ABSTRACT: Objectives: The nose is used more than any other organs of the body in different cultures as a symbol. This symbol may indicate honor, shame or sex. Some of them are facts and others are myths. This paper reviews most of these symbols. Conclusions: The nose is used in many cultures in different ways. It is used daily in greetings within Arabic Gulf area. It is the most used body organ in proverbs. Myths about its relation to sexual activity are funny ones. Scientifically, priapism in the nose occurs in sickle cell disease. Vicarious menstruation may occur in the nose resulting into epistaxis.

Keywords: Nose; myth; sex; proverbs; priapism, menstruation

The nose is used more than any other organs of the body in different cultures as a symbol. Since ancient times, the nose has been considered the organ of reputation. This symbol may indicate honor, shame or sex. This is may be due to that it is the most anterior organ of the body and in the centre of face.

The Egyptian priests considered a large nose to be a symbol of wisdom. Greeks and Romans gave great importance to the beauty of the nose and preferred long, sculptured noses.

In gulf region, till now they greet themselves by touches of the tip of the nose (figure 1), instead of shaking hands. They also till now point to the nose saying absher (figure 2) if they agree for a request. Men usually urge their children in big Arabic families to be proud and arrogant by keeping tell them turn your nose up. As the nose and the eyes are the only facial features displayed in traditional women’s Islamic clothing, these women are determined to make sure what shows looks good. So, a lot of rhinoplasty are done for Arabic women.

In most of countries and especially Arabic ones, it is a symbol of honor. Arabic people say akser anfak (break your nose) if they want to humiliate someone as in their culture the nose is a sense of honor. They also say ragm anfak (against your nose), if they are ordering someone to do anything against his or her will.

In a very nice paper, the nose was used as symbol of sex. The length of the nose gives an idea about the length of penis. The longer the nose, the longer the penis. In folklore, there is the widespread belief that people with big noses have an excessive sexual power. They even described sneezing as little orgasm. They also made a relation between females genitalia and the nose. Both the nose and the private parts have orifices, the peak of the nose is said to...
correspond to the clitoris and the nostrils are said
to remind us of the vulva. Clitoris was called the
nose of the vagina. However, some women get
arousal sexually by rubbing the nose with their
private parts. Olfaction and its effect as stimulator
for sex is another relation of the nose role for
sexual pleasure. Smell sensation of females to
males and vice versa increases the desire for sex.
Sexual practice can include the mutual rubbing of
the nose on the partner’s genitals, which clearly
demonstrates the importance of smell in the vita
sexualis.

Scientifically, there are publications which support
the relation of the nose to sex organs. Priapism
of the turbinates is one of the rhinologic problems
of sickle cell disease. It is a cause of nasal
obstruction in sickle cell anaemia. The blood
supply to the turbinates has been described as
pseudoerectile and similar to that of the penis.
In another published paper, the authors observed
that the cavernous structure of the conchae is
comparable to the erectile tissue of the penis and
clitoris. Nasal congestion often accompanied
by epistaxis, not uncommonly occurs at the time
of menses and may be so regular as to warrant
the term vicarious menstruation. Excision of the
conchae in young animals results in hypoplasia
of the sex organs. Degenerative changes in
the nasal mucosa have been observed as a
sequence to castration, which could be reversed
by estrogen injections.

Punishment for criminals by cutting off the nose
had been practiced in many cultures. It has been
used as punishment for adultery as a method of
castration.

There is a verse in Quran which mentioned the
nose twice in Surah Al-Maedah, Verse number
45. Its translation is that “And We ordained for
them therein a life for life, an eye for an eye, a
nose for a nose, an ear for an ear, a tooth for a
tooth, and for wounds is legal retribution, but
whoever gives [up his right as] charity, it is an
expiation for him And whoever does not judge
by what Allah has revealed – then it is those who
are the wrongdoers. So, the victim has the right
to injure the nose of the offender same same as
he got from the assault. Muslims when they read
Quran they will get ten good deeds for each letter
in Arabic. Nose (alanf ) has 5 letters in Arabic. So,
if any one reads that part of verse (Ayah) a nose
for a nose (alanf bealanf), he or she will get one
hundred and ten good deeds.

The nose acts as a room for satin was mentioned
in Islamic books. Muslims are instructed to clean
their nose three times when they get up by water
to expel the possibility of existence of devil inside
the nasal cavity all the night.

The nose also has been used as site of protection
against evil eye and malevolent beings by wearing
of silver ring in the nostril or wearing of Quran
verses which were written in small metallic plate
and is attached to one of the nostrils.

People may tease others by commenting badly
on their nose shape in different cultures. If one
feels a relative did not respect him or her in front of
others, he or she will tell him you put my nose on
the ground. It is used also as a sort of threatening,
I will weep the ground with your nose.

Even in dreams, the nose has explanation. If
women dream of a nose, they are mostly very
contented with her partners, the opposite can be
of course the case if the nose is injured or is ugly.
If a man dreams of the nose, one good intimate
partner should guarantee. Table I is a list of the
supposed characteristics that you can read from
a person’s nose type. While today they may
seem more myth than fact, some people believe
certain nasal features carry important insights into
a person’s character.
Bulbous tip | You have a preoccupation with saving  
Small tip | You do not consider money important  
Flared nostrils | You are a big spender and an adventurous risk-taker  
Long nose | Routine work is not your speciality  
Short nose | You have a talent for old-fashioned hard work but you crave emotional stability  
Broad nose | You have stability and a purposeful nature and a powerful sex drive  
Long and narrow nose | You are intelligent witty and engaging  
Long and broad nose | You have lots of staying power and concentration  
Fat nose | You are optimistic and are usually good in business  
Ski-jump nose | You are intuitive  
Arched | You are elegant and creative  

Table-I. The shape of nose and the personality

The nose has also been expressed in proverbs in different cultures as shown in table II.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Proverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Your nose is a part of you even if it was cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>If the camel once gets his nose in the tent, his body will soon follow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Do not put the nose in other people matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>The baby is not yet born, and yet you say that his nose is like his grandfather’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>He sticks his nose in everything</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Justice has a waxen nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Never tickle the nose of a sleeping bear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>A big nose never spoiled a handsome face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>A person is unlucky who falls on his back and breaks his nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Who blows his nose too hard makes it bleed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>The one with a running nose always wants to blow someone else’s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>It’s often a man’s mouth broke his nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>He who hurts his nose, hurts his face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Wipe the nose of your neighbour’s son, and marry him to your daughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td>Who is in front everywhere often gets a nose-burn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish</td>
<td>Keep your nose out of another’s mess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>Let everyone pick his own nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungarian</td>
<td>He crushes pepper under the nose of somebody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
<td>It is difficult for two long-nosed lovers to kiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibetan</td>
<td>It is easy to see the fly on the other person’s nose, while ignoring the horse on your own</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table-II. Proverbs include the nose in different cultures
REFERENCES


5. English translation (Sahih International) downloaded from Quran Android page 115.


