

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَ  
بِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا ۖ إِنَّمَا يُبَلِّغَنَّ عِندَكَ  
الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا  
أُفٍّ وَلَا تَنْهَرهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا  
كَرِيمًا ﴿٢٣﴾

وَ اخْفِضْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذُّلِّ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ  
وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيْنِي  
صَغِيرًا ﴿٢٤﴾

رَبُّكُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا فِي نُفُوسِكُمْ ۗ إِنَّ  
تَكُونُوا صَالِحِينَ فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ لِلأَوَّابِينَ  
غُفُورًا ﴿٢٥﴾

وَاتِ ذَا الْقُرْبَىٰ حَقَّهُ وَالْمِسْكِينَ وَابْنَ  
السَّبِيلِ وَلَا تُبَذِّرْ تَبْذِيرًا ﴿٢٦﴾

## Rights of Parents in Islam by Dr. Umer Farooq

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Dear brothers and sisters, in these verses, Allah commanded us to worship only Allah and then after this Allah says to serve your parents, to treat your parents with kindness and with respect.

Once a person asked to Holy Prophet (peace be upon him): "Which is the most favoured deed in the sight of Allah?" He said, "Prayer at its (mustahabb: preferred) time." The person asked again, "Which is the most favoured deed after that?" Prophet (PBUH) replied, "Treating parents well. "

Abdullah ibn Abbas reported that the Prophet (PBUH) said, "An obedient son who looks at his parents with mercy and affection receives the reward of one accepted Hajj (pilgrimage) against every such look. Sahaba asked, "What if he look them like that a hundred times during the day?" Prophet (PBUH) replied, "Yes, a hundred times too (he will keep receiving that reward).

**Treating with Non-Muslim Parents:** Islam has ordered us to pay respect to parents by their children even if the parents are non-Muslims. They are still parents and gave birth to them and brought up them by bearing the same pains and hardships which are faced by Muslim parents. Consequently, instead of the

religious differences, it is the duty of Muslim children to serve and treat them with kindness, respect and devotion. Allah (swt) says in Surah Luqman:

وَإِنْ جَاهَدَكَ عَلَىٰ أَنْ تُشْرِكَ بِي مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ  
بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعْهُمَا وَصَاحِبُهُمَا فِي  
الدُّنْيَا مَعْرُوفًا ۗ وَاتَّبِعْ سَبِيلَ مَنْ أَنَابَ

But if they ordered you to associate with Allah do not obey them but accompany them in [this] world with appropriate kindness.

Once the Sayyidah Asma asked the Holy Prophet (PBUH), "My mother, is a Mushrik and she comes to see me. Is it permissible for me to entertain her?"

Prophet (PBUH) replied "respect the bond of relationship with your mother and entertain her.

Dear brothers and sisters, **treating well with father** has lots of rewards. **Abu Darda** reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "A father is the main gate of Paradise. Now it is up to you to preserve or waste it."

In another Hadith, **Prophet said, The pleasure of Allah is in the pleasure of a father and the displeasure of Allah in the displeasure of a father."**

Once a man complained to the Holy Prophet about his father who took away his [money &] belongings whenever he liked. The Prophet (pbuh) called his father, who was a very old man, and asked him the details of the matter. He said, "O' Messenger of Allah, there was a time when he (the son) was weak and helpless while I had strength and wealth. I never hesitated to give him my belongings whenever he needed them. Today I am weak, while he is rich and now he keeps his belongings from me." Hearing this, tears came to the eyes of the Prophet, and he said to the son, "You and your belongings belong to your father. You and your belongings belong to your father."

**The verse which I have recited before, Allah says in Surrah Bani-Israel.** Allah has commanded, "Worship only Allah, and *show* kindness to parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age with, never say unto them any word of disgust nor reproach them, but address them with excellent speech. And show them humbleness. And say, 'My Lord, have mercy on them even as they nourished me in *my* childhood. Your Lord knows best what is in your minds; if you are righteous, then surely, He is Most Forgiving to those who turn *to Him* again and again. And give to the kinsman (blood relatives) his due, and to the poor and the wayfarer, and squander not *thy wealth* extravagantly (17:23).

