



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Qur'ān-Matters

Corporal punishment (Part One) – Starting a dialogue

The issue of corporal punishment in the Quranic environment is one that must be addressed. We are between a past in which corporal punishment was common-place and a present in which it is entirely prohibited.

It is a known fact that our country prohibits corporal punishment in our institutions and that anyone found guilty of it will be penalised. This prohibition has no regard for individual traditions and cultures and all citizens are expected to comply. What one chooses to do with one's own children at home is another matter and penalization will depend on the manner and extent of the corporal activity.

However, it is a matter that should be addressed from a religious perspective, for beyond physical scars, there is the danger of permanent emotional and mental ones, and it is truly sad if this were to be associated with the Book of Allah.

When looking at the content of our *Dīn*, we are guided and sufficed by the prophetic example. When the Prophet ﷺ dispatched Abū Mūsā and Mu`adh (رضي الله عنهما) to Yemen to teach the Qur'ān and to educate the community regarding the *Dīn*, he instructed them with the following: 'Make things easy for people and do not make anything difficult. Spread glad tidings and do not repel people.' (Agreed Upon)

Anas (رضي الله عنه) narrates that this was the Prophet's general advice (ﷺ) when speaking to other companions as well (Agreed Upon). They were to be the future leaders and teachers who would convey the Qur'ān and its message to the next generation. As such, it is the prophetic instruction for all teachers of every generation as well.

Corporal punishment cannot be the answer, especially during these times that we live in. There are so many distractions and there is a dire need for people to draw closer to the Qur'ān. As teachers and parents, we should discuss alternative methods of disciplining our students, encouraging them and guiding their hearts to not only learn the Qur'ān but to love it and to prefer it over everything else. Allah instructs us to call to His path with wisdom (16: 125) and He surely knows best...