

# **ALI 212: Parent-Child Relationship in Sahifa Sajjadiyyah**

## **Dua no. 24 - Questions for Reflection**

- 1) What are the stages we need to go through to behave correctly with our parents?
- 2) How is respect to parents manifested physically?
- 3) What does Imam say about the mistakes that both parents and children make in their relationship.

# Agenda

- Stages before correct behavior
- Attitude towards parents
- Physical manifestations
- Mistakes in the relationship
- Praying for parents
- Parents and Children in the Hereafter

# Stages before Correct Behavior

A believer goes through various stages before being able to behave in the right way with parents.

## **I – Learning through Ilham (inspiration)**

Ilham is inner inspiration, a knowledge that comes from within the human being, being put there by the Creator. It is similar to instinct.

Then He inspired it [the soul] to understand  
what is right and what is wrong

Sura ash-Shams, 91:8

## Stage 2 – Gathering of Knowledge

Through inspiration the believer learns how to behave with the parents.

Points to note:

1) Channel of this knowledge

God → human being → behavior

A direct teaching from God to Insan.

2) Gathering could also mean adding other resources to it: Holy Quran, Hadith, Sirah of Masumeen (a) . . . Inspired knowledge needs additional material for strengthening.

3) Complete knowledge is necessary, not a little knowledge.

4) Knowledge is necessary before action. It initiates action, guides towards the right way of doing it, and prevents mistakes.

He who acts without knowledge is like one who treads without a path. Then his deviation from the path keeps him at a distance from his aim.

And he who acts according to knowledge is like he who treads the clear path. Therefore, he who can see should see whether he should proceed or return.

**Imam Ali (a)**

**Khutba 154, Nahjul Balagha**

## **Stage 3 – Action**

Knowledge alone is insufficient unless it is acted upon.

It does not benefit you to know something that you do not act upon. Increase of knowledge if not acted upon, is just an increase in ignorance.

**Imam al- Baqir (a)**

Knowledge is accompanied by action, so whoever knows , acts. And whoever acts, knows.

**Imam as-Sadiq (a)**

## Stage 4 – Tawfiq

Success to do something comes only from Allah.

Holy Quran : My success is only through Allah, on Him I rely and to Him I turn (11:88)

Imam Ali (a) describes Tawfiq in the following ways:

- a) a mercy, a grace of God
- b) a special favor of the Beneficent
- c) peak of success
- d) height of good fortune

In every matter of obedience you will find Allah, the Glorified 's assistance that will flow through tongues and grant firmness to hearts.

It has sufficiency for those who seek sufficiency and a cure for those who seek cure.

**Imam Ali (a)**

**Khutba 214, Nahjul Balagha**



# Attitude towards Parents

- 1) Awe : Respect + Fear
- 2) Devotion ; kind and compassionate
- 3) Pleasure at serving them
- 4) Preferring them over the self
- 5) Considering their devotion as much
- 6) Considering my devotion as little

# Physical Manifestations of Respect

The attitude of the human being is revealed through the body. Whatever is felt in the heart cannot be hidden for long.

Imam Ali (a) says: Often your utterances and expressions of your face leak out the secrets of your hidden thoughts.

The following are outward signs of the respect a believer feels for parents:

- 1) Low voice
- 2) Good/Kind words
- 3) Mild temper
- 4) Soft heart
- 5) Friendship

# Mistakes in the relationship

Both parents and children will make mistakes in their relationships, not fulfilling the rights due to the other.

Imam(a) talks about each:

- 1) For the Parents, the wrongs done by the child will:
  - a) alleviate their sins
  - b) raise their status
  - c) add to their good deeds

God changes evil deeds into good deeds.

Regarding the wrongs done by the parents a child;

- a) does not take into account
- b) prays for removal of negative consequences
- c) does not consider them against him
- d) considers all their rights on him
- e) acknowledges their favors
- f) understands the impossibility of recompense

# Praying for Parents

A believer prays for his parents all the time, whether they are alive or have passed away.

Holy Quran: And say, my Lord have mercy on them as they brought me up when I was little. (al-Israa, 17:24)

Hadith: A man came to the Prophet and asked; O Messenger of Allah, now that my parents are dead, is there any act of dutifulness left for me to do towards them? The Prophet answered; Yes. There are four things; Supplication for them and praying that they are forgiven, fulfilment of their wills, being kind to their friends, and maintaining good relations with those of your relatives with whom your kinship is established only through them.

# Parents in the Hereafter

- Parents and children will intercede for each other on the Day of Judgment
- Parents and children will be together in Heaven