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Controversies about the age of Aisha

By [Ali Sina](#)

The majority of Muslims agree that Aisha was only 9 years old when Muhammad married her. Most Islamic sites make no apology for her young age and accuse the modernists for humbugging the Westerner's morality and denying the truth.

The site [Islamonline.com](#) explains: "It should be noted that in the hot regions, it's normal for a girl to attain maturity at a very early age" and argues that the marriages of Muhammad were to foster political alliance. This is nonsense. Muhammad married Safiya after murdering her father, torturing to death her husband and massacring her entire tribe. He married Juwariyah after raiding her people, massacring the men and robbing their wealth and taking the women and children as slaves. He took Rayhana, the 15 year old Jewish girl of Bani Quraiza after massacring all their men and boys who had reached puberty of her tribe and took all the women and children as slaves. With whom he wanted to make alliance? With dead people? What a shameful excuse to defend a war criminal. What Muhammad did was disgusting but it is just as disgusting when Muslim apologists try to acquit him of his crimes with such a shameless excuse.

As for as Aisha, she was the daughter of Abu Bakr who was already the primary supporter of him. Why he had to rape his little girl? This man was cult leader and hand brainwashed Abu Bakr. That fool would have done anything Muhammad told him to do. When you submit to a cult leader, you submit your intelligence and your conscience.

However there are some "modernist" Muslims who dispute this fact. It is a good thing that they realize what Muhammad did was evil, but it is conning and hypocritical to lie, hide the facts and twists the truth.

They argue:

(tSource: <http://www.understanding-islam.com/ri/mi-004.htm>)

- According to the generally accepted tradition, Aisha (ra) was born about eight years before Hijrah. But according to another narrative in Bukhari (kitabul-tafseer) Aisha (ra) is reported to have said that at the time Surah Al-Qamar, the 54th chapter of the Qur'an, was revealed, "I was a young girl". The 54th surah of the Qur'an was revealed nine years before Hijrah. According to this tradition, Aisha (ra) had not only been born before the revelation of the referred surah, but was actually a young girl (jariyah), not an infant (sibyah) at that time. Obviously, if this narrative is held to be true, it is in clear contradiction with the narratives reported by Hisham ibn 'urwah. I see absolutely no reason that after the comments of the experts on the narratives of Hisham ibn 'urwah, why we should not accept this narrative to be more accurate.

Answer:

Even if we assume this narrative to be accurate, we have no reason to give it more weight than those that are so detailed about Aisha's age, describing her, playing with her dolls and with her little friends who hid when Muhammad entered the room, her memories of playing on the swing when her mother called her and washed her face and took her to Muhammad, her ignorance of what was going on when Muhammad took off his pants and her "surprise" when got into action. These events are more likely to be remembered by child than when a particular Surah was revealed. It is more likely that a person confuse one Surah with the other than confuse all those details of her own life. This site continues:

- According to a number of narratives, Aisha (ra) accompanied the Muslims in the battle of Badr and Uhud. Furthermore, it is also reported in books of hadith and history that no one under the age of 15 years was allowed to take part in the battle of Uhud. All the boys below 15 years of age were sent back. Aisha's (ra) participation in the battle of Badr and Uhud clearly indicated that she was not nine or ten years old at that time. After all, women used to accompany men to the battle fields to help them, not to be a burden on them.

Answer:

This is a weak excuse. When the Battle of Badr and Uhud occurred Aisha was 10 to 11 years old. She did not go to be a warrior, like the boys. She went to keep Muhammad warm during the nights. Boys who were less than 15 were sent back, but this did not apply to her.

- According to almost all the historians Asma (ra), the elder sister of Aisha (ra) was ten years older than Aisha (ra). It is reported in Taqri'bu'l-tehzi'b as well as Al-bidayah wa'l-nihayah that Asma (ra) died in 73 hijrah when she was 100 years old. Now, obviously if Asma (ra) was 100 years old in 73 hijrah she should have been 27 or 28 years old at the time of hijrah. If Asma (ra) was 27 or 28 years old at the time of hijrah, Aisha (ra) should have been 17 or 18 years old at that time. Thus, Aisha (ra), if she got married in 1 AH (after hijrah) or 2 AH, was between 18 to 20 years old at the time of her marriage.

