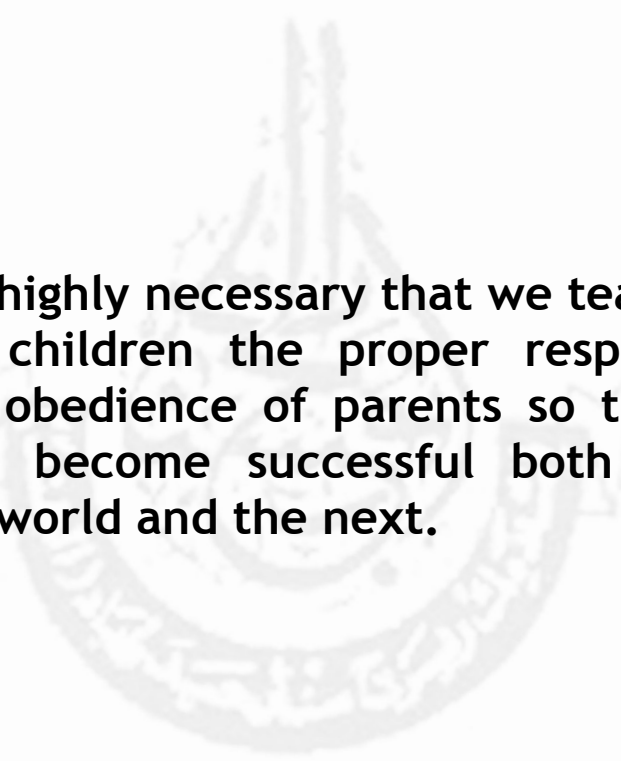


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It is highly necessary that we teach our children the proper respect and obedience of parents so that they become successful both in this world and the next.

Allah Most High has brought human beings into existence. He has made the parents the means of bringing us into this world. Almighty Allah has made parents an embodiment of affection and mercy and has obligated them to raise their children in the proper manner. Children have also been ordered to serve their parents and fulfill the rights due to them. The importance of fulfilling the rights of the parents can be understood with the fact that in the Holy Quran, Almighty Allah has mentioned nice treatment of parents immediately after mentioning His own worship and servitude. It is given in the Holy Quran:

And your Lord has commanded you not to worship anyone other than Allah, and treat parents with benevolence. If either or both of them attain old age in your presence, then do not say even “Ugh” to them, nor reproach them. And always speak to both of them submissively, observing polite manners. And always lower your wings of submissiveness and humility out of soft-heartedness for both of them, and keep supplicating (Allah): O my Lord, have mercy on both of them as they

brought me up in (my) childhood (with mercy and clemency). Surah Bani Israil (17:23, 24)

In this verse of the Holy Quran, Almighty Allah has given us 7 orders, 5 of which things that we have to do and 2 of which are things we have stay away from.

The following things have been ordered in the aforementioned verse of the Holy Quran:

1. Worship only Almighty Allah.
2. Treat one's parents nicely.
3. Parents should be addressed with proper reverence and respect.
4. Parents should be treated with affection, compassion and humility.
5. Prayers should be made for parents in the words:

These things should be avoided

1. Don't even say "Uff" to parents.
2. Don't speak rudely to parents.

Obedience to parents - The primary responsibility of children

There are 2 kinds of rights. One is rights due to Almighty Allah and the other is rights due to the creation and fellow human beings.

Apart from the aforementioned verse of the Holy Quran, the orders to treat the parents nicely have been given at various other places. Thus, obedience to parents is the primary responsibility of children.

A delicate subtlety

It should be noted that we are asked to respect our parents and treat them nicely because they are the material means of our existence, thus their respect and reverence is

compulsory on human beings. Their respect is such that when one goes before them, the gaze should be lowered, they should be spoken to softly, neither can one scold them nor can one be rude to them. Let alone hurting them in any way, one cannot even say, “Uff” to them.

Just think! Our parents are the material means of our coming in this world and we are obligated to respect and revere them in this manner whereas the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) is the raison d'etre of the creation of the universe and not only our existence, then how much should one respect and revere Him?

To please one's parents is to please Almighty Allah

Almighty Allah has made it so that His pleasure and approval depend on the pleasure and approval of parents, and the displeasure of the parents leads to His displeasure. As mentioned in this Hadith of Kanz Ul ‘Ummal:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr (May Allah be well pleased with them) that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: The pleasure and approval of Allah lies in the pleasure of parents and the displeasure of Allah lies in the displeasure of parents. (Kanz Ul ‘Ummal, Hadith No. 45552)

For children, the status of parents is so high that if they are pleased with them, then it is as if Almighty Allah is pleased with them. If parents are pleased with a child, then it is sign of divine pleasure.

