saying:

— The old women do not enter in paradise

Thereon the old woman left there by crying.

Our Prophet (r) said to his companions (t) by smiling:

— Go and say to her, "You as an old person cannot enter to paradise."

And explain her that Allah say in Qur'an:





“Verily, we have created them (maidens) of special creation and made them virgins. Loving (their husbands only), equal in age.” (al-Waqi’ah, 56: 35-37)

The woman by hearing these Prophet’s (r) words would be so happy, wouldn’t she?

And at another time, one day our Prophet’s (r) nurse Umm Ayman came to our Prophet (r) and said:

— O Messenger of Allah! My husband is inviting you.

Our Prophet (r) asked:

— Who is he? Is he the man who has whiteness in his eyes?

Umm Ayman:

— There is no whiteness in my husband’s eyes, O Messenger of Allah (r)!

Smiling our Prophet (r) said to the bewildered Umm Ayman:

— There is no human being who has no whiteness in his eyes.

And once, our Prophet (r) had set out on a journey with Aisha (t). In a place our Prophet said to companions:

— You go ahead. And then he turned to his beloved wife Aisha (t) and said:

— Let’s have a race, and they started to run. Aisha (t) won the race.

A few years later our Prophet (r) was on a journey with Aisha (t) again. And he (r) said to his companions (t):

— You go ahead and turned to his wife (t) and said:

— Let’s race.

At that time Aisha (t) had put on some weight. They started to race, but this time our Prophet (r) won the race and said to his wife smiling:

— Let’s this victory of mine be the return game of your victory on that day.

The Messenger of Allah (r) was a balanced person in his jokes just like in his all other works. He would never hurt people’s feelings even when he made jokes.

PROPHET (r) ESTEEMS HIS ELDERS

Our beloved Prophet (r) would attach importance to his family and he would show his love to his children (t) and wives (t) whenever he had a chance. He never decide on his own about family matters and always took his children's (t) and wiwe's (t) opinions. For instance he asked his girls' opinions when they were getting married and gave their opinion priority in choosing their husbands.

Beside family members our Prophet (r) show utmost respect to his close relatives, always maintain good relationship with his uncles and other relatives with affection and respect. He (r) would visit them when they got sick and help them when they were in need. He (r) would never hold grudge or be offended by the actions of any one of them. When he (r) conquered the city of Mecca, he (r) even forgave many of his polytheist relatives who had persecuted him in the early days of Islam.

Our Prophet (r) would never forget the favors done for him. For instance, he always loved and showed his respect to his wet-nurse Halimah (t), who had nourished him while he was a baby. Whenever he (r) saw her, he express his gratitude to her saying: "Mommy" and inquire about her health.

Once his wet-nurse Halimah (t) came to our Prophet (r) and related to him about the drought and famine in her village, dying animals because of hunger and thirst,



and the economic difficulties. At the time, our Prophet (r) was married to Khadija (t). He welcomed Halimah (t). He (r) and his wife Khadija (t) hosted Halima (t) in the best way and gave her gift. Then he gave her forty sheep in order to save her from the economic hardship.

Halimah (t) was pleased with our Prophet's (r) kind and generous treatment. She, then, returned to her village saying prayers for the Prophet (r).

One day a companion (t) came to our Prophet (r) and said:

— O Messenger of Allah (r)! Can you tell me a deed which would help me enter Paradise?

Our Prophet (r) said:

— You should offer prayers perfectly, give obligatory charity (Zakat), and keep good relations with your Kith and kin. (Bukhari, Book of Good Manners and Form, 10)

What a beautiful example our Prophet (r) was to his companions (t) about showing respect, affection, and loyalty to his elders, wasn't he?

THE KIND PROPHET (ﷺ)

In Medina there was a Jewish scholar named Zayd ibn Sana'a (رضي الله عنه). This man was wondering whether our Prophet (ﷺ) was really the Messenger of Allah (ﷻ), if, as it has been told to him, the Prophet Muhammad's (ﷺ) morals were as high as they were told. In order to make a test, he started to watch the Prophet (ﷺ) from a distance.

One day when our Prophet (ﷺ) was walking with Ali (رضي الله عنه), a man crossed their path and asked:

— O Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), drought and famine hit our village. Can you help us?