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Dear brothers and sisters, the old age of parents, when they become helpless and depend on children for everything they need and their life is at the mercy of children. It is a terrible condition for them. The slightest indifference, slightest disobedience shown by children at such a time breaks their heart. At the old age, the physical illness and diseases also make our parents irritable. Almighty Allah aware of such conditions and he ordered the children to provide them comfort and reminds them of their own childhood. When the children were helpless and depending on their parents. Allah has given some important instructions relating to the old age of parents, Allah says:-

1. Do not say even 'uff' to them. Uff covers every word or expression that shows one's displeasure. Even if someone breathing a long breath after hearing something from parents, dear brothers and sisters it is also included under this word 'uff'. In a Hadith narrated by Caliph Ali, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said which means, the thing that hurts parents in the lowest of the low degree is forbidden.

2. **“Do not behave them badly”**: This is the second instruction. 3. **“Address them with respectable words”** - Talk to them softly with love, grace and concern for them. Sa'id ibn Mussaiyyab said, like a slave talking to his strict master!

4. “Submit yourself before them in humbleness and modesty” - This is the fourth instruction. 5. **When the parents died**, pray to Allah for their mercy by saying, "My Lord, be merciful to them".

Allah says in Surra-Al-Baqara verse 83.

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ لَا  
تَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ ۖ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا  
وَوَالِدِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ  
وَقُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ حُسْنًا ۚ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ  
وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ ۖ ثُمَّ تَوَلَّيْتُمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا  
مِّنْكُمْ وَأَنتُمْ مُّعْرِضُونَ ﴿٨٤﴾

And *remember the time* when We took a promise from the children of Israel: ‘You shall worship *nothing* but Allah and *show* kindness to parents and to kindred and orphans and the poor, and speak to men kindly and observe Prayer, and pay the Zakat;’ then you turned away in aversion, except a few of you. (2-83)

Once a man said to the Prophet (PBUH) “I promised with you for Hijra or emigration and working in the way of Allah for seeking reward.” The Prophet said, “Are one of your parents living?” He said, “Yes, both are living.” Prophet said,

**“Do you seek reward from Allah?” He said, “Yes.” He said, “Then return to your parents and treat them with good company.”**

Abdullah ibn Umar reported that a person presented himself before the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in order to have his permission to participate in Jihad. He asked him, "Are your parents alive?" He submitted, "Yes, they are." Prophet said, Then you carry out Jihad (by serving them both).

Once a man came to Prophet and said that "I am coming for Hijra- emigration while my parents were crying at home. The Prophet (PBUH) replied return to them and make them laugh.

Dear brothers and sisters, you all heard that famous hadith in which the Prophet said, "While three persons were walking, rain began to fall and they had to enter a cave in a mountain. A big rock rolled over and blocked the mouth of the cave. They said to each other, 'Make dua to Allah by remembering the best deed you have performed, (so that Allah might remove the rock)'. "

And one of them said, 'O Allah! My parents were old and I used to go out with my animals. On my return I would milk (the animals) and take the milk in a vessel for

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my parents to drink. After they had drunk from it, I would give it to my children, family and wife. One day I was delayed and on my return I found my parents were sleeping, and I disliked to wake them up. The children were crying at my feet (because of hunger). That state continued till the sun rises and my parents wake up. O Allah! If You regard that I did it for Your sake, then please remove this rock so that we may see the sky.' So, the rock was moved a bit.

It is reported that a person came to the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) and submitted, "O messenger of God I have committed a very big sin and buried my daughter alive when I was an unbeliever. So please show me a good deed that may result in my forgiveness by Allah." The Prophet asked, "Is your mother alive?" He replied in the negative. The Holy Prophet then asked, "Is your mother's sister alive?" He said, "Yes." The Prophet said, "Go and behave nicely with your aunt. Then the Holy Prophet added, "It would have been better that his mother been alive," because good behaviour with mother is very effective in removing consequences of big sins.

The Prophet (PBUH) said, Three supplications are surely acceptable: the supplication of the oppressed, the traveler and the parents for their children.