Parents are a great bounty of Almighty Allah. Valuing them, obeying, and serving them is highly necessary. We should be extremely cautious not to hurt them in any way because the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has said that the supplication of a father for his children is never rejected:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Abu Hurairah (May Allah be well pleased with him), he says that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said:

There are 3 supplications about which there is no doubt of their acceptance, the supplication of an oppressed person, the supplication of a traveler and the supplication of a father for his children. (Jame' Tirmidhi. Hadith No. 1828)

The children should respect their father and refrain from hurting him in any manner. If children trouble their father and the father supplicates against them, then this supplication will surely be accepted.

Even if the parents commit excesses against the children, it is the responsibility of the children to still obey and serve them and to respect them.

There is a Hadith in Imam Baihaqui's Shua'bul Iman and in Zujajatul Masabeeh:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas (May Allah be well pleased with them), he says that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: The person who starts his (or her) morning in the obedience of Allah, the doors of paradise are

opened for him and if only one parent (either father or mother) is present, then one door is opened. For the person who ends his (or her) day in disobedience of parents, the doors of hell are opened for him. If only one parent (either father or mother) is present, only one door is opened. A Companion asked: Even if parents commit excesses against him (or her)? The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Even if they commit excesses against him, even if they commit excesses against him, even if they commit excesses against him (Shua'bul Iman, Hadith No. 7679; Zujajatul Masabeeh, Vol. 4, Pg. No. 88)

Serving parents is compulsory for children

Obedience of parents is compulsory on children as long as they give orders which are correct as per the Shariah. If the parents order to go against the Shariah or to commit some wrong deed, then they will not be obeyed, as the disobedience of the Creator in obedience of the creation is not correct.

There is a Hadith on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas (May Allah be well pleased with them):

Translation: You go before your parents as if a lowly, emaciated slave is entreating his stern and harsh master to seek his pleasure. (Tafseer Ruh Al Bayan, Surah Isra-23)

Importance of treating one's mother nicely

Among the parents, in terms of excellence and respect, the father is the superior one and in terms of service, the mother is the superior one. There is a Hadith in Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Abu Hurairah (May Allah be well pleased with him), he says that a certain Companion came to the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and asked: O Prophet of Allah (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)! Who is the most deserving of my kind treatment? The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi

wa sallam) said: Your mother is the most deserving. He again asked: Then whom? The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Your mother is the most deserving. He again asked: Then whom? The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Your mother is the most deserving of your kind treatment. That Companion asked for the fourth time: Who is the most deserving of my kind treatment? Then the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Your father is the most deserving of your kind treatment. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 5971)

The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has granted 3-fold excellence to serving the mother. The secret here is that because the mother passes through 3 phases of motherhood in which the father doesn't participate: The phase of pregnancy, the phase of delivery and the phase of suckling the infant.

The mother bears the child in her womb for 9 months and also bears all the difficulties that it entails. She bears labor pains while delivering the child and bears every difficulty

with a cheerful heart and becomes the means of bringing the child into the world. Sometimes, she even endangers her own life to bring a new life into this world. Then in the phase of suckling the infant, she feeds the child her own milk for 2 years. For all these reasons, her right to be served has been declared to be 3-folds greater than the right of the father.

Imam Badruddin 'Ainni (May Allah shower His mercy on him) writes in the explanation of the aforementioned Hadith:

Translation: Muhaddith Tammaam has narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas (May Allah be well pleased with them) that a Companion came to the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and said: I had taken an oath that if Almighty Allah makes you victorious over Makkah, that I would go there and kiss the threshold of the Ka'aba. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: You kiss the feet of your mother. Indeed, you have fulfilled your oath. ('Umdatul Qari, Vol. 15, Pg. No. 141)

Looking at parents with love brings reward of 1 Hajj

It is not only obedience of parents that is rewarded, but even if a son or daughter just looks at his/her parents with love, then for each glance that person is granted the reward of 1 accepted Hajj. As the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has said:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas (May Allah be well pleased with them) that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Whichever obedient son (or daughter) looks at his parents with love, then Allah Most High grants the reward of 1 accepted Hajj in lieu of every glance. The Companions asked: If he does so 100 times in a single day, will he be given the reward of 100 accepted Hajj? The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Allah is great and benevolent beyond all bounds. (Shua'bul Iman, Hadith No. 7611; Kanz Ul 'Ummal, Hadith No. 45535; Zujajatul Masabeeh, Vol. 4, Pg. No. 88)

