

"Inspirations
from the life
of Sayyidah
Maryam
(‘alaihas salaam)"

uswatul MUSLIMAH

ROLE MODELS FOR THE MUSLIMAH

NEWSLETTER

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It's the first day in the life of baby Aamir and he is wheeled into the maternity ward to be met by his overjoyous mum. It is her first child and she is bounding with delight. She holds him to her chest, cuddles and plays with him, admiring his petite figure, delicate fingers, cute little toes and reddish complexion. Suddenly there is a knock on the door and in comes the sister. She advises the first-time, nervous, yet excited mother regarding the need for immunising her bundle of joy ... *though debateable among medical researchers and conservatives. Although upset by the disturbance, with the future of her child's health in mind, she consents and baby Aamir is immunised against polio, and in the weeks and months to come he is immunised for measles, mumps and rubella.*

Many of the oldies would be reminiscing the good old days when holidays were spent with all the cousins at Nanima's or Dadima's house ... and on one morning all the children were lined up and given a tablespoon of castor oil. *Ooh! How difficult was it to gulp down that one spoon which seemed like a lifelong suffocation.* Hearing the never-ending talk from Nanima on the importance of cleaning the system and removing all the "muck" was unavoidable.

Not to forget, the school-visits by the nurses from the local clinic. Pupils were subjected to examination for various ailments and sicknesses. And, how can we forget the 'yellow card' for travellers to overseas-

countries. Dare a traveller risk not taking his immunisation, his entire trip would be thrown into a quagmire of jeopardy.

All these might sound quite familiar to most of us. Don't they ring bells in our minds?

Each of these stems forth from the importance that people attach to immunising and protecting their children and themselves from impending diseases and sicknesses.

However, let us be true to ourselves and do a bit of soul-searching. Have we shown such importance and afforded that measure of significance to immunising our "little angels" against the inevitable harm and destruction that the many "anti-imaan viral diseases" are causing to not only our "little angels", but our adults as well. In many a case, it is too late to turn back the clock and regain that which has been lost via deadly viral attacks of vice and evil that are wreaking havoc around us.

If the infant is correctly and timeously spiritually "immunised", then it will save us the trouble of running to the 'aamils for check-ups and enlist-



**Rather SAFE
than SORRY**

ing their help for a stronger *ta'weez* and a special '*amal*. Parents will not find the need to seek advice and counselling regarding their rebellious child or dealing with an "emo-kid" slitting his/her wrist. The day will never dawn upon them to lower their heads in shame when their "innocent" darling elopes with her non-Muslim boyfriend, or when their dear son is pulled out of a club inebriated and intoxicated as ever.

Allah Ta'ala teaches us in the Quraan Majeed how Hannah, the mother of Maryam ('alaihas salaam) "immunised" not only her child, but her grandchild as well, against the "anti-imaan viral diseases" that Shaitaan spreads. Her immunisation did not start after a day from birth, but in the words of the Quraan Majeed

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"When she delivered her, she said, 'I have given birth to a girl,' ... 'Indeed I name her Maryam and I seek protection in You (Allah) for her and her progeny from Shaitaan the accursed.'"
(Aal-Imraan v. 36)

Her immunisation commenced from the moment her issue took her first breath of oxygen on earth. It is on account of this du'aa and "immunisation" against the attack of Shaitaan that Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) has stated in the hadeeth:

"Every child is probed by Shaitaan at the time of birth causing it to cry, except for Maryam and her son ('Isaa 'alaihi salaam)." (Saheeh Bukhaari #4548)

This profound du'aa of Hannah most powerfully impresses upon us that a major threat to our imaan is our arch enemy Shaitaan. The "rejected one" had vowed to leave no stone unturned to mislead the progeny of Aadam ('alaihi salaam). Hence, the earlier he gets the opportunity to unleash his dreadful viruses upon an individual, the simpler the task of misguiding him.

