

The Rank of a
Mother

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Thought-provoking speech of weekly
sunnah-inspiring ijtimia

(For Islamic Brothers)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Rank of a Mother

وَعَلَى الْإِلَهِ وَأَصْحَبِكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ
وَعَلَى الْإِلَهِ وَأَصْحَبِكَ يَا نُورَ اللَّهِ

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ
الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ

نَوَيْتُ سُنَّتَ الْإِعْتِكَافِ

Translation: “I have made the intention of Sunnah *i'tikāf*.”

Dear Islamic brothers, whenever you enter a masjid, make the intention of *i'tikāf*, for you will be rewarded as long as you stay in the masjid. Remember, inside a masjid, there is no *shar'ī* permission to eat and drink, sleep or have suhoor and iftar, and not even to drink Zamzam water and the water on which *dam* has been made. However, if the intention of *i'tikāf* is made, all these acts will become permissible. One should not make intention to observe *i'tikāf* only to eat, drink or sleep, but rather he should do it for pleasing Allah Almighty.

It is stated in *Fatāwā Shāmi*: “If someone wants to eat, drink or sleep in a masjid, he should make intention to observe *i'tikāf* and do the dhikr of Allah for some time. Then, he may proceed as he wishes (i.e. now if he wants to eat, drink or sleep, he can do so).”

Excellence of sending *ṣalāt* upon the Prophet ﷺ

The final Prophet of Allah ﷺ said:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ أَنْجَاكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مَنْ أَهْوَاهَا وَموَاطِنَهَا أَكْثَرُكُمْ عَلَيَّ صَلَاةً فِي دَارِ الدُّنْيَا

“O people! Indeed, the one who will gain salvation quickly from the terrors and accountability of the Day of Judgement will be the one who sent abundantly *ṣalāt* upon me in the world.”¹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

The Prophet ﷺ has stated: *أَفْضَلُ الْعَمَلِ النَّيَّةُ الصَّادِقَةُ*, “A truthful intention is the best action.”² O devotees of the Prophet! Make good intentions before every action, as this can be a means of entering Paradise. Before listening to the speech, make good intentions. For example,

- you will listen to the entire speech to gain the knowledge of Islam.
- you will sit in a respectful manner.
- you will refrain from laziness during the speech.
- you will listen to the speech to reform yourself.
- whatever you hear and learn, you will try to convey it to others.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ *Firdaus al-Akhbar*, vol. 2, p. 471, ḥadīth 8,210

² *Jāmi' al-Ṣaghīr*, p. 81, ḥadīth 1,284

The rank of a mother

Dear Islamic brothers, a mother is a precious gift. The rank of a mother is explained in the Quran and Hadith. The one who obeys his mother will be successful in attaining the pleasure of Allah and His Messenger ﷺ. A mother will sacrifice her rest to ensure her children gain sufficient sleep and rest. She will spend the entire night putting her children to sleep by patting them constantly. She sheds tears and quivers when she sees her children fall ill. In the winter, she will stay up all night and tend to her ill children. She will go to the best doctors and purchase the best medicine. A mother will sacrifice her ambitions and aspirations to improve the future of her children.

A mother to her children is like a tree that provides shade. She will bear the heat of the summer whilst fanning her children. She will sit in the sun and put her children in the shade. She will do her utmost to prevent her children from facing any difficulty. A mother will take out loans to fulfil her children's needs. After the death of her husband, a mother does not allow her children to wander from door to door. A mother bears the pains and difficulties of pregnancy and birth. She raises children to become good people. She is happy to sacrifice her portion of food for her children and finds joy in this despite falling asleep on an empty stomach.

She gives her children a warm bed and is happy to fall asleep on the cold floor herself. A mother does her best when it comes to her children. A mother becomes restless if she sees her children afflicted with difficulty and grief. A mother offers solace and support when her children are facing difficulty. A mother will never leave her children, even if they have disabilities. A mother is affectionate and loving, even towards disobedient children. A home without a mother seems empty and deserted. The one who serves his mother will live life in peace and serenity. For a family to respect and serve their mother will lead them

to Paradise. It is necessary for children to keep their mother happy. It is not possible for one to duly fulfil all the rights afforded to a mother.

