

# RESPECTING PARENTS

In Islam, every day is Mother's and Father's Day. We should love, respect and appreciate our parents everyday throughout the year.

Parents have the right to demand respect. They deserve respect from their children.

Parents are very important to us and we must treat them with great respect and admiration. We must listen to them, talk to them, and look at them with great respect.

It is not enough to love your parents; you must highly respect, admire, and be very humble to them. The Qur'an says:



❁ وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ

عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أُفٍّ وَلَا

نَهْرَهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا ﴿٢٣﴾

And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], "uff," and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word

وَأَخْفِضْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذُّلِّ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا

رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا ﴿٢٤﴾

And lower to them the wing of humility out of mercy and say, "My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up [when I was] small."

Appreciation and respect for parents is mentioned in the Qur'an 11 times. In every example, Allah reminds children to appreciate the care and love they received from their parents.

# Parents' Rights

Some of these rights, which are mentioned in the Quran, are:



- Obeying them and fulfilling their requests.
- Being humble towards them and dealing with them kindly and gently.
- Lowering one's voice when talking to them.
- Using the best and most beautiful words when talking to them.
- Being dutiful to them when they are old and never show dissatisfaction for their requests, however frequent they might be.
- Invoking Allah to bestow mercy and forgiveness on them.

The following are some Prophetic narrations that encourage a Muslim to be dutiful to his parents and warn them against disobeying them:

1) The Prophet, (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam), said: *"Allah's pleasure is attained by pleasing parents, and Allah's wrath is ensued by angering parents."* [At-Tirmithi]

2) The Prophet, (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam), further said: *"Shall I not inform you about the greatest major sin?" We (companions) replied: "Yes, O, Messenger of Allah." The Messenger of Allah, (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Allah has forbidden you to be undutiful to your mothers and to bury your daughters alive."* [Al-Bukhaari]

## Examples of being dutiful to parents

The companions of the Prophet, (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam), and our pious predecessors, may Allah have mercy on them, were the best examples in being kind and dutiful to their parents. For example, Osama Ibn Zaid, (may Allah be pleased with him), had a piece of land cultivated with palm trees. Back then, the price of a palm tree was one thousand Dinars (a golden currency). One day, his mother wanted to eat the core of a palm tree, which is the wet part in the centre. Osama, (may Allah be pleased with him), cut a fruit-bearing tree to feed his mother its core. When some people asked him about what he had done, he said: "If my mother asks for anything in the whole world and I can give it to her, I will do it."

'Ali Ibn Al-Hussain, (may Allah have mercy upon him), was very dutiful to his mother, but he would never eat from the same dish that she was eating from. Someone asked him: "You are one of the most dutiful people to their mothers. Why don't you eat with her from the same dish?" He said: "I am afraid that my hand might take a certain piece of food that my mother wanted to eat, and in this way I would have been undutiful to her."

It is also reported that one night, a woman asked her son to bring her a cup of water. When he went to fetch the water and came back, she had fallen asleep. He was afraid that she might get up and not find him, and at the same time, he did not like to wake her up. Thus, he stayed near her holding the water until the morning.

## Lesson Review

- 1 Why should every day be Mother's and father's day?
- 2 Why is it important to respect parents?
- 3 What are some of the parents' rights that are mentioned in the Qur'an?
- 4 Why did Osama Ibn Zaid cut a fruit-bearing tree?
- 5 Why did not 'Ali Ibn Al-Hussain want to eat from the same dish with his mother?