

NEWSLETTER

uswatul **MUSLIMAH**

ROLE MODELS FOR THE MUSLIMAH

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Mothers of the Nations

Legacy

A legacy is what one leaves behind after one dies. Your friend might leave behind a valuable piece of art while her grandfather may have left a vintage car. Someone may bid farewell to a state-of-the-art-kitchen equivalent in value to many people's entire home. On the other hand someone might part with wardrobes full of designer apparel, branded scarves and fashionable footwear: the colours and variety of which could put an exclusive boutique to shame. These are some of the mundane and finite legacies of this world. They are bound to perish one day. They will become outdated and unfashionable. The image that they lend to their owners is redeemed the day they die. The benefit that would accrue to those who possessed them discontinues and ceases the moment they part ways. It is for this reason that Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) exhorted us to leave behind such legacies that continue to benefit us even after we have passed on to the Akhirah. Hence, his (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) blessed words leave us in no doubt about the type of legacies we should aspire to leave behind.

"When a man dies he leaves behind only three legacies:

- an act of charity whose benefit continues;
- beneficial knowledge; and
- pious children who make du'aa for him."

(Saheeh Muslim # 4223)

Pious Children

The pure and honourable wife of Nabi Ibrahim (alaihis salaam), Sayyidah Saarah (alaihas salaam) was blessed in her ripe old age with a son by the name of Ishaq (alaihis salaam). He was destined to be blessed and inspired with divine knowledge and prophethood.

Could any mother ask for anything better?

What is more interesting is that he was to be the father of Ya'qoob (alaihis salaam) who was the primary ancestor of the entire nation of the Banu Israa-eel. From among the Banu Israa-eel came thousands of Ambiyaa (alaihimus salaam). Some of these illustrious Ambiyaa had received the divine books of: *Tauraah, Zaboor and Injeel*. Sayyidah Saarah (alaihas salaam) was indeed the Mother of a Nation.

Sayyidah Haajar (alaihas salaam) was the mother of the first born child of Nabi Ibrahim (alaihis salaam). His name was Sayyiduna Ismaa'eel (alaihis salaam). He was to be endowed with a tremendous degree of forbearance and tolerance. He was also in line to be appointed as a Nabi.

Could any parent enjoy any greater boon?

What added to the glory and honour was the fact that the greatest of the entire creation of Allah Ta'ala was to appear in

his progeny among the Arabs. He was destined to be such a personality who ALL the Prophets (alaihimus salaam) would consider it their honour for him to be their leader. It was none other than Sayyiduna Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). The prophethood of our Master Nabi (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) would last till the end of time. His progeny would rule over the world. His followers, unlike the nations of the past, would be privileged to represent their Leader (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) in his mission. This was the greatest favour that Allah Ta'ala would ever bestow on any parent. Thus, Sayyidah Haajar (alaihas salaam) was also the Mother of a Nation.

Sayyidah Saarah and Sayyidah Haajar (alaihimus salaam) were great personalities who were Mothers of a Nation - and Mothers of a Nation they were indeed! Such personalities deserve to be honoured and followed. Study their exemplary lives and follow in their footsteps ... you will also attain greatness as a mother, insha-Allah.

Such profound legacies are indeed a beauty and a joy forever.

(For a detailed discussion on their lives visit:

<http://uswatulmuslimah.co.za/events/audio.html>)

Salaah

Our Hotline

to Allah

People instinctively react to problems in different ways. A policeman would immediately reach for his gun while a housewife grabs her rolling-pin. A teenager simply shrieks 'my phone!', and a child just latches onto his mother's skirt. The ahaadeeth clearly point out that Nabi (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)'s first port of call in a predicament was salaah. (Sunan Abi Dawood #1319) His very nature would take him there. Sayyiduna Muhammad (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) would rush to salaah in any problematic situation, just like a person running for cover in pouring rain.

Why not?

After all, the solution to all the problems in this mortal world and the next lie only in the control of One Allah Ta'ala. While the forces and means of this world apparently contribute towards an event or occurrence: they all occur by the power and control of Allah Ta'ala. He has total authority. What He wishes occurs. What He does not will to happen, will never come into existence. Everything happens in the manner Allah Ta'ala determines: precisely, perfectly and accurately.