Walking upon hot stones

A companion رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ said to the Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

There was a path full of hot stones, such that if meat was to be placed on them, it would become cooked! I carried my mother on my back and travelled upon these stones for six miles [approximately 9.656 km]. Have I fulfilled the rights of my mother?

The Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ replied, “Perhaps it has sufficed for a single moment of pain your mother felt when she gave birth to you.”¹

Dear Islamic brothers, ponder! If someone was to travel six miles over hot stones whilst carrying his mother on his back, this would not be enough to fulfil all her rights. Rather, it does not suffice for the pains she felt whilst giving birth. A mother is that blessed individual who cries profusely when praying for her children. The prayers of a mother can take her children to Paradise. The prayers of a mother can make her children pious and practicing Muslims. The prayers of a mother can protect her children from evil.

Her prayers can take her children to the rank of sainthood. Her prayers can bring good fortune to her children. Her prayers in favour of her children are accepted. The prayers of a mother lead to endless success. Her prayers are a means of attaining the mercy of Allah Almighty. Her prayers are a means of forgiveness. The prayers of a mother are a means

¹ *al-Mu'jam al-Ṣaghīr*, vol. 1, p. 92, ḥadīth 257

of being free from difficulties and worries. Here are some faith-inspiring incidents regarding the prayers of a mother.

The effect of a mother's prayer

Sayyidunā Abdul Raḥmān bin Aḥmad رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ mentions that he heard his father say that an old woman went to *Sayyidunā* ibn Makhlad رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and say:

The Romans have imprisoned my young son. I have a small house and no wealth other than this, so I cannot sell it. Therefore, can you tell someone to pay the ransom and free my son. I no longer feel peace during the day, nor can I sleep at night.

Sayyidunā ibn Makhlad comforted her and said, “Dear lady, go! I will try to solve your issue.”

The narrator said that when the old woman left, he lowered his head, sat down and began to whisper some words. After some time, the old woman returned along with her son. She said: “أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ” My son has returned safely, and he wishes to explain his journey.”

Thus, the son came closer and said:

I was with a group of prisoners in the Roman king's prison. The king owned many great gardens. He would send us to work in these gardens, and we returned to the prison camp in the evening. After returning from work one day, the shackles on my feet suddenly broke off.

[The narrator explains:] The day the shackles broke off was the same day the old lady went to *Sayyidunā* ibn Makhlad رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ and asked him to supplicate for her son.

The guards asked me [i.e. the son of the old lady], “Did you break the shackles?”

I replied, “No! They broke and fell themselves.”

The guards became confused and told their commander what happened. The commander also became confused. He ordered an ironsmith to place new shackles around my feet. I only walked a couple of steps when this new pair of shackles broke and fell off my feet too.

Everyone became amazed. They called upon their religious leaders and explained the entire situation.

After listening to all the explanations, the monks asked me, “Is your mother alive?” I replied in the positive.

Then, the monks turned to the onlookers and said, “Allah Almighty has accepted his mother’s prayers.”

The guards responded, “If Allah Almighty has freed you, how can we imprison you with these shackles?”

Upon saying this, the Romans freed me and reunited me with the Muslims. (Thus, through the *du’ā* of his mother and the blessings of ibn Makhlad رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ, the young man was freed).¹

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ! You have heard how effective the prayers of a mother are. When a mother prays for the well-being of her children, Allah Almighty accepts that prayer. Through the blessings of the prayer, Allah Almighty protects her children from trials and tribulations. How fortunate are those whose parents are still alive and they are pleased with their children? How fortunate are the children that support their parents? They serve their parents, receive their prayers and earn the pleasure and mercy of Allah Almighty.

