

# TEENAGERS

By : Bint Shahid



Youth aged 13-19 are termed 'teenagers' in Western terminology. The word 'teenager' is a modern regressive term aimed at stripping our youth of their confidence and giving them an excuse for temerity. The laid back no-care-attitude that is so prevalent amongst our modern day youth,

is an instinctive reaction to the use of this phrase. The norms of society have been moulded such, that by default a teenager is expected to sleep excessively, work minimally, talk incessantly and spread goodness sparingly. It is a psychology directed at depriving the Muslim Ummah of their most prized asset; the youth.

One of the greatest tragedies of our era is that Muslim youth have fallen prey to this ludicrous mentality. Thoroughly colonised and dominated, we have willingly allowed ourselves to become minuscule pawns ruthlessly pinned under the overbearing thumb of the West. Stripped of our morals and values, we have become pliant putty in the aggressive hands of our enemies; giving them the opportunity to shape us as befits their whims. It is a monstrous tragedy - one that ought to compel the eyes of the seeing to shed crimson tears.

The full realisation of the catastrophe will only set in when one becomes aware of the spectacular achievements of Muslim youth that dot the pages of history. Sifting through the golden treasure chest brimming with our rich legacies, we come to witness unparalleled accomplishments that awed the stars above and silenced the universe around. The scented pages of our history are starred with the glittering

achievements of the amazing legends who preceded us. Infinitesimal words struggle to capture the essence of their lives between the straggling covers of thickly bound books. Tales of unprecedented courage, unparalleled loyalty and awe inspiring love are captured between the curves and edges of slanting letters. Rusty crimson stains splattered across pages bear witness to the glorious lives that were proudly sacrificed for the sake of this Deen. Patches of smudged ink serve as priceless reminders of the inestimable tears that were shed under the inky blanket of night. The ageing pages of our history are tinged golden by astounding dreams and visions that rose like the glorious sun. These extraordinary individuals whom we speak of, are not elusive supermen spun out of a distant fairy tale. Nay, they are our ancestors and predecessors. They are the sturdy roots from which we stem, the immovable foundation upon which we build our lives. Their lucent footsteps are laid out for us as a glistening trail engraved in the sands of time. The devastating loss of these legends and luminaries prompted the Arab poet to pen his sorrow in words dripping anguish:

يا ويحنا ماذا أصاب رجالنا

أو مالنا سعد ولا مقداد ؟

"Woe be unto us, what has happened to our men?

Is there not amidst us Sa'd or Miqdaad?.."

I thought it imperative, in order for us to awaken the slumbering spirit of the Muslims, that we remind ourselves of our striking predecessors. I hope that by taking a peek into the enchanting meadows of their lives, our lethargic souls will be able to draw some inspiration. Perhaps by admiring the shimmering luminance of their magnificent ambitions, we will be able to light the torch of our aspirations too.

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## Musa'b Ibn Umayr رضي

The most fragrant rose of Quraish and the most prized of their youth. His life epitomises the definition of loyalty and sacrifice. Born into one of the most affluent households of Makkah, Musa'b رضي proved to the universe how a 17 year old boy can give up every beguiling temptation of Dunya for the sake of his Deen. Preferring to don the threadbare cloak of poverty, Musa'b رضي presented a wondrous example of Zuhd and Taqwa. It was the crystalline purity of his heart that made Muhammad ﷺ, the leader of all Ambiyaa, choose him as His first envoy to Madinah Munawwarah. Yes, an 18 year old boy was the first envoy of our sublime Deen - and what an envoy he was... Holding the standard of Islam high in his hand, Musa'b رضي spread the light of Islam, until every alleyway of Madinah sparkled with Noor.

