

The Kindness of the Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) to Animals

The Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam, may Allah pray upon and bless him) would teach kindness and mercy to animals. He would forbid their owners from starving them, wearing them out, making them carry loads constantly, overburdening them, and treating them badly.

• First Story:

Abdullah ibn Jafar (radhiAllahu anhu) said: “The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) let me ride behind him one day. He entered a garden that belonged to one of the Ansar, in which there was a camel. When it saw the Prophet, it cried out and its eyes shed tears. The Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) went to it, patted its head, and it became quiet. He said: **“Who owns this camel? Whose camel is this?”** A boy from the Ansar came forward so the Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) told him, **“Do you not fear Allah for the sake of the animal which Allah has given you?”** He complained to me that you starve him, and wear him out!” (Narrated by Tirmizi and Ahmad)

Lesson #1:

This clearly shows that the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) knew the language of the animals.

Lesson #2:

We learn that the Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) was a mercy for the entire world, not only for humankind but for animals also.

Lesson #3:

We learn that if we own an animal we should not overwork them, burden them, or force them to carry heavy loads. Rather they should be given some rest and fed properly.

- **Second Story:**

Anas (radhiAllahu anhu) reports that the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) came upon a group of people who were mounted on the saddles of their horses so he said to them, “**Mount them properly and dismount properly (i.e. without causing any hardship or difficulty). Do not take your animals as chairs upon which to chat in the streets and marketplaces. Many animals are better than those who ride upon them and more remembering of Allah.**” (Narrated by Ahmad, Tabarani, and Hakim)

Lesson #1:

We learn that the Prophet forbade people from sitting on their animals while they were standing because this caused them to become unnecessarily tired.

Lesson #2:

We learn that animals also remember Allah. So when we ride them we should also try to remember Allah abundantly.

- **Third Story:**

Abu Mas'ud (radhiAllahu anahu) said: “We were traveling with the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and he went to fulfill his need. We saw a nest with a small bird and two baby birds inside so we picked them up. The mother bird began to flap her wings in fear. When the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) came back, he said: “**Who has caused this bird to become upset about her babies? Give them back to her!**”

Then he saw a hive of bees that we had burned, and said, “**Who burned this?**” We said: “We did.” He said: “**It is not permissible for anyone to punish with the fire but the Lord of the Fire.**” (Narrated by Abu Daud)

Lesson #1:

We learn that frightening animals and hurting them in any way, shape, or form is not permissible.

Lesson #2:

Torturing animals with fire or anything of that sort is a great sin.