¹ ‘Uyūn al-Hikāyāt, p. 166

So, if we desire to earn the pleasure of Allah Almighty and His Messenger ﷺ, and receive the prayers of our parents, we must value our parents, remember their sacrifices and favours upon us and refrain from speaking against them. We must look after them and care for them in every way, maintain good relations with them, fulfil their permissible needs and obey their commands as long as they do not oppose Shariah.

Show them love and affection, especially when they reach old age, as this is the age when their limbs begin to ache. When parents reach old age, this is a test for their children. Sometimes, parents reach old age and suffer from incontinence, which causes their children to become tired of them. Remember, it is necessary to support your parents even in these conditions. In our childhood, our mother would clean us without hesitation.

Therefore, no matter how many illnesses our parents have, and no matter how much they argue—even if it is for no reason—be patient and respect your parents. This is a test for you. It is not permissible for you to say “uff” in front of them, let alone disrespect and abuse them. Upsetting and disrespecting your parents is a cause of loss in both worlds. The one who hurts the feelings of his parents is disgraced in this world and becomes worthy of punishment in the hereafter.

The consequences of abusing parents

Sayyidunā Imam Ahmad bin Hajar al-Makkī al-Shāfiʿī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ reports that the Prophet ﷺ said,

On the Night of the Ascension, I saw people hanging from branches of fire. So, I asked, “O Jibril! Who are these people?”

Jibril replied, “These are the people who would speak ill of their mothers and fathers in the world.”¹

The grave will crush their ribs

It is reported that when those people who disobeyed their parents are buried, the grave squeezes them to the extent that their ribs become intertwined with one another.²

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers, the rank and status of parents can be gauged from the fact that where Allah Almighty commands us to worship Him in the Quran, He also commands us to be caring and kind to our parents. Allah Almighty states in part 15, verses 23 and 24 of Surah Banī Isrāīl:

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا ۖ إِنَّمَا يُبَلِّغُنَّ عَنْكَ أَنِ كِبَرًا أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا آفٌ وَلَا تُنْهَهِمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا ﴿٢٣﴾ وَأَخْفِضْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذُّلِّ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُلْ

رَّبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيْنِي صَغِيرًا ﴿٢٤﴾

And your Lord has commanded not to worship anyone except Him, and treat parents with goodness; if one of them or both reach old age in front of you, so, do not say (even) 'ugh' to them and do not scold them, and speak to them words of respect. And spread for them the arm of humbleness with a soft heart, and request humbly that “O my Lord, have mercy on them both, just as they brought me up in my childhood.”³

¹ *al-Zawājir*, vol. 2, p. 139

² *Jahannam Main Lay Janay Wale A'maal*, vol. 2, p. 265

³ [*Kanz-ul-Iman (translation of Quran)*] (Part 15, Surah Banī Isrāīl, verses 23-24)

In relation to the aforementioned verse, Mufti Muhammad Naʿīm Uddīn Murādabādī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states:

When parents become weak and have no strength in their limbs, they turn to their children, similar to how their children turned to them when they were powerless. Do not say anything that will make them think they are a burden upon you. Do not complain about them, nor raise your voice when speaking to them. Do not shout at them; speak to them with the utmost respect like a slave speaks to his master. Be soft and humble before them and always show love and affection, for they raised you with love and compassion at your time of need. Do not display stinginess in spending on their needs. In summary, no matter how good one is towards his parents and how much one serves them, the rights of parents can never be fulfilled. This is why a person should ask Allah Almighty to shower his mercy and bounty upon them, saying, “O Lord! My services can never equal their favours upon me. So, have mercy upon them and recompense them for their favours.”

Regarding verse 83 of Surah al-Baqarah, Mufti Naʿīm Uddīn Murādabādī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states:

The ways in which you can treat your parents well are as follows:

1. Love them from the depths of your heart.
2. Be respectful and humble when you are with them.
3. Address them with words of respect.
4. Strive to please them.
5. Do not hold back your precious wealth from them.
6. Act upon their will after they pass away.

