

OUR CHILDREN IN THE ADOLESCENCE STAGE**Dear Mumins!**

Our Master (s.a.w.) said in a hadith as follows: "Beware. Every one of you is a shepherd and every one is answerable with regard to his flock... A man is a guardian over the members of his family and shall be questioned about them..."¹ Today, by leaning on this hadith we try to investigate behaviors of our children in the adolescence stage, who are under our responsibility and how we should treat toward them.

A number of differences in both physical appearance and actions of children appear in the period of adolescence. This period is the period of discriminating khayr (goodness) from the sharr (badness) and that the child reaches age of performing the religious responsibilities. And also it is a period that our children are in their most suffered term.

It is quite clumsy because their body started to grow up suddenly. They are lazy and unwilling in helping housework. To be approved or liked becomes more important for them. They spend a lot of time in front of the mirror. Clothes, costumes, perfume and hair gel occupies them extremely. The youngster lives complex sensation in this term. While saying s/he likes to be alone at home, s/he can not stay separately from the friends at the school. The friends take the place of their parents. There is no any sacrifice that s/he could not do for the friends. S/he reacts angrily to every type of inspection. S/he hates that its bag or cupboard is searched. Besides, they do not like that their things are straightened up, are not pleased with receiving orders and being managed by their parents. The father and mother are not wise persons, who



know everything any more. They criticize their parent's clothes, talks, states and actions, they do not hesitate in answering them with objection. They sometimes are materialist, sometimes emotional.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The parents should discover their children again in this term. They should not blame them sharply for their faults. They do not have the right of offending them and taking no notice of them. Because any blank space stays just in that way, it will be filled by someone else. If they learn why they were created, what the purpose of coming to this world is, to where they will go at the end, the life will be valuable for them. The parents should make them feel particularly in this period

that his or her home is a warm shelter far away from all bad and dangerous things; his family consists of the people, who love him and are next to him/her in case of all hardships.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The adolescent cannot be trained with curse. Otherwise s/he loses the respect and particularly love that s/he feels towards the parents. The father and mother always should be ready to listen to their children. They should give the message of "I understand you". It should be said "what do you think at this state?", "I prefer such this manner if you ask me" instead of giving orders like "do this, don't do this, etc.".

On the other side, the parents who give permission or submit to every behavior or statement of the adolescent injure their children greatly. We never stay in front of the adolescent nor behind him but just next to him/her. We should know that these hard days would pass together and within unity. Whatever happens, the adolescent is our child. We are responsible of them in the presence of Allah (s.w.t.).

¹ Bukharî, Juma, 11; Muslim, Imâra, 20; Abû Dâvûd, Imar, 1