Our Prophet (ﷺ) asked to Ali (رضي الله عنه):

— Do we have anything left with us to give?

Ali (رضي الله عنه) said:

— We have nothing left to give, O Messenger of Allah (ﷺ).

Just then Zayd ibn Sana'a (رضي الله عنه), who was watching them from a distance, came to them and said that he could loan them some dates. However, he subjected the condition of its payment at a certain time. Our Prophet (ﷺ) accepted Zayd's (رضي الله عنه) condition. Thus, he borrowed some dates from Zayd (رضي الله عنه) and gave them to the poor man and told him to take the dates to his village and distribute them among its residents.



Some time passed. One day when our Prophet (r) was walking with Umar (t), Zayd suddenly confronted them and although it was not the due date for the payment, he started to shout in a rude and loud voice:

— O Muhammad (r), pay your debt! Why don't you pay my due back?

Umar (t) angrily walked up to Zayd and reprimanded him saying:

— O enemy of Allah! How dare you to talk in such a rude way with the Messenger of Allah (r)?

He almost beat him.

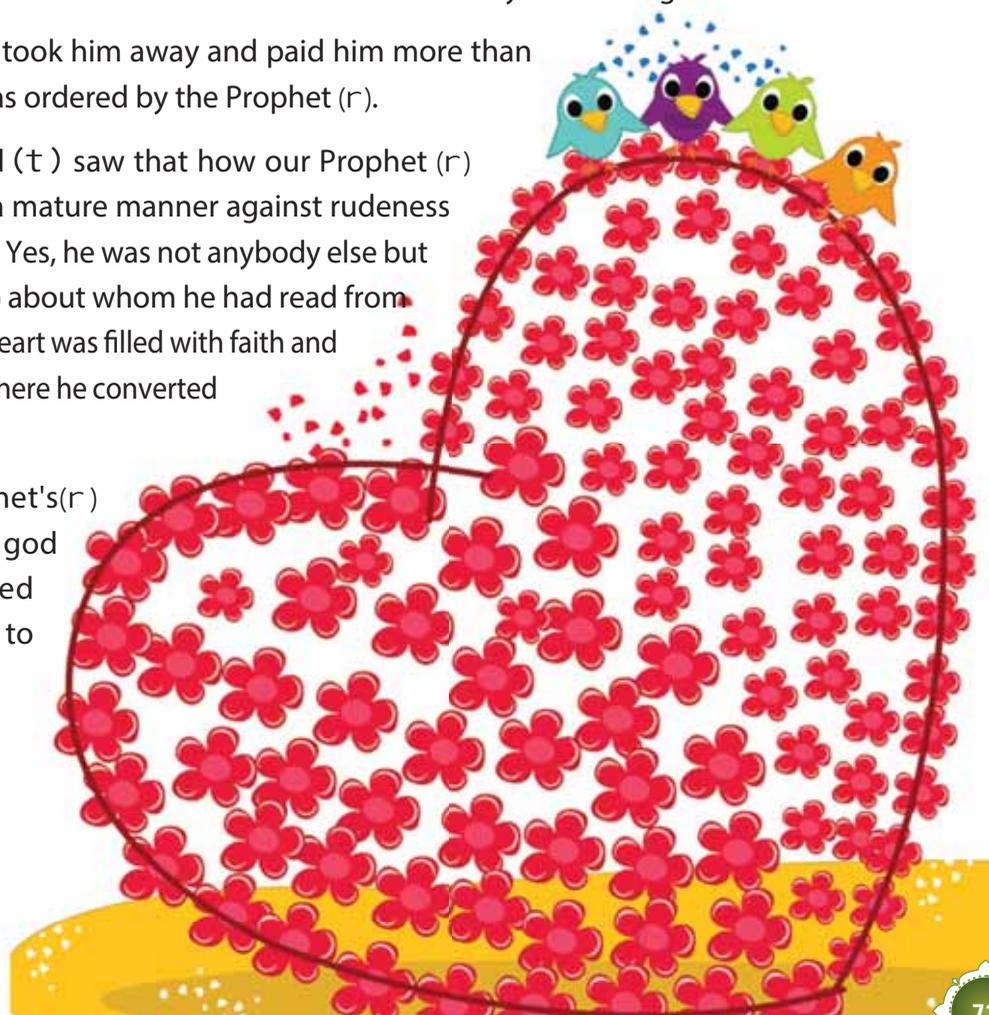
Zayd ibn Suna (t) withdrew because of his fear from Umar (t), whereas our Prophet (r) was very calm. He turned to Umar (t) and said:

— O Umar, (t) you should have told me to pay my debt although it is still not its due date, and you should have advised to this man to ask his debt nicely. Take him away and pay his debt. Give him some extra dates because you have frightened him.

