



Al-Maktab

Maktab E-NewsLetter



I am a Muslim, I am not A Bully

Sameer Ally was an 'A' student in madrasah. He had a smile that could charm the world, but he had one problem as well, he was an 'A' grade bully too. If you brought a snack to Madrasah, you had to make sure Sameer did not see it, otherwise you would not get a chance to even taste it. One day little Aatiqah brought some smarties to enjoy during break-time. Unfortunately, Sameer's eyes fell on it. He went up to her and snatched it from her hands saying, "I am smart. I get all the best marks so these are for me. Thank you!" Poor Aatiqah was left in a state of shock with tears streaming down her face.

If you had a new pen and he liked it, he would just take it from you and keep it for good. Sometimes when the grade 1 pupils would play with a ball, he would take it and hide it away from them leaving them sad and disappointed and if you said you were going to tell Apa, he would smile and say, "If you dare tell Apa, you will see what happens to you after Madrasah!" Nobody was prepared to see what that meant. At times, he would trip you when you entered the class or call you by a name that you did not like. Because of his bullying, everybody tried to avoid him.

One day, Sameer came to Madrasah with a new topi from Istanbul. His uncle gave it to him as a gift after they returned from their holiday to Turkey. You could see that Sameer really liked it. Every few minutes he would take it off, look at it with admiration and whilst raising his eyebrows, he would show off to his friends. It so happened that on the same day, the supervisor, Moulana Abdullah, came to visit the Madrasah. As he entered, he noticed Sameer snatching some snacks from a boy sitting near him whilst teasing another student for wearing glasses. Moulana Abdullah was a very experienced Aalim. He took one glance at Sameer and understood that he was a bully who needed to be helped and disciplined. So, Moulana went straight-up to Sameer and said, "Assalaamu alaykum Sameer! How are you?"

With a broad smile on his face, Sameer replied: "Wa alaykumus salaam!" With that kind of a smile, you would never think that Sameer was a bully.

Moulana then took the new topi off Sameer's head and said, "This must be the new Turkish topi everyone is talking about! You know what? I think I will take this one. You can take my old topi." Moulana then gave him his old, oversized brown topi to wear leaving Sameer red in the face. He was trembling with shock and embarrassment all at once. "Why are you so sad and red Sameer?" asked Moulana. "Are you feeling sick?" Sameer's voice came out shaky like he was

about to cry, "But Moulana! It's my favourite topi that my uncle bought for me from Istanbul. You cannot take someone's things without their permission!" Moulana immediately replied, "Exactly Sameer! You cannot do that because it makes you a bully. How does it feel to have something you like, taken away by a bully? I'm sure it feels terrible! Here is your topi. I only wanted to teach you a lesson." Sameer understood that bullying was a bad habit. He thanked Moulana for correcting him and apologised to all those he had hurt. He promised to be kind and friendly to everyone. Since that day, Sameer never bullied anyone and always stood up to help those who were being bullied.

Dear children! We are all Muslims. Muslims are not bullies. A Muslim is kind to others and has beautiful manners. A Muslim helps those in need and never oppresses, harms or hurts others. A Muslim does not backbite, spy or call others bad names. A Muslim respects his elders and shows mercy and kindness to his juniors.

Rasulullah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said, "A true Muslim is one from whose tongue and hands other Muslims are safe." In other words, a Muslim does not hurt anyone with his words or his actions. If we are kind and merciful to people, Allah Ta'ala will be kind and merciful to us.

If we ever bullied or hurt anyone in the past, we should immediately ask them for forgiveness and return whatever we took away from them forcefully. Otherwise, we will have to pay back for our bullying on the Day of Qiyaamah by giving our good deeds away to those we bullied and when our good deeds get finished, their bad deeds will be given to us. Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raaaji'oon - Indeed what a loss!



Bullying is a serious wrong that **MUST** be addressed and corrected.

Bullying includes, teasing, hitting, taking someone's things by force and causing harm to others. If you are a bully, **STOP** today and make a firm resolution to become a true kind Muslim. Force yourself to be good to others. Start by making salaam and speaking with kindness to everyone you meet. Look for opportunities to help others, even if it is by teaching someone their sabak. If you did something wrong, admit that you did a wrong and apologise. Make a firm intention never to do it again.

If you are being bullied by someone, do not feel afraid or scared to speak to your Apa or Moulana about it. The matter must be reported immediately so that it may be resolved. A bully thrives on fear and the emotional reaction of his victim. Do not show them that you are scared or getting affected by their evil ways. Instead, tell them firmly to stop their bullying. If they persist, report it to an adult immediately. If they still do not stop, report it again to the Apa or principal.

May Allah Ta'ala save us from bullying others and make us all good, pious, upright and kind Muslims. Aameen. Remember these words, **"I am a Muslim, I am not a bully!"**