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Research Article

Why did Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam Marry Aisha at the Age of 9 Years Old?

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Abstract. According to many Jewish, Christian, and Hindu opponents of Islam, Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) was a sexual pervert and pedophile because he was betrothed to Aisha at the age of 6 years old and married her at the age of 9 years old which is the age of puberty following consummation of the marriage. Many Muslim Scholars, Ulemas, Mawlanas, and Clerics have refuted such a blasphemous allegation through the statement that the marriage of Aisha with Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) occurred due to a Divine Inspiration from ALLAH, The Most Merciful and Most Gracious who knows best.

Keywords: Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him), Prophet Issac (The Jewish Prophet of Judaism - Peace Be Upon Him), Aisha's marriage, Rebecca's marriage, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

INTRODUCTION

"On 27th May 2022, Nupur Sharma, the former spokesperson for India's ultranationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), ignited a firestorm across the Muslim world when she went on live television and insinuated that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) was a [sexual pervert] and pedophile. Some 400 million people took to the streets in cities from Tehran to Jeddah and Karachi to protest against the insult. Nevertheless, media commentators sympathetic to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) doubled down, arguing that Sharma was correct, Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) was unequivocally a [sexual pervert] and pedophile, and anyone who supported him supported [sexual perversion] and pedophilia..." Consequently, Nupur Sharma was suspended from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in June 2022 for making derogatory comments about Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him). At the time, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had in a statement said it 'strongly denounces insults of any religious personalities' and that it 'does not promote such people or philosophy'.

Nupur Sharma withdrew her remarks later in a post on X (formerly Twitter)." – (ThePrint). But Nupur Sharma must ask herself 5 paramount questions. Why did Dr. Basaheb Ambedkar (The Father of Indian Constitution) marry Ramabai Ambedkar at the age of 9 years old following consummation of the marriage alike Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) who married Aisha at the age of 9 years old following consummation of the marriage? Why did Prophet Issac (The Jewish Prophet of Judaism - Peace Be Upon Him) marry Rebecca at the age of 14 years old (*Seder Olam Rabbah* [1](#)) following consummation of the marriage? ^[1] Why did Guru Nanak (The Saint who founded Sikhism) marry Mata Sulakhni at the age of 14 years old following consummation of the marriage? Why did Mahatma Gandhi (The Father of Indian Nation) marry Kasturba Gandhi at the age of 14 years old following consummation of the marriage? Why did Jawaharlal Nehru (The First Prime Minister of India) marry Kamala Nehru at the age of 16 years old following consummation of the marriage?

1. Rebekah: Midrash and Aggadah by Tamar Kadari - [The Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women](#)

Were Dr. Basaheb Ambedkar (The Father of Indian Constitution), Prophet Issac (The Jewish Prophet of Judaism - Peace Be Upon Him), Guru Nanak (The Saint who founded Sikhism), Mahatma Gandhi (The Father of Indian Nation), and Jawaharlal Nehru (The First Prime Minister of India) all sexual perverts and pedophiles because they married their wives who were all minors below the age of 18 years old alike Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) who married Aisha at the age of 9 years old who was a minor below the age of 18 years old? Some commentators, such as the right-wing author Douglas Murray, argue that the age of 9 years old of Aisha is a sufficient proof that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) is, in today's terms, a [sexual pervert] and pedophile." – (New Lines Magazine)

DISCUSSION

A Divine Inspiration

Many Muslim Scholars, Ulemas, Mawlanas, and Clerics have refuted such blasphemous allegations through the statement that the marriage of Aisha with Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) occurred due to a Divine Inspiration from ALLAH, The Most Merciful and Most Gracious. This is narrated as follows: "Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) said to Aisha, 'You have been shown to me twice in my dream. I saw you pictured on a piece of silk and someone said (to me). 'This is your wife.' When I uncovered the picture, I saw that it was yours. I said, 'If this is from ALLAH, [The Most Merciful and Most Gracious], it will be done.'" {Bukhari:: Volume 5 :: Book 58 :: Hadith 235}"

Age of Marriage in Old Ages

"One must first understand that 1400 years ago was very different than now, times have changed and so have humans. 1400 years ago, it was something very common to marry young girls, in fact they were not considered young girls, and rather they were considered young women back then. It is a historic fact that girls from the ages of 9 to 14 were being married in Europe, Asia, and Africa, in fact even in the United States girls at the age of 10 were also being married just more than a century ago.

