



NURTURING OF CHILDREN

*Part 4-
Instilling Noble Character*



*Dealing with: Noble Traits & the Filthy Habits of Lying,
Stealing, Vulgarly, and being desirous of total freedom.*

Included in the discussion is the issue of Hijab (the veil)

*SPIRITUAL LIGHT
TRANSLATION OF TARBIYATUL AULAAD FIL ISLAM*

Contents

INSTILLING NOBLE CHARACTER	2
THE ADVICE OF RASULULLAAH (SALLALLAAHU ALAYHI WA SALLAM) REGARDING INSTILLING NOBLE CHARACTER	3
FOUR EVIL TRAITS	3
Speaking lies	3
Stealing	4
Vulgar language	4
Desire for Total Freedom	5

INSTILLING NOBLE CHARACTER

Before the child matures and steps into the world, he should be beautified with noble character. If a child is deprived of beautiful character he will grow up with an evil mentality and will progress in nothing but immorality and transgression.

If his temperament is not religiously-inclined, he will wander around like an idiot. Although alive, he will resemble the dead; although present, it will be as though he is absent. Neither will he show any concern for his life, nor will any gap be felt after his death.

If he drowns in animalistic qualities, his only concern will be to fulfil his carnal passions and filthy desires. Modesty will not stop him, nor will his heart and mind be able to keep him in check.

If pride overtakes him, he will brag of his achievements, search for power and authority, order others around, usurp the rights of others and even resort to murder.

If devilish qualities settle in his heart, his only pleasure will be in creating evil atmospheres, causing fights, splitting communities, and advertising vice.

Such men (who worship their lust and passion) become slaves to their desires. Their carnal desires blind them and steers them away from all good.

Regarding such people Allaah Ta'ala says:

وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّنْ اتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ بَغَيْرِ هُدًى مِنَ اللَّهِ (القصص)

'And who could be further astray than someone who follows his whims and desires without any guidance from Allaah?'

To summarise, only Islamic nurturing can stop and rectify the evil being produced by free-thinking and free-will. Without Islam and its teachings, rectification of character is impossible.

THE ADVICE OF RASULULLAAH (SALLALLAAHU ALAYHI WA SALLAM) REGARDING INSTILLING NOBLE CHARACTER

Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

- No father can give to his children a gift better than noble character. *[Jaami' at-Tirmidhi]*
- Honor your children and see to their nurturing. *[Ibn Maajah]*
- It is the right of the child upon the father that he sees to his nurturing and chooses for him a good name. *[Bayhaqi]*

From the above it is quite clear that the responsibility of good nurturing rests primarily upon the shoulders of the parents.

FOUR EVIL TRAITS

Children are generally prone to four evil traits, viz. speaking lies, stealing, vulgar language, and desiring total freedom. An all-out effort is required to distance them from these filthy habits.

Speaking lies

Sufficient to explain the evil of this trait is the fact that Islam has termed it a trait of hypocrisy.

Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

أَرْبَعٌ مَنْ كُنَّ فِيهِ كَانَ مُنَافِقًا خَالِصًا، وَمَنْ كَانَتْ فِيهِ خَصْلَةٌ مِنْهُنَّ كَانَتْ فِيهِ خَصْلَةٌ مِنْ
التَّفَاقُ حَتَّى يَدْعَهَا إِذَا أُؤْتِمِنَ خَانَ وَإِذَا حَدَّثَ كَذَبَ وَإِذَا عَاهَدَ غَدَرَ، وَإِذَا خَاصَمَ فَجَرَ
(بخارى و مسلم)

“Whosoever has within him four traits is truly a hypocrite, and if only one is found within him, then too he should realise that he has within him a trait of a hypocrite. 1) When he is entrusted with anything, he betrays the trust 2) When he speaks, he lies 3) When he promises, he deceives 4) When he argues, he uses vulgar language.” [Sahih al-Bukhaari, Sahih Muslim]

Lying is so despicable that Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) forbade it, even if only in jest.

Regarding this hadith 'Allamah 'Abdul 'Aziz Khuli Misri (rahimahullaah) has written in his book *"Al-Adab An-Nabawi"*:

والحديث دعامة كبيرة من دعائم الاخلاق التي تركز عليها الامم وسعادتها

"This hadith is a major pillar from the pillars of noble character, upon which rests the honour and nobility of nations.

My respected mentor, Maulana Shaah Wasiullaah Saahib (rahimahullaah), was very fond of this statement and would often quote it in his discourses. – (M Qamruz Zaman)

Stealing

This habit is more common amongst the poorer communities. It is common knowledge that if a child is not made Allaah-conscious and not taught the value of honesty and trustworthiness, he will very soon take to lying, deceiving, stealing and usurping the rights of others.

It is the duty of the parents to create this consciousness. If they fail to do so, the child could end up becoming such a burden and harm to society from whom all will seek refuge.