7. Convey reward to them by reciting the Quran and giving to charity.
8. Pray for their forgiveness.
9. Visit their graves on a weekly basis.
10. Another way of being good towards parents is that if they sin or are involved with misguided sects, then with great gentleness, try to rectify them, call them towards the path of piety and encourage them to adopt correct beliefs.

In short, if one was to serve his parents for his entire life, it would not make up for their favours upon him.¹

صَلُّوْا عَلَی الْحَبِیْب صَلَّی اللہُ عَلَیْ مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers, just as the Quran has encouraged us to respect our parents, we find in Ḥadīths mention of their status and the command to obey them. For purposes of encouragement, here are four statements of the beloved Prophet صَلَّی اللہُ عَلَیْہِ وَاٰلِہٖ وَسَلَّم in this regard:

1. The Prophet صَلَّی اللہُ عَلَیْہِ وَاٰلِہٖ وَسَلَّم said, “When children look at their parents with mercy, Allah Almighty grants them the reward of an accepted Hajj.”

The Companions عَلَیْہِمُ الرِّضْوَانُ asked, “Even if he looks at them 100 times during the day?”

The Prophet صَلَّی اللہُ عَلَیْہِ وَاٰلِہٖ وَسَلَّم replied, “Yes. Allah is the greatest and the purest.”² Meaning, Allah Almighty has power over everything; He can reward his people like so.³

¹ Khāzin al-Irfan, Para 1, Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 83

² Shu’ab al-Īmān, vol. 6, p. 186, hadith 7856

³ Bahār-i-Sharī’at, vol. 3, p. 553, part 16

2. The Prophet ﷺ also said:

Whoever spent the morning in obedience to his parents, two gates of Paradise are opened for him. If one of his parents are alive, then one gate of Paradise is opened. Whoever spent the morning in disobedience to his parents, two gates of Hell are opened for him. If one of his parents are alive, one gate of Hell is opened for him.¹

3. A man asked, “O Messenger of Allah ﷺ! What right do parents have over their children?”

The Prophet ﷺ replied, **هِيَ جَنَّتُكَ وَنَارُكَ** “They are your Paradise, and they are your Hell.”²

4. A man came to the Prophet ﷺ and asked, “Who is most deserving of my good service?”

The Prophet ﷺ replied, “Your mother.”

The man asked, “Then who?”

The Prophet ﷺ replied, “Your mother.”

The man asked, “Then who?”

The Prophet ﷺ answered again, “Your mother.”

The man asked again, and the Prophet ﷺ answered, “Your father.”³

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ ﷺ

¹ *Shu'ab al-Īmān*, vol. 6, p. 206, hadith 7916

² *Sunan Ibn Mājah*, vol. 4, p. 186, raqm 3,662

³ *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, vol. 4, p. 93, hadith 5,971

Dear Islamic brothers, it is evident from the aforementioned narrations that the rank of a mother and father is extremely high. If one is successful in keeping them happy, it is a means of success in this world and the hereafter, but upsetting them is an act that leads to Hell.

We learn from the last Hadith that the rights of the mother are greater than that of the father. Therefore, those whose parents are still alive should ponder if they are fulfilling the rights of their parents.

Are our parents pleased with us? Do we speak with them gently? Do we obey their permissible commands? Do we fight and argue with them? Do we abuse them? Do we consider them a burden? Do we become arrogant when helping them? Do we glare at them when they tell us off? Are we the coolness of our mother's eyes? Do we respect her? Do we ask our mother to pray for us?

Remember, the prayers of a mother are accepted quickly. The Prophet ﷺ said, "The prayer of a mother in favour of her children is accepted quickly." It was asked as to why this was the case, to which the Prophet ﷺ replied, "A mother is kinder in comparison to a father, and a *du'ā* of mercy is never rejected."¹

Let us listen to some more incidents regarding the blessings of a mother's *du'ā* and make an intention to do those things which grant us the *du'ā* of our mother.

Companion in Paradise

The renowned spiritual guide and leader of Ahl al-Sunnah, Maulana Ilyās 'Aṭṭār al-Qādirī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ أَعَالِيَهُ states in his booklet "*Oceanic Dome*":

Sayyidunā Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام once prayed to Allah, "O Merciful Lord! Show me my companion in Heaven."