## Zaid Ibn Thaabit رضي

He was a youngster whose dark eyes shone with deep wisdom and insight. Something as inconsequential as his tender age did not hinder him from attaining unprecedented heights in his thirst for knowledge. At the tender age of 13, Zaid رضي was assigned the great task of writing down the divine Ayaat of the Quran as they were revealed upon Rasulullah ﷺ. At the request of Nabi ﷺ, Zaid رضي learnt the Hebrew and Syriac languages in just 17 days. It is an extraordinary achievement that many of us would deem impossible. However, the concept of impossibility did not exist in the mind of the incomparable youngster nurtured under the care of Muhammad ﷺ. It is for this precise reason that AbuBakr رضي handpicked this sterling young Sahabi for the momentous task of compiling the Quran. There were many older Sahaba present at that time, but the Khalifah of Rasulullah ﷺ chose

this to entrust this young Sahabi instead. Do you now understand why our most exquisite asset is our youth?

## Muadh Ibn Jabal رضي

Amongst the delegation of Ansaar that came to Nabi ﷺ under the shroud of



darkness, there stood a young boy. His handsome face was as radiant and dazzling as the moon above. Aged only 16, he gave Bayah at the blessed hands of Nabi ﷺ. Having bidden farewell to this transitory world at the young age of 35, Muadh <sup>رضي</sup> lived what we would term a relatively short life. And yet, within the span of these years, he attained levels of unparalleled piety. Diving deep into the ocean of knowledge, he immersed himself in it until my Nabi ﷺ said regarding him:

أَعْلَمُهَا بِالْحَلَالِ وَالْحَرَامِ مَعَاذُ بَنِ جَبَلٍ.

*"The most knowledgeable (from my Ummah) regarding Halal and Haram is Muadh Ibn Jabal.."*

## Usaamah bin Zaid <sup>رضي</sup>:

Dubbed as 'the Beloved son of the Beloved', Usaamah <sup>رضي</sup> was the apple of the eye of my Nabi ﷺ. As an exceptional young man, he was brimming with knowledge and wisdom beyond his years. It was for this reason that at the unbelievable age of 19, Usaamah <sup>رضي</sup> was appointed by Nabi ﷺ as the leader of an army that had great Ashaab the likes of AbuBakr <sup>رضي</sup> and Umar <sup>رضي</sup>. History then stood to witness how a 19 year old youth raised the standard of Islam and proceeded to obliterate the forces of evil.

## Muhammad bin Qasim:

A name that is synonymous to courage and bravery, Muhammad Ibn Qasim was the youngest military commander ever recorded by the pens of historians. At the age of 17, Muhammad Ibn Qasim singlehandedly led an army of 6000 men to the rescue of Muslim women who had been kidnapped by the Kuffar. Later referred to as the conquest of Sindh, this war went down in history as one of the most incomparable battles ever fought, wherein the mighty forces of evil were defeated and humiliated at the hands of a 17 year old Muslim youth.

## Muhammad AlFateh:

At the age of 22, Muhammad AlFateh marked a new era in the history of Islam by conquering Constantinople. It was an unbelievable achievement, considering that the superpower's of that time failed to even come near this heavily barricaded city. Despite this, Muhammad AlFateh stood to teach the world that the youth of Islam can never be undermined.

## **AbdurRahman AlNassor:**

He was one of the most powerful princes of Iberia. Ascending the throne at the age of 22, AbdurRahman proceeded to steer Andalusia into its peak golden era. He brought about an unrivaled scientific renaissance, making his kingdom the strongest in the world at the time.

These are just a few of the innumerable stars that have risen and set over the horizon of Islam. Do you see how the youth of Islam rose like magnificent suns, marking a new dawn for every era. Have you witnessed how the sons of Islam transformed into magnificent lions when they stood to challenge the enemies of their Rabb? This is our priceless history, adorned with the scented blood of our incomparable youth. This is our invaluable legacy, bejewelled with the sacrifices of our unrivalled youngsters. Awaken oh slumbering youth of Islam; for how long shall we remain basking under the glory of our predecessors? The night has been long and tedious, and dawn is long awaited. It is time to rise and encompass the universe with the glow of our Imaan.