Parents sometimes find in their children's possession items of value, money etc., but do not enquire regarding its origin. The child that finds his parents showing no real concern regarding where he acquires his possessions from will naturally then build up in himself the courage to take from unlawful avenues.

Once a court passed a judgement that the hand of a thief be severed. Just before the punishment could be meted out he let out a scream, "First cut off my mother's tongue! When I committed my first crime, i.e. stealing an egg from the neighbour's yard, she never rebuked me nor reprimanded me. Rather she praised me saying, 'Today my boy has grown up!' Had she not said that, I would never have taken an inclination to stealing!"

Government laws, police, security, etc. will never manage to curb theft, deception and betrayal. Only the fear and consciousness of Allaah Ta'ala can accomplish this.

Vulgar language

The root causes behind this filthy trait are:

(a) Having a bad example - When a child grows up hearing his parents swearing, his tongue soon becomes accustomed to their language.

(b) Bad company - When a child grows up on the streets, he soon learns the language of the street. Parents should encourage their children to keep away from evil company. Children should be made aware of the harm that the tongue can cause. They should be taught at least a few of the ahaadith concerning the tongue, amongst which are:

سباب المسلم فسوق وقتاله كفر (بخاری و مسلم)

‘Swearing a Muslim is an act of transgression and fighting with a Muslim is a sign of kufr.’

‘It is nothing but the harvest of the tongue which sends one plunging into *jahannam*.’ [*Musnad Ahmad, Sunan Arba’a*]

‘A believer avoids criticizing, cursing, and swearing and he does not waste his time in vain talk.’ [*Jaami’ at-Tirmidhi*]

A child who speaks with respect becomes a cause of pleasure for all, whereas one who is disrespectful, swears and curses, causes pain to all. Great emphasis should be directed towards this aspect.

Desire for Total Freedom

The poison of the 20th century affecting both girls and boys is immodesty and free-thinking. Children close to adolescence are drowning in the floods of evil and blindly following the trends of the time. Outer appearance means everything to them and immodesty drips from their every limb. Filthy immoral girls become their goal and they sacrifice every bit of their honour to win them over. They move from one evil to another, and finally end up in the gutters of destruction.

Islam has repelled the poison of free-thinking by the following:

(1) By Prohibiting Blind Following

Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) has commanded:

خالفوا المشركين اوفروا اللحى واحفوا الشوارب (بخاری و مسلم)

‘Oppose the polytheists, lengthen the beard and trim the moustache.’

Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) also said, “He is not from amongst us who imitates others. Do not follow the ways of the Christians and the Jews.” [*Jaami‘ at-Tirmidhi*]

‘Men will be reckoned from amongst those that he imitates.’ [*Sunan Abu Daawud*]

(2) By Discouraging the Pursuit of Luxury

Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) commanded:

اياكم والتنعم فان عباد الله ليسوا بالمتنعمين (احمد , ابو نعيم)

‘Avoid a life of luxury, for Allaah’s slaves do not live in luxury.’

Luxury refers to drowning in pleasures. Such luxury eventually distracts one from going in *jihad*, and propagating *din*. Such luxuries are the root cause of free-thinking, living a free life and laziness which opens up the doors to all forms of sicknesses.

(3) By Prohibiting Music, Drums and Filthy Songs

Allaah Ta’ala sent Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) as a mercy and guide for mankind, and ordered him to destroy the flute, as well as all other musical instruments, to break the idols which used to be worshipped in the era of ignorance and to prohibit liquor. [*Musnad Ahmad*]

Music incites passion and corrupts one’s character. This filthy material occupies majority of the content on radio and television. Watching or listening to such programmes is totally forbidden.

(4) By Prohibiting One Gender from Imitating Another

Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said, “Allaah’s curses are on those men who imitate women and on those women who imitate men.”

‘Ali (radiyallaahu anhu) once saw Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) with a piece of silk in his right hand, and a nugget of gold in the left. He heard Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) announcing, “Silken clothing and gold have been prohibited for the men of my *ummah* and has been made permissible only for the women.”

Wigs, imitation hair, gold and silk for men, imitating the opposite sex, and wearing clothing which reveals the shape of the body all destroy the modesty and self-honour of the Muslim *ummah*. They aid in nothing but plunging humanity into immorality, filth and transgression.

(5) By Prohibiting Women from Adorning Themselves when Emerging from the Home

Allaah Ta'ala says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لَأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جَلَابِيبِهِنَّ ذَلِكَ أَدْنَى أَنْ يُعْرَفْنَ فَلَا يُؤْذَيْنَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا (الاحزاب)

‘O Messenger! Tell your wives and daughters and the women of the believers to draw their outer garments closely around themselves. This makes it more likely that they will be recognised and not be harmed. Allaah is Ever-Forgiving, Most Merciful.’

Regarding this verse ‘Abdullaah bin ‘Abbaas (radiyallaahu anhu) said, “Allaah has ordered the believing women that when they need to emerge, they should cover their faces, leaving only one eye open.” [Ibn Jarir]

‘Allaamah Abu Bakr Jassaas (rahimahullaah) writes, ‘From this verse it becomes clear that a woman should conceal her face from strange men, so that they do not hold evil thoughts regarding her.’