Out of His mercy, the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has declared the reward of an accepted Hajj for just looking at parents with love. In this regard, reward for other forms of worship could also have been decreed. Salaat can be offered at any place with ease. Only 1 day is required for fasting. There is no need to spend any money to recite the Holy Quran. Time is not spent in giving charity. However, the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has fixed the reward to be of 1 accepted Hajj. This is because Hajj is both a physical and monetary form of worship. It is such a form of worship that it can't be offered anywhere and at any time. It has to be performed at a particular place and at a particular time. Even after all this, the person performing can't say for sure whether Almighty Allah has accepted his Hajj or not, but the obedience of parents is such a thing that it brings reward of an accepted Hajj.

On listening to this glad tiding, the Companions asked for clarification that will the reward remain the same if a son/daughter

looks at his/her parents with love many times a day. The sovereign Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said that whenever a son/daughter looks at his/her parents with love, the reward of an accepted Hajj will be given. The height of benevolence is that even if a son/daughter casts 100 glances at parents with love, then that person will be given the reward of 100 accepted Hajj.

Our parents are a great bounty for us. We should consider their lives as a respite for us and recognize their value. The Family of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), the Companions and the saints have presented such examples of obedience and kind treatment of their parents that history can't present a parallel to it.

Imam Hasan (May Allah be well pleased with him) would not eat along with his mother, Hadhrat Syeda Fatima (May Allah be well pleased with her) out of respect for her. As mentioned in Nuzhatul Majalis:

Translation: Hadhrat Imam Hasan (May Allah be well pleased with him) wouldn't eat with his mother, Hadhrat Syeda Fatima (May Allah be well pleased with her). When she asked him about it, he said: I fear that if I have what you intend to have, I might be reckoned among the disobedient. Hadhrat Syeda Fatima (May Allah be well pleased with her) said: You eat along with us. You have full permission. (Nuzhatul Majalis, Vol. 1, Pg. No. 184)

There is a similar Hadith in Kanz Ul 'Ummal about the reward of serving parents:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Aisha Siddiqua (May Allah be well pleased with her), she says: The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: When I entered paradise, I heard someone reciting. I asked: Who is it? The angels said: This is Haritha bin N'umaan (May Allah be well pleased with him). On this, the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: This is how good deeds are rewarded. This is how good deeds are rewarded. Among all people, he

serves his mother the most. (Kanz Ul 'Ummal, Hadith No. 45937)

One night, the mother of Hadhrat Bayazeed Bustami (May Allah shower His mercy on him) asked him to bring water. When he brought water, she had dozed off. Keeping in mind the rest and respect of his mother, Hadhrat Bayazeed spent the whole night with the glass of water in his hand. As mentioned in Nuzhatul Majalis:

Translation: Hadhrat Bayazeed Bustami (May Allah be well pleased with him) said: One night, my mother asked me to get water for her. By the time I brought water, she had fallen asleep. I waited there until she got up. When she woke up, she asked: Where is the water? I presented the cup of water to her. The water had spilled on to my finger and because of severe cold, it had frozen. When my mother took the cup from my hand, the skin of my finger was scraped off and my finger started bleeding. She asked me: Son! What is this? I recounted everything to her. She then supplicated for me with the words:

“O Allah! I am pleased with him. You also be pleased with him. (Nuzhatul Majalis, Vol. 1, Pg. No. 183)

The effect of that supplication was such that Hadhrat Bayazeed Bustami (May Allah be well pleased with him) says: I thought that striving and worship was primary, but what I couldn't gain through them, I gained it from the pleasure and approval of my mother. (Mawaaiz-e-Hasana, Vol. 1, Pg. No. 128)

The effect of his mother's supplication was not limited to this world only, but even in the hereafter, its blessings were realized, as is obvious from this Tradition:

Translation: When Hadhrat Bayazeed Bustami (May Allah shower His mercy on him) passed away, some of his disciples saw him in a dream that he was strolling the gardens of paradise and was glorifying Allah Most High. They asked: How did you reach this high station? He said: By kind treatment of parents and by being patient on hardships. (Nuzhatul Majalis, Vol. 1, Pg. No. 183)

Disobedience of parents -A grave sin

At 2 different times, 2 different questions were put to the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). One question was that which deed was the most beloved deed with Almighty Allah. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) also said: Kind treatment of parents.

