

ISLAMIC STUDY CIRCLE

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Respect for Parents in Islam

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Respect for Parents in Islam

Qur'anic Verses

1. Be kind to your parents and relatives and orphan, and those in need and speak nicely to people. (*Surah No 2, Al-Baqarah, Verse 83*)
2. Your Lord has ordered that you worship none but Him and (show) kindness to your parents, whether either of them or both of them attain old age in your life, never say to them "Uff" nor be harsh to them, but speak to them kindly. And serve them with tenderness and humility and say: My Lord, have mercy on them, just as they cared for me in childhood. (*Surah No 17, Bani Israel, Verses 23-24*)

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Qur'anic Verses

3. We have made it a duty on man to be kind to his parents, but if they try to make you to associate anything with Me, which you have no knowledge of, (by following them blindly) do not obey them. To Me is your return and I shall tell you what you used to do. (*Surah No 29, Al Ankabut, Verse No 8*)
4. And we have made it a duty for man to be good to his parents. His mother bears him with strain upon strain while his utter dependence on her lasted two years. Hence be grateful to Me and to your parents (and remember that) toward Me lies the goal. (*Surah No 31, Luqman, Verse 14*)

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Sayings of the Prophet (Peace be upon him)

1. A man asked the Prophet,
"O Messenger of Allah! Who deserves the best care from me?"
The Prophet said, "Your mother"
The man asked, "Who then?"
The Prophet said, "Your mother"
The man asked again, "Who then?"
The Prophet said, "Your mother"
The man asked once again, "Who then?"
The Prophet said, "Your father"

Reported by Abu Hurairah - Bukhari & Muslim

2. A father's pleasure is Allah's pleasure and a father's displeasure is Allah's displeasure.

Reported by Abdullah bin Amr - Tirmidhi

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Sayings of the Prophet (Peace be upon him)

3. One day Jahima (a Sahabi) came to the Prophet (Peace be upon him) and said,
"O Messenger of Allah! I desire to go for a Jihad and I have come to consult you."

The Prophet said, "Is your mother alive?"

He said, "Yes."

The Prophet said, "Go and stay with her, for Paradise is at her feet."

Reported by Muawiah bin Jahima - Nasai & Baihiqi

4. A man asked the Prophet,

"O Messenger of Allah! What are the duties of children toward their parents?"

The Prophet replied, "Your parents are Heaven and Hell for you."

Reported by Abu Umamah - Ibn Majah

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Sayings of the Prophet (Peace be upon him)

5. The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said;

"When an obedient and caring son (or daughter) looks toward his/her parents with kindness, Allah grants him/her the reward of an accepted Hajj."

The Sahabah asked, "What happens if someone looks toward his parents 100 times a day?"

The Prophet replied, "Allah is Greatest and Holy, He grants such a person rewards of 100 Hajj."

Reported by Abdullah bin Abbas - Mishkat

6. The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said'

"Allah forgives as many sins as He wishes to forgive but He does not forgive the sin of someone disobeying their parents. Indeed such a person is punished by Allah in this world before his death."

Reported by Abu Bakrah - Mishkat

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Sayings of the Prophet (Peace be upon him)

7. The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said;

"One day during my sleep, I entered the heavens (in dream) and I heard someone reciting the Quran therein. I asked the Angels, 'Who is reciting the Quran?' The Angels replied, 'This is Harisah bin Numan (a Sahabi).'"

The Prophet then stated the reason why Harisah attained such a status and excellence and said; "This is the excellence and reward someone gets in exchange for being kind and good to his/her parents, and indeed Harisah was very kind to his mother."

Reported by Hazrat Ayesha - Mishkat & Baihiqi

8. The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said'

"Abusing and denouncing the parents is among the major sins."

The Sahabah asked, "O Messenger of Allah! How can someone denounce his own parents?"

The Prophet replied, "By denouncing the parents of others for they in turn might denounce your parents."

Reported by Abdullah bin Umar - Bukhari & Muslim

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Duties of children to their Parents

1. To show love and gratitude to them
2. To speak to them with kindness and respect
3. To strive to do everything that would please them
4. To offer good advice and guidance to them when it is needed especially if they are not Muslims or if they are not practising Muslims
5. To avoid any angry expression or reaction to them
6. To refrain from disobeying them
7. To look after their needs especially when they become old, not to show any signs of distaste when they are sick
8. To continue to pray for them and to ask Allah to forgive them even after they have died
9. To fulfil, after their death, any contracts they might have left
10. To maintain contact with and be kind to their friends

THE STORY OF ALQAMAH

"Shall I not tell you," asked the noble Prophet, "of the gravest of the major sins? It is to associate others with God and to disobey parents."

There was a young man at the time of the Prophet, Alqamah by name. He devoted himself to worship, performing Salaat, fasting and giving charity. He became seriously ill and his wife, in great distress, went to the Prophet and said:

"My husband is critically ill and I want to tell you of his condition, O Messenger of God."

The Prophet summoned three of his trusted companions — Bilaal, Suhayb and 'Ammar — and told them:

"Go to Alqamah and let him recite the Shahadah."

They went and found him in a critical state and tried to make him say the Shahadah — "La ilaaha illa Allah" — but the words would not come from his tongue. They reported this to the Prophet who then asked:

"Is any of his parents alive?" and was told that his mother was, but that she was very old. The Prophet sent someone to ask her to come to him if she could; if however she was not able, he himself would go to her. Her immediate response, showing how much she respected the Prophet, was:

"By my life, I am the one who should go to him." Slowly, with her walking stick, she proceeded to the Prophet. She greeted him and he returned the greeting of peace and said to her:

"Tell me the truth... How has your son Alqamah been?"

"Messenger of God," she said, "he performs much Salaat, fasts and gives a great deal in charity."

"And how are you (to him)?"

"Messenger of God, I am angry with him."

"Why?"

"O Messenger of God, he preferred his wife against me and disobeyed me."

Thereupon the Prophet said, "The anger of Alqamah's mother has certainly prevented Alqamah's tongue from uttering the Shahadah." He then asked Bilaal to gather a huge bundle of firewood.

"Messenger of God, what will you do?" asked Alqamah's mother.

"I will burn him in the fire right in front of you."

"O Messenger of God! My son! My heart cannot bear that he should be burnt before my eyes."

"Mother of Alqamah! God's (punishment) is more severe and long lasting. If you really want God to forgive him, then show that you are pleased with him. By Him in whose hand is my soul, Alqamah will not benefit from his Prayer, his fasting and his charity so long as you remain angry with him."

"O Messenger of God! I call God to witness and the angels and those Muslims who are present here with me, that I am pleased with my son Alqamah."

Thereafter Alqamah's tongue was released and he repeated the words of the Shahadah — 'I testify that there is no deity but God and I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of God.' That very day he passed away. The Prophet himself performed the Janaazah (Funeral) Prayer and reminded the Muslims of the gravity of the sin of making a mother angry and the rewards of keeping her satisfaction and pleasure.

Reported by Abdullah bin Aufa - Tibrani