

Kindness to God's Dumb And Helpless Creatures
By: Ahmed Sharif Dewji

If the criterion of a man's unaffected and genuine kindness is measured by his attitude to God's dumb and helpless creatures, the animals, then Muhammad surely had the fullest share of kind heartedness. He once said to his companions, "Verily, a woman entered hell-fire on a count of a cat, because she imprisoned her, neither feeding her nor letting her go about in search of food, until she was starved to death."

On another occasion he related the following story. "While a man was walking in a road he felt the pang of thirst. Finding a well, he went down and quenched his thirst. On coming out, he saw a dog panting with thirst and eating the damp soil. The man said to himself. "This dog is suffering from thirst as much as I did". So he went down the well again and filled his shoes with water and gave it to the dog to drink. Thereupon, God thanked him and forgave him his sins."

On hearing this story one of his companions said to the prophet, "O Apostle of god, do we get rewarded for being kind to animals?" Whereupon he replied, "Indeed there is reward for kindness to all living creatures."