



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

Kindness to parents

Compiled by Dr Rateb Jneid

From the moment you are born, throughout your childhood and adult hood, there will only ever be two people who will always be by your side- your parents. Your parents are the ones who have taught you right from wrong, who fed you, put a roof over your head and clothes on your back. They were the ones who offered you safety from the world, laughed with you during the good times and protected you during the hardships. Our parents are the ones who support us academically and financially and above all are the only ones who will always direct us towards what is good for us.

However, in today's world children are growing up and mistreating their parents. They are arguing with them over the most trivial of issues, raising their voices in the presence of their parents and avoiding them, preferring to spend time with friends or online. As we grow older in age so do our parents and instead of pushing them to the side and neglecting our duty to our parents, we should be praying to Allah subhanahu wa tala, to grant our parents long life and good health so that we can learn from their wisdom and enjoy their company and to make Du'a for them as Allah Ta'ala taught us in the Qur'an:

وقل رب ارحمهما كما ربياني صغيراً (الإسراء 24)

And say: My Lord have Mercy upon them as they raised me when I was small (Qur'an 17:24)

Kindness to parents is the dearest deed to Allah, after Prayer. The Prophet *sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam* was asked: "Which deed is the dearest to Allah? (In another narration it was said: which deed is the best?) He replied: "**Performing prayer on time.**" It was then asked: What is next? He said: "**Kindness to parents.**" It was then asked: What is next? He said: "**Striving in the path of Allah.**" (Bukhari & Muslim)

Therefore, kindness to parents is given priority over "Striving" in the path of Allah, this begins to indicate our great duty towards our parents.

Kindness to parents, includes doing every possible righteous deed for them that you can and refraining from doing anything that may hurt them. This is how to be grateful to them. Allah said:

أن اشكر لي ولوالديك [سورة الإسراء:24]

"Show gratitude to Me and to your parents." (Quran 31:14)

Therefore, your being grateful to Allah Almighty and to your parents, should be represented in your obedience to them and in looking after them, because they sacrificed their souls, wealth and health for your sake.



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Allah Almighty Said:

(وقضى ربك ألا تعبدوا إلا إياه وبالوالدين إحساناً إما يبلغن عندك الكبر أحدهما أو كلاهما فلا تقل لهما أف ولا تنهرهما وقل لهما قولاً كريماً) (سورة الإسراء: 22-24).

"And Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind to your parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor. "(Quran 17:23)

Allah Almighty the faithful to be dutiful to their parents, Allah made parents the means of your entry into this world. Allah joins the order to worship Him with being dutiful to parents in many places in the Quran.

You should listen to their directions and obey them in doing good. When one of them orders you to do something, you should reply as *Isma'il* replied to his father *Ibrahim* **"O my father! do as you are commanded"**. (*surat l-şafat*)

You should address your parents gently and politely and consult them in your affairs and make many supplications for them and ask Allah to forgive them and raise their rank. You should not raise your voice in their presence, nor look at them angrily or with contempt. You should not wave with your hands when you talk to them, nor interrupt them when they speak. You should not argue with them nor tell them lies.

Your parents are the most compassionate of all people to you and the most forbearing of your faults. Many times, they overlook your mistakes and forgive you.

Beware of mistreating your mother. "A man came to the Prophet *sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam* and asked: *Which of the people is most deserving of my good companionship?* He replied: **"It is your mother."** He said: *Who is next?* He replied: **"It is your mother."** He said: *Who is next?* He said: **"It is your mother."** He asked: *Who is next?* The Prophet *sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam* answered: **"then your father."** (*Bukhari*).

Your mother has great rights over you. You should be a good kind to her and should spend as much time as possible with her. This is the way that leads to your happiness in this world and in Hereafter.

Abdullah ibn Omar, a leading scholar from among Prophet Muhammed's companions once saw a man carrying his mother on his back and going around the Holy House in Mecca. He did not complain or show any signs of annoyance; rather he kept repeating a line of poetry comparing himself to a camel. He looked at Abdullah ibn Omar and asked him whether by so doing he discharged his debt to his mother. Ibn Omar said, "No. You have not even paid back

one twinge of the pain she felt when giving birth to you". That was the understanding of the Prophet Muhammed's companions.

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Sydney (Head Office): 932 Bourke Street, Zetland, NSW 2017

Melbourne: 66-68 Jeffcott Street, West Melbourne VIC 3003

Canberra: 21/41 Liardet Street, Weston ACT 2611

Perth: 17 Mercantile Way, Malaga WA 6090

W: afic.com.au **E:** admin@afic.com.au **PH:** (02) 9319 6733



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The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam*, asked us to show kindness to our parents after their death. Abu Usaid Malik bin Rabi`ah As-Sa`idi *May Allah be pleased with him* reported: ***We were sitting with the Messenger of Allah sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam when a man of Banu Salamah came to him and asked, "O Messenger of Allah! Is there any obedience to parents left that I can show to them after their death?" He, sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam replied, "Yes, to pray for them, to supplicate for their forgiveness, to fulfill their promises after their death, to maintain the ties of kinship which cannot be maintained except through them and honour their friends."***

A man came to Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam*, and said: ***"A young man is dying and people are asking him to say there is no god but God, but he is unable to do so. "The Prophet then asked, "Did this man offer prayers?" The answer was yes. The Prophet then went to see the man and tried to encourage him to say there is no god but God. Still he was unable to pronounce the words. Prophet Muhammad then called for the dying man's mother. The mother he had persistently disobeyed.***

When she appeared, the Prophet asked, "Respected lady, is he your son?" She replied yes. He then asked: "O respected lady, if we threaten to throw your son into a raging fire, would you recommend him to be forgiven?" The lady replied that she would definitely ask for him to be forgiven. The Prophet then said to her, "Then declare, making God and me your witnesses, that you are now pleased with him." The old woman readily declared, "O God, you and your Prophet are my witnesses that I am pleased with this beloved son of mine." The Prophet then turned to the dying man and asked him to recite, "There is no god but God, He is the One and has no partners and I witness that Muhammed is His Servant and Messenger." (At Tabarani, Ahmad)

Because of his mother's forgiveness, the dying man was able to recite the words that, by the Grace and Mercy of God, would allow him to enter Paradise. The good treatment of parents can be the key to Paradise, on the other hand, bad behaviour towards them may result in a punishment in the hellfire.

Here are a number of ways to honour and respect our parents after they have passed:

- Make dua (prayer) for them
- Give charity in their name
- Initiate a perpetual charity in their name – such as a Masjid, an Islamic Library, an Islamic hospital, an orphanage, a water well etc.
- Perform Hajj and Umra on their behalf

We ask Allah Almighty to guide us, to be kind to our parents, and to bestow His Mercy upon them and forgive them. Ameen

Dr Rateb Jneid
President

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