Answer:

When someone gets that old, people don't care too much about her exact age. It is very easy to say she was 100 years old when in fact she was only 90. The difference is not noticeable to the younger folks and 100 is a round figure. Assuming the Hadith is authentic, it could be an honest mistake. Since in those days people did not carry birth certificates, it is very much likely that the person who reported her age to be 100 did not know that she was 10 years older than Aisha and did not sit to make the calculations and deductions. This was not an important person and it did not occur to anyone that 1300 years later it would become the subject of a controversy.

- Tabari in his treatise on Islamic history, while mentioning Abu Bakr (ra) reports that Abu Bakr had four children and all four were born during the Jahiliyyah -- the pre Islamic period. Obviously, if Aisha (ra) was born in the period of jahiliyyah, she could not have been less than 14 years in 1 AH -- the time she most likely got married.

Answer:

Tabari's narratives do not have the distinction to be known Sahih. Even if we assume that this narrative is not an honest mistake, there is no reason to discard all those strong, detailed and explicit hadiths that concord with each other and confirm the age of Aisha was 9 when Muhammad took her to bed. The narrative reported above could very well be an innocent slip on the part of the narrator. People remember important events better than those that are relatively insignificant. The date of the birth of the children of Abu Bakr was not an important subject for Muslims to record. But the details of Muhammad's life and his marriages were important. As you can read in the story of Safiyah's wedding even the kind of food served is recorded.

- According to Ibn Hisham, the historian, Aisha (ra) accepted Islam quite some time before Umar ibn al-Khattab (ra). This shows that Aisha (ra) accepted Islam during the first year of Islam. While, if the narrative of Aisha's (ra) marriage at seven years of age is held to be true, Aisha (ra) should not have been born during the first year of Islam.

Answer:

The apologist fails to provide the references to the hadiths that he quotes. In any case this is an error. To understand and accept a religion, one must be at least intelligent enough to make such decision. That is about 15 years old. But let us be generous and say that age is about 12. If Aisha accepted Islam during the first year of Islam, she must have been 26 years old when Muhammad married her. (12 + 14) Are we then supposed to believe that Aisha at the age of 26 used to play with her dolls and on the swing?

- Tabari has also reported that at the time Abu Bakr planned on migrating to Habshah (8 years before Hijrah), he went to Mut'am -- with whose son Aisha (ra) was engaged -- and asked him to take Aisha (ra) in his house as his son's wife. Mut'am refused, because Abu Bakr had embraced Islam, and subsequently his son divorced Aisha (ra). Now, if Aisha (ra) was only seven years old at the time of her marriage, she could not have been born at the time Abu Bakr decided on migrating to Habshah. On the basis of this report it seems only reasonable to assume that Aisha (ra) had not only been born 8 years before hijrah, but was also a young lady, quite prepared for marriage.

Answer:

It was an Arab tradition to betroth a girl to a boy even when the girl was a newborn. This tradition is still carried on in many Islamic countries. This is no proof that Aisha was a grown up.

- According to a narrative reported by Ahmad ibn Hanbal, after the death of Khadijah (ra), when Khaulah (ra) came to the Prophet (pbuh) advising him to marry again, the Prophet (pbuh) asked her regarding the choices she had in her mind. Khaulah said: "You can marry a virgin (bikr) or a woman who has already been married (thayyib)". When the Prophet (pbuh) asked about who the virgin was, Khaulah proposed Aisha's (ra) name. All those who know the Arabic language, are aware that the word "bikr" in the Arabic language is not used for an immature nine year old girl. The correct word for a young playful girl, as stated earlier is "Jariyah", "Bikr" on the other hand, is used for an unmarried lady, and obviously a nine year old is not a "lady".

