

## Being Good to Parents

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2007. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God/Allah

**O Muslims:** Islam instructs you to show kindness to whomsoever shows kindness to you, it teaches you to show gratitude to the one who has done you a favour.

The Prophet peace be upon him (pbuh) said "Faith has 70 or so branches, the highest of which is to say there is no god except God, and the lowest of which is to remove an obstacle from the road"

So the branches of faith have various degrees and levels and amongst these is to have a good and noble character; as good character is a part of faith.

Faith gives you strength and pushes you to do good, at the same time it is your Faith that holds you back from doing bad deeds. Faith provides you with the guard of Taqwa (consciousness of God observing you) to prevent you from committing sins and bad actions. It makes you observant of God by checking yourself before and after you do an action and to correct yourself (and to blame only yourself) if you fall short in your deeds. It makes you aware of God the Exalted, the Next life, the reward and punishment, heaven and hell (and believing in these are all part of Faith).

God, the Most Glorious and Most High (SWT) created the human being with an inclination to love those that are kind to them; human hearts are attracted to those who do good to them and there is no being that is more deserving of kindness and immense gratitude after God (SWT) than your parents.

God says in Surah Al-Isra: 23-24:

*"Your Lord has decreed to you that: You shall worship none but Him, and you shall be kind to your parents; if one or both of them live to their old age in your lifetime, you shall not say to them any word of contempt nor repel them and you shall address them in kind words. And out of kindness lower to them the wing of humility and say: "My Lord! Bestow on them Thy Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood. "Your Lord knows best what is in your hearts. If you do good deeds, certainly He is most forgiving to those who turn to Him in repentance".*

The Oneness of God and the worship of Him is commanded by God (SWT) and obligatory upon us as it is He who is most deserving of obedience and worship and it is He, God, that has blessed us so much with His kindness and bestowed His favour upon us by creating us, providing for us and facilitating the bounties of this world for us.

Along with this commandment in the verse above, God (SWT) has ordered the kindness of parents as they alone have bestowed a great favour upon you and a kindness, which cannot be forgotten except by the heartless. God (SWT) has commanded gratitude to parents just as He has made thankfulness to Him a commandment as He said:

*"We have enjoined man concerning his parents - his mother carries him in her womb while suffering weakness upon weakness and then weans him for two years - that is why We commanded him: "Give thanks to Me and to your parents, and keep in mind*

*that to Me is your final goal. If they argue with you to commit shirk [associate partners with God], of which you have no knowledge, then do not obey them; however you should still treat them kindly in this world, but follow the way of that individual who has turned to Me. After all, to Me is your return; then I will inform you about the reality of all that you have done." (Surah Luqman: 14)*

God (SWT) distinguishes status of the mother and draws special attention to her role in carrying, giving birth and suckling the child . It is mentioned in a Hadith that:

A man came to the Messenger of God and said: "O Prophet of God, who is the most deserving person of my kindness and company? The Prophet, (pbuh), said, "Your mother." The man then asked, "Then who?" The Prophet, (pbuh), replied, "Your mother." The man then asked, "Then who?" The Prophet, (pbuh), said, "Your mother." The man then asked, "Then who?" The Prophet, (pbuh), replied, "Your father." (Related by -Bukhari and Muslim)

God (SWT) has enjoined goodness and maintaining good relations with parents in this world even if they are non-Muslims. Though the Muslim is not to obey his parents if they instruct him or her to disbelief, they are still commanded by God (SWT) to deal with them in a good and kind manner.

*"If they argue with you (i.e. exert efforts) to commit shirk, of which you have no knowledge, then do not obey them; however you should still treat them kindly in this world, but follow the way of that individual who has turned to Me..." (Luqman:15)*

The right of the parents is great. Their goodness cannot be measured nor can their value be described in words. They deserve love, respect, obedience, dignity, politeness, true and kind speech and to be treated in the best manner.

If one day you became tired of them or with one of them, or you became angry with them, then just remember your mother who

- carried you in her stomach for nine months,
- the pain endured during birth and
- the sleepless nights due to worry about your health,your up-bringing and education?

Your nourishment was her milk, your home was her lap, your means of transport were her arms; she looked after to you and cared for you, she would remain hungry but would make sure that you were full; she would stay awake so she could ensure you slept properly.

And what about your father? He worked hard for you, saved you from harm, made sure you were happy, he would go hungry just to feed you, he would care for you, protect you, raise you up to have good manners and wish you to be successful.

These are your parents; your mother and father- so be good to them. Treating them well and with kindness is the key to all good, mercy descending upon you and (the doors) to evil shutting behind you. Being good to your parents is one of the greatest means of entering Paradise and attaining salvation from the Fire, it is a means of a good livelihood, a long life, protection from calamities and a reason for supplications being answered.

## Second Khutbah:

A message to our sons and daughters: We are in a time where having a good up-bringing and being raised well with good manners is beginning to disappear from people's lives because of the struggle and greed for the material world and the lack of religion in people's hearts. In the Muslim community we have begun to see and hear of things and practices, which are awful and shocking.

Parents are being disobeyed and treated badly; they are being harmed in all sorts of ways, (mentally, materially etc.)

Even one of these aspects is bad enough. This type of behaviour is not fitting for us, as we are people of an eternal Divine religion, which has come to raise people in their value and to instruct through good conduct and the best of manners.

The occurrence of defying parents is becoming more widespread, people are becoming accustomed to it and it is causing the hearts of our children to ignore it; to disregard its unlawfulness and to neglect punishment it carries with God.

O Youngsters: Take care not to disobey your parents as this is a grave sin from amongst the major sins and is prohibited. Disobeying parents is to harm them by either speech or action. Anything that hurts them or causes them to suffer is a form disobedience- even to say 'Uff' to them (scoff at them), to get angry towards them, to shout or raise your voice to them, to point to them or give them a (bad) look.

*The Prophet (SAW) said three times: "Shall I not inform you of the greatest of the major sins?" We said "Yes O Messenger of God" He said " To join partners with God and to be undutiful to your parents" (The Prophet sat up after he had been reclining and added "I warn you against giving a false statement and a false witness" The Prophet kept on saying that warning until we thought that he would not stop.)*  
[Bukhari]