



A few months back, the media carried the story of a 'Muslim' woman who was the new 100m women's champion. The article also quoted her saying that she is working on improving on her times for future races.

I'm pretty sure that every Muslimah who values the dignity and honour of being gifted with the beautiful and noble deen of Islam, doesn't require an explanation on the impermissibility of such an act. A Muslim woman throwing aside her modesty and shame for the sake of a measly medal and some cheap fame is indeed contemptible. However, the point to take note of is that: An "outstanding performance" demands intense training and preparation.

In the case of an athlete, it would perhaps require dieting, controlled hydration, sleeping eight to ten hours a day, strenuous training for a minimum of twenty hours a week, preparing psychologically, consulting a nutritionist, exercise physiologist, sports medicine specialist, a coach, and much more...

In the same vein there are certain things in life which require intense training and extraordinary preparation in order to achieve an "outstanding performance".

When the topic of parenting and motherhood is broached, the typical response of many a teenager is:

"Agh! Who cares about that? I'm only gonna marry at 24 and get my first child maybe at 29 and my second at 33. That I think would be more than enough for me. The day I get to that bridge, I'll cross it."

Remember! All bridges and flyovers in life are not the same. While some bridges do not require planning to be easily crossed, there are many others that are quite challenging and demand thorough preparation. If we leap in blindly, not only will we be hitting a rocky road, rather we'll also face the peril of plunging to a pitiable end.

Imagine an Olympic champion, not training for the entire year, waking up a few minutes before the race, rushing to the stadium with a "Red-Bull" in his hand and expecting to win the championship for a second time. We'll call him "nuts" "crazy" and "goofy". Isn't it?

The question we need to pose to ourselves is:

"Are we not perhaps 'nuttier', 'crazier' and

'goofier' by wishfully thinking that we can qualify as champions in life's 'major race' of 'motherhood' and 'rearing the leaders' of tomorrow without any preparation?"

"So... well... are you trying to tell me that I must start changing nappies and clean up vomit from now?" would be the next question.

Not at all! Those are the bridges that you would be able to cross when you get there.

"Then what other preparation needs to be made for motherhood? Do you perhaps mean that I should start shopping for some baby-growers, nappy bags and other essentials to lessen the financial burden on my hubby-to-be?"

No! It's much simpler than that - Just be the person you want your child to be!

You obviously don't want the day to come when you'll have to tell your teenage daughter:

"Darling! I don't like you hanging around with friends in the mall on a Saturday night."

Then she snaps back:

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"But mummy ... you also spend every Wednesday afternoon at the coffee shop in the same mall with your friends, Auntie Nasreen and Shireen."

As the mother, you go on to advise her not to mix with boys at the beach front on a Sunday afternoon.

To this, she rudely fires back:

"Mummy! Aren't there men watching you, when you work out in the gym twice a week?"

Aha, just imagine the agonising embarrassment if she then impulsively blows burning hot larva:

"But, Mum I saw a picture of you posing with my friend, Tasneem's daddy at your matric party. 'Don't rain on my parade!' 'Don't tell me how to live!' You had your 'fun', now it's my turn."

If this sounds embarrassing, try to imagine the embarrassment and humiliation we would be drowning in on the Day of Qiyaamah when the complete detailed 'movie' of our lives would be played in front of our parents, grand-parents, children, grand-children, and the entire world, especially our Beloved Nabi, Muhammad (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). Isn't he, who tolerated the divorce of his pure daughters, the martyrdom of his respected uncle, the shedding of his precious tears and the spilling of his priceless blood... all for our sake?

Chill... the game's not over yet... you still have a chance... *Just become the person you'd like your child to be!*

History testifies to the justice of the 2nd 'Umar, also regarded by some as the 5th Caliph of Islam, 'Umar bin Abdul 'Azeed (rahimahullah). What was the secret ingredient that helped produce this great and gentle-giant of a leader?

