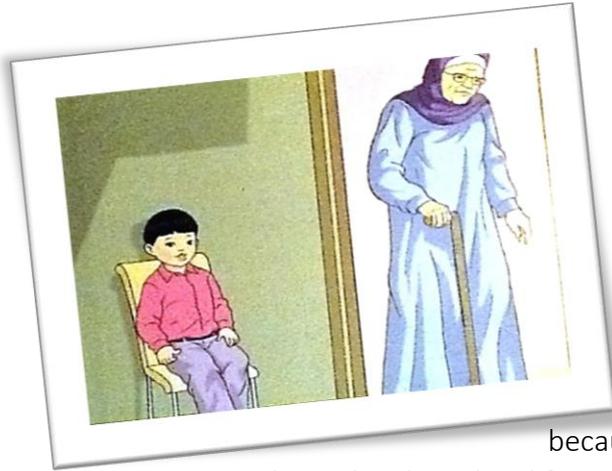


RESPECTING ELDERERS



Imagine that you are sitting down in a chair waiting to get into the doctor's office and an older lady enters the room. There are no seats available for her to sit in.

Would you pretend that you did not see her walk in or would you get up and offer her your chair? A good person would get up from the chair and invite the old lady to sit down.

Respecting elders in Islam is very important because elderly people have a lot of knowledge and wisdom. They have lived for a long time and learned many many things.

Have you noticed how your grandparents know a lot of things? But at the same time, they need help picking up heavy things? When people become old, they lose their physical ability to do many things you can easily do now. Their eyes may not see as well as yours. When they walk for a long time, they become tired. One day you will become like them, Insha'Allah, and need the help of those who are younger than you.

Old people not only need the help of younger ones, but they deserve their respect too. You can learn a lot of good things from your elders. They can teach you many things from their long experience in life. Unwise children think that old people are boring, while smart kids sit and listen carefully to what the wise and old people say. Older people often have interesting stories to tell filled with information and experiences they have gained in their lives. They can give great ideas and warn you against many harmful things or actions. One good tip can make you succeed in life or save you from falling into a big problem. Islam emphasises respect for the elderly. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

Ibn Abbas narrated that Rasoolullah said: "He is not one of us who does not have kindness for our young and respect for our old."

When you respect your elders you care about how they feel. You believe that their ideas, thoughts and feelings are important. This means you should:

- ✓ Listen to them when they talk even if you think what they are saying is boring.
- ✓ Not to talk back to them in an impolite manner
- ✓ Greet them with "Assalaamu 'Alaikum" when you see them
- ✓ Answer your grandparents and elders when they ask you a question

Good reasons to respect elders

1. Showing sincere respect to your elders pleases Allah and makes Him love you.
2. The people with the best manners are the closest to Prophet Muhammad in the Hereafter in Jannah
3. Showing respect to elders means that they will respect you too.
4. Your family and friends love to be with you because you respect their feelings.

Test yourself

Scenario (What if?)	What would you do?
You see an older person struggling to carry grocery bags?	
Your grandfather has a hard time reading the newspaper without his glasses?	
There are no empty seats on the bus and an older person enters the bus?	

Lesson review

1. How can raising your voice over older people be disrespectful?
2. What would other people think of you when you show respect to your elders.
3. Why do older people deserve respect?
4. How do elders affect our lives?
5. Why should we respect our elders?
6. List four ways you can show respect to elders.
7. Mention a hadith about respecting elders.
8. What kind of changes do people go through as they age?