

LOVING OUR
PARENTS
STORIES OF DUTIES
& OBLIGATIONS



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LOVING OUR PARENTS

Stories Of Duties & Obligations

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to my respected father Muhammad Younus Sipra Kailani, a truly venerable person, and to my esteemed mother Razia Begum, who was extremely kind, and was always engaged in prayer. Her upbringing, based on Islamic tenets, has enabled me to compile this work.

By the Grace of Allah (SWT) they instilled in my heart and soul the love for Islamic Monotheism besides the love of Muhammad the Prophet of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) and his holy Companions. May Allah, the Most Glorious and the Exalted, accept my lifelong endeavors and make them a source of eternal reward for my revered parents and shower them with His boundless Mercy (Amen).

﴿رَبِّ اَرْحَمُهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَّانِي صَغِيرًا﴾

“My Lord! Bestow on them Your Mercy as they did bring me up when I was young.”

Foreword

Islam commands its followers to contribute to the welfare, well-being and good of the Muslim community (Ummah). It forbids anything that causes mischief, sedition or harm to the interest of the Ummah.

Allah, the Lord of Honor, exhorts His servants to perform good deeds and display good manners. This encompasses our kith and kin, friends, neighbors, the whole community, all the Muslims, even people belonging to other religious groups, without any discrimination.

Islam enjoins on us to respect, and obey parents. This is considered good manners by Shariah (Islamic Law).

The importance of doing good to parents and behaving well towards them cannot be stressed enough.

This book contains stories of obedience to parents. These are real-life accounts that I have collected after going through quite a number of books. First I thought that I should include the stories that give accounts of good treatment to parents. Then I felt that stories about the disobedience to parents should also be included as lessons to be followed.

The pages of this book have been sprinkled with the stories as to how parents can be pleased, so that the readers are inspired to action and may earn the pleasure of their parents.

We should keep in mind that the parents angry with their offspring immediately forgive them soon as they show repentance. Parents need us whether they are alive or dead.

The real objective of this book is that perchance the readers may take a leaf from the accounts of good behavior towards parents.

The tales of disobedience to parents, provide an opportunity for soul-searching – are we committing such mistakes, knowingly or unknowingly. Besides serving as warning bells, these accounts shake us into right action and good behavior.

Unfortunately, there are instances in our society of defiant children who harass and disobey their parents. Their misdeeds come to a bad end and stand out as example, and warning to others, who may mend their behavior and earn Allah's Mercy.

There are many people in our society who earn entitlement to Heaven by being extremely respectful to their parents. There are also others, who are paving their way to the hellfire by disobeying their parents.

Most of these stories have been selected from Arabic books and cassettes. The Egyptian colleague at our organization, Mr. Ashraf Sawi has cooperated closely in compiling this book. Brother Rizwanullah Riazhi has also helped a lot in rendering many a story into English from Arabic.

I also owe gratitude to Dr Iftikhar Khokar (Islamabad), Hafiz Muhammad Nadeem of Darussalam, Lahore, Ahmad Kamran Dehlvi, Haroon-ur-Rashid and Gul Rehman amongst other friends and colleagues for suggesting corrections. I would like to express thanks to dear Hafiz Abdul Azeem Asad, the Editor, Darussalam, Lahore for his scrupulous attention and supervision in producing this book. May this book come to fruition and familiarize our new generation regarding the status of their parents.

I look forward to feedback from esteemed readers!

Your brother

Abdul Malik Mujahid

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The Status of PARENTS in the light of the Noble Quran and Holy Traditions



The Status of Parents in the Light of the Holy Quran

Allah the Lord of Honor mentions the rights of parents in the Holy Quran as follows:

﴿وَأَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا﴾

“Worship Allah and join none with Him (in worship); and do good to parents.”

As for treating parents kindly, Imam Ibn Kathir has stated that Allah Almighty commands His servants to treat them with utmost care and kindness because Allah, the Most Glorious and Exalted, has created them from their mother from nothing. At several places Allah Almighty commands His slaves to worship Him, and He also enjoins them to be good and dutiful towards their parents. Allah the Lord of Honor says:

﴿قُلْ تَعَالَوْا أَنِ اتْلُ مَا حَرَّمَ رَبِّي عَلَيْكُمْ أَلَّا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا﴾

Say (O Muhammad SAW): “Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited you from: Join not anything in worship with Him; be good and dutiful to your parents.”