¹ *Tabaqat al-Shifayah*, vol. 6, p. 317

Allah Almighty said, “Go to so-and-so city and so-and-so butcher there will be your companion in Paradise.”

Thus, *Sayyidunā Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام* went to the butcher, and the butcher invited him for a meal in his home (despite not recognising him). When they sat to eat, he placed a large basket next to him. He would place two morsels of food inside it and eat one himself. Then there was a knock on the door and the butcher went to see who it was. *Sayyidunā Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام* looked to see what was inside, and he saw a very old man and woman.

When they saw *Sayyidunā Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام*, they began to smile. They testified to his prophethood and passed away instantly. The butcher returned and saw that his parents had passed away. He kissed *Sayyidunā Mūsā*’s hand and said, “You are the Prophet of Allah: *Sayyidunā Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام*.”

“How did you know?” *Sayyidunā Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام* asked.

The man responded, “My parents would make the following *du’ā* everyday, ‘O Allah! Grant us death at the feet of *Sayyidunā Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام*.’ Now that they suddenly passed away, I understood that you are *Sayyidunā Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام*.”

The butcher continued, “When my mother would finish eating, she would become happy and make the following *du’ā* for me, ‘O Allah! Make my son the companion of *Sayyidunā Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام* in Paradise.’”

Sayyidunā Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام said, “Congratulations. Allah Almighty has made you my companion in Paradise.”¹

¹ *Samundari Gumbad, p. 7*

Mother's prayers were the reason for being called Ateeq

The reason why the first Caliph of Islam, *Sayyidunā* Abū Bakr al-Siddīq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was called "Ateeq" is as follows. His mother would have children, but none of them lived for long. When *Sayyiduna* Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was born, his mother took him the Ka'bah and made *du'ā*, "O Allah! If this son of mine is free from death, grant him to me." After this, he was referred to as "Ateeq".¹

Respect for his mother

Sayyiduna Bāyazīd Bastāmī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was the imam of the mystics and the *ghawth* of his time. He was born in 160 AH in Iran. He was pious, righteous, well-mannered, humble and a great worshipper. It is said that when he prayed, people could hear the sound of the bones in his chest due to his fear of Allah Almighty. He passed away on 15th Sha'ban 261 AH, and his shrine is in Bastam.² Let us listen to an incident regarding the respect he had for his mother.

Sayyiduna Bāyazīd Bastāmī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states:

During a severely cold night, my mother asked for a glass of water. So, I filled a glass with water and went to her, only to see she had fallen asleep. I did not find it suitable to wake her up, so I stood near her with the glass of water in my hand. A long time passed by and some of the water froze on my fingers. Anyhow, when my mother woke up, I gave her the glass of water. As soon as I let go of the glass, the skin of my finger peeled off due to the frozen water and blood began to flow. My mother asked what happened. I explained what happened, and my mother lifted her

¹ *Tareekh al-Khulafa*, p. 22

² *Tabaqat Sufiya*, p. 67, *Tazkirah Mashaaikh Naqshbandiyyah*, pp. 65, 70, 76

hands and made *du'ā*, “O Allah! I am pleased with him, so become pleased with him too.”¹

Esteemed mother

Allamah Maulana Sardār Aḥmad Qādiri Chishtī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ was born in East Punjab in 1321 AH (1903 CE). He passed away on 1st Sha’ban 1382 AH (December 1962 CE). His childhood was different to that of normal children. He had an interest in religious matters from an early age. When he was able to walk, he would go to the masjid with his father and pray. He was fond of reciting dhikr and poetry in praise of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, such that he would recite it whenever he was walking.²

One of the reasons he attained greatness was because of his mother’s prayers. His mother رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهَا would often say, “إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ My son will become a great personality.”

She would also say, “Your name is Sardār (leader). May Allah make you a leader in religion and in this world.”