Umar (t) took him away and paid him more than his due as it was ordered by the Prophet (r).

Thus, Zayd (t) saw that how our Prophet (r) responded in a mature manner against rudeness and disrespect. Yes, he was not anybody else but the Prophet (r) about whom he had read from the books. His heart was filled with faith and right then and there he converted to Islam.

Our Prophet's(r) patience and god morals opened another heart to Islam.



HAPPINESS OF THE LITTLE GIRL

One day our beloved Prophet (ﷺ) bought himself a shirt from the market. As soon as he went out from the shop, a poor man came close to him and prayed as follows:

— O Prophet of Allah (ﷺ)! Please clothe me with a shirt and so Allah may clothe you with a dress from the clothes of Paradise.

Our Prophet (ﷺ) felt pity for this man dressed in shabby clothes. He (ﷺ) immediately presented his new shirt to the poor man. Then he went back to the shop once more and bought a new one for himself. Thus he only had two coins left in his pocket from the ten silver coins.

While he (ﷺ) was on his way to his home he saw a little girl. She was crying and looking for something around. Our Prophet (ﷺ) asked her why she was crying. She said whimpering:

— My homeowner had given to me two silver coins to buy some flour, but I lost the money. That is why I am crying.

Our Prophet (ﷺ) never want to see children being sad. At once he gave his remaining two coins to the little girl. And he said her to go and buy some flour.

However, she did not stop crying. The Prophet (ﷺ) asked:

— Why are you still crying although you get your money, my little one?



This time the little girl said:

— By looking for the money that I lost, I will be too late at home and I am afraid that my householder will be angry at me.

Our Prophet (r) said:

— Do not be afraid my little one, come with me. And holding her hand he took the girl to her house.

When householders saw the Prophet (r), they said:

— Welcome O Messenger of Allah (r)! You took to trouble of getting here.

Our Prophet (r) said:

— This little girl was afraid that you might get angry at her because she was late, so I took her to you. The householder, very happy to see the Messenger of Allah (r) told:

— You honored us by coming to our house O Prophet of Allah (r) and we set her free. If she agree to stay with us she won't be anymore our slave any more, but our girl.

These words made the Prophet (r) very happy. He (r) prayed for the members of the household saying:

— O My Lord! How precious ten silver coins you gave were! You clothed me and a poor man with shirts and you blessed this girl with her freedom.



O BILAL (ؓ)! RECITE THE ADHAN!

Our beloved Prophet (ﷺ) would always protect the poor people around him and help them. And the poor people loved him too. They would often visit him and strive to learn our religion.

Once, when our Prophet (ﷺ) was sitting in the mosque, a large group of people visited him. They were wearing shabby clothes. They just wore a piece of cloth in the middle of which they had opened a hole and put their head through that hole. They had no shoes and their poverty could easily be seen on them.

Our Prophet (ﷺ) became very sad when he saw them. He (ﷺ) immediately went his home in order to find something to help them. However there was nothing in his home to give these poor people. He returned to mosque with a great sadness but was not ready to send these unfortunate people back empty handed. He (ﷺ) called Bilal (ؓ) and said:

— O Bilal (ؓ), recite the adhan.

Bilal (ؓ) recited the adhan in a beautiful voice. Muslims who heard the call run to the masjid in a hurry. The mosque became filled with people in a short time. Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) delivered them a speech about the importance of helping the poor in our religion, recited verses from the Qur'an, and then he said:

— Give alms to the poor even if it is half a date.

After listening to the Prophet's (r) moving speech, companions (t) immediately run to their homes. Soon after, they returned with many things in their hands for the poor guests in the mosque. Soon after, the mosque was filled up with clothes, shoes, and foods.