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Abu Hurairah related that the Prophet (PBUH) said. "There are four people who will never enter into the paradise as Allah declared 1) a drunker, 2) a usurer, 3) he who taken the orphan's property without a legal cause and 4) he who shows disrespect to one's parents (Al-Hakim).

وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَ  
بِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَبِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ  
وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَالْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ  
وَالْجَارِ الْجُنُبِ وَالصَّاحِبِ بِالْجَنبِ وَابْنِ  
السَّبِيلِ ۗ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ  
لَا يُحِبُّ مَن كَانَ مُخْتَالًا فَخُورًا ﴿١٣١﴾

And worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and *show* kindness to parents, and to relatives, and orphans, and the needy, and to the neighbour that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger, and the companion by *your* side, and the wayfarer, and those whom your right hands possess. Surely, Allah does not love the proud *and* the arrogant

Imam Qurtubi says that, in the above verse Allah has made it necessary (wajib) to respect and treat parents well by combining it with the command to worship Allah.

This is similar to what Allah said in Surah Luqman verse 13 & 14

وَإِذْ قَالَ لُقْمَانُ لِابْنِهِ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُ يَا بُنَيَّ لَا  
تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ ۗ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٣﴾  
وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ ۖ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ  
وَهَنَّا عَلَىٰ وَهْنٍ ۖ وَفِضْلُهُ فِي عَامَيْنِ أَنِ  
اشْكُرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيْكَ ۗ إِلَىٰ الْمَصِيرِ ﴿١٤﴾

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And *remember* when Luqman said to his son while encouraging him, ‘O my dear son! Do not associate any partner with Allah. Surely, associating partners *with Allah* is a great sin. And We have ordered on man concerning his parents.

In this verse the Allah commanded to be grateful to Allah and to his parents. This proves that, after obligation of worshipping the most exalted Allah, obeying parents is most important and being grateful to parents like being grateful to Allah is wajib (necessary). This has its confirmation in the Hadith of Sahih al-Bukhari.

Abdullah bin Umar asked the Prophet "Which deed is the dearest to Allah?" He replied, "To offer the prayers at their early stated fixed times." I asked, "What is the next (in goodness)?" He replied, "To be good and dutiful to your parents." I again asked, "What is the next (in goodness)?" He replied, "To participate in Jihad (straggle) in the way of Allah

**Dear brothers and sisters, it is a great sin to misbehave and disobey our parents.** The Prophet was asked about the great sins. Prophet (PBUH) said, They are:-To join others in worship with Allah, To be undutiful to one's parents, To kill a person (which Allah has forbidden to kill), And to give a false witness." (Bukhari 3-821)

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Prophet (PBUH) also said, "As for all those other sins, Allah can postpone the azab till the day of Judgment but the sin of behaving bad with the parents, disobeying the parents cannot be delayed. Allah started his punishment in this world and much of punishment is also awaiting on the Akhara.

Prophet (PBUH) also said, May Allah curse or send lana on those who insult or abuses his father or mother (Imam Ahmad).

Prophet (PBUH) also said. "It is one of the greatest sins that a man should curse his parents." It was asked (by the people), "O Allah's! How does a man curse his parents?" The Prophet said, "The man abuses the father of another man and the latter abuses the father of the former and abuses his mother." (Bukhari 8:4)

This means if someone abuses the parents of others, he is actually abusing his own parents.

Dear brothers and sisters, spending on parents has also lots of reward and ajer.

Allah says in Quran

يَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا يُنْفِقُونَ ۗ قُلْ مَا أَنْفَقْتُمْ  
مِّنْ خَيْرٍ فَلِلَّوَالِدَيْنِ وَالْأَقْرَبِينَ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ  
وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ ۗ وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا  
مِّنْ خَيْرٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٢١٥﴾

**They ask you as to what they should spend. Say, "Whatever you spend of good is [to be] for parents and relatives and orphans and the needy and the traveler. And whatever you do of good - indeed, Allah is Knowing of it."**

In Hadith, Prophet (PBUH) instructed sahaba to do ten things by saying, **First, Do not associate anything with Allah even if you are killed and burnt on that account.**

**Second, don't be disobedient to your parents even if they command you to abandon your family and your property (Tirmizi 14)**

Dear brothers and sisters, treating well with parents is not only limited to their life.