The story goes like this:

One night while Ameerul Mu'mineen, 'Umar bin Khattab (radhiyallahu 'anhu)

was patrolling the streets of Madeenah Munawwarah, he leaned against a wall and overheard a remarkable conversation between a young girl and her mother.

The mother was instructing her daughter to add water to the milk that was to be sold the next day in order to increase the volume. The girl replied:

"O my mother! Aren't you aware of the law that Ameerul Mu'mineen has passed today, that water should not be added to milk as this tantamounts to deception?"

"O my daughter! Where can 'Umar see you? Just do as I'm saying" said the mother.

The daughter declared: "O my beloved mother! I cannot be so 'two-faced' as to obey him in public and disobey him in private. It may be that 'Umar cannot see, but definitely the Rabb (Lord) of 'Umar is watching!"

'Umar (radhiyallahu 'anhu), as great as he was, was 'blown away' by these sentiments which emanated from a heart that was brimming with the awareness and consciousness of Allah Ta'ala.

The next morning, after making inquiries about the family, 'Umar (radiyallahu anhu) called his sons and said:

"If your father had a need for marriage he would have been the first to marry this girl. Which of you requires a wife? I foresee this girl giving birth to a warrior who will lead the Arabs."

His son 'Aasim (radhiyallahu 'anhu) responded: "I don't have a wife. Arrange that I be married to her."

From this marriage a daughter was born, who in turn became the mother of 'Umar bin Abdul Aziz (rahimahullah), the great leader of Islam. (Reference: *Sifatus Safwah vol. 1, pg. 409 and Al-Kitaabul Jaami'u li Seerati 'Umar ibni Abdil Aziz vol. 1, pg. 13*) This wasn't a case of "crossing the bridge when we get there". The production of this

illustrious personality was the culmination of the effort of two lengthy and eventful generations.

How apt is the beautiful saying that the nurturing of a child begins the day the mother of that child is born. The nurturing of 'Umar bin Abdul Aziz (rahimahullah) began the day his mother was born! Indeed, her nurturing was undertaken with piety and Allah-consciousness. And, yes, she was an epitome of the love, recognition and nearness to Allah Ta'ala from a young and tender age.

So if we desire our children to be the 'leaders' of tomorrow, productive for themselves and a blessing to others, we need to start preparing from *now*. The piety of the mother sows the seeds for the piety of the child who will in turn raise true servants of Allah Ta'ala.

Another significant lesson that shines out from this incident is that when a young girl lives a life of piety and obedience to Allah Ta'ala, He will bless her with a good home and a bright future.

The "girl" in this incident had no father. She and her mother 'battled' to make ends meet by selling milk. She was not of a very high social standing, yet she received a proposal from the 'prince', apart from the fact that the 'king' himself would have married her, had he needed to.

So... becoming the person we would like our child to be, would indeed prepare us to cross two bridges... the 'bridge' of marriage as well as the 'bridge' of mother-hood.

Even if we don't live to cross these bridges, there is another bridge which we will inevitably face one day. It is thinner than a strand of hair and sharper than a sword... suspended over the blazing fire of Jahannam.

Insha-Allah preparing in this manner to cross these worldly bridges will enable us to cross that bridge at a speed, faster than that of lightning, securing us entry into the gardens of bliss forever and ever and ever...

Friday 16:10:

"Oh No, Only 20 minutes left to pick up the kids from madrasah. Oh Gosh! Tomorrow is another crazy Saturday morning with them at home", groaned mum.

Friday 16:40 (after madrasah):

"Yesss, it's weekend again. Tomorrow we can hook up with the gang at the mall. Maybe, we can catch a good movie," thought the kids gleefully.

Saturday morning:

"Stop that, I'm busy on the phone. Can't you do something to occupy yourself! Enough nagging", yells mum amid the chaos and clutter.