Our Prophet (r) was very happy about the generosity of his companions (t) and stated that nothing given as alms would be a waste. Then he added:

— Allah will give you a new one in return for the goods spent as charity.

Then the things collected for the poor guests were distributed among them. They became very happy through the hands helping them. They happily left the city by thanking to our Prophet (r) and his companions.



SPREAD SALUTATIONS AMONG YOURSELVES

Our beloved Prophet (r) gave a great importance to exchange greetings, did not frown at people, and always be careful about having a smiling face.

He used to recommend to his companions (t):





— You shall not enter paradise so long as you do not affirm belief and you will not believe as long as you do not love one another. Should I tell you to a thing which, if you do, will foster love amongst you: spread the practice of paying salutation to one another by saying as-salamu alaikum.

When our Prophet (r)) went to a house, according to customs of that day, he would stand at the door and call out to inside:

— As salam Alaykum.

Once in the early hours of the day he went to the house of Ali (t) and his daughter Fatimah (t). He would never enter a house without greeting first even if it was the house of his daughter. That day he called out to inside by standing at the door:

— As salam Alaykum.

Ali (t) and Fatimah (t) heard the Prophet's (r)) salam however they were still in bed. They hesitated to respond the Prophet's greetings because they were afraid that the Prophet might think that they were lazy people. Our Prophet (r) gave salam again. Ali (t) and Fatimah (t) could not say anything again because they were ashamed. According to the customs of that era when one went to a house, he would greet three times and if the door was not opened at third time, he would return. And our Prophet (r) accepted this good custom. Therefore he greeted one more time. Ali (t) and Fatimah (t) opened the door in fear of him going back. They invited him in saying:

— Wa Alaykum as-Salam, O Messenger of Allah (r)) !

Our Prophet (r)) said that salam would warm the hearts up and because of that, he would give salaam to everyone, young or old, who he saw at the street. Especially the children! When they saw the Prophet (r)) , they would be filled with delight of seeing him. They would immediately surround him and compete for taking his salam and holding his hands. The Prophet would return their attention with love. He would walk to his destination with them and would never let the hands of a child go until the child himself let him go.

How happy those who take the Prophet's (r)) salams were!

And how happy those who spread the salam are!

HELPING THE ENEMY

It was long time after the migration of Prophet (ﷺ) from Mecca to Medina. Muslims together were living in peace and tranquility. They were overcoming the hardships together and sharing their happiness with each other. They had gained strength through the conquests they made under the Prophet's (ﷺ) leadership. Medina had turned into a city where Muslims live in peace.

However the situation was not so bright in Mecca. After the Muslims' migration to Medina, the city had been suffering with scarcity and there was unrest everywhere. Moreover, with the conversion of neighboring tribes to Islam Meccan people started to become increasingly lonelier.

One of the tribes which embraced Islam was the tribe of Hamama located near to Mecca. When the people of Hamama converted to Islam, they did not want to make trade with Meccan people, so they stopped selling wheat to Meccans. However, Mecca was getting almost its entire need of wheat from the tribe of Hamama. There was nowhere else nearby that they could buy wheat. It did not pass long before a famine arose in Mecca. Mecca People confronted with the danger of starving.

Abu Sufyan, the leader of Mecca, sent envoys to the leader of Hamama in order persuade him for selling them wheat but he could not be convinced. Meccans had fallen into a difficult situation because of the famine. As a last resort, they asked help from the Prophet (ﷺ) by sending an envoy and said:

— You are our last resort. If you do not help us, we will starve.



MY BELOVED PROPHET

MY MOST BEAUTIFUL MODEL

Our Prophet (ﷺ) showed mercy on Meccans who had tortured Muslims, attempted to kill them and exiled them. He thought that there were innocent children and weak women in Mecca. He was not willing to let anyone die from hunger even if he were his enemy.

He (ﷺ) immediately sent a message to the leader of the tribe of Hamama and advised them to give wheat to Meccan people.

When the Prophet (ﷺ) asks something, how could any leader refuse his request? Sacks full of wheat were immediately sent to Mecca. Thus Mecca attained wheat and bread. Children smiled and hungry people's stomachs were filled up again. There was atmosphere of festival in the streets of city. Everyone remembered the Prophet (ﷺ) with gratitude who worried about them from very distance.

