

Parents Rights in Islam

Although our existence is from Allah (Glory and Greatness be to Him), it is our parents who are means of giving us life.. We are an offshoot of their existence and a fruit of the garden of their unparalleled affection, training, love and sentiments. When the forgetful human beings grows up to become big and strong and comes to acquire a certain credibility (in life), he/she forgets the period wherein he/she was weak and lacking in strength. He/she disregards the exhaustive efforts of his/her parents; what ingratitude could be worse than this?

Humanity and ethics demands that we safeguard these two jewels (our mother and father) -by exhibiting goodness towards them while they are alive, and by means of charity, duas and goodly remembrance after their death. Our lives are extension of our parent's lives while our children's lives are a continuation of ours. Our good behavior towards our parents and our exhibition of kindness towards them shall cause our children to grow up as grateful and righteous individuals. They shall behave with us just as we have behaved with our parents.

Just as it is beyond our means to fulfill neither the rights of Allah and to thank Him for all His bounties in their entirety, nor the rights of our Beloved Prophet (Muhammad SAW) (for relaying the message of ultimate guidance (the Quran) and showing its implementation himself and being our interceder on the Day of Judgment), similarly we can never thank our parents sufficiently for their efforts. The only thing that we can do is to acknowledge our inability and submit ourselves, in humility and reverence to these two personalities. However, comprehension of their status in the eyes of Allah (SWT) paves the way to fulfill some of their numerous rights.

Islam ranks the obedience to parents second only to God. The extent to which one has to regard his parents and obey them is peculiar only

to Islam. None shall even raise his voice higher than the voice of his parents - nor look towards them even eye to eye - nor walk in advance of them - nor address them with their names. Nothing shall be done to bring disrepute or blame on them from the people and if they be believers, the children should pray for their salvation, and if they be disbeliever, they might be gently invited towards the right belief and goodness. If man cannot venerate the ones responsible in bringing him in this world, he will never be able to acknowledge truly the Only One Creator of all mankind. Islam has endorsed respect for parents by their children even if the parents are non-Muslims. Only if parents coerce their children against Islam, then the children have the right not to obey their parents, but they are still to be good to them. One should never be unduly difficult with parents nor speak to them in a harsh manner whether they are young or especially when they are of advanced age. Children are expected to remain civil, kind and respectful to parents even in difficult and strained circumstances.

Allah has says many times in Quran (mostly immediately mentioning His rights, which shows the significance) about the respect and honor one should give to his/her parents. The following Ayahs (verses) clearly states that:

1. Your Lord has commanded that you worship none but Him, and that you be good to your parents. If either of them or both of them reach old age with you, do not say to them a word of disrespect, nor scold them, but say to them kind words. And lower to them the wing of humility, out of mercy, and say, "My Lord, have mercy on them, as they raised me when I was a child." Q17/23-24
2. We have advised the human being to be good to his parents. But if they urge you to associate with Me something you have no knowledge of, do not obey them. To Me is your return; and I will inform you of what you used to do. Q 29/8

3. We have enjoined upon man kindness to his parents. His mother carried him with difficulty, and delivered him with difficulty. His bearing and weaning takes thirty months. Until, when he has attained his maturity, and has reached forty years, he says, “Lord, enable me to appreciate the blessings You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and to act with righteousness, pleasing You. And improve my children for me. I have sincerely repented to You, and I am of those who have surrendered.” Those are they from whom We accept the best of their deeds, and We overlook their misdeeds, among the dwellers of Paradise—the promise of truth which they are promised 46/15-16.
4. We made a covenant with the Children of Israel: “Worship none but God; and be good to parents, and relatives, and orphans, and the needy; and speak nicely to people; and pray regularly, and give alms.” Then you turned away, except for a few of you, recanting.
Q 2/83
5. Worship God, and ascribe no partners to Him, and be good to the parents, and the relatives, and the orphans, and the poor, and the neighbor next door, and the distant neighbor, and the close associate, and the traveler, and your servants. God does not love the arrogant showoff. Q 4/36
6. Say, “Come, let me tell you what your Lord has forbidden you: that you associate nothing with Him; that you honor your parents; that you do not kill your children because of poverty—We provide for you and for them; that you do not come near indecencies, whether outward or inward; and that you do not kill the soul which God has sanctified—except in the course of justice. All this He has enjoined upon you, so that you may understand.” Q 6/151.

7. We have entrusted the human being with the care of his parents. His mother carried him through hardship upon hardship, weaning him in two years. So give thanks to Me, and to your parents. To Me is the destination.
8. But if they strive to have you associate with Me something of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them. But keep them company in this life, in kindness, and follow the path of him who turns to Me. Then to Me is your return; and I will inform you of what you used to do. Q31/14-15
9. They ask you what they should give. Say, "Whatever you spend of good is [to be] for the parents, and the relatives, and the orphans, and the poor, and the wayfarer. Whatever good you do, God is aware of it. Q 2/215

In addition to Quran there are several authentic Ahadiths talking about rights of parents, few are listed below:

1. Narrated by Abi Abder Rahman Abdullah bin Massoud (May Allah be pleased with him) saying: I asked the Prophet ﷺ, "*which deed is more liked by Allah?*" He replied, "*Prayers on time.*" Then I asked, "*Which one is next?*" He said, "*Goodness to parents.*" Then I asked, "*Then which one is next?*" He said, "*Jihad in the way of Allah.*" (Agreed)

In Islam, respect for parents is so great that the child and his wealth are considered to be the property of the parents. In this regard, the Prophet ﷺ said:

2. Narrated by Aisha that a person came to the Prophet ﷺ to resolve his dispute with his father regarding a loan given to the

father. The Prophet ﷺ said to the person, "You and your wealth are to your father."

