

We have numerous traditions from Islam’s most trusted historical sources reporting that Muhammad proposed marriage when Aisha was six or seven years old, and that he had sexual intercourse with her (i.e., consummated the marriage) when she was nine:

**Sahih al-Bukhari 3896**—Narrated Hisham’s father: “Khadija died three years before the Prophet departed to Al-Madina. He stayed there for two years or so and then he wrote the marriage contract with Aisha when she was a girl of six years of age, and he consummated that marriage when she was nine years old.”

**Sahih al-Bukhari 5158**—Narrated Urwa: “The Prophet wrote the marriage contract with Aisha while she was six years old and consummated his marriage with her while she was nine years old and she remained with him for nine years (i.e. till his death).”

**Sunan Abu Dawud 2116**—Aisha said: “The Apostle of Allah married me when I was seven years old. He had intercourse with me when I was nine years old.”

**Sunan Ibn Majah 1877**—It was narrated that Abdullah said: “The Prophet married Aisha when she was seven years old, and consummated the marriage with her when she was nine, and he passed away when she was eighteen.”

**History of al-Tabari, Volume 39, pp. 130-31**—Aisha states: “We came to Medina and Abu Bakr took up quarters in al-Sunh. The Messenger of God came to our house and men and women of the Ansar gathered around him. My mother came to me while I was being swung on a swing between two branches and got me down. Jumaymah, my nurse, took over and wiped my face with some water and started leading me. When I was at the door, she stopped so I could catch my breath. I was then brought in while the Messenger of God

was sitting on a bed in our house. My mother made me sit on his lap and said, ‘These are your relatives. May God bless you with them and bless them with you!’ Then the men and women got up and left. The Messenger of God consummated his marriage with me in my house when I was nine years old.”

**Sahih Muslim 3310**—Aisha reported: “Allah’s Apostle married me when I was six years old, and I was admitted to his house when I was nine years old.”

**Sahih Muslim 3311**—Aisha reported that Allah’s Apostle married her when she was seven years old, and she was taken to his house as a bride when she was nine, and her dolls were with her; and when he (the Holy Prophet) died she was eighteen years old.

This last hadith, claiming that Aisha was still playing with dolls when she was taken to Muhammad’s house, is extremely significant, since only prepubescent girls were allowed to play with dolls, as even Islamic sources admit:

**Sahih al-Bukhari 6130**—Narrated Aisha: “I used to play with dolls in the presence of the Prophet, and my girl friends also used to play with me. When Allah’s Messenger used to enter my dwelling place, they used to hide themselves, but the Prophet would call them to join and play with me.” (Playing with dolls and similar images is forbidden, but it was allowed for Aisha at that time, as she was a little girl, not yet reached the age of puberty.)

In addition to traditions concerning Aisha’s age, various hadiths also provide details about how the relationship began and progressed:

**Sahih al-Bukhari 3895**—Narrated Aishah that the Prophet said to her, “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 it will be accomplished.’”

After having this dream about Aisha (who couldn’t have been more than six or seven years old at the time), Muhammad proceeded to ask her father Abu Bakr for her hand in marriage. Abu Bakr understandably objected at first, but Muhammad was able to persuade him to consent.

**Sahih al-Bukhari 5081**—Narrated Urwa: “The Prophet asked Abu Bakr for Aisha’s hand in marriage. Abu Bakr said, ‘But I am your brother.’ The Prophet said, ‘You are my brother in Allah’s religion and His Book, but she (Aisha) is lawful for me to marry.’”

The marriage contract was subsequently written. However, Aisha became extremely ill, so she wasn’t taken to his house for consummation until two or three years later:

**Sahih al-Bukhari 3894**—Narrated Aisha: “My marriage contract with the Prophet was written when I was a girl of six years. We came to Al-Madina and we dismounted at the place of Bani Al-Harith. Then I got ill and my hair fell out. Later on, my hair grew again and my mother, Umm Ruman, came to me while I was playing in a swing with some of my girl friends. She called me, and I went to her, not knowing what she wanted to do to me. She caught me by the hand and made me stand at the door of the house. I was breathless then, and when my breathing became normal, she took some water and rubbed my face and head with it. Then she took me into the house. There in the house I saw some *Ansari* women who said, ‘Best wishes and Allah’s Blessing and good luck.’ Then she entrusted me to them and they prepared me for the marriage. Unexpectedly, Allah’s Messenger came to me in the forenoon and my mother handed me over to him, and at that time I was a girl of nine years of age.”