Regarding the rights of parents, Allah the Lord of Honor states:

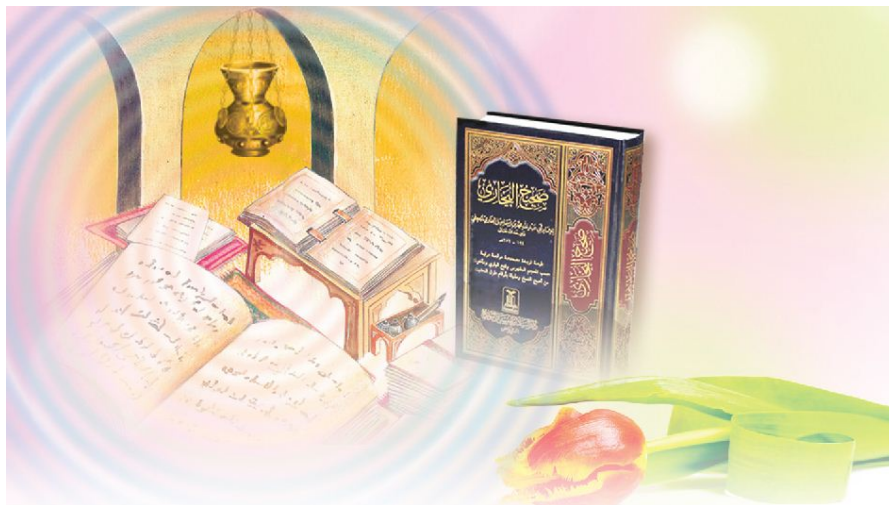
﴿وَقَضَىٰ رَبِّيَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أَفٍ وَلَا نَهْرُهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا﴾

“And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of disrespect, nor shout at them but address them in terms of honor.”

Commentators of the Quran state that besides responding to the commands of Divine Providence, meeting the demands of obedience to parents is really necessary.

Especially in their old age, we are prohibited even from uttering a word of disrespect, let alone shouting at them. They are helpless, feeble and dependent, whereas their children are young and energetic who possess sources of income. The youthful exuberance is in conflict with the seasoned old age. In such circumstances, it is an obligatory duty to be dutiful towards parents and serve them all the time and in all cases.

The Status of Parents in the Light of the Holy Traditions



Abdullah Bin Masood (May Allah be pleased with him), a Companion of the Holy Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), excelled in doing good deeds so much so that he was in the forefront of performing virtuous acts. Once he was in the presence of Allah's Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). Wanting to earn the pleasure of Allah Almighty, he asked the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him):

«أَيُّ الْأَعْمَالِ أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى؟»

“Which deed is the dearest to Allah?”

The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) replied,

«الصَّلَاةُ عَلَى وَقْتِهَا»

“To say the prayers at their times.”

Then the Companion asked, **Amna Zubari**

“What is the next good deed dearest to Allah?” The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

“To be good, obedient and dutiful to your parents.”

Just imagine Allah’s Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) ranked obedience and dutifulness to parents, second only to prayers.

May Allah, the Lord of Honor shower countless blessings upon Abdullah Bin Masood (May Allah be pleased with him) who lighted the path of Islam through such searching questions!

Once, another Companion Hazrat Jahimah Bin Abbas came to the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) and said very respectfully, “I intend to go for jihad with you and seek your advice in this regard.” The Messenger of Allah, the well-wisher and teacher of the whole Ummah, asked him,

«هَلْ لَّكَ مِنْ أُمٍّ»

“Is your mother alive?”

Jahimah answered: “Yes, my mother is alive.” The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), most truthful person ever born, said:

«فَالزَّمْهَا فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ تَحْتَ رِجْلَيْهَا»

“Go, serve your mother, for paradise lies under her feet.”

In Arabic obedience and dutifulness towards parents is called Birrul Walidain. The literal meaning of Al-Birr is truth, obedience and improvement. Its opposite is ‘Aqooq.

In Shariah the word Al-Birr has wider implication, which includes doing good to parents, acting upon Divine Injunctions, respecting and obeying parents, constantly working for their pleasure, serving them with devotion, treating them gently, taking care of them, avoiding disobedience to them and removing any hardship that may trouble them. There is a saying of Allah’s Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him):

«الْبِرُّ حُسْنُ الْخُلُقِ»

“To do good is good character.”

