

Children's

'coz Islam is
for everyone'

Stick Together!

There was once an old man, who had three sons; Zubayr, Talha and Khālid. They would always obey him and try to keep him happy. Their father, due to old age, fell ill and realised that very shortly he may have to leave this world and return to his Creator. He was very worried about his Sons. He was worried that after his death they may start to fight and argue. He wanted to teach them a lesson before he passed away, that they would remember for life. One day he called them to his bedside and asked them to do a small job. He told them, "O my beloved sons, I want you to do something for me." At once the Sons replied, "Our beloved father, order us and with the Will of Allah we shall fulfil your wish." The father said, "Go into the woods and gather around twenty or thirty sticks." The sons went out and in no time returned with a whole bundle of sticks and placed it before their father. Their father picked one stick from the bundle and gave it to Zubayr, he took another stick and placed it in Talha's hand and he took a third stick and passed it to Khālid. He then said, "O my beloved sons, break the sticks." Without any difficulty each son broke his stick in half.

The father then gathered a handful of sticks and giving it to Zubayr said, "Zubayr, break these." Zubayr tried but failed to break them. He then gave them to Talha, ordering him to do the same. Talha also tried but could not break the bundle of sticks. Finally it was Khālid's turn, but he also failed in his attempt to break the bundle of sticks. Their father then said, "My beloved sons, I wanted to teach you a very valuable lesson of life. When I gave you one stick to break you broke it with much ease, but you were unable to break the same kind of stick when it was put together with many other sticks. This is the same with you, if you stay together and stay as one no one will be able to harm you but if you argue and split up, it will be very easy to destroy you.'

As the old father demonstrated, strength and safety lie in unity. This is a very important part of islam. As long we remain as one, no enemy will be able to harm us. But as soon as we begin to fight and argue amongst ourselves we will be very easily hurt. Staying as one means that we are always ready to help and support each other. When we see a fellow muslim in grief or hardship we will try our best to help them and make them feel better.