Qaadi Baydaawi (rahimahullaah) writes regarding the words:

يُذْنِبْنَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جَلَابِيبِهِنَّ

‘When women need to emerge, they should cover their bodies and faces.’

AHAADITH AND STATEMENTS OF THE SAHAABAH (RADIYALLAHU ANHUM)

Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) ordered that a woman in *ihraam* should not wear the *niquaab* or gloves. [Sunan Abu Daawud, Jaami‘at-Tirmidhi, Mu‘atta Maalik]

From this hadith it is clear that women in the time of Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) would wear the *niquaab* (face covering) and gloves. Only then would it be necessary to order them to leave the *niquaab* while in *ihraam*.

Even in the state of *ihram*, wherein the *niqaab* is forbidden, the women of the past would ensure that their faces remained hidden from the gaze of strangers.

‘Aa’ishah (radiyallaahu anha) narrates that when caravans would draw near during Haj, the women would conceal their faces with a cloth and would only drop the cloth after the caravan had passed. [Sunan Abu Daawud]

Faatima bint Munzir (rahimahallaah) narrates, ‘While in *ihraam*, in the company of Asmaa bint Abi Bakr (radiyallaahu anha), we would conceal our faces. [Mu’atta Maalik]

It has been narrated from ‘Aa’ishah (radiyallaahu anha) that women (in *ihraam*) should hang a shawl/cloth over their faces. [Fathul Baari]

NOTE: A women in *ihraam* should hang the cloth over her face in such a way that it does not touch the face. [Muallimul Hujjaaj]

From these narrations one can clearly see that the wives of Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam), as well as the wives of the other Sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) would conceal their faces when the need would arise for them to emerge from their homes, even while in *ihraam*. They realized that covering the face is essential and a command of the *shari’ah*.

THE IMAAMS OF JURISPRUDENCE

According to Imaam Shafi’i (rahimahullaah), Imaam Ahmad (rahimahullaah) and Imaam Maalik (rahimahullaah), the face of a women is part of the *satr* (*fard* to conceal).

According to the *Hanafi* point of view, the face does not form part of the *satr*. Exposing it at times will be permissible when there is no fear of arousing anyone’s desires. It will not be permitted if there is fear of *fitnah* (evil and immorality).

In the present environment, can anyone ever claim that girls walking around with their faces exposed are not a major cause of the promiscuity and immorality that we find all around us!?

Parents and husbands should ensure that the women of their homes adopt strict *hijab*, following in the footsteps of the wives of Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) and the Sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum).

PROHIBITION OF INTERMINGLING OF THE SEXES

Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

- “No man sits in privacy with a strange woman, except that *shaytaan* joins them.” [*Jaami‘ at-Tirmidhi*]
- “Avoid association with strange woman.” A Sahaabi inquired, “O Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam, what if a brother in law needs to come in front of his sister-in-law?” Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) replied, “He is like death.” [*Sahih al-Bukhaari, Sahih Muslim*]
- “None of you should remain alone with a woman, unless he is from her family.” (i.e. those members with whom marriage is not permissible.) NB. Due to the lack of modesty, solitude with males (from one’s family) should also be avoided as far as possible.-Translator

THE PROHIBITION OF GAZING AT STRANGE WOMEN

Allaah Ta’ala says:

قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ذَلِكَ أَزْكَى لَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ
(النور)

‘Say to the believers that they should lower their eyes and guard their private parts. That is purer for them. Allaah is aware of what they do.’

Jarir (radiyallaahu anhu) narrates that he inquired from Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) regarding that gaze which mistakenly falls upon a strange woman. Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) replied, “Turn it away as soon as you realize.”

If these laws could be adhered to by all sects of society, peace and morality will very soon envelop all, and the doors of prosperity and honor will open wide. Unfortunately, things appear to be going in the opposite direction.

The conclusion of this entire chapter is that good character has to be cultivated.

Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said,

- “I have been sent to rectify and perfect the character of man.” [*Musnad Ahmad*]

- “The action weightiest on the scales on the day of Qiyaamah will be noble character and the fear of Allaah Ta’ala.” *[Sunan Abu Daawud]*
- “The best of you is he whose character is the best.”

I end with an appeal to you, o parents, that you endeavour to the best of your ability to cultivate good qualities in your children. If you succeed in this, they will blossom into lovely, sweet-smelling flowers and benefit all those around.

Allaah Ta’ala says:

وَقُلِ اَعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللّٰهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَسَتُرَدُّونَ اِلٰى عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ
فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ (التوبة)

‘Say: ‘Act, for Allaah will see your actions, and so will His messenger and the believers. You will be returned to the Knower of the Unseen and the Visible and He will inform you regarding what you did.’ [Surah at-Tawbah (Repentance) 9:105]