



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Qur'ān-Matters

Corporal punishment (Part Two) - Continuing the dialogue

Our Prophet ﷺ said: 'He is not of us who does not respect our elders and who does not have mercy on our young.' (Musnad Ahmad)

When dealing with the above narration, many only highlight the matter of respect shown to the elders. However, from it, we note that dealing with our young in a merciful and compassionate manner is also a prerequisite of being a member of this outstanding Ummah.

'He is not of us ...' is a strong statement and one that we should be cognisant of when dealing with our young. It is therefore completely unacceptable when physical, emotional and mental abuse is associated with institutions of Qur'ān. When students learn out of fear instead of love, then something is fundamentally wrong, and we are then destroying the hope for healthy future leadership.

True leadership is drawn from the Qur'ān but if people distance themselves from it because of negativity associated with learning it then we cannot blame anyone but ourselves if they seek guidance elsewhere. The world is in dire need of returning to the Book and it needs leaders who find their direction in the Book. The future looks bleak if we repel our young from it with treatment that is harsh and unbecoming.

`Ā'isha رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا narrates that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ never hit anything or anyone ever in his entire life. (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim) This includes young and old, man or woman, free or slave and even extended to the animals in his possession. Not once did he raise his hand to teach or discipline anyone in relation to how they treated him. How do we think he dealt with those who learnt the word of Allah from him? With everyone, he used his words and won them over with his character and in leading by example. May the Almighty send peace upon him and may He guide our steps in service of His Book and in the nurturing of those in our care. *Āmīn.*

And Allah knows best...