

# Fruits for the Week

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## The Household of the Prophet (SAW)

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For a Muslim, the source of guidance is, first, the Qur'an and, second, the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW). In the Qur'an we find some verses which refer to the household of the Prophet (SAW). The Qur'an is not a biography of the Prophet (SAW); it is a guidance for the whole humanity. It carries references to the household of not only the final messenger of Allah but also other messengers. The Qur'an tells us how we should arrange our household.

*Hadith* literature with full authenticity provides us with details about how the wives of the Prophet (SAW) and his family members lived. In an authentic *hadith*, the Prophet (SAW) said that the best among the believers is a person who is kind and caring towards his family and that he is the most caring and kind towards his own family.

A modern household in Europe, America, or even South East Asia, is visualized as a well-constructed structure with rooms for rest, receiving guests as well as facilities for different purposes. We attach the quality of life to the quality of household. If we compare a person living in a three-bedroom apartment with one in a one-bedroom flat, we will consider the former having a better quality of life. We visualize a house and its residents with furniture, appliances, utensils, in brief, all those things which make life comfortable as a desirable household. We cannot imagine today a house without coordinated curtains, carpets, vases and other decorative pieces.

Let us for a while close our eyes and travel

back to the time when the Prophet (SAW) was living with his family in Madinah. We should not forget at that time Madinah was a developed city with most of its population involved in agriculture and international trade. They used products and merchandise acquired through their trade caravans from the furthest parts of the world, and those who had means, including the neighboring Jewish tribes, lived luxuriously.

The household of the Prophet (SAW), on the other hand, represented peace, security, mutuality, love, sacrifice and humbleness. His lifestyle had no artificiality. He encouraged his family members to have a neat and clean appearance, and to lead a life of satisfaction which was achieved by limiting their desires and helping out others.

When we talk about the Prophet's (SAW) household, we should remember that his family members were just as human as we are. Sometimes the wives of the Prophet (SAW) thought they were not getting their worldly share as wives of a ruler might get. The Qur'an reminded them to choose between worldly glamour and an ever satisfying life in the hereafter. They were advised to become models in their conduct and behavior for the rest of humanity. This is why we find in the Qur'an frequent references that they are not like common persons who feel happy in showing off their possessions, beauty and dress to others. They were asked to live a modest life and, in this way, become leaders of good conduct.

(to be continued)