Muhammad eventually had somewhere between nine and eleven wives at one time (even though the Qur'an says that Muslim men are limited to four wives at a time), and he would have sex with all of them on the same day.

**Sahih al-Bukhari 5068**—The Prophet used to go round (have sexual relations with) all his wives in one night, and he had nine wives.

We can only assume that Muhammad would discuss his sexual exploits with his followers, because his followers knew that he was having sex with all of his wives on the same day. These followers even bragged that he had the sexual strength of thirty men:

**Sahih al-Bukhari 268**—Anas bin Malik said, “The Prophet used to visit all his wives in a round, during the day and night and they were eleven in number.” I asked Anas, “Had the Prophet the strength for it?” Anas replied, “We used to say that the Prophet was given the strength of thirty men.”

Although Muhammad had numerous wives, he explained his preference for Aisha by comparing her to a certain food that he liked better than other food.

**Sahih al-Bukhari 3411**—Allah's Messenger said, “Many amongst men reached (the level of) perfection but none amongst the women reached this level except Asiya, Pharaoh's wife, and Mary, the daughter of Imran. And no doubt, the superiority of Aisha to other women is like the superiority of al-Tharid (i.e., a meat and bread dish) to other meals.”

A young girl, according to Muhammad, is simply a better dish than a grown woman.

To sum up, the evidence makes it abundantly clear (1) that Muhammad had sexual intercourse with Aisha when she was very young (and prepubescent), (2) that this relationship was

pursued by Muhammad after he had a dream about her, and (3) that she was his favorite wife. With so much historical data concerning the age of Aisha, it should be obvious that Muslims who deny her young age do so out of embarrassment.

When Muslims urge us to convert to Islam, we can't simply ignore their prophet's marriage to a nine-year-old girl, for the Qur'an portrays Muhammad as the highest example of a moral life. If our Muslim friends expect us to acknowledge Muhammad as the ideal pattern of conduct for all humanity, they need to come to terms with the many questionable things he did, as well as the catastrophic impact of his actions.

There is, of course, a simple way to evaluate Muhammad's marriage to Aisha. We must begin by trying to imagine a morally perfect man. Here we might picture someone who is kind, generous, patient, humble, and trustworthy. He protects orphans and widows, endures persecution, helps the needy, and promotes justice. He prays faithfully and obeys God in everything. He is loyal to his friends and patient with his enemies. He never gives in when tempted with evil.

If Islam is true, we must now picture this same man in a room with an innocent little girl. He takes away her dolls, climbs on top of her, and forces his penis inside her. She doesn't know what is happening because she is too young to know much about sex. Frightened and confused, she cries because of the pain and bleeds on her bed, but she tries to remain quiet out of respect for her new husband, who, in return, endangers her life (due to the complications that often arise from prepubescent sexual intercourse).

If a person is able to keep the same vision of moral perfection throughout this description, he may have the faith necessary to be a Muslim. But if his vision of the perfect man is at odds with what Muhammad did on numerous occasions, he will need to look elsewhere for an ideal human being.

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# MUHAMMAD AND AISHA

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According to the Qur'an, Muhammad is the ideal pattern of conduct for Muslims:

“You have indeed in the Apostle of Allah a beautiful pattern of conduct for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the Praise of Allah.”  
~Qur'an 33:21

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ  
يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا ﴿٢١﴾

(Note: This pamphlet contains a verse of the Qur'an in English and Arabic. Please do not dispose of it improperly.)

One of the most disturbing facts about Islam's model of morality is that he had a sexual relationship with a prepubescent, nine-year-old girl named “Aisha.” The evidence for Muhammad's marriage to the young Aisha is as strong as the evidence for just about any other fact in Islam.