Answer:

This explanation is absolutely incorrect. Bikr means virgin and, just as in English is not age specific. In fact Aisha was the second wife of Muhammad (after Khadijah) but Muhammad did not consummate his marriage with her for three years because she was too young and Abu Bakr begged him to wait. So he married Sauda bint Zamah, whom he mistreated because she was not pretty.

- According to Ibn Hajar, Fatimah (ra) was five years older than Aisha (ra). Fatimah (ra) is reported to have been born when the Prophet (pbuh) was 35 years old. Thus, even if this information is taken to be correct, Aisha (ra) could by no means be less than 14 years old at the time of hijrah, and 15 or 16 years old at the time of her marriage.

Answer:

Of course this information cannot be taken as correct. If Aisha was five years older than Fatimah, and Fatimah was born when the Prophet was 35 years old, then Aisha was only 30 years younger than the Prophet. So at the time of her marriage when the Prophet was 54, Aisha must have been 24 years old. This is not certainly correct, for the reasons explained above and also it contradicts the Hadiths that the apologist quoted about the age of Asma, Aisha's sister, who according to that Hadith was 10 years older than Aisha and died in 73 Hijra. In that case at the time of Hijra Asma must have been 100 - 73 = 27 years old, but according to this Hadith she was 34 years old.

The discrepancy between these two hadiths quoted by the same apologist, demonstrate their inaccuracy. It all goes to show that in those days numbers did not mean much. It is more likely that people were wrong on dates, but events are better remembered. The reports of the tender age of Aisha is consistent with the stories of her childhood, playing with her toys, her girlfriends hiding when Muhammad entered the room, the Prophet playing with her, her ignorance about sex and her "surprise" when Muhammad came to her. All these hadiths confirm that she was a little girl. Those who deny the facts and try to prove otherwise, demonstrate their embarrassment of the acts of their Prophet. Perhaps they should be credited for having some scruples and for realizing that what he did was despicable, but we cannot praise them for their intellectual honesty for they have none.

The author argues::

It is the responsibility of all those who believe that marrying a girl as young as nine years old was an accepted norm of the Arab culture, to provide at least a few examples to substantiate their point of view. I have not yet been able to find a single dependable instance in the books of Arab history where a girl as young as nine years old was given away in marriage. Unless such examples are given, we do not have any reasonable grounds to believe that it really was an accepted norm.

I could not have said it better. Not only marrying children was not part of the culture of any nation, it is actually contrary to human nature. Healthy grownup men do not find little children sexually attractive. The point is that Muhammad was not healthy. He was a pedophile, a very sick man.

