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Ministry of Awqaf

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**Kindness to One's Mother: A way to Get Blessing in this Life
and Mercy in the Hereafter**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Glorious Book, "And We have commanded people to be kind to their parents. Their mothers bore them through hardship upon hardship, and their weaning takes two years. So be grateful to Me and your parents- all will return to Me." I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that our master Muhammad is His slave and Messenger; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow him till the Day of Judgment.

Kindness is a comprehensive word that covers all lofty traits, good attributes, and high morals that bring tranquility to hearts, spread love among people and bring about stability within societies. When the Prophet (PBUH) was asked about kindness he replied, "Kindness is the noble behavior."

No doubt that one's parents are most deserving of his kind treatment. Allah commands us to be kind to them, care for them, and treat them with humility

Reviewing the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of our Prophet (PBUH) teaches us the exemplar sons-parents relationship. The Almighty Allah says, "For your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and be kind to your parents. If one or both of them reach old age in your care, never say to them (even) 'ugh,' nor yell at them. Rather, always speak gently to them." The Prophet (PBUH) showed that being kind to one's parents and fulfilling their rights are among the best of actions second to prayer which is the main pillar of Islam and its greatest rite. When

the Prophet (PBUH) was asked which act is most pleasing to Allah, he said, "Performing Prayer at its proper time." Then he was asked, "What next?" He (PBUH) replied, "Kindness to parents." Then he was asked, "What next?" He replied, "Jihad for the sake of Allah."

Islam has stressed the value of kindness to one's parents, showing gratitude to them, and caring for them. However, it paid special attention and care for kindness to mothers. A person came to Messenger of Allah (PBUH) and asked, "Who among people is most deserving of my fine treatment?" He (PBUH) said, "Your mother". He again asked, "Who next?" "Your mother", the Prophet (PBUH) replied again. He asked, "Who next?" He (the Prophet (PBUH) said again, "Your mother." He again asked, "Then who?" Thereupon, he (PBUH) said, "Then your father."

This should not be a source of wonder; if it is not a mother who is most deserving of kindness, who would be? Who could be more deserving than the one who carried you in her womb nine months, which equal nine years; the one who suffered the hardest pains upon giving birth to you; the one who nursed you and with her hands washed your dirties; the one who favored you with food to herself; if you suffered any disease or pain she would show unbearable sorrow; the one who if it happened to be given a choice between your life or her death, she would unhesitatingly opt for your life. Who is most deserving than the one whom the Almighty Allah commanded us in his Book to be good to her saying, "We have commanded people to be kind to their parents. Their mothers bore them in pain and delivered them in pain. Their (period of) bearing and weaning is thirty months."

It is a blessing from Allah to guide a person to be kind to his parents, and to his mother in particular. If one is guided to do so, then he is blessed with a great favor and bounty. He will see the fruit of this in form of success in this life, along with the reward, mercy and forgiveness in the Hereafter.

Kindness to one's mother has fruits that a person gets in this life and the Afterlife, including:

- **His needs will be fulfilled, his dilemmas will be solved and his supplications will be answered.** Ibn Umar narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said, "While three men were walking, it started raining and they took shelter in a cave in a mountain. A big rock rolled down from the mountain and closed the mouth of the cave. They said to each other, "Think of good deeds which you did for Allah's sake only, and invoke Allah by giving reference to those deeds so that He may remove this rock from you." One of them said, 'O Allah! I had old parents and children, and I used to graze the sheep for them. On my return to them in the evening, I used to milk (the sheep) and start providing my parents first of all before my children. One day I was delayed and came late at night and found my parents sleeping. I milked (the sheep) as usual and stood by their heads. I hated to wake them up and disliked to give milk to my children before them, although my children were weeping (because of hunger) at my feet till the day dawned. O Allah! If I did this for Your sake only, remove the rock so that we could see the sky through it.' So, Allah removed the rock a little and they saw the sky..." Then each one of his two friends invoked Allah for a sincere deed he did till Allah removed the rock and their trouble was resolved.

Also, it is narrated that whenever 'Umar Ibn Al-Khattab used to meet people from Yemen, he used to ask them: Is there amongst you Uwais Ibn 'Amir? When he found Uwais. He said: Are you Uwais Ibn 'Amir? He said: Yes. Umar said: Are you from the tribe of *Qaran*? He said: Yes. 'Umar (again) said: Did you suffer from leprosy and then you were cured from it except for the space of a dirham? He said: Yes. 'Umar said: Is your mother still alive? He said: Yes. 'Umar said: I heard the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) saying: There would

come to you Uwais Ibn 'Amir with the reinforcement groups from the people of Yemen. (He would be) from the tribe of *Qaran*, and the branch of *Murid*. He had been suffering from leprosy from which he was cured except for a spot of a *dirham*. His treatment with his mother would have been excellent, and therefore, if he were to swear by Allah (that something would happen), Allah will certainly make it happen. So, if it is possible for you, then do ask him to Ask Allah to forgive you.' So, Umar said: ask forgiveness for me." He Uwais did so. 'Umar then said, "Where do you intend to go?" He said, "To Kufah." 'Umar said, "Let me write a letter for you to its governor," whereupon Uwais said, "I love to be amongst the poor people". Thus, this Hadith from the Prophet (PBUH) proves that answering the supplication of Uwais was due to his kind treatment to his mother.