By means of our Prophet's (ﷺ) mercy, a community was rescued from hunger. He was a Prophet (ﷺ) who could even forgive and help his enemy with his heart full of mercy and compassion.



CONQUEST OF THE HEARTS

In Mecca there was a young man called Iqrimah. He was Abu Jahl's son and he was also an enemy of Islam just like his father. He did all kinds of evil to the Prophet (ﷺ) and Muslims. As it is expressed in a saying they that sow the wind shall reap the whirlwind. People would always see the consequences their actions. The day of the conquest of Mecca by Muslims was a dangerous one for Iqrimah. He was probably be punished for his evil deeds. So he ran away in fear. His intention was to get on a ship in Yemen and escape as far away as possible.

Finally he came to a port and got on a ship. The ship weighed anchor and started floating on the deep blue sea. Iqrimah was rejoicing, thinking that "Finally I went on board a ship. When I go far away from here, no one can find me there, so I can live in safety"

But after a short time, a storm broke out. The ship started swinging to right and left like made from paper. So much so that it was about sink. Iqrimah did not know what to do because of his fear. The very moment he felt remorse. And he said:





— O my Lord! I promise if I am saved from this danger, I will go to Muhammad (r) and convert to Islam.

After swinging in the storm for a long time, the ship finally stopped.

On the day of the conquest of Mecca, Umm Hakim (t) Iqrimah's wife embraced Islam by coming to the Prophet (r). She wished very much her husband to embrace Islam as well. She said to the Prophet:

— O Prophet of Allah (r)! Iqrimah escaped to Yemen in fear of punishment for his bad actions. Forgive him so he can return.

So she (t) asked her husband to be forgiven. Allah's Messenger (r) forgave him by saying:

— He was forgiven.

Umm Haqim (t) went to Yemen and found her husband. Iqrimah became very happy when he saw his wife. Umm Haqim (t) informed him that he was forgiven and could return to Mecca. Iqrimah already wanted to return his hometown and saw the Prophet (r). They happily returned to Mecca. Our Prophet (r) met Iqrimah by smiling:

— Welcome! O Cavalry immigrant!

Iqrimah (t) held the Prophet's (r) hands who did not say to him any bad words despite everything he had done in the past. And he embraced Islam by saying: *"Ashadu an la ilaha ilallah wa ashadu anna Muhammadan Abduhu wa Rasuluh."*

The Prophet's (r) mercy and forgiveness softened the heart of Iqrimah (t). From that time on, he was remembered by his good deeds and he became a good Muslim who liked his religion and willingly followed its commands.

PROPHET (ﷺ) WHO LISTENS GRIEVANCES

Together with his companions, our Prophet (ﷺ) would organize expeditions to non-Muslim tribes around Medina and invite them to Islam. The tribe of Tay was also one of those non-Muslim tribes, so the Prophet (ﷺ) sent a group of companions (رضي الله عنهم) to this tribe to invite them to Islam. Adiy ibn Hatam, the leader of this tribe, ran away when he saw that Muslims were coming.

Companions (رضي الله عنهم) fought with the members of this tribe, took its control and brought the captives to Medina. Adiy ibn Hatam's sister Safana was among the captives. The Prophet (ﷺ) treated well the captives and did not let anybody to violate their rights. When he learned that Safana was the sister of Adiy ibn Hatam, he set her free and asked her to find and bring her brother back to Medina.

With the happiness of getting freed, Safana went to find his brother. Finally she found him and told him that the Prophet (ﷺ) was not a person which has to be scared of, told him that he treated everyone nicely even the captives and that the Prophet (ﷺ) wanted to see him. Adiy ibn Hatam by listening his sister wondered whether the Prophet (ﷺ) was as good person as his sister told him. They came to Medina and went to the Prophet (ﷺ). At the time the Prophet (ﷺ) was sitting in the masjid. Adiy ibn Hatam introduced himself to the Prophet (ﷺ) which became very pleased to see the leader of tribe of Tay, welcomed him with a smiling face and wanted to host him at his house.