With this being his sole objective in life, Shaitaan devises innumerable discreet strategies to achieve this, many of which may seem harmless to us. It is only with the passage of time that we realise the detrimental effect of these cancerous and cantankerous "anti-imaan viral diseases". Tragically, in most instances the malaise and life-threatening viruses are beyond any cure. **Thus, the most prudent option and sensible approach would be to immunise our budding and blossoming young "flowers" against these deadly viruses and nip them in the bud.**

At times, the viruses that Shaitaan pours out, affects the respect, dignity and values that are required to maintain a healthy imaan. The child loses complete focus.

In no time, others become his "hero". He hails them as his "champions".

This is just one of the many viruses that are packaged in cartoons. From a

young age, the glory of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) and the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum) is eradicated from the "little angel's" mind and he/she is brainwashed through the lethal effects of these viruses.

"Ben", the "bandit" with his strange magical powers becomes his "hero". He wants a "Ben 10" watch as his 'eidi' and insists on a "Ben 10" bag for school. On the other end, the little girl gets enthralled with "Hello Kitty" and wants her purse to have the "Hello Kitty" icon on it. For another young boy, he wants a "superman" costume so that he may jump off his bed imagining himself to be "superman" jumping off high skyscrapers.

The viruses packed in cartoons do not end there! Instead the cartoons are laced with subtle messages and images to indoctrinate the "super-powers" of these characters into the impressionable minds of the young viewers and expel the concept of the absolute might and power of Allah Ta'ala from their hearts. *How sad, yet an undeniable reality!*

Shaitaan also prepares his virus packages to attack teenagers and other age groups. The damaging anti-imaan viral effects of novels cannot be over emphasised. **"Potterheads" can vouch on the extent to which their minds were consumed by the magical powers of "Harry Potter". What about "50 Shades of Grey"? The following comment by a non-Muslim woman is quite thought provoking for many fanatics of romance books:**

"To me, any book that makes us want greater from our spouses than what we currently have, causes people to look elsewhere. Many women have issues with their husbands viewing pornography but find no harm in reading these books or other "romance" novels. Are they not the same? Reading these books bring pornography into our brains?"
(<http://theimperfecthousewife.com/50-shades-of-grey/>)

For some, this could have come as an early wake-up-call thus allowing them to save their "little angels" from being

exposed to such deadly viruses, while for others, it would mobilise them to recuperate the loss that they have suffered thus far.

All said and done, this now begs the question as to how should we go about immunising our children and ourselves against these anti-imaan viruses.

The very first step would be to thoroughly inspect all that we offer and make available to our children. Any item or article that will contribute to the weakening of our imaani immune systems should be immediately abandoned.

Secondly, as in the event of a life-threatening viral attack on our child, where we would at once seek the assistance and advice of an experienced paediatrician, likewise, we should refer to reliable and experienced deeni scholars and the "lovers and friends of Allah Ta'ala" regarding matters that affect and endanger our imaan.

Thirdly, a virus-free deeni environment needs to be created at home to enhance and boost our immune systems. For this to be achieved, a collective as well as a personal imaani "diet plan" needs to be drawn up for the home. Included in it, should be punctuality in the performance of salaah at its respective and fixed times (in congregation for the men folk), daily recitation of the Quraan Majeed, ta'leem, zikr and du'aa.

Together with this, anything or any individual who has the slightest possibility of negatively impacting on our imaani immune systems should be "barred and banned" from the home.

Added to this, parents need to understand the importance and seriousness of the role they need to play in ensuring the proper deeni upbringing of their "little angels". If this is realised as a genuine responsibility and acted upon, it would usher in and nurture a better society in every sense of the word.

But She's on BBM



It was one of those days, dull, grey and gloomy. The skies were threatening to repeat last night's "explosive fireworks". Adding to the nerve racking shivers and quivers, a chilly breeze roared in from over the dark and dim mountains perched on the northern edge of town.