The second question was about the major sins. In reply to this, the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Disobedience of parents.

As is mentioned in this Hadith of Sahih Bukhari:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin Mas'ud (May Allah be well pleased with him), he says: I asked the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam): Which is the deed most beloved to Allah Most High? He said: Offering Salaat at its proper time. He then asked: Then which act is most beloved? He said: Kind treatment of parents.

He asked: Then which act is the most beloved? He said: Striving in the path of truth. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 527)

There is another Hadith in Sahih Bukhari:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Anas bin Malik (May Allah be well pleased with him), he says: The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) was asked about major sins. He said: Ascribing partners to Allah, disobeying one's parents, murdering someone and giving false testimony are major sins. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 2653)

On committing other sins, Almighty Allah gives that person a respite and the punishment is given in the hereafter, but disobedience of sins is such a grave sin that apart from the hereafter, in this world itself that person will suffer various hardships, tribulations and sorrows.

There is a Hadith in Mustadrak 'Alas Sahihain:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Abu Bakrah (May Allah be well pleased with him), he says: I heard the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) say: Among all sins, for any sin that He wants to, Almighty Allah may postpone the punishment until the Day of Judgment except disobedience of parents, because Allah Most High punishes the person who is disobedient to his (or her) parents before death right in this world. (Mustadrak 'Alas Sahihain, Hadith No. 7372; Shua'bul Iman, Hadith No. 7646)

What if the parents are non-Muslim?

Islam is such a complete code of life in which the rights of everyone have been detailed. Islam has detailed not only the rights of human beings but also that of animals. In regard to rights, there is no discrimination between Muslims and non-Muslims. Thus, even if someone's parents are non-Muslim, Islam still orders that they should be treated kindly. Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quran:

And if both of them contend with you that you should associate (others) with Me, of which you have no knowledge, then do not obey them. And cooperate with them in worldly affairs in a decent manner. But (in the matter of faith and the Last Hour and the related affairs) follow someone who adopts the path of turning to Me in repentance and submitting to My injunctions. Then you are to return to Me alone. So I shall inform you about the works that you used to do. Surah Luqman (31:15)

There is a Hadith in Sahih Bukhari:

Translation: Hadhrat Hishaam bin 'Urwa (May Allah be well pleased with him) narrates on the authority of his father that Hadhrat Asma bint Abu Bakr told him: In the era of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), my mother came to me in the hope that I will take care of her. I asked the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam): Can I treat her nicely? He said: Yes. Hadhrat Sufyan bin 'Uyainah (May Allah be well pleased with him) says that this verse of the Holy Quran was

revealed about this: Allah does not forbid you to be good to them and treat them with equity and justice who did not fight against you on (the question of) Din (Religion), nor did they drive you out of your homes (i.e., homeland). Surely, Allah likes those who conduct themselves with equity and justice (Surah Mumtahina-08) (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 5979; Sahih Muslim, Hadith No. 2372)

There is a Hadith in Jame' Ul Ahadeeth and Kanz Ul 'Ummal:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Abu Hurairah (May Allah be well pleased with him) that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: You don't walk ahead of your father. Don't become the cause of abuses for your father. Don't sit before he sits and don't address him by his name. (Jame' Ul Ahadeeth, Hadith No. 16942; Kanz Ul 'Ummal, 45514)

Rights of parents after they have passed away

If the parents are alive, then treating them kindly means that they should be obeyed and served. If any one (or both) pass away, then treating them kindly means to supplicate for their forgiveness and that their outstanding debts should be paid and their relatives should be treated kindly and reward of good deeds should be gifted to them. There is a Hadith in Sunan Abu Dawood:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Abu Usaid Malik bin Rab'eea Sa'adi (May Allah be well pleased with him), he says: When we were present with the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) that a person from Banu Salama came and said: O Prophet of Allah (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)! Is there any form of kind treatment for parents after they have passed away? The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Kind treatment of parents after they have passed away is to offer their Salaat Ul Janaazah, to pray for their forgiveness, to fulfill their promises and to maintain relations with their relatives with whom relations are maintained

only because of this and to respect their friends. (Sunan Abu Dawood, Hadith No. 5144)

The parents have many rights on children. Briefly 4 rights while they are alive and 4 rights after they have died have been described.

May Allah Most High guide us to fulfill the rights of our parents and to respect and obey them as they ought to be respected and obeyed.

Aameen Bi Jaahil Sayyidil Mursaleen