Mums nerves are frazzled by the constant questions and the irritating chatter of the enquiring minds of the kids. By 10:00, she's 'driven up the wall'. So she leaves the crisis zone and jets off with the 'baggage' to the mall, appeasing each child with R 200.00 and freedom till 13:00 in order to 'buy' some time-out with her friends over coffee. Bursting with excitement, the kids tap away on their phones to get the co-ordinates of their friends.

At 12:30, mum's iPhone beeped. It's a broadcast message about a report-back on Syria, by an 'Aalim, at the local girls madrasah at 15:00.

That afternoon, mum diligently listened to the Moulana as he recounted his first-hand experiences of the merciless butchering of our youth and innocent children in Syria. She could not help but shed tears at their pitiable plight.

At that very moment, mum felt a pang in her heart. She regretted not giving her time to her children.

While the loss of the youth of Syria to the blood thirsty regime of their country is extremely heart-rending, the loss of our youth to the scourge of the "Satanic Cults", to the night clubs and cinemas, to the drug lords of our neighbourhood and to the pandemic of lewd and illicit behaviour is equally, if not, more tragic.

If we ever want to peek into our future, then glance at the morals and values of our youth. *The building blocks of our future are being moulded by our hands... in our presence.*

Their "NEED"

N - Nurturing
E - Education
E - Example
D - Du'aa

N = Nurturing:



Our children are *our* future. The moral, social, religious and spiritual values that we imbue in them now will play out in their lives tomorrow. Firstly, we need to condition our minds that their success as human beings depends on deen. It does not depend on making them into 'money-making-machines'.

Deep-rooted concern for the deen of one's child/ren is a salient quality of the true servants of Allah Ta'ala. This is aptly highlighted in Surah Furqaan (v74), via the following supplication:

"O our Rabb, make our spouses and offspring the coolness of our eyes (by making them obedient to us) and make us leaders (and examples) to those who fear You."

It is thus quite clear that, we should galvanise all our effort and channel them into instilling sound Islamic values in the nurturing of our beautiful off-spring.

The ball is in our court.

Invest in them and secure your sadaqah jaariyah, or neglect them, only to cry later on:

"Oh Beta, why are you casting me in an old age home?"

"Oh my Muhammad, leave your business for a little while, and visit your mummy at least once a week."

"Oh my dear Faatimah, remember that your mother comes before your friends and all your other

commitments!"

E = Education:

This is our responsibility and not that of the madrasah teacher. They only do us a favour by easing our load and supplement the task of the parents.

'Abdullah bin 'Abbaas (radhiyallahu 'anhuma) has reported his personal experience with Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) at a very tender age. He says:

"One day I was seated behind Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) on a conveyance, when he said to me: 'O young lad! Let me teach you a few lessons:

- Protect Allah Ta'ala's deen and He will protect you.
- Remain within the limitations set down by Allah Ta'ala and you will find Him (His mercy and help) before you.
- When you beg, beg of Allah Ta'ala.
- When you seek assistance, seek it from Allah Ta'ala.
- Know very well that if the entire world gathers to benefit you, they will not be able to render more benefit than that which Allah Ta'ala has predestined for you, and if they gather to harm you, they will not be able to cause more harm than that which Allah Ta'ala has predestined against you.
- The pen (of destiny) has been lifted and the scrolls have dried up." (Sunan Tirmizi #2516)

A reckless and foolish chant that we often hear is: "He's still small."

Ah, but in the above hadeeth, Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) teaches the basic articles of imaan to 'Abdullah bin 'Abbaas (radhiyallahu 'anhuma), who was still a child!

We could make a start with the following simple method:

- Sit together as one family unit and dedicate a few minutes for the recitation of the Quraan Majeed, ta'leem of Fazaail Aa'maal and some collective du'aa.
- Narrate to them the stories of the Ambiyaa ('alaihimus salaam), Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum), the pious and other beneficial incidents. Children love stories. These incidents will (insha-Allah) mould them and give them a direction in life.
- Teach them the etiquettes and du'aas of eating, drinking, going to the toilet, dressing, sleeping, greeting, travelling, etc.