Golden Principles to Please Parents



Allah (SWT) and His Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) have laid great emphasis on behaving well towards parents, especially on being dutiful and obedient to the mother. Obedience and duty demand that when they grow old, we should honor and fulfill their wishes.

The rights of parents can never be fully discharged. However, there are some ways that can help us earn their pleasure and keep them happy.

For instance, on such occasions as Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Azha, or at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, we should make sure that they are happy. We should seek their advice and honor their wishes in decisions concerning the marriage of our children or siblings, ask them what kind of dress they would like to wear on the wedding, what gift should be offered to the newly-wed couple.

We should make our parents feel that they are consulted and taken on board in every matter.

We may request our mother or father to accompany us to bazaar to buy clothes of their choice. If, for some reason they cannot do so, we may buy clothes for them according to their liking. We will notice their happiness and they will pray and bless us profusely.

We may also surprise them once in a while befitting the occasion. We may place before them suddenly the things they like and need, saying very respectfully: “Dear mother (or father as the case may be), I was at bazaar where these things of your use and choice attracted me and so I have bought them for you. Please accept them.” Such gestures are extremely gratifying to the parents.

I remember I was staying in America to get a job done. There was a showroom of old cars in Houston where a seven-seater vehicle caught my fancy. So I purchased it. I rang my respected mother, informed her of the purchase and said that a seat in the vehicle was held in reserve for her. Thus, having heard the news, her joy knew no bounds. She kept talking about it for many days telling her visitors and acquaintances that her son Abdul Malik had bought a vehicle in which he had reserved a seat for her. Of course, I was not bluffing. In any case she had to sit in the vehicle, but how much just one sentence “One seat is reserved for you” pleased her was beyond my expectation. Whenever I recall this experience, a

gentle thought strikes me that the mother is such a kind creature that a positive gesture from the son makes her heart overflow with love and joy.

When you go on a journey, try to say goodbye to your parents.

Before you take leave of them, sit with them and inform them that you are setting out on a journey. Seek their prayers that Allah may grant you success and you have a safe journey, free of troubles.

You will feel from their facial expressions how much pleasing and heartening such talk is for them. Then If Allah so desires – their prayers will be answered. Similarly when you return from the journey, go to them first of all if it is possible. Sometimes we may wait for an appropriate time to see them. If their health permits and they are not asleep at that time, we should present ourselves before them to kiss their feet. We should sit beside them; listen to them about their health and family affairs attentively and respectfully. Then we may tell them about our journey. If we have achieved something remarkable, we must share it with them.

While on the journey we should remain in telephone contact with them every day, even if it is for a few minutes. Just the sound of your voice can reassure her and satisfy her maternal feelings. How much elated she would feel, is beyond description, and imagination.

If you don't live in the same city as your parents, enquire about their welfare on telephone, and inform them of yours. If you live in the same city but different localities, try to visit them daily. If possible, have meals or tea with them. Exchange pleasantries with them, entertain them and seek their prayers.

While meeting the mother, you may kiss her hand and forehead. This scribe had the honor of kissing his mother's feet frequently. He used to put her feet on his cheeks, pat them gently, at times tickle them, kiss them and savor those moments with pride.

The people who respect and value their parents, kiss their hands and feet, their children also respect and hold them in high esteem.

Some people say that during their age they respected and valued their parents, kissed their hands and foreheads, now their children also extend maximum respect to them. My son Talha, who is studying in England these days, once came home during vacation and said to me, "Dear father, I have come home with the intention that I will massage you at least three times a day." Usually children press the feet of elders at night. I have a personal experience that if you are sick or tired and the children press your body, you feel refreshed in a few minutes. The sickness and pain in your muscles and joints is fairly reduced.

You should tell your children about their grandma and grandpa, both maternal and paternal, and about the ties of kindred. Brief them on the Divine Injunctions as to the rank and status of their elders. Inculcate in them love for elders. Serve your parents in front of your children so that you may become a role model for them.

Provide the necessities of life to your parents with your own hands. For instance, you can make the bed for them in a tidy way, polish their shoes and iron their clothes yourself. It's just possible you have got a maid-servant or you have a daughter or your wife who can do the job, but the pleasure you may feel by performing this service with your own hands is nonpareil. This way you will observe how close you get to the heart of your parents. Make sure you keep your appointment with them. If you have committed to seeing them at a particular time, try to keep this commitment at any cost. However, if it is not possible because of unforeseen circumstances, inform them about it. You definitely achieve many successes in your life. You should attribute all such achievements and successes to your parents whose prayers and

proper upbringing have made you worthy of all that. The parents feel extremely glad and proud when they see in their life the fruits of their efforts in their childrens' upbringing. The successes of children are in fact the successes of their parents.

