






WHEN PARENTS BEAT CHILDREN TO DEATH

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Bringing up children can be a daunting task. Parents go through all manner of emotions, ranging from laughter, joy, tears, anger and so on.

This is because while some children are easy to manage, some are difficult and stubborn. Some parents beat their stubborn children so much that they become more stubborn as they no longer fear being beaten.

There are parents who are so strict that they don't give their children liberty to behave like children. They expect them to behave like adults, and punish them if they don't. But then even adults are not perfect and can be clumsy. Somebody always points out that if an adult spills water, he goes scot free but a child on the other hand gets scolded and even beaten.

Therefore the story of a woman, Aisha Abubakar who allegedly beat her daughter to death because she lost the 40.00 naira she was sent with to buy maggi seasoning is a great cruelty for a parent to inflict on her child. This happened in Jos, Plateau State. According to the story in Aminiya newspaper of December 20, 2013 when Bilki, the 13-year-old daughter who was in primary six came back with the news that the money was lost, the mother locked her in a room and beat her until she died.

The mother then took her three children and ran away to her village which is in Riyom Local Government in Plateau State.

The police in the state are looking for her, the story said.

Often the maltreatment of children is thought to be by stepmothers, aunts and other relatives, but not by biological mothers.

But some mothers are very cruel and the way they treat their children would make one wonder if they were their mothers. They show hatred instead of love towards their children.

In some cases, children get beaten for getting poor results in school, or for not being among the best pupils or students. Some go to the extent of denying their children food for such 'offences' as a punishment.

Some parents also pour cold water on their children for bedwetting if they reach the age they should have stopped.

There are also cases where parents burn the fingers of their children for stealing meat from their pots so as to discourage them from stealing.

Even though parents definitely want their children to be good, brilliant including all the virtues under the sun, they should be encouraged and counselled instead of being

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abused and beaten.

In fact some parents are fond of cursing their children, calling them bad names. The children learn the abusive words and grow up abusing people, seeing nothing wrong in it, because that was the home training they got. And such children turn out for the worse, becoming a problem to the society.

And in the case of Bilki, it was not as if she actually committed a crime, she only lost N40.00 and it has cost her life by the very person that should be the first to protect her from any danger.

Consequently, Aisha Abubakar should be found and made to face the law. It should also serve as a lesson to parents and guardians that maltreat their children.

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