Yet with these facts no historian claims that all these people were sexual perverts and [pedophiles], historians would call anyone who made such a claim to be arrogant and very stupid who has no grasp or understanding of history. Even in Indo-Pak Sub-Continent girls used to be married at 12-13 even 50-60 years ago. And those 'girls' in fact raised much better families. There were less family problems

then. A simple analysis of the divorce rate then and now would certainly make it clear that maturity level earlier used to be different that is people used to come of age rather quickly." – (Khaled Adel)

"Respected Rabbi Isaac Klein in his book: 'A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice', says that Child marriages were common and that 'age was not the factor' when someone had to get married. So in other words no matter what the age of the girl, once the parents gave the go ahead, the girl had to choose the husband, she had no choice in the matter" ^[2]:

'Child marriages were very common in ancient days. Since marriages were arranged by parents and the consent of parties was not necessary, AGE WAS NOT THE FACTOR in coming to an agreement. The physical factor related only to the consummation of the marriage. Hence, there was usually a waiting period between the agreement and the consummation. It is logical to assume that when a boy and a girl reached the age of puberty, and the sex urge demanded satisfaction, ancient society deemed marriage to be the answer. In time, other elements became factor in marriage: climate, social conditions, economic conditions, and even political conditions.'

Age of Puberty, Minimum Legal Age of Marriage, and Age of Consent

"The onset of puberty, the time in life when a person becomes sexually mature, typically occurs between ages 8 and 13 for girls and ages 9 and 14 for boys." - (NICHHD). Therefore, based on this solid evidence, we can argue that the marriage of Aisha at the age of 9 years old which is the age of puberty with Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) was absolutely ethical, moral, and spiritual. The marriages of Ramabai Ambedkar at the age of 9 years old with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar (The Father of Indian Constitution), Rebecca at the age of 14 years old with Prophet Issac (The Jewish Prophet of Judaism), Mata Sulakhni at the age of 14 years old with Guru Nanak (The Saint who founded Sikhism), Kasturba Gandhi at the age of 14 years old with Mahatma Gandhi (The Father of Indian Nation), and Kamala Nehru at the age of 16 years old with Jawaharlal Nehru (The First Prime Minister of India) were all absolutely ethical, moral, and spiritual as well. ALLAH, The Most Merciful and Most Gracious knows best.

The minimum legal age of marriage for boys and girls in developed countries such as USA, UK, France, and Mauritius are 18 years old. "In Singapore, the legal age of marriage is 18, with exceptions. Under the Women's Charter, the minimum age of marriage is 18 years old. However, the Ministry of Social and Family Development can grant a special marriage licence with the necessary parental

² A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice by Isaac Klein page 396

consent so that a minor can marry. In addition, under the Muslim Law Act the minimum age of marriage is 18. However, a *kadi* (official of religious standing) may solemnise the marriage of a girl under the age of 18 who has attained puberty.”
- (Girls Not Brides)

In many developed countries the age of consent for sexual activity is 18 years old. However, in Mauritius it is 16 years old. Now, many people may argue that Mauritius has a bogus legislation regarding marriage. If ever a girl of 16 years old in Mauritius becomes pregnant after a sexual intercourse without condom with a boy of 16 years old whom she loves seriously and not casually, will that pregnant girl have to wait for 2 years to be able to get married at the age of 18 years old with the boy? If the age of consent for sexual activity is 16 years old, then the legal age of marriage must be 16 years old as well!

A Platonic Relationship

The majority of Muslim Scholars, Ulemas, Mawlanas, and Clerics argue that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) did consummate his marriage with Aisha at the age of 9 years old. However, some of them [not all of them] also argue that after consummation of the marriage, Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) started having a Platonic Relationship with Aisha rather than a Physical Relationship. The argument that they put forward to support this fact is that Aisha never became pregnant like Ramabai Ambedkar (who gave birth to 5 children: Yashwant, Gangadhar, Ramesh, Indu, and Rajratna), Rebecca (who gave birth to 2 children: Esau and Jacob), Mata Sulakhni (who gave birth to 2 children: Sri Chand and Lakhmi Das), Kasturba Gandhi (who gave birth to 1 child who died at the age of 1 year old and 4 children: Harilal, Manilal, Ramdas, and Devdas), and Kamala Nehru (who gave birth to 1 child: Indira Gandhi). Now, according to many Jewish, Christian, and Hindu opponents of Islam, Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) had a Physical Relationship with Aisha but he was making use of condom. That is the reason why Aisha never became pregnant. Others even argue that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) had a Physical Relationship with Aisha but he was sterile. Such arguments are definitely baseless!