They set off together. Just then, an old woman crossed the Prophet's (r) path and started to explain her problems, troubles and needs. The Prophet (r) patiently listened her, did not interrupt her while she was talking and did not look bored either.

Adiy ibn Hatam (t) was watching this incident bewilderedly. In his tribe no one would dare to cross his way in such a manner. Poor and helpless people were taken care of only by their helpers, whereas the Prophet (r) showed her mercy and took care of her needs.

Soon after they arrived to the Prophet's (r) house, the Prophet (r) laid a cushion filled with fiber under his guest to sit. Because it was the only cushion in the house, the Prophet (r) sat on the floor.

This humble behavior of the Prophet (r) affected Adiy ibn Hatam (t) very much. Only a Prophet (r) could so closely treat his people and hold his guests in such high esteem.

Adiy ibn Hatam's (t) heart filled with love and thus he embraced Islam by saying the statement of *shahadah* in the Prophet's (r) house.

What a nice thing!

Our Prophet (r) led one more person to be honored with Islam through his good morality.



THE TOLERANT PROPHET (r)

Our beloved Prophet (r) would pay close attention to the education of all of his companions (t). The education of the children, the young, the old, male, and female... They would have conversations with Prophet (r) and take an example from the Prophet's (r) good morality for themselves.

The Prophet (r) reserved one day of the week to the female companions (t). On that day, women would come together, go to masjid, converse with the Prophet (r) and ask him questions about religion.

And on one of such days, women met with the Prophet (r). All of them were very eager to ask questions to Prophet (r). They started to ask their questions one by one. The Prophet (r) listened to them patiently and tried to find solutions to their problems. But a while later, it started to get noisier inside. Women started to interrupt each other's questions and talk all together.

Just then, Umar (t) asked permission to enter. Women who heard Umar's (t) voice stopped talking and kept their silence for a while. And when he entered, they did not utter a word.

Allah's Messenger (r) looked at Umar (t) smiling. Umar (t) asked:

— My life would be sacrificed for you O Messenger of Allah (r)! May Allah always make you smile! Why are you smiling?

The Prophet (r) replied smiling more:



MY BELOVED PROPHET MY MOST BEAUTIFUL MODEL



— Those who around me stopped talking and tidied themselves up as soon as they heard your voice. I liked what they had done. Umar (ؓ) said:

— Actually they should have been scared from you.

And he returned to women and asked:

— O enemy of yourselves! Are you scared of me instead of the Prophet of Allah (r)?

Women replied:

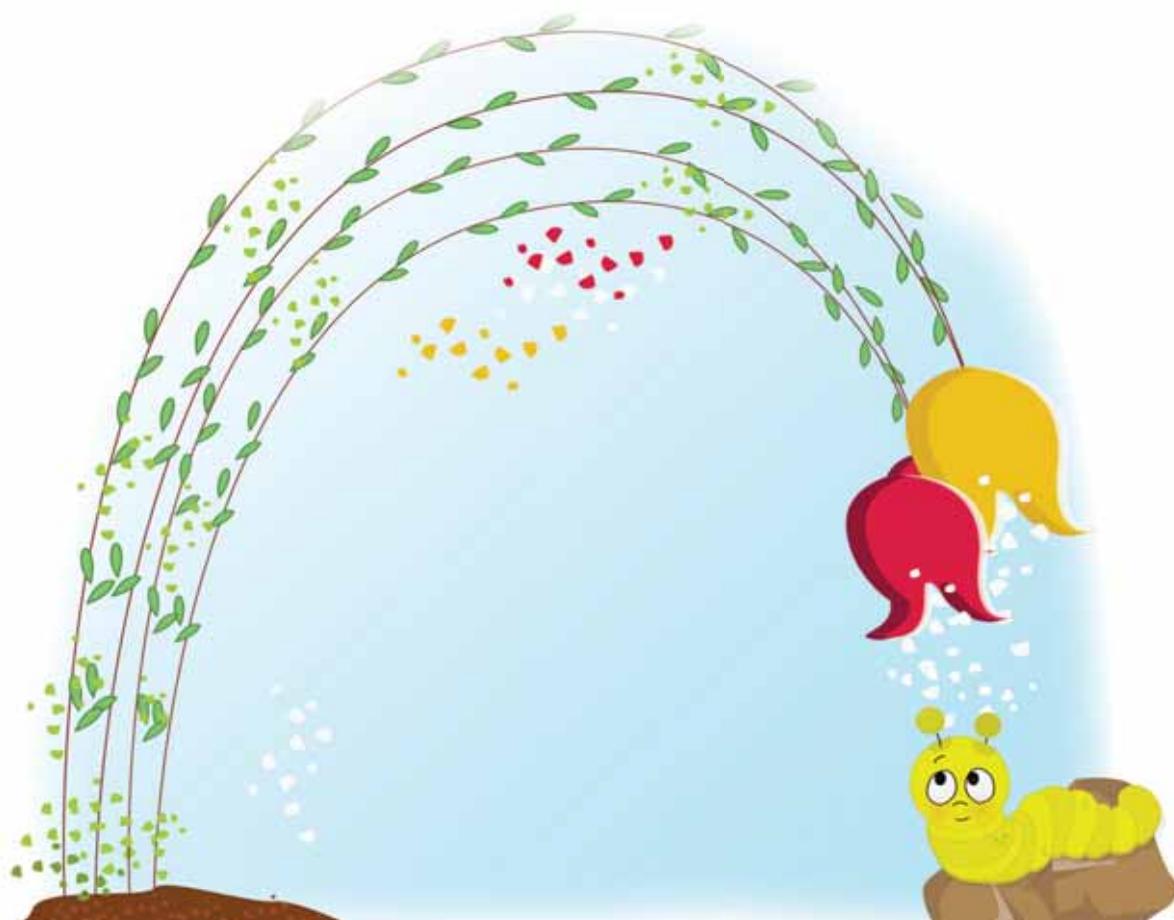
— Yes! You are stricter and more intolerant than the Messenger of Allah (r).