Hadith Narrated by Abu Dawud

3. "O Rasulallah, is there still a way of devotion to parents after they die?" He replied, "Yes, by praying, asking for forgiveness for them, carrying out their will, connecting relationships that can not be connected except their way and glorifying their friends
4. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him and his family) has said: "The look of a child towards his parents out of love for them is an act of worship.
5. Famous Hadith we all know when Angel Jabreel said things and prophet replied with AMEEN!

Destruction to him who found the blessed month of Ramadan and let it pass by without gaining forgiveness"

"Destruction to him before whom thy name is taken and then he does not make Dua for Allah's blessing on me (by saying, for example, Sallallaahu alaihi wa sallam)."

"Destruction unto him in whose lifetime his parents or either one of them reaches old age, and (through failure to serve them) he is not allowed to enter Jannah".

6. Narrated Abu Umamah: A man said, "Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) what rights can parents demand from their children?" He replied, "They are your Paradise and your Hell." Ibn Majah transmitted it.
Al-Tirmidhi – Hadith 1277

7. Narrated Abdullah bin Amr: A man said to the Prophet, "Shall I participate in Jihad?" The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Are your parents living?" The man said, "Yes." The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Do Jihad for their benefit."
Sahih Al-Bukhari – Book 73 Hadith 3

Quran has also quoted, what several prophets said about their parents or were obedient to their parents..

1. "Our Lord, forgive me, and my parents, and the believers, on the Day the Reckoning takes place." (Prophet Ibrahim supplication for his parents, Q14/41); Note: This was his supplication before it was established that his father was Mushrik.
2. "O Yahya (John), hold on to the Scripture firmly," and We gave him wisdom in his youth.. And tenderness from Us, and innocence. He was devout. And kind to his parents; and he was not a disobedient tyrant. Q19/14
3. So she pointed to him. They said, "How can we speak to an infant in the crib?" He said, "I am the servant of God. He has given me the Scripture, and made me a prophet. And has made me blessed wherever I may be; and has enjoined on me prayer and charity, so long as I live. And kind to my mother, and He did not make me a disobedient rebel. (This was what Prophet Essa (Jesus) said even when he was

infant in a crib, he just said only about her mother, because he was born without the father with the miracle of Allah.)

Q19/32

4. My Lord! Forgive me and my parents, and anyone who enters my home in faith, and all the believing men and believing women; and do not increase the wrongdoers except in perdition.” (Prophet Nooh’s supplication to Allah) Q71/28.

Ways to Respect Your Parents, when they are alive:

These are things we should do to perform good toward our parents:

1. Ask for something according to their capabilities and abilities.
2. Does not show an annoyed face if your wish is not fulfilled by both parents.
3. Help both parents to do something without being ordered.
4. Do not quarrel with fellow brothers or sisters with a loud voice, snap at each other even fighting since this will hurt parents.
5. Refusing to do something ordered by parents with a loud rejection voice and a sour face.
6. Do not use parents belonging without their permission.
7. Do not sit in a place higher than them.
8. No loud voice, moreover saying only “ah” is forbidden by Allah.
9. Not being arrogant toward parents.
10. Do not let the parents in trouble and poverty.
11. Do not neglect parents alone at home.
12. Always make time to diligently stay in touch and visit them.
13. Always pray of goodness toward both parents by asking for mercy and forgiveness to Allah SWT.

14. No repel them in a loud voice.
15. If they are handicapped, must make sure they can continue their daily routine (including nature's call) without the feeling of helplessness. Tough this is the toughest job, but reward from Allah will be also accordingly.

Ways to Respect Your Parents, when they are not alive:

Allah is so Merciful that He has given us chance that even after their death, we can get rewards and amend our mistake if we were not kind to them in their life. The following acts on their behalf are encouraged.

1. Make daily **Du'a** (prayer) for them for raising their status
2. Asking Allah for their forgiveness.
3. Give a charity on their behalf
4. Institute a perpetual charity (Sadaqa Jaria) on their behalf - such as a Masjid, an Islamic Center, an **Islamic Library**, an Islamic hospital, an orphanage, a senior citizen's home, etc.
5. Perform Hajj on their behalf or ask someone to do s
6. Carrying out their "Will"
7. Connecting relationship that cannot be connected except their way.
8. Respect and honor their friends.
9. Try to be righteous and good person and do good deed yourself, as children are the best perpetual charity (sadaqa Jaria) for their parents. Any good deed you will do, they will get reward too without lessening your reward (See how Merciful is Allah)

Let us pray to Allah that we will do our best to respect our parents, to honor them, to be kind to them, to help them, and to please them for the love of Allah. O Allah! Accept our humble prayers and make us obedient servants to you. O Allah! Help us to be respectful children to our parents. Ameen.