



Sahifa Sajjadiyya: Du‘ā 24 on Parents

Session 2: 6Rabi‘ul Akhar 1436/ Jan 27, 2015

The Du‘ās of the *Sahīfa* contain great wisdom and guidance for daily life. Understanding and applying them can result in a transformation of thought and attitude. In this course we will study Imam Sajjād’s Du‘ā for his parents (No. 24). We will discuss family roles and responsibilities as outlined in these supplications, and see how believers can practically apply them in everyday life.

Holy Quran on Parents

يَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا يُنْفِقُونَ ۖ قُلْ مَا أَنْفَقْتُمْ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَلِلْوَالِدَيْنِ وَالْأَقْرَبِينَ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ
وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ ۚ وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٢١٥﴾

Q 2:215 *They ask you, [O Muhammad], what they should spend. Say, ‘Whatever you spend of good is [to be] for parents and relatives and orphans and the needy and the traveler. And whatever you do of good - indeed, Allah is Knowing of it.’*

Question: Why spending for children not mentioned?

S. S. A Rizvi: Parents have more right to benefit from the earnings of their children; to enjoy the fruits of the garden which they developed so lovingly in their early life. Even if they are not in need of such assistance, the children should offer them a part of their earning as a tribute. Imam al-Sadiq (a) said: *Fulfil their requirements . . . even if they in reality are not in need of your assistance. (Islamic Family Life).*

Hadiths on Parents

رسول الله ﷺ لَمَّا سُئِلَ عَنْ حَقِّ الْوَالِدَيْنِ عَلَى وَلَدِهِمَا: هُمَا جَنَّتُكَ وَنَارُكَ

The Messenger of Allah (s) when asked about the rights of parents incumbent upon their child, said: *They are your Paradise and your Hell (Targhib wa Tarhib, 3:316)*

رسول الله ﷺ: رِضَا اللَّهِ فِي رِضَا الْوَالِدِ، وَسَخَطُ اللَّهِ فِي سَخَطِ الْوَالِدِ

The Prophet (s): *Allah's pleasure lies in the pleasure of one's father and the Allah's annoyance lies in the annoyance of one's father (Ibid, 3:322)*

الإمام الصادق عليه السلام: بَرُّوا آبَاءَكُمْ يَبْرُكْكُمْ أَبْنَاؤُكُمْ

Imam al-Sadiq (a): *Be good to your parents and your children will be good to you (Bihar, 74: 65)*

Allah says in Hadith al-Qudsi: *I swear by My Glory and Power that if a (child who is) disobedient to his parents comes to me with all the good deeds of all the prophets, I will not accept them from him.*

Best form of salawāt – 2 (from Du'a 47)

My Lord, bless Muhammad and his Household with a blessing which will pass beyond Your good pleasure, be continuous in its continuity through Your subsistence, and never be spent, just as Your words will never be spent!

My Lord, bless Muhammad and his Household with a blessing which will tie together the blessings of Your angels, Your prophets, Your messengers, and those who obey You, comprise the blessings of Your servants, jinn or mankind, and those worthy of Your response, and bring together the blessings of every one of the kinds of Your creatures which You have sown and authored!

My Lord, bless Muhammad and his Household with a blessing which will encompass every blessing, bygone and new! Bless him and his Household with a blessing which is pleasing to You and everyone below You and will bring forth with all that a blessing with which You wilt multiply those blessings and increase them through the recurrence of days with an increasing in multiples which none can count but You!



Du'a 24 on Parents: Passage 2

وَ اخْصُصِ اللَّهُمَّ وَالِدَيَّ بِالْكَرَامَةِ لَدَيْكَ، وَ الصَّلَاةِ مِنْكَ، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ

S 24:2 [AM] And distinguish, O Lord, my parents with excellence near You, and grace from You: O most merciful!

S 24:2 [WC] And single out my parents, O Allah, for honour with You and blessings from You, O Most Merciful of the merciful!

- Who are the parents of Imam al-Sajjad (a)?
- Were they alive when this supplication was said?

His mother was Shahrbanu, the daughter of Yazdigird, the last Sasanian king of Persia... She is said to have died shortly after giving birth to her only son Ali

Zayn al-'Abidin had collected his supplications and taught them to his children, especially Muhammad al-Baqir (b. 57 AH) and Zayd (b. 76 AH). (Intro to Sahifa by W Chittick).

- According to Ayt S. M. B al-Sadr & S. S. Akhtar Rizvi – the reasons for the compilation of Sahifa indicate that it was done after Karbala.

Commentary on S 24:2

Ukhsus comes from *khassa* (خَصَّ) which means to distinguish, select, choose, & single out. The first sounds appropriate.

Meaning: Distinguish, O Allah, [after the Prophet and his family], my parents for honour and dignity with You and prayers of blessings from You, [for, their status with me, follows after the special status of the Prophet and his Ahlul Bayt (a)].

Both invocations above deserve elaborate explanations, as the Imam has prayed for Divine honour and blessings.

