

Islam's Perfect Man

Koran Chapter 33:21 states that Muhammad is the perfect man for Muslims to imitate if they want to meet Allah in paradise:

Indeed in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad) you have a good example to follow for him who hopes for (the Meeting with) Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah much.

Married 6 year old

Muhammad, at about age 50, married Aisha in 620, when she was six years old, and he consummated their marriage in 623, when she was nine:

Narrated 'Aishah that the Prophet wrote the marriage contract with her when she was six years old and he consummated his marriage when she was nine years old, and then she remained with him for nine years (i.e. till his death).¹

The fact that Aisha said she was six years old when she was married to Muhammad and nine years old when they consummated their marriage was also reported in many works by authoritative Muslim scholars.²

Aisha had this to say about the day her marriage was consummated in Medina:

The Messenger of God came to our house and men and women of the Ansar gathered around him. My mother came to me while I was being swung on a swing between two branches and got me down. Jumaymah, my nurse, took over and wiped my face with some water and started leading me. When I was at the door, she stopped so I could catch my breath. I was then brought [in] while the Messenger of God was sitting on a bed in our house. [My mother] made me sit on his lap and said, "These are your relatives. May God bless you with them and bless them with you!" Then the men and women got up and left. The Messenger of God consummated his marriage with me in my house when I was nine years old.³

A modern Muslim scholar said this about those who try to deny that Aisha was married at age six and the marriage was consummated at age nine:

Some individuals, who ostensibly claim to be researchers, deny the aforementioned narrations concerning the age of 'Aishah. These narrations are, however, authentic. It is the statement of 'Aishah herself, which her various pupils have transmitted from her. A great majority of her pupils cannot make the same mistake.⁴

¹ *Sahih Al-Bukhari*, Vol. 7, Book 67, No. 5133, p. 57.

² *Sahih Al-Bukhari*, Vol. 5, Book 63, Nos. 3894 and 3896, pp. 139-140; *Sahih Muslim*, Vol. 4, Nos. 1422, 1422R1 and 1422 R3, pp. 353-355; *Sunan Ibn Majah*, Vol. 3, No. 1876, p. 76; *Sunan Abu Dawud*, Vol. 2, No. 2121, p. 540; and Vol. 5, No. 4933, p. 327; *Sunan An-Nasa'i*, Vol. 4, No. 3257, p. 118, and Nos. 3380-3381, pp. 181-182; *The Sealed Nectar*, pp. 176-177, and 562; *The Honorable Wives of the Prophet*, p. 42; and *When the Moon Split*, p. 129.

There were other reports that Aisha had been seven years old when she was first married to Muhammad, with the marriage still being consummated when she was nine: e.g., *The History of al-Tabari: The Foundation of the Community*, p. 7; *Sunan Ibn Majah*, Vol. 3, No. 1877, p. 77; and *Men and Women Around the Messenger*, pp. 571 and 574. Ibn Ishaq wrote that Aisha had been seven when married to Muhammad and “nine or ten” when the marriage was consummated – see *The Life of Muhammad (Sirat Rasul Allah)*, n. 918, p. 792.

³ *The History of al-Tabari: The Last Years of the Prophet*, pp. 130-131. For similar narrations from Aisha, see *Sahih Al-Bukhari*, Vol. 5, Book 63, No. 3894, pp. 139-140; *Sunan Abu Dawud*, Vol. 5, Nos. 4933-4937, pp. 327-328; *Sunan Ibn Majah*, Vol. 3, No. 1876, p. 76, where at the time Aisha was "with some of my friends"; and *Sahih Muslim*, Vol. 4, No. 1422, pp. 353-354, where Aisha said she was playing on the swing "along with my playmates."

⁴ *Sunan An-Nasa'i*, Vol. 4, Comments to *Hadith* No. 3260, p. 119.