Thus, it came to pass that the world became a witness that his mother’s prayers were answered for her great son, and Allah Almighty made him a leader.³

سُبْحَانَ اللهِ! You heard how the prayers of a mother are answered. You heard how the prayers of a mother not only lead a man to Paradise but lead him to becoming a companion of *Sayyiduna* Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام in Paradise. The prayers of a mother made Maulana Sardār Aḥmad رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ the great Ḥadīth scholar of Pakistan. We also learn that our pious predecessors رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِمُ أَجْمَعِينَ pleased their parents and received their

¹ *Samundari Gumbad*, p. 4

² *Hayat-e-Muhaddis-e-A’zam*, p. 30

³ *Hayat-e-Muhaddis-e-A’zam*, p. 30

du'ās. Therefore, we must follow in the footsteps of our pious predecessors and serve our parents.

We must become the coolness of their eyes and please them. Then, they will supplicate for us like so, “O Allah! Make my child a hafiz, a preacher of Dawat e Islami, and a scholar/Mufti of Dawat e Islami. Grant him success in this world and the hereafter. Grant him Paradise without accountability. Be pleased with him forever.”

We should all make an intention today to serve our parents; refrain from disobeying and insulting them; speak to them gently; lower our gaze; be patient if they tell us off; fulfil their needs; be mindful of what they like and dislike; be there for them during hardship; not disturb them when they are resting; reconcile with them if they are upset with us; spend on their for food, medication and other essentials; and obey their permissible orders. *إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ*

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers, unfortunately, due to a lack of knowledge, there are some unfortunate people who follow their own desires at the expense of their parent's happiness. Whenever they make their own decisions, they force their parents to agree with them through permissible and impermissible means.

For example, when children grow up, and for some reason, there is a delay in their marriage, sometimes these children will complain about their parents to others by saying, “I am ready to get married. This is the age where people blossom, but now my marriage is not happening. Should I get married when I am old? My parents do not care about me. Who should I turn to!”

Some will say: “I will only marry so-and-so. My parents do not know any better. My decision will be final. My parents do not know what I know.”

Others may say: “My friends have expensive phones, and I do not have one at all. Do I not have a right to live according to modern-day standards?”

Some might complain: “The students at my school or college go to different places for entertainment. They travel around freely without any restrictions. But my parents do not care about me. I have passions and desires too. Will I stay locked in the four walls of my room?”

Another will say: “The people I work with wear expensive clothes. I wear simple clothes, which makes me feel embarrassed to sit next to such people.”

If only we could understand the decisions of our parents. Ponder! Which parents do not feel happiness when they see their children succeed? Parents always want the best for their children. Parents would do everything they can, but sometimes their situation does not permit it. In old age, some parents may be working and running the house instead of resting.

Dear Islamic brothers, what has happened to us? Which direction are we heading in? The misuse of social media has changed our way of thinking. We no longer respect our parents and hold them in high regards. Evil is the company that distances us from our parents and throws us into the dirt of society. Take heed!

O Allah! For the sake of *Sayyidunā* Mūsā’s companion in Paradise, grant us the ability to respect our parents. O Allah! Grant us the ability to respect our parents for the sake of *Sayyidunā* Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ. O Allah! For the sake of *Sayyidunā* Bāyazīd Bastāmī رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ, grant us the ability to serve our parents. O Allah! For the sake of Maulana Sardār Aḥmad Qādirī Chishtī رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ, grant us the blessings of taking prayers from our parents.

Dear Islamic brothers, if you desire to please your parents, you must adopt company that teaches you how to respect and honour your parents. The environment of Dawat-e-Islami is a great blessing in this age of tribulation. May we be sacrificed upon the renowned spiritual guide and leader of Ahl al-Sunnah, Maulana Ilyās ‘Aṭṭār al-Qādirī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ, who has transformed the lives of millions of people.

Those who were once a cause of sadness for their parents are now a means of comfort for them. There were people who gave their parents restless nights because of their actions, but due to the blessings of the Dawat-e-Islami’s religious environment, now their parents sleep peacefully.