The things of this world may project an image of control and influence but

they are nothing more than the link between the flag of the station master and the movement of the train. An onlooker may be deceived by the fact that the movement of the train is governed by the motion of the flag because the train only moves when the station master drops his flag. However, the reality of the matter is that the driver of the train has full and total control. If he wishes, he may accelerate. If he wishes, the train remains stationery.

Whether it is huge meteorites or small stones, rough seas or gurgling springs, cyclonic winds or gentle breezes, chemical warfare, cyber warfare, precious metals, mineral resources, health, sickness, joy, sorrow, mothers-in-law, daughters-in-law, lazy husbands, whatever . . . tangible or intangible and elusive.

In short, the entire universe and whatever it contains are all owned and controlled by Allah Ta'ala. So, it would make perfect sense to cut out the middle man and go directly to the source. It's cheaper. It is only rational that a person begs the help of Allah Ta'ala in a predicament. It's faster. C'mon, it's common sense. Dial 'PATIENCE' and 'SALAAH' for the help of Allah Ta'ala. (inspired from verse 45 of Surah Baqarah)

Hence one of the outstanding features

in the life of Sayyidah Saarah (alaihas salaam) was attracting the help of Allah Ta'ala through salaah. She had resorted to salaah when the tyrant king had made evil advances towards her. Allah Ta'ala accepted her plea and caused the king to become paralysed.

We may be aware that salaah is a solution to our issues. But, it's high time that we BELIEVE in this solution and ADOPT it.

GOAL-WEIGHT

Allah Ta'ala has created everyone unique. We all have different body structures. Each person's metabolism is also different. Many people eat much but remain slim while others who, despite eating little, just keep putting on weight. In this era of being extremely concerned about the outer physical self, many people have become obsessed with the concept of "goal-weight" (the ideal weight of a person based on his/her age, height, etc.). We pass our entire lives trying to look like some model we have seen on the cover page of some magazine. At times we harm our own bodies and health in trying to be what we were never created to be. The end result is depression and ungratefulness. It is time we realise that everyone is unique. I need to realise I am different and I need to be grateful to my Allah Ta'ala for all His bounties.



The PLAY DOUGH

She stared at the play dough in her hands. The different colours reminded her of the rainbow that her father had shown her just the day before. She was only four years old and doctors had given up hope of her motor-skills ever returning to her since that ghastly accident two years ago. Pushing the curls away from her eyes, she miraculously began pulling at it: twisting, rolling and shaping it into the house ... the house that she would always tell her father about whilst sitting on his lap and swinging in their sun-filled veranda. He would always twirl her baby-soft hair around his fingers and say:

"Darling, the happiest day of my life will be when you build me a house with your play dough."

That evening, a plastic toy box lid lay on the doorway holding a house whose blue roof was ready to cave in, whose red walls were set in a shape other than a square, whose green door leaning on the wall appeared more like a warrior's shield than a door. She waited in the guest room hiding behind the curtain until she heard the car pull into the driveway. The door banged, the alarm clicked and the sounds of footsteps crunching the gravel pounded her ears as he jingled his keys in his pocket to open

the door.

Ah! It was a sight sweeter than the sweetest honey, more fragrant than the richest perfume, the dawning of a new era in the future of his baby, a sight that pieced together his shattered hopes, a sign that her neuro-motor-skills were slowly returning to her.

PUT THE HORSE BEFORE THE CART

Submission entails that a person follows deen objectively. At every moment one should be maintaining the purity of the sharee'ah, without looking for any short-cuts or guise. Rephrasing the words, re-interpreting the meaning and altering the context of deen to suit our convenience would be equal and akin to putting the cart before the horse.

The journey of Islam would never start in that event.

Let's put the horse before the cart.

He shouted out for her. She stood behind the curtain grinning from ear to ear unable to contain her laughter, her pink shoes with their white bows peeping out from beneath. She let out a small giggle, then a bigger one until she burst out laughing. He rushed

into the room and cried 'I caught you!' She ran out from behind the curtain into his strong arms which lofted her to the ceiling, spinning her around. He hugged her and tears of joy streamed down his cheeks and soaked his beard.