Our beloved Prophet (r) who heard what they had just said stated:

— They are right, O Umar (ؓ)! When devil see you in a street, he would change his way because of his fear from you.

Upon these words chuckling was heard in masjid.

With his tolerance and kindness the Prophet (r) would gain the heart of everyone.





THE FAREWELL SERMON

Our beloved Prophet (r) came to Mecca in the 9th year of Hijrah and visited the Ka'bah with his companions (t). This was the Prophet's (r) last visit to the house of Allah. Therefore it is called "the Farewell Pilgrimage." Our beloved Prophet (r) gathered all his companions (t) and gave them a speech, which is called "the Farewell Sermon."

Some of advices given by the Prophet (r) in his Farewell Sermon are as follows:



MY BELOVED PROPHET

MY MOST BEAUTIFUL MODEL

“O people, listen to my words. I do not know whether I shall ever meet you again in this place after this year.

My companions (ؓ)! Surely you will meet your Lord and He will question you about your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone. Convey my messages to those who are absent. It is possible that a person who is here may convey these words to more understandable person.

My companions (ؓ)! Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. All usury is abolished.

O People! I advise you to protect the rights of women and to fear from Allah about their rights. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah’s trust and with His permission.

O Believers! I leave behind me two things, if you follow these you will never go astray. That is, the Book of Allah and the sunnah of his Prophet (ؐ).

Know for certain that every Muslim is a brother of another Muslim, and that all Muslims are brethren. Your Lord is one. All of you are sons of Adam.

O People! You will be asked about me, what will you say?

Muslims (ؓ) replied all together:

— You have fulfilled the order of Allah and guided us to the straight path. You fulfilled your mission as a prophet in the best manner.

There upon Prophet (ؐ) raised his index finger to sky and said:

— Be my witness O Allah! Be my witness O Allah! Be my witness O Allah!

Our beloved Prophet (ؐ) delivered the message of Islam to his companions until his last breath.

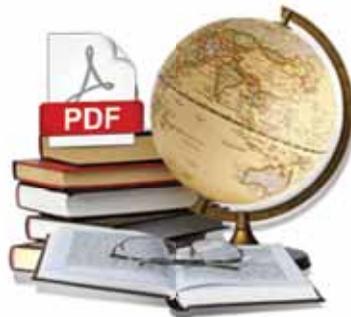
And we have inherited his good morality.

He is our most valuable example.

With the prayers of meeting with our beloved Prophet (ؐ) in Paradise!

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