Affiliate yourselves with the environment of Dawat-e-Islami. Make a habit of filling in the *Pious Deeds* booklet, travel in the Madani *qafilahs* and learn how to earn the *du’ās* of your parents. Participate in the weekly gatherings and the Madani Muzakaras and invite others to join too. Then you will come to know how to please your parents and earn their heartfelt *du’ās*. Participate in the 12 religious activities and always be ready to perform good deeds.

Without a doubt, it is necessary for everyone to respect and obey their parents. However, if they command you to oppose Shariah, for example, by instructing you to shave your beard, then Shariah forbids you from obeying them. It is impermissible to disobey Allah Almighty to obey the commands of creation.

If parents argue with each other, what should the children do?

The Reviver of Islam, the Imam of Ahl al-Sunnah, Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ states:

If parents fight and argue with each other, the children must not side with any of them. You should never be harsh with your father out of love for your mother. It is haram and disobedience

towards Allah to hurt your father's feelings, answer him back and speak to him in a disrespectful manner. It is impermissible for the children to side with one parent; they are both your Paradise and your Hell. Whoever gives any of them difficulty will be deserving of Hell. وَالْعِيَاذُ بِاللَّهِ It is impermissible to disobey Allah by obeying someone else.

For example, if a mother wishes for her son to cause harm to his father, and she will become upset if the son does not obey her, in this case it is acceptable for the mother to become upset. You must never treat your father with disrespect and obey commands like this. Likewise, do not obey the father when it comes to harming the mother. The scholars have stated that a mother is more deserving of service, and a father more deserving of respect, because he is a ruler over his mother too.¹

If your parents tell you to shave your beard, do not obey them

The renowned spiritual guide and leader of Ahl al-Sunnah, Maulana Ilyās 'Aṭṭār Qādirī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ states:

We have learned that if parents command you to do something impermissible, you must not obey them. If you obey them in performing impermissible actions, you will be sinful. For example, if your parents tell you to lie or shave your beard, do not obey them. Regardless of how upset they become, you will not be classed as disobedient. If you obey their commands, you will be disobeying Allah Almighty.

Likewise, if one's parents are divorced, and the mother tells you not to visit your father, such a command must not be obeyed. You must visit your father and serve him. The parents may be

¹ Samundari Gumbad, p. 21

separated, but the relationship with their children still stands. The children must continue to fulfil the rights of both.¹

صَلُّوْا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Encouragement for pious deed number 56

Dear Islamic brothers, in order to learn the importance of parents, gain a passion to serve them, earn their *du'ās* and keep them happy, affiliate yourselves with the religious environment of Dawat-e-Islami, travel with the Madani *qafilahs* and make a habit of filling in the *Pious Deeds* booklet. **إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ** You will gain the passion to obey and serve your parents.

Pious deed number 56 from the 72 pious deeds granted to us by the leader of Ahl al-Sunnah **دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمْ الْعَالِيَةِ** states: "Have you shown your parents respect and reverence today? (Listening to what they say if it is according to Shari'ah, kissing their hands, not raising your voice, etc.)" This is a such beautiful pious deed that if we act upon it, we will become successful in obeying our parents. Remember, if our parents become pleased with us, Allah Almighty will also become pleased with us **إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ**.

Dear Islamic brothers, just as the prayers of a mother in favour of her children are accepted, her *du'ās* against her children are also accepted. Therefore, we must avoid everything that may upset and hurt our mothers. How unfortunate are those whose mothers make *du'ās* against them. By Allah! If a mother becomes upset and makes *du'ās* against her children, they will be faced with humiliation and disgrace. Here is an incident from which we can take heed.

