

He who does not show mercy to others, will not be shown mercy

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

### He who does not show mercy to others, will not be shown mercy – Explanation of Riyaad as-Saaliheen by Shaykh Saalih al-Uthaymeen

#### Hadeeth 893

وعن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال: قال النبي، صلى الله عليه وسلم، الحسن بن علي، رضي الله عنهما، فقال الأقرع بن حابس: إن لي عشرة من الولد ما قبلت منهم أحداً. فقال رسول الله ﷺ: من لا يرحم لا يرحم! (متفق عليه)

Aboo Hurairah (May Allaah be pleased with him) reported: **The Prophet (ﷺ) kissed his grandson Hasan bin 'Ali in the presence of Aqra' bin Habis. Thereupon Aqra' remarked: "I have ten children and I have never kissed any one of them." The Messenger of Allaah (ﷺ) cast a glance upon him and said, "He who does not show mercy to others, will not be shown mercy."**<sup>1</sup>.

#### Commentary

**Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-'Uthaymeen (رحمته الله)**<sup>2</sup> said:

The author, An-Nawawee may Allaah shower blessings on him- mentioned this hadeeth with regards to hugging, kissing and similar things.

Amongst this is kissing young ones out of compassion, mercy, kindness and love. The Prophet (ﷺ) kissed Al-Hasan bin Ali bin Abi Talib-may Allaah be pleased with him; Al-Hasan is the son of Fatimah bint Muhammad – may Allaah be pleased with him – that is, the Prophet is his maternal grandfather. The Prophet loved Al-Hasan and Al Hussein and would say: **'The two of them are the leaders of the youth of Paradise'**.<sup>3</sup> However, Al-Hasan is nobler than Al-Hussein; thence, the Prophet (ﷺ) said to him: **'This my son is a leader and soon shall Allaah make amend by him between two groups of Muslims'**.

<sup>1</sup> Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim

<sup>2</sup> (رحمته الله) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

<sup>3</sup> Reported by At-Tirmidhee in Book of Distinctions, Chapter on the Distinctions of Al-Hasan and Al-Hussein, no.3701 and Ibn Maajah in the introduction, Chapter on the Virtue of Alee Ibn Abee Taalib, no.115

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That is why Al-Hasan, the older and nobler son, became the caliph after the murder of Alee bin Talib-may Allaah shower blessings on him – by a member of the Khaawarij sect. However, when he observed that his contention for authority with Mu'aaweeyah will result in bloodshed and public disorder, he abdicated in favour of Mu'aaweeyah. This was to forestall tribulation and unite the nation. So, Allaah used him to rectify the affair of the Ummah. Thus, he attained an important position by stepping down from something he had more right to.

On that day, he was with the Prophet (ﷺ) and so also was Al-Aqra bin Habis, one of the leaders of the Tameem tribe. The Prophet kissed Al-Hasan and this crude man- Al-Aqra- was perplexed. So, he said: I have ten children and I have never kissed anyone amongst them. The Prophet (ﷺ) said: **‘Whoever is not compassionate will not receive compassion.** That is, Allaah, Honoured and Glorious is He, will not be kind to the one who is not kind to people, and this person will never earn compassion – we seek refuge with Allaah.

This shows the permissibility of kissing small children out of compassion and mercy, be they your children, your grand children or children of non-relatives. This breeds compassion and grants you a heart which is compassionate to the young. The more a person is compassionate to the servants of Allaah, the closer he is to the compassion of Allaah. Indeed, Allaah pardoned a prostitute when she showed compassion to a dog which was licking earth due to thirst. She stopped to fetch water with her leather sock for it to quench its thirst, so Allaah pardoned her<sup>4</sup> for her kindness to the dog. So, if Allaah places compassion for the weak ones in a person’s heart, this is a sign that he will soon receive compassion by the leave of Allaah – Honoured and Glorious is He. We beseech Allaah to be compassionate to you and us.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: **‘Whoever is not compassionate will not receive compassion’.** This indicates that one should make his heart tender, affectionate and compassionate. This is contrary to what some foolish people do when a child enters upon him; if he is in the cafe, he would rebuke him and drive him away. This is an error. Here is the Prophet (ﷺ), the best of people in character and the noblest in manner.

One day, while he was in a state of prostration in Salat leading the people, Al-Hasan bin Ali bin Abee Taalib came and climbed him as children are wont to do. He remained in that position and the companions were amazed. Then, he said: **‘My child climbed upon me, that is, took me as a ride, and I loved that I did not rise until he had satisfied his desire.’** This is out of compassion.

On another occasion, the Messenger took Umamah bint Zainab bint Rasool to the mosque and led the congregation while carrying her. Whenever he made Sajood he would place her

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<sup>4</sup> Reported by Al-Bukhaaree in Book of Ahadeeth of Prophets, Chapter on the Hadeeth of the Cave, no.1328 and Muslim in the Book of Salam, Chapter on the Virtue of One who Waters Animals, no.4163

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on the ground and when he rose he would carry her.<sup>5</sup> He did all these out of compassion and love for her. Otherwise, he could have handed her over to A'aishah or any of his wives. This is compassion. She may even cling to her grandfather and he wished to delight her.

On another occasion, he was delivering a sermon to people and Al-Hasan and Al-Hussain were wearing two garments, perhaps new, which were quite long. They were walking and stumbling, so he descended from the Minbar and put them in front of himself and said: Allaah has spoken the truth:

إِنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ

["Your wealth and your children a only a trial."]<sup>6</sup>

He said that he saw these two kids stumbling and his heart could not take it until he descended to carry them.

The important point is that we must return our hearts to a state of compassion to children and to all who are in need of compassion such as the orphans, the poor, the weak and so on. And we must fill our hearts with compassion so that Allaah may be compassionate to us as we are also in need of compassion. Our compassion to the servants of Allaah will be a cause of Allaah being compassionate to us.

We beseech Allaah to cover you and us with His compassion.

[Explanation (Sharh) of Riyaad as-Saaliheen by Shaykh Saalih al-Uthaymeen Vol 4 pg 435-438]

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<sup>5</sup> Reported by Al-Bukhaaree in Book of Salat, Chapter on if He Carries a Little Girl on His Shoulder in Salat, no.486 and Muslim in the Book of Mosques, Chapter on the permissibility of Carrying Small children in Salat, no.844

<sup>6</sup> [Soorah at-Taghabun 64:15]