Contributions of Aisha

“Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) recognized Aisha’s knowledge of Islam by counseling his Companions to “take half your knowledge from Humayra,” Humayra (“Little Red One”) being his term of endearment for her.

When Muhammad died in 632, Aisha was left a childless widow of about 18, although some sources suggest she was older. She remained politically inactive until the time of 'Uthmān (644–656; the third caliph, or leader of the Islamic community), during whose reign she played an important role in fomenting opposition that led to his murder in 656. She led an army against his successor, Ali, when he refused to bring Uthman's murderers to justice, but she was defeated in the Battle of the Camel. The engagement derived its name from the fierce fighting that centred around the camel upon which Aisha was mounted. Afterward she was allowed to return to Medina. She spent the rest of her days there in disbursing alms, transmitting the Authentic Hadiths (The Sayings and Teachings of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him)), and interpreting The Glorious Quran. Traditional sources describe Aisha as learned in religion, issuing legal opinions and engaging in consultation with the older male Companions of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him). About a sixth of The Authentic Hadiths recorded by Sahih Al-Bukhari in his famed work *Al-Jami al-Ṣaḥīḥ* are cited on her authority. Modern Muslim feminists regard Aisha as personifying an early Islamic Idealization of Women as the social and legal equal of men, valorized for their contributions in both the private and public spheres." – (Britannica)

European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

"The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg, France, made a controversial decision on 25th October 2018 about an Austrian woman (publicly identified only as "E.S.") who had publicly condemned Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him), as a [sexual pervert] and pedophile. For this, she was fined in 2011 by an Austrian court, which convicted her of violating a national law against "disparaging religion." In return, she appealed to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), arguing that her freedom of speech had been curtailed. No, not really, the ECHR responded, decreeing that her accusation against Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) was wrong and offensive, and that she deserved to be fined for "stirring up prejudice and putting at risk religious peace."

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decision was right to point to this gap in historical context. "Child marriages were not the same as [sexual perversion] and pedophilia," the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) explained, adding "[they] were not only a phenomenon of Islam, but also used to be widespread among the European ruling dynasties." In fact, there are records of

extremely young brides even in the American colonies - in Virginia, in 1689, Mary Hathaway [who was 9 years old] got married to a man named William Williams.

So historical context matters, and Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) was ultimately a mortal human being who lived in the context of his own time. (He was not an "object of religious veneration," as The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decision mistakenly described him, but [The Last and Final Prophet of Islam])." – (Mustafa Akyol)

CONCLUSION

To conclude we must unquestionably say that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) who was sent in this world by ALLAH, The Most Merciful and Most Gracious, to enlighten the whole humanity through the infallible legislation and regulation called Islam which is decoded in The Glorious Quran and expounded in The Authentic Hadiths, was NOT a sexual pervert and pedophile at all although he married Aisha at the age of 9 years old. Whoever is insinuating that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) was a sexual pervert and pedophile, is also insinuating that Dr. Basaheb Ambedkar (The Father of Indian Constitution) who married Ramabai Ambedkar at the age of 9 years old was a sexual pervert and pedophile! Whoever is insinuating that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) was a sexual pervert and pedophile, is also insinuating that Prophet Issac (The Jewish Prophet of Judaism - Peace Be Upon Him) who married Rebecca at the age of 14 years old was a sexual pervert and pedophile! Whoever is insinuating that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) was a sexual pervert and pedophile, is also insinuating that Guru Nanak (The Saint who founded Sikhism) who married Mata Sulakhni at the age of 14 years old was a sexual pervert and pedophile! Whoever is insinuating that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) was a sexual pervert and pedophile, is also insinuating that Mahatma Gandhi (The Father of Indian Nation) who married Kasturba Gandhi at the age of 14 years old was a sexual pervert and pedophile! Whoever is insinuating that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him) was a sexual pervert and pedophile, is also insinuating that Jawaharlal Nehru (The First Prime Minister of India) who married Kamala Nehru at the age of 16 years old was a sexual pervert and pedophile! Judging Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam (The Last and Final Prophet of Islam - Peace Be Upon Him), Dr. Basaheb Ambedkar (The Father of Indian Constitution), Prophet Issac (The Jewish Prophet of Judaism - Peace Be Upon Him),

Guru Nanak (The Saint who founded Sikhism), Mahatma Gandhi (The Father of Indian Nation), and Jawaharlal Nehru (The First Prime Minister of India) according to our modern Laws and Standards on Marriage would be absolutely unfair and therefore such a despicable act influenced by sheer ignorance should be condemned at any cost by a Court of Law and Justice in the same way that the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has condemned.

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