¹ Samundari Gumbad, p. 21

A mother's *duās* against her children led to a leg amputation

The renowned spiritual guide and leader of Ahl al-Sunnah, Maulana Ilyās ‘Attār al-Qādirī دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ states in his book “*Call to Righteousness*”:

Sayyidunā ‘Allamah Kamāl al-Dīn Damīrī رَحِمَهُ اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ reports: Zamakhsharī (who was a scholar of the Mu’tazilites) had a severed leg. The people asked how it happened, so he explained it was because of his mother’s *du’ā* against him: “When I was a child, I caught a bird and tied a rope to its leg. Despite this, the bird flew out of my hand and got stuck in a crack in the wall. The rope on the bird’s legs was sticking out of the hole in the wall. I heartlessly pulled at the rope. The bird fell out of the hole but its leg was cut.

When my mother saw this disturbing scene, she said, ‘May Allah Almighty cut your leg, just as you cut the leg of this helpless creature.’ After some time, I travelled to Bukhara to gain knowledge. As I was travelling, I fell off my ride and was severely injured. When I reached Bukhara, the doctors treated the wound, but I was still in pain. In the end, my leg was amputated.”¹

Dear Islamic brothers, the aforementioned story serves as a lesson for those who upset their parents and harm animals. This also serves as a lesson to parents too, especially those mothers who needlessly curse their children after they make a mistake, “May you be ruined; may you be afflicted with leprosy,” etc. Such parents must watch their words as they do not know when their *du’ā* will be accepted. If something were to happen to their children, they will suffer too! Hence, it is only appropriate to pray for the well-being and goodness of your children.

¹ *Hayat al-Haywan al-Kubrah*, vol. 2, p. 163

May Allah Almighty grant us the ability to please our parents and receive their prayers.

امِين بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْاَمِين صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Special Persons' Department

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ! Dawat-e-Islami is propagating the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah in over 80 departments. One of these departments is the “Special Persons’ Department”. Due to not possessing Islamic knowledge and being distant from good company, blind, deaf and mute Islamic brothers can sometimes be deprived of essential knowledge. In order to spread knowledge to these individuals, this department is carrying out work in many cities, such as study circles after the weekly gatherings.

They are also provided with guidance and education in the gatherings during auspicious nights—such as 12th Rabi’ al-Awwal, Night of the Ascension, Laylah al-Barā’ah—and study circles are held for them during the collective *i’tikāf* of Ramadan. In these gatherings, *nāt* is recited, speeches are given, *dhikr* is performed and *du’ā* is made, all in sign language. Blind Islamic brothers can read booklets in Braille too.

صَلُّوْا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيْبَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers, bringing the speech to its close, I will now have the honour of mentioning a virtue of the sunnah and some Sunnahs and etiquettes. The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: “Whosoever loves my Sunnah loves me, and whosoever loves me will be with me in Paradise.”¹

صَلُّوْا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيْبَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ *Mishkāt al-Maṣābīh*, vol. 1, p. 55, *hadith 175*

Sunnahs and etiquettes related to intentions

Dear Islamic brothers, let us listen to some Sunnahs and etiquettes concerning intentions. First, let us listen to two narrations of the Prophet ﷺ:

1. **إِنَّمَا الْأَعْمَالُ بِالنِّيَّاتِ** The reward of deeds depends upon the intention.¹
2. **نِيَّةُ الْمُؤْمِنِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ عَمَلِهِ** The intention of a believer is better than his action.²
 - More than one intention can be made for a permissible action.³
 - You will not attain reward for a righteous deed if a good intention is not made.⁴
 - Having a good intention when performing a good act means for the heart to be focused on the good action and for the action to be performed for the pleasure of Allah.⁵
 - An intention is the will of the heart. When the intention is present in the heart, it is good to say it out aloud too.⁶

Announcement

The remaining Sunnahs and etiquettes of making intentions will be mentioned in the study circles. Please take part in the study circles to learn about them.

¹ *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, vol. 1, p. 5, hadith 1

² *Al-Mu'jam al-Kabīr*, vol. 6, p. 185, hadith 5942

³ *Bahār-i-Niyat*, p. 10

⁴ *Sawab Barhanay Kay Nuskhay*, p. 3

⁵ *Bahār-i-Niyat*, p. 10

⁶ *Bahār-i-Niyat*, p. 10