

THE PROPHET'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

By Muḥammad 'Alī Cheshmāzī

**Translated from Persian to English by
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Cultural Affairs Department

Ahl al-Bayt (*) World Assembly

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The Prophet's Attitude towards Children and Youth

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قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ:

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Indeed, Allah desires to repel all impurity from you, O People of the Household, and purify you with a thorough purification.
(*Sūrah al-Aḥzāb* 33:33)

Prophetic traditions, mentioned in both Sunnī and Shī'ite most reliable reference books of *Ḥadīth* and *Tafsīr* (Qur'anic Exegesis), have confirmed that this holy verse was revealed to exclusively involve the five individuals of the Cloak; namely, Muḥammad, 'Alī, Fā'imah, al-Ḥasan, and al-Ḥusayn, peace be upon them, to whom the term 'Ahl al-Bayt (People of the House)' is solely dedicated.

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PREFACE

In the Name of Allah, the All-Beneficent, the All-Merciful

The invaluable legacy of the Household [*Ahl al-Bayt*] of the Prophet (may peace be upon them all), as preserved by their followers, is a comprehensive school of thought that embraces all branches of Islamic knowledge. This school has produced many brilliant scholars who have drawn inspiration from this rich and pure resource. It has given many scholars to the Muslim *ummah* who, following in the footsteps of Imāms of the Prophet's Household ('*a*), have done their best to clear up the doubts raised by various creeds and currents within and without Muslim society and to answer their questions. Throughout the past centuries, they have given well-reasoned answers and clarifications concerning these questions and doubts.

To meet the responsibilities assigned to it, the *Ahl al-Bayt* World Assembly (ABWA) has embarked on a defense of the sanctity of the Islamic message and its verities, often obscured by the partisans of various sects and creeds as well as by currents hostile to Islam. The Assembly follows in the footsteps of the *Ahl al-Bayt* ('*a*) and the disciples of their school of thought in its readiness to confront these challenges and tries to be on the frontline in consonance with the demands of every age.

The arguments contained in the works of the scholars belonging to the School of the *Ahl al-Bayt* ('*a*) are of unique significance. That is because they are based on genuine scholarship and appeal to reason, and avoid prejudice and bias. These arguments address scholars and thinkers in a manner that appeals to healthy minds and wholesome human nature.

To assist the seekers of truth, the *Ahl al-Bayt* World Assembly has endeavored to present a new phase of these arguments contained in the studies and translations of the works of

contemporary Shī'ah writers and those who have embraced this sublime school of thought through divine blessing.

The Assembly is also engaged in edition and publication of the valuable works of leading Shī'ah scholars of earlier ages to assist the seekers of the truth in discovering the truths which the School of the Prophet's Household ('a) has offered to the entire world.

The Ahl al-Bayt World Assembly looks forward to benefit from the opinions of the readers and their suggestions and constructive criticism in this area.

We also invite scholars, translators and other institutions to assist us in propagating the genuine Islamic teachings as preached by the Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ).

We beseech God, the Most High, to accept our humble efforts and to enable us to enhance them under the auspices of Imām al-Mahdī, His vicegerent on the earth (may Allah expedite his advent).

We express our gratitude to Mr. Muḥammad 'Alī Chenārānī, the author of the present book, and Mr. Mahdī Āzādī, its translator. We also thank our colleagues who have participated in producing this work, especially the staff of the Translation Office.

Cultural Affairs Department

The Ahl al-Bayt ('a) World Assembly

FOREWORD

In today's world, the instruction and upbringing of children are among the most basic social issues and important elements for the happiness of humanity. Therefore, scientists have carried out deep psychological and educational studies and research and have written an infinite number of books on this subject.

In addition, countries have formed extensive organizations for the proper physical and psychological upbringing of children and have put children under theoretical and practical monitoring in every respect.

14 centuries ago, however, when people were engulfed in an age of darkness and ignorance, the great leader of Islam paid full attention to the value and importance of children's upbringing and provided the necessary teachings to his followers.

If scientists today pay attention to the instruction of children after birth, Islam has provided step-by-step specifications for marriage, conditions of spouses, having pure children, breastfeeding, and the physical and psychological upbringing of children.

If scientists today include precise psychological and instructional points in their books about children, the leaders of Islam noted the same in their sayings and demonstrated the same in their practices long ago.

Out purpose in writing this book is two-fold:

One: It is hoped that all the Muslims, especially educated young people, who constitute a large part of the society, will become aware of the comprehensive programs and orders of Islam and the practical value of this religion while relying on their solid

faith and beliefs in order not to be deceived by the programs of others.

Two: It is also hoped that parents will become aware of their religious and national duty in the upbringing of their children. In order to help parents carry out this great responsibility, for doubtless a great part of the social problems and moral pollutions experienced today are due to ignorance and unawareness about how to perform one's duties, we decided to provide a practical model for those who want to bring up physically and psychologically healthy children. The best model for Muslims is the great leader of Islam, Prophet Muḥammad and his rightful heirs, who can be our reliable models throughout life, as they did not commit any mistakes. It is hoped that humanity will become aware of the true models to follow and will surrender the false satanic models in order to achieve happiness in this world and the next.

This book consists of two parts:

1. The Prophet's attitude towards children, consisting of five chapters, each having its own subject heading.
2. The Prophet's attitude towards youth, consisting of four chapters, each chapter having several subtitles.

Finally, I would like to express thanks, especially to Ḥujjat al-Islām wal-Muslimīn Ilāhī Khorāsānī, managing director of the Foundation, and my beloved children Majīd, Muḥsin, Iḥsān and Sa'īd, who helped me organize the notes for the book, and to Messrs Ja'far Sharī'atmadarī the editor, Riqā Arghiyānī the compiler, Riqā Waḥdatī the proofreader and Muḥammad 'Alī 'Alāqemand, the typesetter, all of whom played a significant role in the preparation of this book. I wish all of them increasing success.