She shuddered and trembled wishing that she had just sheltered indoors, cuddled, curled and coiled up in front of the old iron-fireplace. It was definitely a warmer and a more cosy option to stay there huddled in blankets in front of the roaring flames. *Ah, but one more stroll in the garden before the rains, and perhaps snow later that week, would maybe ease the pain.*

That wasn't a very good move. But she had decided, and she walked towards the "koi-fish-pond". *Maybe the beautiful colours of those thinly-finned creatures might brighten up her gloomy day.* She climbed onto the concrete bridge. It had cost her father a fortune but it was beautiful. Red brick paving, cast iron balustrades and a beautiful bench to feed the birds.

She clasped the railing, looked at the water and gasped. Her reflection took her down memory lane ... The masked man and the butt of his ugly gun smashing down on her face. The cries and screams of her father, as they beat him up yelling and yelping for "more and more" money, rang in her ears. As though this wasn't gruesome enough, images of her mother pleading for mercy, only to be bashed by the heavily moustached grim-faced thug, just kept on flashing in her mind.

Her swollen face and the ugly scars were enough for her to re-live those horrible and horrifying moments.

"You're lucky to be alive," said the counsellor.

"Focus on the positive."

"Yes, but I can't help it," she thought to herself, running her finger gingerly over her swollen forehead.

The scandalous criminals were definitely behind bars but they tattooed their scars on the very fibre of her life. They haunted her dreams at night, and the sight of those terrible scars rudely reminded her of that grisly, ghastly and fateful day.

Oops, just as scars have their own "flashbacks", so do ominous evils and sins: they too leave in their wake, remorse, regret and embarrassment ... and a stinking stigma for years to come!

The sin may be forgiven by Allah Ta'ala and the sinner may have turned over a new leaf and abandoned the vice. However, people forgive, but few forget.

These scars in her case were indeed unavoidable, but yes, the scars of transgressions and sins are most definitely avoidable.

How foolish for us, the "rightly-guided", to "mess up" the gift of life, "scar" our untainted respect and "demolish" our bright future! All this merely to enjoy some moments of "cooling off" at the wrong places or chatting with and texting the wrong "guys" (non-mahram males). What a terrible price to pay for a few moments of "fun"!

It would really be a shattering experience when we finally "secure" our "Mr Perfect", with sweet dreams of the future, and everything set for us in life, when suddenly he calls it off after discovering: "She's chatting with my friends on BBM!"

When Sayyidah Maryam ('alaihas salaam) miraculously conceived without the biological means of a father, she was totally bewildered. It was no fault of hers. A great sign of Allah Ta'ala was being manifested through her. But, is there anyone to grasp this miraculous event? Who will believe her that she was clean and innocent! *Ah, she bemused: "... It might have been better, if I'd have died, rather than lived with the stigma of 'sin' ...!"*

When giving birth to this marvel and wonder, she exclaimed: "If only I would have died before this, or would have never existed." (Maryam v. 23)

Chatting on social media with the boys ... ain't it fun?

Nay ... when the perfect-prospective finds out, he will definitely run.

What about a little tweet to the "guys" ... will it matter?

The consequence is not sweet, rather bitter.

And Facebook ... think that's "cool"? But when it boomerangs ... your tears will fill a pool.

Be wise and think long term! Not only the long term of this world, Rather the everlasting term of the Hereafter.



Soooo many scarves... which one do I choose?

Headed to the mirror, I grab my selection of scarves from the closet and wonder how do I make the right choice, they all appear so stunning.

I try them on, one by one, the coral two tone stretch, then the purple colour blend, scrutinising it from every angle possible. The more I try, the deeper I fall into confusion. I decide

to ask my mother for her wise opinion. **She tells me not to choose the one that looks the prettiest nor the priciest and not even the one that 'sits' the best, but rather the one that brings out the best in me.**

In the same manner, there are many websites all offering help and guidance. How do we choose the correct one? **We choose the one that offers us a multivitamin, a wholesome package, something that's going to bring out the best of our deen, just like how ALLAH TA'ALA wants it!**

Welcome to uswatulmuslimah.co.za

This website is dedicated to the women, because without a shadow of doubt they have always played a fundamental and vital role in developing a healthy society. They are the homemakers and have a unique ability of getting things done the way they want. **If every woman uses this ability to guide her household towards deen, society would most certainly undergo a phenomenal revolution of reformation, order and dignity.**

This website is run by a panel of Ulama under the auspices of Madrasah Ta'leemuddeen. Insha-Allah, this website will strive to present the pure and unadulterated teachings of our noble deen, in complete accordance to the views of the Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaa'ah.

