MAWLŪD · 01 OF 08

The Newborn & the Child

الْمَوْلُودُ

The first seven days, and the years that follow. Every child is born upon the fiṭrah.

2 · The first hours
3 · The seventh day — ʿaqīqah
4 · Naming the child
5 · What is said over them
6 · Nursing & the milk bond
7 · Prayer, by age
8 · Rights of the child

Ḥ · M · S · Ḥb noted where they differ.

02 The first hours

THE ADHĀN

Called softly in the newborn's right ear, so that the first word to reach them is the greatness of Allah.

Abū Dāwūd, Tirmidhī · ḥasan by its supports — the practice of the Companions and of the four schools. The report adding the iqāmah in the left ear is weak.

TAḤNĪK

A little date, softened and rubbed on the palate by a righteous person, who then makes duʿā for the child and asks Allah to bless them. Where no date is at hand, anything sweet.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ — he ﷺ did this for the son of Abū Ṭalḥah and named him ʿAbdullāh.

CONGRATULATING THE PARENTS

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لَكَ فِي الْمَوْهُوبِ لَكَ، وَشَكَرْتَ الْوَاهِبَ، وَبَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُ، وَرُزِقْتَ بِرَّهُ

May Allah bless you in the gift given to you; may you give thanks to the Giver, may the child reach full strength, and may you be granted their devotion.

Reported of al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī, recorded by an-Nawawī in al-Adhkār. Nothing is prescribed for the first bath, the cord, or fixing the cot.

03 The seventh day

Three things fall together on the seventh day: the sacrifice, the naming, and the shaving of the head.

Abū Dāwūd, Tirmidhī, Nasāʾī · ṣaḥīḥ — "Every child is pledged by his ʿaqīqah."

ʿAQĪQAH

Two sheep for a boy, one for a girl — and one for a boy suffices where means are short.
A sunnah muʾakkadah per **M**, **S** and **Ḥb**; a voluntary good per **Ḥ**.
Same conditions as the uḍḥiyah: age and freedom from defect.
Missed on the seventh, it may be done on the fourteenth, the twenty-first, or whenever able.
Eaten, given as gifts, and given in charity. Do not break its bones needlessly.

Abū Dāwūd, Tirmidhī · ṣaḥīḥ — the ḥadīth of Umm Kurz رضي الله عنها

SHAVING & CHARITY

The head is shaved and the weight of the hair in silver is given in charity. Shave it wholly or not at all — leaving patches is forbidden.

Muwaṭṭaʾ · authentic — Fāṭimah weighed the hair of al-Ḥasan and gave its weight in silver. Circumcision of boys is from the fiṭrah, and may be done early.

04 The name

A child will be called by it on the Day of Resurrection, and by their father's name. Choose with care.

MOST BELOVED

عَبْدُ اللَّهِ · عَبْدُ الرَّحْمَٰنِ

Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ. Then the names of the prophets, and those of the righteous before us.

NOT PERMITTED

Any name of servitude to other than Allah.
Names belonging to Allah alone — al-Khāliq, ar-Raḥmān, al-Aḥad.
Malik al-Mulūk, King of kings.

DISLIKED

Names claiming purity for their bearer, and names of ill meaning. The Prophet ﷺ changed several — Barrah he renamed Zaynab, and ʿĀṣiyah he renamed Jamīlah.

Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ

Naming on the day of birth is also established, and the seventh day is not a condition. A child is attributed to their father; where he is unknown, they are named as one's brother in faith, never given a false lineage.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ; Q 33:5

05 Said over them

SEEKING PROTECTION FOR A CHILD

أُعِيذُكَ بِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ التَّامَّةِ مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ وَهَامَّةٍ، وَمِنْ كُلِّ عَيْنٍ لَامَّةٍ

U'idhuka bi-kalimātillāhit-tāmmati min kulli shayṭānin wa hāmmah, wa min kulli 'aynin lāmmah

I seek protection for you in the perfect words of Allah, from every devil and every creeping thing, and from every envious eye.

Bukhārī · ṣaḥīḥ — he ﷺ said it over al-Ḥasan and al-Ḥusayn, and said Ibrāhīm said it over Ismā'īl and Isḥāq. For two, say *u'īdhukumā*; for a girl, *u'īdhukī*.

AT NIGHT

Recite al-Fātiḥah, Āyat al-Kursī and the three quls over them, blowing lightly into the palms and wiping what you can reach of the body.

Bukhārī · ṣaḥīḥ

Amulets, threads and charms hung on a child are forbidden, even when Qur'ānic words are written on them — the protection sought is in the words recited, not in an object worn.

Aḥmad, Ibn Ḥibbān · ṣaḥīḥ

06 Nursing

Two full years for whoever wishes to complete the nursing. Weaning earlier by mutual consent is permitted, and no blame attaches to it.

Q 2:233

THE MILK BOND

A woman who nurses a child becomes their mother in prohibition — and her husband their father, her children their siblings. Marriage between them is thereafter forbidden for life.

S and **Ḥb** — five separate satisfying feeds establish it.
Ḥ and **M** — any amount that reaches the stomach establishes it.
All four require it to occur within the first two years.

Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ — "Suckling prohibits what birth prohibits."

Keep a record. Where a child is fed by a relative, a friend, or from donated milk, write down who fed them and when. Families have discovered the bond only at the point of marriage, when it was too late to undo.

A father owes the nursing mother her maintenance, whether she is his wife or divorced — Q 65:6.

07 Prayer, by age

Command them at seven, and at ten enforce it — and separate their sleeping places.

Abū Dāwūd · ḥasan

Before seven
No obligation. Let them stand beside you and imitate. Teach al-Fātiḥah and the short sūrahs by hearing them daily.

Seven
Instructed to pray. Teach wuḍū properly, the times, and the words. Praise more than you correct.

Ten
Held to it firmly. Boys attend the congregation. Sleeping places are separated.

Puberty
Now obligatory in their own right, and fasting with it.
Marked by the first wet dream, or menstruation in a girl, or the growth of coarse hair — and at fifteen where no sign has appeared.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ — Ibn 'Umar رضي الله عنه was judged of age at fifteen. Nothing a child does before puberty is written against them.

08 Their rights

A good name, and a known lineage.
Maintenance — food, clothing, shelter and medicine, until they can provide for themselves.
Teaching — their religion first, then what will let them stand on their own.
Justice between them — in gifts, in attention and in affection. "Fear Allah, and be just between your children."
Mercy — "He who does not show mercy is not shown mercy."
Not to be cursed, nor supplicated against in anger — an hour may fall in which such a prayer is answered.

Bukhārī, Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ — the ḥadīth of an-Nu'mān ibn Bashīr رضي الله عنه; Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ

DU'Ā FOR OFFSPRING

رَبِّ هَبْ لِي مِنْ لَدُنْكَ ذُرِّيَّةً طَيِّبَةً إِنَّكَ سَمِيعُ الدُّعَاءِ

My Lord, grant me from Yourself a goodly offspring; indeed You hear all supplication.

Q 3:38

When a person dies, their deeds end but for three — ongoing charity, knowledge benefited from, and a righteous child who prays for them.

Muslim · ṣaḥīḥ