

Is it allowed to read parenting books from non-Muslims?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: Is it allowed to read parenting books from non-Muslims, and applying those principles when raising our children so long as those principles and theories do not contradict Islaamic teachings?

Shaykh Abdur-Razzaq al-Badr said: In the Book of Allaah ﷻ and the Sunnah of His Prophet ﷺ you will find that which will suffice the Muslim and does not allow the Muslim to be left to these other means. That which is upon this woman and the likes of her is to go back to the Book of Allaah ﷻ and the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ and that which has been gathered from these two sources by the People of Knowledge, relating to the topic of tarbiyyah (nurturing and cultivating the children) so that she can nurture her children in accordance with the Book of Allaah ﷻ and the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ.

She should not go by herself and read the books written by people who are not trustworthy and then become fooled by them. Perhaps she may be one who is tried in her religion, or her children may be tried and tested with this type of fitnah and they may be raised in a manner which is far from that which Islaam commands and encourages us to be upon. And perhaps she may believe that these characteristics which she is trying to instil in her children are beneficial, and perhaps it may not occur to her until it is too late, that the things that she has been instilling in her children are wrong i.e. when she sees the negative results of giving them these characteristics that are far from the Book and the Sunnah.

As it is said 'there is nothing equal to being safe', so it is safe for her and better for her, and she will find that which is sufficient in turning back to Book of Allaah ﷻ and the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ.