

Upbringing of children 1

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In the name of Allah most Gracious Most merciful

All thanks be to Allah, we thanks Him, seek His forgiveness and support. We seek His protection against the evil within us, and against our sinful deeds. This who is guided by Allah then nothing or no one can misguide him. And this that Allah misguides there shall be no guidance for him. I testify that there is one and only God, that is Allah alone with no partners. I testify that Muhamad is his messenger and slave.

Dear brothers

The refuge for a man is his home, where he lives and settles and where he relaxes and used to. It consists of his wife and children and his entire family. If he has peace and stability and the good comfortable life, and has no problems which can spoil that; then he is in a great bounty and comfort and wellbeing. The messenger ppbu said: **{Whoever the morning comes to him secure in his group, and healthy in his body, and has his daily sustenance is as if the entire life has been put aside for him with its dimensions}**.

Happiness in the home for a person with his family materializes as much as the level of deeds of obedience he does and prohibited acts he refrains from. Satan goes and stays in homes where Allah is not mentioned in. Satan are repelled from homes where Allah is mentioned a lot within. The messenger ppbus said: **{When a man goes into his home and mentioned Allah as he enters and as starts eating then Satan to his group says: No sleep over tonight and no dinner for you tonight. But if he does not mention Allah as he enters then Satan says: We got the sleep over. And if he does not mention Allah when he starts eating then Satan says: we got the sleep over and the dinner.}**. What do you think of a house that Satan gets to stay the night? Or he feeds with them on the food they eat? How is he and they are?

The messenger ppbu said: {Do not make you homes as graves, for the home that Chapter 2 *Albaqara* is recited does not get entered by Satan}. Dear brothers, when homes lack those factors which bring happiness and keeps away misery lead to marital problems. That also has negative results for the couple and the children which can be a reason for the collapse of the structure and dismantling of the family. It also leads to poor bringing up of children or complete lack of it, which can have tremendous negative results. The spouses can each live in an unbearable hell. We talked in the past on how important the family is in Islam, we also talked in more details about the rights of the husband and rights of the wife in Islam. We only wish to spread out the culture of duties and rights between a husband and a wife in Islam so each would know their rights as well as their responsibilities or duties.

Dear brothers, today talk is about bringing up of children in Islam. If one reflects a little would find that there is no other work that is more critical in the life of Muslims like bringing up of their children, because this work is within their means, their responsibility and within their control. A Muslim sometimes looks left and right and finds that he is weak or weakened who cannot prevent those frightening forces from moving to demise Islam.

But he can bring up his children. Both parents are responsible to a large extent for the bringing up of the children and turning them into good citizens or bad and may be deviating into the wrong path. Prophet Muhammad ppbu said: **{Every baby is born on the natural instinct faith and its parents turn him into a Jew or into Magi (unbeliever fire worshiper)}**. This is clear towards the statement that the faith, intellectual, moral and social direction a child takes is primarily and before anything else influenced by the parental environment. Influenced by their ideology, morals and bringing up style. A Muslim should make sure that he/she bring up his/her children a proper Islamic upbringing. One might say that there are plenty of problems and obstacles, which is correct. The prophet ppbu said: **{there shall be time that those who hold on to their faith is like who is holding on to rock of fire}**.

No doubt that the mission is hard; but there is no other work that is greater and more rewarding and has a real meaning or more lasting in life of a believer than the correct upbringing of his children. They are part of him, they are fruit of his heart, and they are a continuation of his existence. We often hear and see of parents who are of a high level of understanding, perfection and faith and yet

they suffer because of the ill-behaviour of their children. A child requires a lot of attention, plenty of time, evaluation, watching over, directing, given advice, friends and great effort. But, by the Almighty, there is nothing that would make you happier than when you see your son or daughter as you would hope faithful, wise, straight, doing well.

Even if he was given as much as there is in this life of gold and silver and was one who appreciate that, then he still would not be as happy as seeing his son or daughter as he wish them to be. That is why one of you might say how or what do I need to do? You can do it all. But if you really and truly want your children to be a continuation of your faithful existence then first you must believe that Allah has given you this son or daughter as a present or a gift. Allah says: **{And We gifted upon him Isaac and Jacob; each of them We guided; and Noah did We guide aforetime; and of his seed (We guided) David and Solomon and Job and Joseph and Moses and Aaron. Thus do We reward the good.}**6:84. Gift here means the most valuable thing that you can receive from Allah. A child at your hands, your child and you are his father, at your service, and does what you ask of him, you spend for his/her need, you are responsible for directing him. I feel that the father whose time is fully taken by his work in order to achieve success outside the home while ignoring his children will only feel his huge loss only when it is too late. He would feel that he lost the most valuable thing in his own existence, his children. On this Friday I will just suffice with the verses from the Quran that commands the believer to up bring the children.

Verse 1: **{and order your family to do prayer, and keep at it, we do not ask you for provision, we provide for you, and the sequel is for the righteousness}**20:132. Many believers do their prayers and do not care much about their families. Did the children do their prayers or not! It matters not to him. If at all possible for you to be an Imam and get them to pray with you then do it. If it was possible to bring them up to the mosque for a prayer with you then do it. A child is always a burden upon his father, but that is a welcomed burden if it has fruitful pickings later. Allah says: **{and order your family to do prayer, and keep at it, we do not ask you for provision, we provide for you, and the sequel is for the righteousness}**20:132. When it is time for each of the daily prayers, remember this verse. You are not commanded to pray solitary and lonesome. As a believer you are empowered to command your family to pray and continue to do so.

