

Reading Primary Sources

Why is it important to read and understand and analyze primary sources?

Step 1: Define any key terms (unknown words, bolded or italicized words) using context clues and prior knowledge. Annotate the meanings of these words.

Step 2: Read and annotate the text as closely as possible! Do not skim. Do not skip straight to the questions.

- Annotate any connections you have
- Annotate prior knowledge information you have
- Annotate interesting information you have learned
- Annotation information that supports the main idea (who, what, when, where, why)

Excerpts from the Sunnah

The Sunnah, or "traditions" of Muhammad, are gathered in six books. They are the accounts of the prophet's life that were handed down by his disciples. Much of Islam today is founded on the traditions of the Sunnah; and they are used to guide behavior.

Excerpts from The Sunnah

What does it mean to keep a fast?

Why is it recommended to fast *and* eat and to work some *and* sleep some?

Of Fasting

A keeper of **fasts**, who does not abandon lying and **slandering**, God cares not about his leaving off eating and drinking. Keep fast and eat also, stay awake at night and sleep also, because truly there is a duty on you to your body, not to **labor** overmuch, so that ye may not get ill and destroy yourselves; and verily there is a duty on you to your eyes, ye must sometimes sleep and give them rest; and nobody hath kept fast who fasted always; the fast of three days in every month is equal to constant fasting: then keep three days' fast in every month.

Of Labor and Profit

What is said to be wrong with begging?

Truly the best things which ye eat are those which ye earn yourselves or which your children earn. Truly it is better for one of you to take a rope and bring a bundle of wood upon his back and sell it, in which case God guards his honor, than to beg of people, whether they give him or not; if they do not give him, his reputation suffers and he returns disappointed; and if they give him, it is worse than that, for it layeth him under **obligations**.

How did the prophet suggest the beggar could earn money?

A man came to the Prophet, begging of him something, and the Prophet said, "Have you nothing at home?" He said, "Yes, there is a large carpet, with one part of which I cover myself, and spread the other, and there is a wooden cup in which I drink water." Then the Prophet said, "Bring me the carpet and the cup." And the man brought them, and the Prophet took them in his hand, and said, "Who will buy them?" A man said, "I will take them at one silver piece." He said, "Who will give more?" This he repeated twice or thrice. Another man said, "I will take them for two pieces of silver." Then the Prophet gave the carpet and cup to that man, and took the two pieces of silver, and gave them to the helper, and said, "Buy food with one of these pieces, and give it to your family, that they may make it their **sustenance** for a few days; and buy a hatchet with the other piece and bring it to me." And the man brought it; and the Prophet put a handle to it with his own hands, and then said, "Go, cut wood, and sell it, and let me not see you for fifteen days." Then the man went cutting wood, and selling it; and he came to the Prophet, when truly he had got ten pieces of silver, and he bought a **garment** with part of it, and food with part. Then the Prophet said, "This cutting and selling of wood, and making your livelihood by it, is better for you than coming on the day of **resurrection** with black marks on your face."

How does the story of the beggar man teach a lesson?

Acts of begging are scratches and wounds by which a man wounds his own face; he who wishes to guard his face from scratches and wounds must not beg, unless in an affair in which there is no **remedy**.