The Imam ends with the famous Quranic way of inviting Divine mercy: O *the Most Merciful of the merciful* (Q 7:151)



Du'ā 24 on Parents: Passage 3

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ، وَ أَلْهِمْنِي عِلْمَ مَا يَجِبُ لَهُمَا عَلَيَّ
إِلْهَامًا، وَاجْمَعْ لِي عِلْمَ ذَلِكَ كُلِّهِ تَمَامًا، ثُمَّ اسْتَعْمِلْنِي بِمَا تُلْهِمُنِي مِنْهُ،
وَوَفِّقْنِي لِلنُّفُوزِ فِيْمَا تُبَصِّرُنِي مِنْ عِلْمِهِ حَتَّى لَا يَفُوتَنِي اسْتِعْمَالُ
شَيْءٍ عَلَّمْتَنِيهِ، وَلَا تَثْقُلَ أَرْكَانِي عَنِ الْحُقُوفِ فِيْمَا أَلْهَمْتَنِيهِ

O Allah! Bless Muhammad and his Household, teach me through inspiration knowledge of everything incumbent upon me toward them, and gather within me knowledge of all that completely! Then make me act in accordance with what You have inspired me and give me the success to put into practice the knowledge You have shown to me, lest I fail to act according to something You have taught me or my limbs feel too heavy to perform that with which You have inspired me!

Commentary on S 24: 3 - 1

Imam begins the passage with salawāt, following the etiquette as well as ensuring that the prayer is accepted by Allah.

Revised translation: *And acquaint me through a complete inspiration with the knowledge of what is obligatory upon me towards my parents.*

- How will Allah inspire us with complete inspiration?

We need to (i) have firm intention, (ii) have purification, (ii) and put devoted efforts. All these should be based on knowledge and not assumptions or doubts.

Attending this course is one way of deriving the knowledge!

And gather in me all that knowledge in its entirety. So important is the love, respect and obedience to parents that we cannot act on incomplete and 'half baked' knowledge. The best source of this knowledge is Allah (in the Quran), the Prophet and his family (in their sayings and practices).

Commentary on S 24: 3 - 2

Proper & correct implementation only comes after knowledge.

Then make me act (lit. use me) according to what You have inspired of it, and give me tafreeq of putting into practice what You have given me the insight of its knowledge – such that I don't let it pass or miss anything You have taught me of it, nor should my limbs feel burdened to act upon what You have inspired me.

- Allah inspires us with our obligations towards parents
- We also gain knowledge about parents thru Quranic recitation and attending sermons and lectures
- All these will be wasted if do not act upon them
- Two cause of non-implementation: passing away of right opportunities (say, due to procrastination) and laziness that we feel in our bodily parts.

Du‘ā 24 on Parents: Passage 4

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ كَمَا شَرَّفْتَنَا بِهِ، وَصَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ، كَمَا
أَوْجَبْتَ لَنَا الْحَقَّ عَلَى الْخَلْقِ بِسَبَبِهِ

O Allah, bless Muhammad and his Household, as You have ennobled us through him, and bless Muhammad and his Household, as You have made incumbent upon us rights toward the creatures because of him!

- Islam & the Prophet (s) has given us *sharaf* – distinction, eminence, dignity and honor. How dare do they do his mockery?
- On account of Prophet's great and clear teachings and practices, Allah has made it obligatory for us to fulfill the rights of His creatures.
- Question: The Prophet (s) was born an orphan? How did he show us to respect the parents?



Why emphasis on Parents and not children?

Here is a point to ponder over: We do not find in the Qur'an and *hadith* so much emphasis on looking after the children as is the case with the rights of the parents. Why? The *shari'ah* has put a new challenge to those who think. Find out how logical this attitude is. The fact is that the parent's heart is the fountainhead of the love for the child; this affection becomes the life-blood of the parents. The Quran has alluded to this instinctive parental love in several places. On the other hand, children especially when they are no longer in need of parental care, do not feel so much love for the parents. We are not speaking about respect. Here the talk is about instinctive love; and experience is a reliable witness to confirm this observation.

It is a known fact that sign-posts are not needed on straight highways; but at a crossroads where several routes branch out, one cannot expect to get onto the right path without a guide or a sign-post. It is for this reason that Islam does not emphasize in so many words those aspects of life which are taken care of by human nature itself. It is where the hold of natural instinct is loosened that Islam extends its helping hand and leads man on the right path by telling him what he is expected to do.

It was for this reason that Islam did not explain the rights of children so forcefully; but full emphasis was given to the rights of the parents, as will be observed in coming chapters (S.S.A.Rizvi, *Islamic Family Life*).



Hadiths on Parents

There are many Hadiths on Parents. A few of them can be accessed at the following sites:

Parents and Children

<http://hadithdatabank.com/preview.php?mod=4&id=151>

Forty Hadiths on Parents

<http://www.al-islam.org/forty-ahadith-on-parents>

Kindness to Parents

<http://www.al-islam.org/a-bundle-of-flowers-sayyid-faqih-imani/kindness-parents>



Good articles on Parents

The Status of Parents in Islam by Syed Hasan Akhtar

www.islamicity.com/articles/Articles.asp?ref=IR1006-4202

Parents and Children by Sayyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi

<http://www.al-islam.org/islamic-family-life-sayyid-akhtar-rizvi/parents-and-children>

Rights of Parents & Children in Islam

<http://navedz.com/2009/06/10/rights-of-parents-and-children-in-islam/>



For next class please do the following

- 1) Find what other religions have to say about the rights of Parents
- 2) Choose any three Hadiths on Parents to discuss in the class. The previous slide has links to Hadiths.
- 3) Read Passages number 5 to 10 of this Du 'a with both translations in English