



# al-raida

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## *Editorial*

The tradition of projecting into their offspring their likes and dislikes, just like the transmission of titles and property, plays a primary role in the parents' socialization of children. Consciously or unconsciously, the children absorb the parents' ideas and manners. At a certain age, they may develop a sense of revolt against the parents' possessiveness, but the atmosphere of the home, which predominates their early years, leaves its stamp on them and determines the molding of their personalities.

The most important trait which parents try to inculcate in their children is a spirit of competition, which usually implies a certain hostility and defiance to other people. The child is viewed as an individual struggling against, not with, his associates. The primitive traits of jealousy and desire to accumulate and store objects are encouraged as sure motivations of effort and success. It does not occur to the parents that love and cooperation might yield better fruit than rivalry and vehemence.

"My son must grow to be an 'abadaye' (i. e. a successful fighter), an aggressive, fierce man. Otherwise, I shall slay him on a moonless night!" Statements of this sort are rashly uttered by boastful fathers, unmindful of the effect that such words may leave on youthful spirits. Thoughtless remarks impulsively thrown about by parents may result in distorting the child's character and stifling his humane feelings.

I once happened to be in the house of a woman who had a seven year old daughter. Her brother had a daughter of the same age. Both families were on friendly terms; they visited each other and exchanged presents and help. During a conversation which the mother had with her little daughter, she said, referring to her little niece: "I do not want you to be like your conceited, stupid cousin who is the worst student in her class!"

"Why do you teach these children to hate each other?" I asked the mother, who looked at me with wide opened eyes, quite surprised to hear my question. To her, disparaging people in their absence, though they might be friends or relatives, was normal, common behavior which should not be questioned or condemned.

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