Let them be the first to know about your achievement or promotion. Share with them your successes and secrets. They will be filled with sheer happiness. Moreover, it will take you closer to their heart. They will realize that their son is obedient to them even at that age. Take it as a foremost responsibility to ensure the medical treatment of your parents, and arrange required instruments and medicines for them. If they have blood pressure or suffer from diabetes, have their regular check-ups by a qualified physician. If finances are available, buy machines for measuring and recording their blood pressure and sugar. Learn for yourself the use of such devices. Just imagine how much satisfied you feel while holding the hand of your parents requesting them to let you check their blood pressure or while asking their permission to measure their blood sugar level. This takes hardly a few minutes but it will leave them overwhelmed by feelings of love for you.

They say old age is a disease in itself. Thus you should arrange monthly check-up of your parents, get an appointment for them to see the doctor. Their regular medical check-ups will assure both you and them of their health. Suppose their medical reports are okay, pay thanks to Allah Almighty besides sharing with them that doctors have given them a clean bill of health. Tell them, "Thank God you enjoy a good health. According to your reports, the condition of your health is good and satisfying. By the Grace of God, you do not suffer from any disease. You are quite well." If, God forbid, they have a serious medical condition, we need not tell them everything. We may blow over them day and night Quranic verses and holy formulae recommended by the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). We may blow over them after reading Surah Fatiha. God willing, they will get relief. If they have pain in some part of the body, we may massage that part gently.

Console them that there is nothing to be worried about and that God-willing, they will soon regain health. Don't relate any saddening accounts to them. For example it is altogether inadvisable to tell them that such and such a friend and relative of yours died of the same disease as theirs. Instead help them find courage saying that's life. Everybody is vulnerable to some health condition. This disease that they suffer from will insha-Allah do penance for their sins. In a matter of a few days they will fully recover.

Three Potent Prayers



Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said that three supplications (prayers) are sure to be answered, without a shadow of doubt:

The prayer of an oppressed person

The prayer of the father for his child

The prayer of a traveler

Imam Hassan Al-Basri was asked as to what parents should seek in prayer for their children. He replied that they should pray that Allah might grant their children deliverance in the Hereafter. Then the questioner asked what would be the curse of parents at their children. He replied seeking their ruin.

Fitting Punishment for a Cruel Son

His extremely rich father had died leaving a considerable fortune. After his death, the only son remained very dutiful to the mother. From the inheritance that he received from the father he served the mother to the maximum possible extent and spent a lot of amount on her care.

Then one day he got married. Now he was a married young man with a wife who lived with him in all her splendor. Though his wife was pretty, her attitude towards others was very bad. She crossed all limits of selfishness and self-interested behavior. Anything that was not in her interest was irrelevant and insignificant to her. Thus she treated her mother-in-law very rudely and made her life miserable. She did not desist from abusing her verbally.

It so happened, as God willed, that her mother-in-law became epileptic. Now, as it were, she was at the mercy of the daughter-in-law who was rude, impudent and apathetic towards her. The daughter-in-law felt her existence as a cumbersome burden. So one day she told her husband,

"It's time for you to make a choice between me and your mother. I can no more live with your mamma."



The son made every possible effort to persuade her to be resigned to live together in peace, but his wife was not at all inclined to listen. He was left with two unpleasant choices -- part from the mother or separate from the wife. He thought over the choice for quite some time. At last he concluded that he should live with the wife instead of the mother.

The wicked Devil made his decision pleasing to him and so he was prepared to part with the mother who must have faced many hardships in raising him.

It was a severely cold night. In order to carry out his devilish plan, he made the mother go upstairs and then pushed her down the roof.

The feeble old mother was groaning with pain on the ground taking last breaths. Her grievance was against the piece of her own heart, the benighted and stone-hearted son, who had thrown her down so mercilessly.

It is the practice of culprits and hypocrites that they try to cover up their dark deeds in the veil of good acts. That son did the same. After his mother's funeral rites, he arranged a gathering so that people might come and offer their condolences over the loss, and pray for the bereaved son that Allah might grant him