What joy and excitement! What happiness and elation! What delight! All because of the SOFT dough!!!

Had the dough not been soft and pliable the house would never have been built and the return of her skills never proven. If the dough was hard and tough, her father may have never seen this joyous day. The pleasures of life lie in being soft and submissive, in being meek and obedient.

A cake can only be baked if the egg eventually cracks, the egg white allows itself to be whipped, the sugar granules slowly dissolve, the flour allows itself to mix and the chocolate eventually melts ...

A car can only be built if the steel eventually softens and becomes a panel, the rubber allows itself to be moulded into a tyre, the petrol eventually burns to provide energy and the parts allow themselves to be restricted and bolted to one place ... and the list goes on and on.

Analyse the list of words in these examples: soft, pliable, crack, whipped, dissolve, melt, soften, mould, burn, restricted and bolted. Every single one of them indicates toward the meek nature and submissive character of the dough, the cake and the car. The pleasures and enjoyment of this world are the same. They could have only come about when someone or something was submissive.

Attaining the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala is the very same. It requires total commitment, loyalty and submission to the commands of Allah Ta'ala and the Sunnah of Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). It calls upon us to be *soft* and *pliable*, to be *cracked* and *whipped*, to *dissolve*, *melt* and *soften*, to *burn*, to be

moulded, to be restricted and to be bolted. It demands that we be totally meek and submissive to His laws without any hesitation or reluctance.

This was the hallmark in the life of Sayyidah Haajar (alaihas salaam). When Nabi Ibrahim (alaihis salaam) brought Sayyidah Haajar (alaihas salaam) to the barren land of Makkah Mukarramah, she was, bluntly speaking, staring at her destruction. Such a land stretched out before her eyes, where there was no soul to be seen or even heard, where nothing edible grew ... a land that outwardly promised no future. She was, however, fully aware of the fact that this was the command of Allah Ta'ala brought to her by the Nabi of Allah Ta'ala. The command of Allah Ta'ala and the way of His

messenger as a rule is never beyond a person's ability. All it requires is a bit of courage in the beginning. Then the road opens up.

The response of Sayyidah Haajar (alaihas salaam) to this command of Allah Ta'ala is worthy of being written in gold and etched onto the heart of every Believer. Her words echoed the very mindset that made her a celebrated member of a family chosen by Allah Ta'ala. She said:

"How will Allah Ta'ala ever destroy us when we submit wholeheartedly to His decree? I am happy with the command of Allah Ta'ala."

"It does not befit a believing man or woman when a matter has been decided by Allah Ta'ala and His Rasul (alaihis salaam), to have any option about their decision." (Surah Ahzaab v 36)



From the Pen of Hazrat Moulana Yunus Patel Sahab (rahimahullah)

Going Out with Cousin and her Husband

Letter

Respected Moulana

I would really appreciate your advice on the following matter which causes a lot of bickering and unhappiness in my home.

Is it possible for a Muslim girl to go out (like for dinner/shopping/to the beach) with her female cousin and her husband. My mother feels we must only go out with our parents.

Reply

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

As salaamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

Respected Sister in Islam

1. It is a reality that there are many, many problems which arise with

such outings, where a girl is accompanying cousins or friends and their husbands. Even though wives are also present, many husbands have become inclined and attracted to, and some have even pursued relationships with other family members, getting involved with the sister in law, cousin or even wife's friend. These are opportunities that shay-taan maximizes on and he works very hard to create fitnah.

2. Follow the sharee'ah. Avoid such outings, unless under the supervision of parents, which offers some safety from sin and problems. However, keep in mind that interacting with non-mahrams (strange men) - especially on a social level - is not permissible in Islam.

3. You should also not bicker and argue with your mother about such issues. Parents naturally have concern for their children, and they always have their children's best interests at heart. So appreciate the concern and accept your mother's noble advice in such matters. These restrictions are from the Qur'aan and Sunnah, and not something your mother is imposing on you, from her side.

Was Salaamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

Yunus Patel (Maulana)