

Journey to the Heaven

Mehri Mahooti

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh): "If you act upon what you know, God will give you the knowledge of what you do not know."

Sarah put a flower in a glass of water and placed the glass near a window. The flower received enough sunlight and water and grew stronger and stronger every day such that after a few days more leaves appeared on its stem and so it was time for it to be put in the garden. Sarah's father taught her how to plant her flower in the flowerbed and she did so happily. It was the first flower she had planted in her life. And she did many other good things as she grew up like a lovely plant.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh): "Teach without showing anger."

Mr. Ahmadi was a teacher of calligraphy. In his class, there were several pupils. There was some noise in the class because the pupils had to sharpen their pencils repeatedly and sometimes they dropped their pens several times. Amir was one of the pupils who, of course, unintentionally annoyed his teacher with making such a noise. One day, Mr. Ahmadi got angry and went towards Amir to take the paper out of his hand, but was stopped by the beautiful sentence he had written on the paper. That sentence was a hadith (saying) from Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in which he had advised the teachers to be patient with pupils and to avoid getting angry while teaching. Reading that hadith made Mr. Ahmadi become calm and he decided to be more patient and tolerant with his pupils, and not to show anger while teaching.

Imam Ali: "Learn the best from any knowledge, just as honeybees choose the best from every kind of flower."

The little butterfly was following honeybees in the garden, full of plants of various kinds and flowers of different colors. She continued to do so till sunset and then her father told her that it was time for them to return home, just as honeybees were returning to their beehives, and then added: "You should try to learn new things. You are young enough to learn many skills and other things."

The little butterfly answered: "There are many things to learn, just as there are many flowers. I think I should choose the best of them just like honeybees who choose the best of flowers."

Imam Ali (as): "Stand up as a mark of respect before your teacher, even if you are a governor."

The young boss was busy with his work in his office when the secretary informed him that a guest had just arrived and wanted to see him. And the secretary led the guest into the room and left. The boss raised his head to see who the guest was and to his surprise he saw an old man with a walking stick, slowly stepping in. He knew the old man. He was his teacher in his school years. The boss got up, went to the old man greeted, embraced him warmly, and kissed his wrinkled face. They both shed tears of joy and started talking about the good old days.

Maryam returned home from school and then started helping her mother with the housework. After an hour she got tired and said to her mother: "I wish we could have everything ready and without having to work for it."

Her mother taught her a good lesson by narrating this Hadith (Islamic saying) from Imam Sadiq (as), "God has created everything human beings need. But human beings should work and make the efforts to get them. Life would become boring if everything could be got with no work."

Saba complained to her mother about the grades she had been given at school, saying: "I haven't got my right."

But her mother advised her to work more, and taught her the following Hadith from Imam Ali (as) which made her decide to study more in order to get better grades: "One cannot get his or her rights unless one makes the effort for them."

David's father told him: "My son! try to learn useful things while you are young and have the needed energy and time, as Imam Ali (as) has taught us, "Try to benefit from the treasures of knowledge before the opportunities are lost. Losing opportunities lead to regret."

Mohsen was respected by all relatives, friends, and neighbors, and he was always happy and satisfied. It was because he was always helpful to others and would do anything he could for those who needed help. He was, in fact, a follower of the Infallible Imams (as) who have taught us, "The one who helps others with their needs, has by so doing pleased God's Messenger (pbuh)."