Our religion instructed us to do it also after their death. But how we can treat well

with parents after their death? **It has been reported from Abdullah ibn Umar that the**

**Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, the noblest regard one can show to a father after his**

**death is to treat well with his friends (Bukhari).**

And Abu Usayd al-Badri reports that he was sitting with the Holy Prophet (PBUH) when an Ansari came and asked, "O, Prophet, does some right of my parents remain on me even after they have died?" Prophet (PBUH) said, Yes. Praying and seeking forgiveness for them, fulfilling the promises they had made to someone, being kind and respectful to their friends and showing mercy and generosity to their blood relatives. These are the rights of your parents still due against you, even after them.

Abdullah bin Dinar reported that Abdullah bin `Umar met a bedouin on his way to Makkah, he greeted him, offered him to mount the donkey he was riding and gave him the turban he was wearing on his head. Ibn Dinar said to him: "May Allah make you pious! Bedouins can be satisfied with giving him anything (i.e., what you have given the bedouin is too much). Upon this, `Abdullah bin `Umar said, the father of this man was one of my fathers friends whom he loved, and I heard Messenger of Allah saying, "The finest act of goodness is the good treatment with someone whom one's father loves".

**Dear Brothers and sisters,** although Islam recognizes both parents, mothers have given particular gratitude and respect. This attitude of Islam is better understood if we realize the hardships and suffering that mothers experience in their lives.

The Prophet (PBUH) said Your Heaven lies under the feet of your mother

(Ahmad)

Once a man came to the Prophet and said, 'O Messenger of God! Who among the people is the most worthy of my good company? The Prophet said: Your mother.

The man said, 'Then who?' The Prophet said: Then your mother. The man further

asked, 'Then who?' The Prophet said: Then your mother. The man asked again,

'Then who?' The Prophet said: Then your father. (Bukhari, Muslim).

As a matter of fact, the importance of one's mother is exemplified by the following hadith:

Once, when the Holy Prophet was talking to his companions a man came and addressed him, "O Messenger of Allah! A young man is dying. People are asking him to recite Shadada but he is unable to do so. Then the Prophet (PBUH) went to the house of the dying man. The Messenger of Allah advised him to offer the kalimah. The man indicated that he was unable to do so as the words could not come out of his mouth.

Prophet (PBUH) then called the mother of the dying man whom he had disobeyed persistently throughout his life. When his old mother came, the Holy Prophet

asked, "Respected lady, is he your son?" She replied Yes. Propeht (PBUH) asked her "O respected lady, if we threaten to throw your son in a fire, will you accept this or will you forgive him?" The Lady replied that she would definitely forgive him. The Holy Prophet then said to her, "If so, making Allah and me your witnesses, declare that you are now pleased with him!" The old woman readily declared, "O ' Allah, You and your Messenger be my witness that I am pleased with this beloved son of mine."

The Holy Prophet turned to the dying man and asked him to recite Shahada. By the virtue of the forgiveness of his mother he found the words flowing out of his mouth and he recited the Kalimah. Seeing this, the Holy Prophet praised Almighty Allah and thanked Allah by saying, "Thanks to Allah that He saved this man from the fearful fire of Hell through me." (Tabarani, Ahmad)

A man once came to the Prophet (pbuh) and sought his advice about taking part in the Holy War (Jihad) with him. The Holy Prophet asked him whether his mother was alive? He answered in the affirmative. The Holy Prophet then told him. "Go back home and serve her as heaven is under her feet." (Ibn-e-Majah, Nasai)



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Dear brothers and sisters, fact is that mother deserves service, love, submission, obedience and gratitude from the children more than the father. This is because a mother generally makes more sacrifices and faces greater hardships than a father while bringing up the children. She feeds them and takes care of them by sacrificing her comforts in the day and her sleep in the night without any greed. This devotion is lifelong. This is the reason why the Holy Qur'an has given more importance to the mother and stressed upon the children to be more considerate and submissive to her in comparison with the father.

