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ARROWS OF THE FAITHFUL: THE IMPORTANCE OF ARCHERY IN ISLAM

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Arrows of the Faithful

**THE IMPORTANCE
OF ARCHERY**

Archery, like other forms of sports, is generally permissible in Islam as long as it is conducted within the limits of Islamic principles. There are several references to archery in Islamic history and traditions, and it is considered a useful skill for self-defense and warfare. In fact, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) himself encouraged archery as a means of training and preparation for battle. He also advised Muslims to practice archery as a form of physical and mental exercise, and as a means of maintaining focus and concentration. Here are several hadiths/sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH) that mention archery.

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YIN ISLAM

Here are some examples:

"Teach your children swimming, archery, and horse riding."

[Sunan Ibn Majah (3651)]

"The best type of jihad (struggle in the way of Allah) is speaking the truth in the presence of an unjust ruler, and the best type of archery is archery in the way of Allah."

[Sunan Ibn Majah (3923)]

"Whoever shoots an arrow in the way of Allah, then it is as if he has freed a slave, and whoever frees a believing slave, then his every organ from his organs will be freed from the Fire."

[Sahih Muslim (1926)]

"The strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than the weak believer, although there is good in both. Be keen to do what benefits you, and seek help from Allah, and do not be helpless. If something befalls you, do not say 'if only I had done such-and-such,' but rather say 'Allah has decreed and what He wills, He does,' for saying 'if only' opens the door to Satan's work."

[Sahih Muslim (2664)]

Although this hadith is weak according to Mufti Wilayah Persekutuan, there are indications from other hadiths that show that the Prophet PBUH commanded us to learn these things. Among them are as follows:

Salamah bin al-Akwa' RA stated that:

"The Prophet PBUH walked in front of a group of the Aslam tribe who were competing (to show their archery skills). Then the Prophet PBUH said: 'Shoot, O descendants of Ismail, for indeed your ancestors were skilled in archery, so shoot.'"

[Sahih al-Bukhari (2899) (3373) (3507)]

While Ubah bin Amir said, I heard the Prophet PBUH say while he was on the pulpit,

"And prepare to face (the invading enemy) with all kinds of strength that

you can provide, know that indeed strength is in throwing (shooting arrows), know that indeed strength is in throwing (shooting arrows), know that indeed strength is in throwing (shooting arrows)."

[Sahih Muslim (1917)]

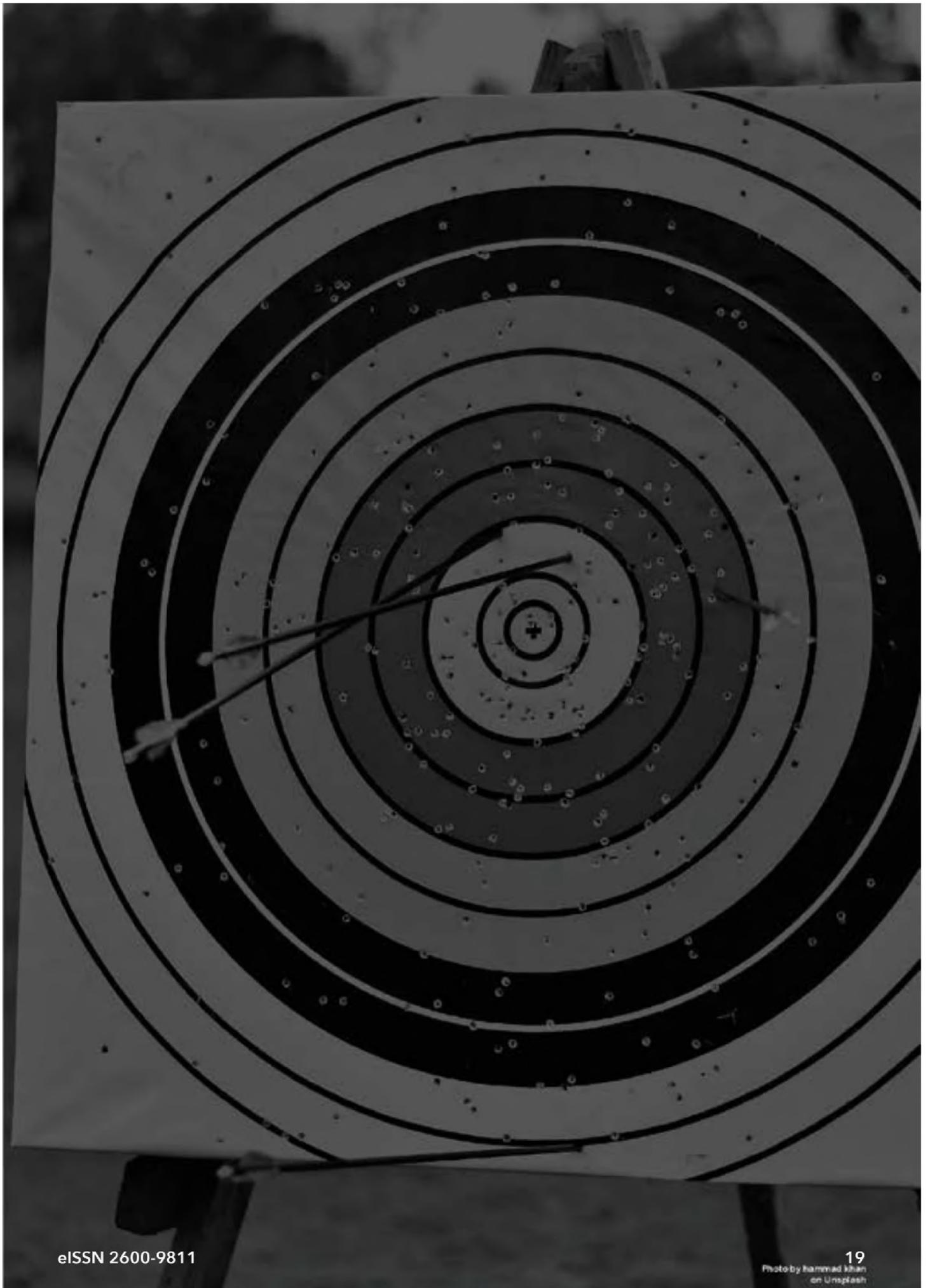
In conclusion, the two authentic hadiths above indicate that the Prophet PBUH recommended all of us to learn archery. These hadiths emphasize the importance of physical fitness, training in useful skills such as archery, and the rewards of doing good deeds in the way of Allah. However, as with any activity, there are some guidelines that should be followed in order to ensure that archery remains within the bounds of Islamic ethics. For example, archery should not be used to harm innocent people or animals, and it should not be used for any form of aggression or violence. Overall, archery can be seen as a positive and beneficial activity within the Islamic tradition, as long as it is conducted with mindfulness and respect for Islamic principles.

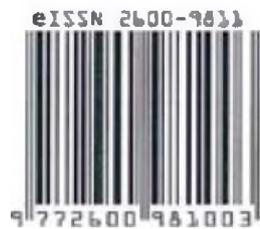
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