E = Example:

Our children are our CCTV's (Child's Careful and Thoughtful Vision). They absorb our every move and replay it when faced with similar situations. **Therefore, we need to walk the talk, and they will follow suit.** This is the easiest method to teach our children. The famous adage goes: "An apple does not fall far from the tree."

Dear parents, let us take heed and lead by deed.

D = Du'aa:

Supplicating to Allah Ta'ala for the children's earthly and spiritual success was the hallmark of our pious predecessors.

Ebrahim ('alaihis salaam) implored Allah Ta'ala: "O Allah, I have settled my progeny in a barren land (Makkah Mukarramah) by Your sacred house, so that they may establish salaah. So make the hearts of the people yearn towards them and provide them with fruits, so that they may be grateful... O Allah, grant me and my offspring the ability to be punctual with salaah." (Surah Ebrahim v37 & 40)

The Master of Hadeeth, Imaam Bukhaari

(rahimahullah), lost his eyesight during his early infancy. His mother, who was a very pious woman, was deeply grieved. She cried and begged Allah Ta'ala to restore her child's sight. After a period of intense crying and pleading, she saw Nabi Ebrahim ('alaihis salaam) in a dream giving her the glad tidings of her son's sight being restored. On awakening she found his eyesight was restored. (Hadyus Saari pg. 662)

This 'super-woman' did not lose hope despite her son turning blind. Likewise, we cannot afford to give up on our children. **While they may be drowning in sin and evil, due to being spiritually blind, we need to continue trying and crying.** That day will soon dawn when Allah Ta'ala restores their spiritual eyesight by virtue of our du'aas, just as He had restored the physical eyesight of Imaam Bukhaari (rahimahullah) through the blessings of his mother's du'aas.

Dedicate time daily to cry for them, before they make you cry.

Stand up to the "NEED" and Allah Ta'ala will infuse the "DEEN."
Reverse the word "NEED", and that is their real need (i.e. DEEN).

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



Children's Behaviour

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| Letter | misbehaviour of their children is: Do you have a television? Are the children viewing television programmes? | visual stimulation. <i>The solution is to get rid of the television first.</i> |
| Respected Moulana <i>As Salaamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh</i> | Most often, the answer is "yes." If, in your case, the answer is yes, then you need to understand that television viewing is one of the root causes and primary reasons for children being badly behaved and rebellious, as well as not being able to fare well in madrasah and school. The major content of television programmes is haraam and leads to children enacting what they see on television. It is through the television that they learn bad attitude, bad speech, disrespect and aggressive interaction with others. | Alhamdulillah, those who follow the advice come back with very positive results. 2. If television is not the cause, then read the following every morning and evening: 3 x durood shareef, 3 x Aayatul Kursi, 3 x Surah Ikhlaas, Surah Falaq and Surah Naas, 11 x La hawla wala quwwata illah billah and 3 x durood shareef. Blow over them. Blow on water and give them to drink. 3. For improvement of memory, read: 3 x durood shareef, 111 x Ya Qawiyyu, 111 x Ya 'Aleemu, 3 x durood shareef. Blow on water and give her to drink. 4. The following article is a discussion on the harms of television, which I recommend parents to read http://yunuspatel.co.za/articles-influence-television.php 5. May Allah Ta'ala make your children the coolness of your eyes, pious and righteous and a great sadaqah jaariyah for you. |
| Reply <i>Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem</i> Respected Sister in Islam <i>Wa 'alaikumus Salaam wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh</i> | Moreover, television viewing affects the child's ability to comprehend and retain what is being taught. It is known to many, and research also proves, that television viewing leads to poor academic performance and poor health in the long term. Most parents complain of the poor memory of their young children. Yet, a child's ability to learn is amazing. What now hinders their progress is television, video-games and the fast-paced | Was Salaamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh Yunus Patel (Moulana) |