

Mahjubah Magazine

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Dear readers, we wish you all a happy Nowruz and a blissful life. May Allah make your whole life and the lives of your dear ones filled with desirable achievements, especially in connection with raising healthy, promising children. Please read the following question and answer for gaining certain guidelines.

Q: I would like to know about wet nursing and breastfeeding according to Islam.

A: First of all, we invite your attention to the following Qur'anic verses:

"Mothers should breastfeed their children two full years, provided they want to complete the nursing. The family head must support women and clothe them properly. Yet no person is charged with more than he can cope with. No mother should be made to suffer because of her child, nor any family head

because of his child. An heir has the same duties in that respect. If they both prefer to wean (the child) when they have agreed on terms and consulted together, it should not be held against them; so if you want to find a wet-nurse for your children, it should not be held against you, provided you hand over whatever you may have given in all decency. Heed God and know that God is observant of anything you do." [The Holy Qur'an; 2:233]

"We have instructed everyman to be kind to both his parents. His mother bears him with reluctance and gives birth to him painfully. Bearing him and weaning him last thirty months,....." [The Holy Qur'an; 46:15]

Now let's cite certain Ahadith in this connection:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh): "Do not let your children be wet-nursed (breastfed) by an immoral and crazy woman, because her evil will be transmitted to the breastfed child through her milk."

Imam Ali (as): "No milk is more blessed than the child's mother's milk."

Imam Ali (as): "Be careful about choosing a wet nurse for your children just as you are careful about choosing a spouse because wet nursing transforms the child's nurture."

As you see Islam has clearly given us the needed instructions and guidelines so that we can breed healthy, promising children by following them.