Verse 2: **{you who believe (or who have faith) protect your selves and your families from a fire which is fueled by people and rocks with harsh and hard angels who never disobey Allah and they do what they are commanded}** 66:6. Allah is commanding you that you do not just protect yourself alone. You must protect yourself and your people. The verse is very clear.

Verse 3: **{Allah charges you concerning (the provision for) your children: to the male the equivalent of the portion of two females,}** 4:11. The creator of the universe leaves in your trust your children. Verses in the Quran sometimes refer to a specific situation but it has a general meaning. Allah gives you the responsibility of children. You have to bring them up, prune them, give them manners, educate them and let them grow pure and chaste, watch over them, protect them and take their hand towards Allah. The messenger ppbu said: **{Each one of you is in charge, and each of you will be responsible for what he is in charge of. The Imam is in charge and his is responsible for his charge. The man is in charge with his family and he is responsible for charge. And the woman is in charge in her husband's house and she is responsible for her charge. And the servant is in charge of his master's money (business) and he is responsible [and it was reported that he might have said: And the son is in charge of his father's money (business) and he is responsible]. And each one of you has a responsibility and is responsible for it}**

You are responsible in Allah's sight. Some of the scholars reported that a son who neglects his parent deserves to end up in hellfire. As he stands between the hands of Allah on judgment day; he might argue: O God, let my father go into hellfire ahead of me because he was the main cause of me going into it. Those are easy words, easy to say and easy to listen to, but our brothers who have young children and they are busy with something else other than their children. When your son in a blink of an eye grows into a young man and has not received the necessary guidance will go out of your hand. You will be powerless to do anything with him. He won't listen, and won't consider, and won't take advice, and won't pay attention. This son will be a burden on to his family. For that reason, here is an advice from the heart to every brother of ours who has children must spend part of the time in introducing them to Allah, honour them, be compassionate with them and show them affection. The messenger

ppbu said: **{whoever has a kid then be a kid for his sake}**. You must spend part of your time with your children. Do not say: I am very busy. I leave the house early in the morning when they are in bed and return home late in the evening when they are in bed. This is a big mistake. It is clearly noticeable that the more time the father spends outside the house the more out of control the children are. You must spend some time with your children. This time may be taken from your prime time.

The messenger ppbu said: **{for a man to teach his child manners and morals is better than to donate a daily provision of food}**. The messenger pphu also said: **{No father can give a son anything better than a good behavior}**. We must follow Allah's command as He says: **{Whatever the messenger brings to you then take it or practice it and whatever he prohibits for you then abstain from it. And be God fearing for Allah is tough with punishment}**59:7. Do what the messenger ppbu commands you to do, and do not pay attention to making money or making ends meet. The evidence in the second part of our first verse: **{and order your family to do prayer, and keep at it, we do not ask you for provision, we provide for you, and the sequel is for the righteousness}**20:132. The scholars have said that the verse states that this who commands his family with doing prayers, then Allah will take charge in providing for him and them. That's what the verse says: **"we do not ask you for provision"**. Do not say: I am busy.. or this is the season for my line of work. Or I want to put bread and butter on the table!! Remember that you are one of them. Remember that you too are provided for not the provider. You and your family and people are burden to Allah. Do not use providing for your family as an excuse for neglecting your children. Allah says: **"we provide for you"**.

The messenger ppbu said: **{teach your children three habits: loving of your prophet, loving his family and reciting Quran}**. Your children my dear brothers are trusts left in your care. Concerning the children Allah says: **{Allah commands you regarding your children ..}** , He also says: **{and do not kill your children in fear of poverty...}**. The messenger ppbu said: **{Be God fearing and be just (do not be biast) amongst your children}**. Allah's command to parents towards their children has come ahead of His command to children towards their parents. Scholars say that on the day of resurrection Allah interrogates a parent regarding his child before interrogating a child regarding his parent.

You slaves of Allah work towards fixing your homes and spouses and children, and ask Allah to turn your children into good people. Just as prophet Ibrahim pbu when he said: “make me and my sons worship not idols and statues” and he said: “O Lord gift me with good devoted children” and he said: “O Lord make me and my descendants of those who do prayers”. He also along with son Ishmael said: “Our Lord make us submit to you (Muslims) and our descendants a nation that submits to you (Muslims)”.

Dear parents, a good devoted son will benefit his living or dead parents. The messenger ppbu said: **{When son of Adam dies all his deeds terminate except for three: an on going donation, a useful work of knowledge (research or science or invention), or a devoted son who says prayers for him/her}**. Your children will be a blessing for their parents or a curse. That's according to good or bad upbringing and Gods help. Similarly a parent may be a cause for a child's happiness or misery. Allah **{While the wall belonged to two young orphan kids in the town and there was a treasure which belonged to them. Their dad was a devoted person, So your Lord wanted them to grow and mature before they take their treasure out, a blessing from your Lord. I did not do it out of my own accord, and that is explanation of what you couldn't have patience for}** 18:82.

The messenger ppbu said: **{Every baby is born on the natural instinct faith and its parents turn him into a Jew or into Magi (unbeliever fire worshiper)}**. As a parent pay attention to the proper upbringing of your children. This who plows good will harvest with the help of Allah good. **{Just like a tree with its root firm and its branches in the sky and it brings its harvest time after time with the permission of its Lord}**. And this who plows evil will harvest evil. **{Just like an evil tree extracted from above the earth and it has no place of rest}**.

{you who believe (or who have faith) protect your selves and your families from a fire which is fueled by people and rocks with harsh and hard angels who never disobey Allah and they do what they are commanded} 66:6.