The website offers informative lessons on tafseer and hadeeth, Islamic rulings related to women, inspirational stories and incidents from the lives of the pious and great women of Islam, guidelines on daily issues, tips on enhancing relationships between spouses, parents and children etc.

Additionally, there are also audios of women's events. **Most importantly, is there something that you wanted to know? Some issue you needed guidance on? Sometimes a little advice could reduce a mountain of problems to dust. This website offers you a sharee'ah conducive space to privately address those concerns with the right people.**

Visit www.uswatulmuslimah.co.za to subscribe today!



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

Social Networks

Letter

Respected Moulana

I have a question regarding Facebook and chat sites in general. What is the sharee'ah perspective on a wife using Facebook to chat with friends from school and work, including non-Muslim male friends from her workplace?

The wife's initial intention to get Facebook was to catch up with female friends from her school days.

The husband disapproved the use of Facebook due to the fear that non mahram males would want to be her friend on Facebook. The husband trusts his wife, and the male friends from the workplace also know she is married. Whilst the husband feels that this is wrong in Islam, the wife feels there is no harm as they are just friends from the work-place. The husband does not have Facebook for the same reason: the harms of chatting with non-mahrams.

Is the Husband being unjust? What should the husband say to the wife to make her understand?

Jazakallah for your assistance.

Reply

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

As salaamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

Respected Sister in Islam

1. It may sound unreasonable and unjust to the wife that her husband is unhappy and does not permit her to make use of Facebook to communicate with male and female, Muslim and non-Muslim "friends". However, there is no injustice in it. In fact there is protection from mischief and fitnas.

Without exaggeration, I have dealt with a large number of cases of married men and women innocently starting off on Facebook and other social networks, and ending up with major marital problems. Many marriages have ended and some are on the verge of ending.

2. The laws of Islam take into consideration all aspects of a Muslim's well-being and protection. Many laws are applicable in order to maintain a harmonious and successful marriage, because once trust is lost between husband and wife, then even though she may be innocent, it may lead to arguments, suspicion and problems.

3. Whilst it appears that the husband is Islamically conscious and God-fearing in that he does not want his wife to communicate on Facebook, it is, however, at odds with the fact that he sends her to work, where she interacts and communicates with all kinds of people, including non-mahrams (strange men).

He does not seem to have a problem with his wife being in such an environment, yet that environment is worse and more dangerous than any social network. It is a fact that many, many illicit and adulterous relationships stem from interaction with colleagues at the work-place.

4. A woman should be fully supported by her husband and if she has to work to supplement the salary, then she should look towards working from home. Home Industry is a thriving business.

If that is not workable, she should be given employment in her husband's business, whereby she is not exposed to, and not interacting with strange men. Otherwise, a family business where there are these same measures of protection for her.

5. The husband's complaint does not carry much weight because there is no consistency. However, it is necessary that the wife restrict communication to business only, at the work place, and not interact in an informal and friendly way with any non-mahrams. She should certainly not be communicating with so called male "friends" outside of business hours.

It should clearly be understood that this is the lesser of the two evils. The risks though are very high. A woman is very vulnerable in a situation where she is in contact with strange men. Many men will not care whether a woman is married or unmarried, if there is an inclination or an interest in her. Thus, the husband should be even more concerned in regards to this.

6. Allah Ta'ala guide us all to being practical on the beautiful teachings of Islam.

Was Salaamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

Yunus Patel (Maulana)