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The Love of the Children for the Messenger ﷺ **By Shaykh Zulfiqar Ahmad (db)**

It was not only the adults who showed great love and desire for the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. Children also exhibited the same characteristics and were not to be left behind in sacrificing everything for their Prophet ﷺ. Following are a few examples:

1. *Hadrat* Abdur Rahman bin Auf ؓ was standing on the battleground of Badr with two boys from the *Ansar* at his side. Looking around he thought his position was slightly weak on one side given the children. Just then, one of the boys took his hand and asked, “Uncle, do you recognize Abu Jahl?” *Hadrat* Abdur Rahman ؓ was surprised and said that he did, and the boy continued, “I hear that he says many disrespectful things about the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. I swear by Him whose hand my life is in, either I will leave this battlefield, or Abu Jahl.” *Hadrat* Abdur Rahman ؓ was stunned to hear such words coming from a child. The other boy took his hand and said the same words.

Hadrat Abdur Rahman ؓ scanned the battlefield and saw Abu Jahl astride an armored horse and surrounded by warriors of the Quraish. He pointed and said to the boys, “That is your target.”

The boys were short and slipped through the ranks of men unnoticed. They approached Abu Jahl’s horse and one of the boys swung hard at the horse’s leg with his sword. The horse fell, trapping Abu Jahl under its weight. The other boy swung at Abu Jahl’s head, but because they were short and the swords large and heavy, they could only injure him. A nearby *Sahabi* quickly stepped forward and finished Abu Jahl. This is poignant proof of the love that children had for the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.

2. In the days before having accepted Islam, *Hadrat* Zaid bin Harith ؓ was traveling with his mother to her village when their caravan was robbed by tribesmen from the Banu Qais. *Hadrat* Zaid ؓ was sold in Makkah as a slave and Hakeem bin Hazam bought him for his aunt Khadijah (ؓ). *Hadrat* Khadijah ؓ later presented *Hadrat* Zaid ؓ as a wedding present to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.

Meanwhile, *Hadrat* Zaid’s ؓ father was deeply distressed over losing his son and often recited poetry in his son’s remembrance:

*I wish I knew if you are to return in my lifetime or not, I long for your return
I remember Zaid at sunset, and at the onset of rain,*

*And at the beginning of the winds – how long has my grief and sadness lasted?
I shall search the ends of the earth on the swiftest camel,
Others may lose hope but I will not, I will spend my whole life in this search.
Death finishes everything; only death shall put an end to my search and desire.
I will plead with my relations to keep searching for Zaid.*

After some time, people from his tribe went to perform pilgrimage at Makkah and recognized *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ. They told him of his father's intense grief and in reply *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ wrote back that he was alive and well.

Ransom money in hand, *Hadrat Zaid's* ﷺ father and uncle soon left for Makkah to free *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ from slavery. The father pleaded with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ to free *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ for the ransom money. *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ was summoned and the Prophet ﷺ set the condition that *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ should be free to choose whether to stay in Makkah or leave with his family. No one would pressure him either way and he would be freed without ransom if he wished to leave. The father happily agreed.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ asked *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ whether he knew the two people who had come, and *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ acknowledged knowing them. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ then asked whether he wanted to leave with them or stay. *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ answered, "How can I prefer anyone over you? You are both a father and an uncle to me." Both father and uncle pleaded with *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ, asking why he would choose to remain a slave over freedom. *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ replied that he had seen traits in the Messenger of Allah ﷺ that he had not seen in any other person. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ smiled and took *Hadrat Zaid* ﷺ in his arms, saying that he would adopt him as his own son. *Hadrat Zaid's* ﷺ father was pleased at this and returned home.

3. *Hadrat Sahib bin Yazid* ﷺ relates that he once fell ill during his youth and his aunt took him to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, who prayed for his health and then proceeded to perform ablution (*wudu*). *Hadrat Sahib* ﷺ immediately drank the leftover water.

4. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ noticed a young boy imitating and mocking *Hadrat Bilal's* ﷺ call to prayer (*adhan*), surrounded by other boys who were laughing. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ motioned for him, Abu Madhura, to come forward while the other boys fell silent. Grabbing him by the forelock, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ told him to repeat what he had just been making fun of. The boy resisted but realized that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was not going to let him go. Upon reciting, "I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is the Prophet of Allah ﷻ," he paused and a change came over him. He completed the *adhan* and then the Prophet ﷺ dismissed him. *Hadrat Abu Madhura* ﷺ looked at the Messenger of Allah ﷺ lovingly and said, "Where can I go? Now wherever you go is where Abu Madhura will go." *Hadrat Abu Madhura* ﷺ never cut the forelock that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ had touched.

5. *Hadrat Abdullah bin Mas'oud* ﷺ was the Prophet's ﷺ faithful attendant during his adolescence and used to carry the Prophet's ﷺ staff and shoes. Whenever the Messenger of

Allah ﷻ would sit, *Hadrat* Abdullah ﷺ would take off his shoes; when the Messenger of Allah ﷺ slept, *Hadrat* Abdullah ﷺ would wake him; whilst bathing, *Hadrat* Abdullah ﷺ used to provide a screen as cover. When traveling, *Hadrat* Abdullah ﷺ would carry essentials such as his bedding, miswak, shoes, and water for *wudu*. This is why *Hadrat* Abdullah ﷺ was known as the Prophet's ﷺ مير سامان (person in charge of his belongings).

6. Three young *Sahabah* were always close to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, ready for service at any given moment: all three were named Abdullah. Seeing this enthusiasm in them, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ would pray for them by name in late night prayers (*tahajjud*). The result of this was that each Abdullah attained mastery in a specific field of study.

Hadrat Abdullah bin Mas'oud ﷺ became a scholar of law; *Hadrat* Abdullah bin Abbas ﷺ became a renowned scholar of the Holy Quran, and *Hadrat* Abdullah bin Umar ﷺ became a great scholar of *hadith*.

7. *Hadrat* Uqbah bin Amir ﷺ was another faithful attendant of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and he used to lead the Prophet's ﷺ camel on every journey.

8. *Hadrat* Rabiah Aslama ﷺ used to be in the forefront in attending to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. He would keep watch all night outside the Prophet's ﷺ tent in case the Prophet ﷺ needed something in the middle of the night.

When *Hadrat* Rabiah ﷺ reached adolescence, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ advised him to get married, to which *Hadrat* Rabiah ﷺ replied that he would not be able to attend to the Prophet ﷺ as much. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ kept hinting at this for a long time and *Hadrat* Rabiah ﷺ kept avoiding the issue with the same excuse. However, he complied soon after because he could not go against the Prophet's ﷺ wishes.

9. *Hadrat* Zohra bin Sa'ad's ﷺ mother brought him to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ at a very young age, requesting that the Prophet ﷺ accept the child into his service. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said that the child was too young and instead offered a prayer for him.

Whenever *Hadrat* Abdullah bin Umar and *Hadrat* Abdullah bin Zubair ﷺ saw *Hadrat* Zohra ﷺ, they would smile and accompany him, solely because their Prophet ﷺ had prayed for him.

May Allah ﷻ fill our breasts with the same love and commitment for the Messenger ﷺ that these children had.

The Love of the Children- excerpted from *Love for the Prophet* ﷺ by Shaykh Zulfiqar Ahmad (db)