



The Age of Aisha (RA)

Some aspects of Islam like the age of the Aisha (rad) when she married the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, might seem strange to people who aren't Muslim. As Muslims we believe that Allah, the All-Wise has a reason for everything, even if we don't understand those things right away. By learning from Islamic scholars, we can understand and appreciate the wisdom behind these practices.

The facts regarding Aisha's age.

The Prophet ﷺ married Aisha at the age of six and was sent to live with the Prophet ﷺ at the age of nine (Bukhari). The scholars of the past were in consensus, or a total agreement of this fact. Some modern Muslims are trying to discredit this Hadith by saying it's not authentic, or that the Hadith doesn't make logical sense. However in addition to this authentic Hadith, there are additional evidences that indicate that Aisha (ra) was six when she married the Prophet ﷺ, and nine when she started to live with him.

Aisha (ra) was already an adult

Aisha (ra) was an adult when she moved in with the Prophet ﷺ because she started living with him after having reached puberty. This is why she waited three years to move in with the Prophet ﷺ after marrying him. Women during the time of the Prophet ﷺ reached puberty at a younger age, partly because of the hot climate they lived in. Puberty has always been a symbol of adulthood throughout history and is the best determiner of adulthood because it considers what all humans share, our biology. Reaching puberty is a more consistent way to determine adulthood, rather than the cultural understanding which always differs and is inconsistent. For example, a person in



Vietnam is considered an adult at the age of 16, but in the US, a person is considered an adult at 18. Therefore, there should be no objection to the Prophet ﷺ marrying Aisha because she was already an adult when she moved in with him. A 9 year old today is not ready for marriage, but back then they were more than ready.

Is there really a problem with Aisha's (ra) age when she got married?

It is unintelligent and unfair to compare certain cultural practices today with the same practices historically, as both times and cultures were different. What is considered to be acceptable in a society is *subjective* or based on opinion. Just because in our times we may believe marrying someone very young is unacceptable, doesn't mean that marrying someone of a very young age was not acceptable in the past. In fact, globally, it was normal and accepted to marry people of a younger age up until very recently. In 1880, 37 US states permitted physical intimacy at the age of 10. Even today, in the Philippines intimacy is allowed at the age of 12. At that time, for the Prophet (ﷺ) to marry Aisha at a young age was perfectly acceptable in their society. After all, the enemies of the Prophet ﷺ accused him of all sorts, but they never criticized him for marrying Aisha (ra).

Why do people have an issue with it?

Marrying people of a young age was also common in the Jewish tradition. Historically, Christian law and European civil law considered seven years as the age of marriage. If the Prophet (ﷺ) was to be accused of doing something wrong, then everyone else who allowed child marriages should also be included. However, regarding this custom, it seems that only the Prophet ﷺ is being accused of this custom, even though it was perfectly normal at that time. Sadly it



seems that certain groups of people try to make the Prophet ﷺ look bad, when in actuality, they are okay with others doing the same thing.

What to focus on instead

Muslims and non-Muslims, should focus on the great qualities of both the Prophet ﷺ and Aisha instead of worrying about small matters that doesn't really concern them, such as the age of Aisha (ra). The most important fact of 'Aisha's (ra) life is not that she married young. Her level of scholarship, her love for the Messenger ﷺ, and her love for Islam are the most important aspects of her life. Non-Muslims would benefit so much more, if they were to realize the incredible life Aisha (ra) lived instead of worrying about her age. May Allah swt allow us to benefit from the great life of Aisha (ra) and may He allow us to always be pleased with Islam.

References:

https://www.askimam.org/public/question_detail/21031

https://www.askimam.org/public/question_detail/14003

[Why Did Prophet Muhammad ﷺ Marry Aisha? Dismantling the Controversy of Aisha's Age | Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research](#)

[The Age of Aisha \(ra\): Rejecting Historical Revisionism and Modernist Presumptions | Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research](#)

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