- **The great reward:**

Mu'awiyah Al-Sulami said: "I came to the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) and said: 'O Messenger of Allah, I want to go for Jihad with you, seeking thereby the Face of Allah and the Hereafter.' He (PBUH) said: 'Woe to you! Is your mother still alive?' I said: 'Yes.' He said: 'Go back and honor her.' Then I approached him from the other side and said: 'O Messenger of Allah, I want to go for Jihad with you, seeking thereby the Face of Allah and the Hereafter.' He said: 'Woe to you! Is your mother still alive?' I said: 'Yes.' He said: 'Go back and honor her.' Then I approached him from in front and said: 'O Messenger of Allah, I want to go for Jihad with you, seeking thereby the Face of Allah and the Hereafter.' He said: 'Woe to you! Is your mother still alive?' I said: 'Yes.' He said: 'Go back and serve her, for there is Paradise.'"

In the same connection, Ka'ab Ibn 'Ujarah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "A man passed by the Prophet (PBUH) and the Companions were impressed by the man's strength and energy." They said, "O Messenger of Allah! If

only this was for the sake of Allah!" He (PBUH) said: "If he goes out to work for the sake of his young children, he is striving for the sake of Allah; if he goes out to work for the sake of his aged parents, he is striving for the sake of Allah ..."

- **Expiation of sins and bad deeds:**

Ibn 'Umar (my Allah be pleased with them) narrated that a man came to the Prophet (PBUH) and said: "O Messenger of Allah! I have committed a great sin. Is there any repentance for me?" He said: "Do you have your mother?" The man said: "No." He said: "Do you have a maternal aunt?" The man said: "Yes." He said: "Then be dutiful to her."

- **Being admitted into the Paradise and attaining high ranks**

Abd Allah Ibn Mas'oud (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated: " I said: O Messenger of Allah, which of the deeds (takes one) nearer to Paradise? He (the Prophet) replied: Prayer at its proper time, I said: What next, Messenger of Allah? He replied: Kindness to the parents. I said: What next? He replied: Jihad in the cause of Allah." In the same connection, A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: "The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "I saw myself in the Paradise while asleep, and I heard the voice of a man reciting the Quran, so I asked, "Who is that?" They replied, "This is Harithah Ibn Al-Nu'man;" whereupon he (PBUH) said: "This is how being dutiful to parents does with man." Harithah was one of the most dutiful to his mother.

So, let us be dutiful and kind to our fathers and mothers; let us be certain that being kind to parents is a debt, and so is ingratitude to them. We should take into account that one's debt shall be repaid. Not only that, but ingratitude to parents is one of the reasons behind hastening the Divine Punishment in this life before the life to come, as already recorded by the Prophet (PBUH): "Two sins Allah shall not defer till the Day Judgement: tyrannical behavior and

ingratitude to parents." In another Hadith, The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Three shall not enter Paradise: the one who is disobedient to his parents, the drunkard, and the one who reminds people of what he has given them."

This is my speech to you, and I seek Allah's Forgiveness for
me and you

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All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon the master of all the creatures, Prophet Muhammad, his family, companions and those who follow their footsteps to the Day of Judgment.

Dear brothers:

The heavenly laws unanimously agree on the obligation of dutifulness to parents, especially the mother. In this regard, Allah, the Almighty, says, " And when We made a covenant with the children of Israel: You shall not serve any but Allah and (you shall do) good to (your) parents ..." He, Glorified is He, also addresses the entire humanity, saying: "And We have commanded people to be kind to their parents. Their mothers bore them through hardship upon hardship, and their weaning takes two years. So be grateful to Me and your parents- all will return to Me."

Islam has actually shuts the door before anyone who thinks of disobeying his parents; some young men may view themselves as more religiously committed than their own parents, thus speak badly to them or even mistreat them. We say to those young men: the purified Shari'ah obliges us to be kind and dutiful to parents even if they are unbelievers. Thus, no one should take his parent's unrighteousness as a pretext to be undutiful to them. The Almighty Allah says, "And if they contend with you that you should associate with Me what you have no knowledge of, do not

obey them, and keep company with them in this world kindly, and follow the way of him who turns to Me, then to Me is your return, then will I inform you of what you did." Also, Asma' Bint Abu Bakr said, "My mother came to me seeking some act of kindness from me during the time of the Prophet (PBUH), while she hated Islam and she was a polytheist." I asked the Prophet saying, "May I do an act of kindness to her?" He replied, "Yes, do an act of kindness to her."

So, even if parents are disbelievers, or striving to make you disobey Allah or to disbelieve in him, this does not give you justification to mistreat any of them; rather, one should act upon the Saying of Allah, "...and keep good company with them in this world..." While doing so, you should not think that this behavior is some sort of favor you do to them, but a right and a duty which one will be punished for if not properly fulfilled.

Blessed is the one who acts kindly to his mother and exerts his efforts to be dutiful to her. Abd Allah Ibn 'Umar said, "The pleasure of Allah lies in the pleasure of the parents. The anger of Allah lies in the anger of the parents."

O Allah! We ask you to help us be kind to our fathers and mothers; we ask You to forgive them and to shower them with Your Mercy as they raised us when were little.