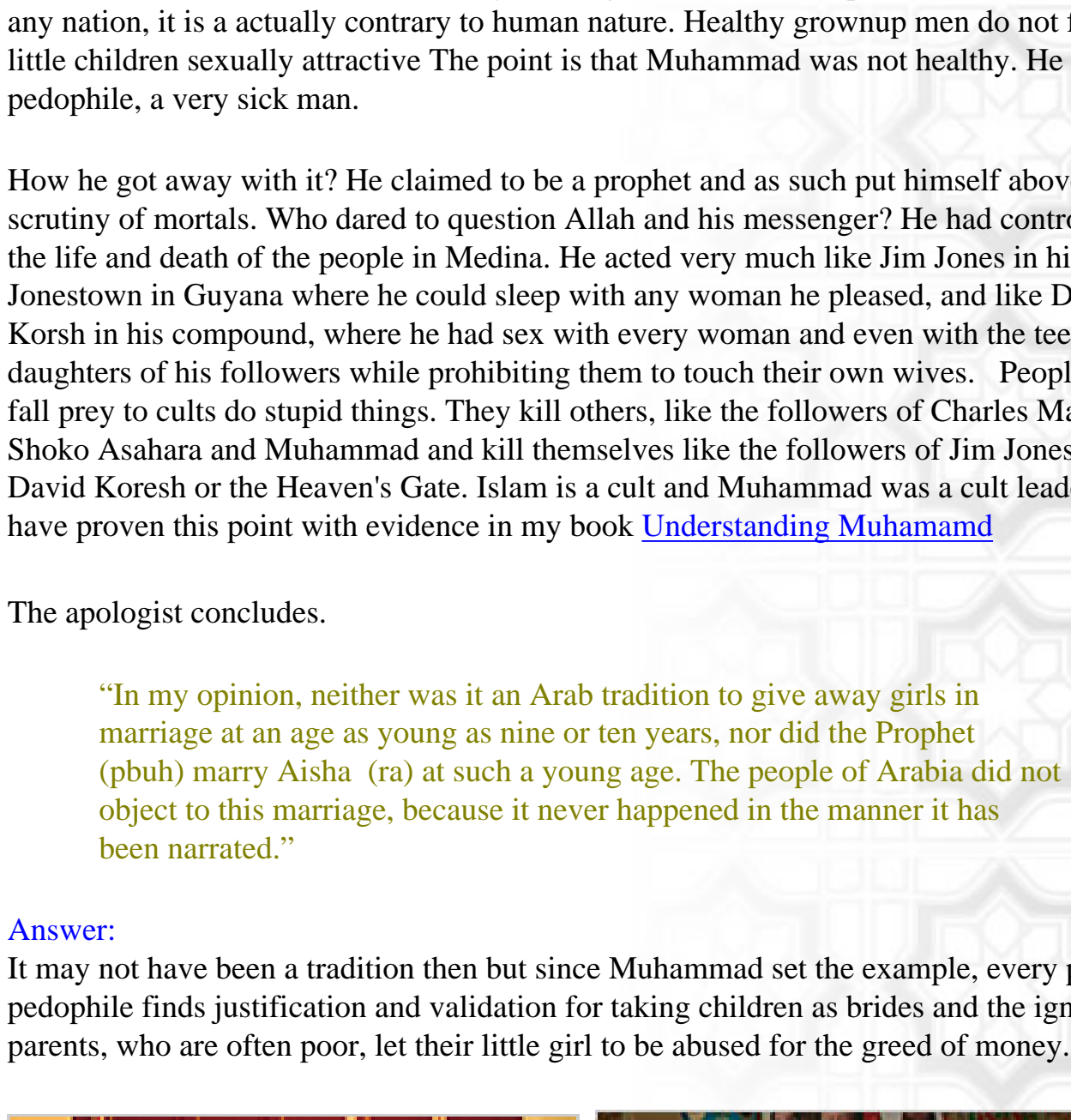
How he got away with it? He claimed to be a prophet and as such put himself above the scrutiny of mortals. Who dared to question Allah and his messenger? He had control over the life and death of the people in Medina. He acted very much like Jim Jones in his Jonestown in Guyana where he could sleep with any woman he pleased, and like David Korsh in his compound, where he had sex with every woman and even with the teenaged daughters of his followers while prohibiting them to touch their own wives. People who fall prey to cults do stupid things. They kill others, like the followers of Charles Manson, Shoko Asahara and Muhammad and kill themselves like the followers of Jim Jones, David Koresh or the Heaven's Gate. Islam is a cult and Muhammad was a cult leader. I have proven this point with evidence in my book [Understanding Muhammad](#)

The apologist concludes.

"In my opinion, neither was it an Arab tradition to give away girls in marriage at an age as young as nine or ten years, nor did the Prophet (pbuh) marry Aisha (ra) at such a young age. The people of Arabia did not object to this marriage, because it never happened in the manner it has been narrated."

Answer:

It may not have been a tradition then but since Muhammad set the example, every pervert pedophile finds justification and validation for taking children as brides and the ignorant parents, who are often poor, let their little girl to be abused for the greed of money.



[Look at the abuse:](#)



Just a few weeks ago I read in the news that in Iran a 9-year-old girl filed for divorce from her 15-year-old husband just after 20 days of marriage because he would constantly beat her. When the young man was questioned he said: "She neglects her housework and plays with her dolls all the time".

Read also

[Aisha the Child Wife of Muhammad](#)

[Moral Evaluations of the Marriage of the Prophet with Aisha](#)