Once a person came to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and complained that his mother was ill tempered. The Holy Messenger said, "She was not ill tempered when she kept you in her womb for nine months." The person insisted and saying "I am telling you the truth that she is ill-tempered." The Holy Prophet said, "She was not ill-tempered when she used to keep awake the whole night for your sake and feed you." Then that man said, I have compensated all these favors of my mother", The Prophet then asked, "How have you compensated her? That person replied, "I have helped her to perform hajj by putting her on my shoulders,". The Holy Prophet then stated, "Can you also return the pains which your mother face at the time of your birth?"

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Dear brothers and sisters, Prophet (PBUH) often said, I wish I have my mother and when I stood for the prayer of Isha and started to recite Surrah Al-Fatiha, then I heard the voice of my mother by saying "Mohammad" and I wish to break my salah just for the sake of my mother and give her answer.

When Prophet (PBUH) went on the Mairaj, he heard the voice of Harisa Bin Nauman in Jannah. Prophet asked to angels Harisa is in Mecca but how I heard his voice. Then angels replied Hairsa take care of his mother too much and Allah ordered us whenever Harisa recited Quran then whole people of Jannah will hear his voice.

Prophet (PBUH) once asked to Umer Al-Khitab. Prophet asked, Umer in your life one person will come. His name will be Owais, his tribe will be Amir, his family will be Kern and his complexion will be black, his height will be medium and on his back there will be one white sign. When you will meet him, then requested him to pray for you. Umer said why I asked him for prayer. Prophet (PBUH) replied He served his mother a lot and when he raised his hand for prayer then Allah never reject his prayers. Dear brothers and sisters, Allah never rejects the prayers of those people who extraordinary served their parents with kindness and respect. But how we know this? Who are men of Kroners and dollars, living in Trondheim, far away

from the parents? Sending them kroners and satisfied that our parents are happy without us.

Dear brothers and sisters, when mother of Prophet (PBUH) died, the age of our Prophet was only six years. Prophet, his mother Amna and Umme-Aimen were going to Medina when his mother was died at the place of ABWA. In the book of Seera, its writen when mother of Prophet was dying, our Prophet was crying and saying Ama, Ama. I have no other except you. You are the only one for me.

Then his mother gathered her all strength and told him, My son, the time of my death is come, but I believe a day will come when you will enlighten the whole world and whole world will get light from you. Amna was died. After 57 years, when our Prophet was going to perform his last Hajj. The whole caravan travelled through the way of Abwa. Prophet (PBUH) ordered the people to place their tents at the same area where his mother was died and he himself went to the grave of her mother and then sahaba see, the Prophet cried a lot. He placed his head in his laps and cried like a child by saying Ama, Ama.

Dear brothers and sisters, this is the eve of Eid, most of us are far from their parents and missing them. Lucky are those whose parents are living with them, this is the

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time to get Jannah by serving them. Prophet (PBUH) said, "your parents are your Paradise and your Hell." We can get Jannah by treating them and we can also get fire by disobeying them.

Prophet (peace be upon him) once said: Disgraced is he, disgraced is he, disgraced is he.' The Sahaba said: 'O, Prophet, who is disgraced?' He said: 'The person who found his father and mother, or one of them, in old age and still he did not enter the Paradise (Muslim 1160).

For those of us that have lost one or both parents there are still actions that can be taken to honor them. Make daily Du'a' for them, give charity on their behalf or in their name to Masjid and Islamic schools, read Qur'an on their behalf, distribute Islamic literature in their name. Abu Huraira ® reported from the Prophet (PBUH) that Allah shall raise the position of a pious person in Jannah. He shall ask, "O my Rabb! Why have you done this?" Allah will give him answer that it is due to Istighfar from your child who they did for you." Let us pray that we will all do our best to respect our parents, honor them, be kind to them, help them, and please them for the love of Allah.

وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيْنِي  
صَغِيرًا

رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي <sup>ط</sup>

رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءِ ﴿٣٠﴾

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ

يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ ﴿٣١﴾

فَتَبَسَّمَ ضَاحِكًا مِّن قَوْلِهَا وَقَالَ رَبِّ

أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ

عَلَيَّ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا

تَرْضَاهُ وَأَدْخِلْنِي بِرَحْمَتِكَ فِي عِبَادِكَ

الصَّالِحِينَ ﴿٣٢﴾