



Sahifa Sajjadiyya: Du‘ā 24 on Parents

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The Du‘ās of the *Sahifa* 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

وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ وَهْنًا عَلَى وَهْنٍ وَفِصَالُهُ فِي عَامَيْنِ أَنْ
اشْكُرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيْكَ إِلَيَّ الْمَصِيرُ ﴿١٤﴾ وَإِنْ جَاهَدَاكَ عَلَى أَنْ تُشْرِكَ بِي مَا
لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعْهُمَا ۖ وَصَاحِبْهُمَا فِي الدُّنْيَا مَعْرُوفًا ۖ وَاتَّبِعْ سَبِيلَ
مَنْ أَنْابَ إِلَيَّ ۚ ثُمَّ إِلَيَّ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٥﴾

Q31:14 – 15 *And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him, [increasing her] in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the [final] destination. * But if they endeavor to make you associate with Me that of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them but accompany them in [this] world with appropriate kindness and follow the way of those who turn back to Me [in repentance]. Then to Me will be your return, and I will inform you about what you used to do.*

Rights of Parents after Death

رسول الله ﷺ لَمَّا سُئِلَ عَنْ بِرِّ الْوَالِدَيْنِ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهِمَا: نَعَمْ، الصَّلَاةُ عَلَيْهِمَا، وَالِاسْتِغْفَارُ لَهُمَا، وَإِنْفَاذُ عَهْدِهِمَا مِنْ بَعْدِهِمَا، وَصِلَةُ الرَّحِمِ الَّتِي لَا تُوصَلُ إِلَّا بِهِمَا، وَإِكْرَامُ صَدِيقِهِمَا

The Messenger of Allah (s) when asked about being good to one's parents after their death, said: *Yes, [it entails] praying for them, seeking forgiveness for them, fulfilling their promises after them, maintaining kinship that is not done other than through them, and honouring their friends.*

Imam al-Sadiq (a): *What prevents a person from doing good to his parents - whether alive or dead - by offering prayers, giving charity, performing Hajj on behalf of them, (knowing that) the rewards of these acts are also granted to him, in addition to his parents? Besides, due to his good deeds and prayers (for them), Allah, the Mighty and the Glorious, shall grant him abundant good.*

Imam al-Baqir (a): *A man could be obedient to his parents during their lifetime, then they die and he does not repay their debts or ask Allah to forgive them, so Allah records him down as being disobedient ('aaqan). Or, he could have been disobedient to them during their lifetime and not a virtuous, but after their death he repays their debts and seeks forgiveness from Allah for them, Allah records him down as obedient.' (al-Kafi 2:163)*

Best form of salawāt – 3 (from Du‘ā 47)

56. My Lord, bless Muhammad and his Household: those whom You have chosen for Your command, appointed the treasurers of Your knowledge, the guardians of Your religion, Your vicegerents in Your earth, and Your arguments against Your servants, purified from uncleanness and defilement through a purification by Your desire, and made the mediation to You and the road to Your Garden! 57. My Lord, bless Muhammad and his Household: with a blessing which makes plentiful Your gifts and generosity, perfects for them Your bestowals and awards, and fills out their share of Your kindly acts and benefits! 58. My Lord, bless him and his Household: with a blessing whose first has no term, whose term has no limit, and whose last has no utmost end! 59: My Lord, bless them to: the weight of Your Throne and all below it, the amount that fills the heavens and all above them, the number of Your earths and all below and between them, a blessing that will bring them near to You in proximity, please You and them, and be joined to its likes forever!

The *Sahifa*, Du‘ā 24, passage 5

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِي أَهَابُهُمَا هَيْبَةَ السُّلْطَانِ الْعُسُوفِ، وَأَبَرَّهُمَا بِرَّ الْأُمِّ الرَّءُوفِ،
وَاجْعَلْ طَاعَتِي لِوَالِدَيَّ وَبِرِّي بِهِمَا أَقَرَّ لِعَيْنِي مِنْ رَقْدَةِ الْوَسْنَانِ، وَأَثْلَجَ
لِصَدْرِي مِنْ شَرِبَةِ الظَّمْآنِ حَتَّى أُؤَثِّرَ عَلَى هَوَايَ هَوَاهُمَا، وَأُقَدِّمَ عَلَى
رِضَايَ رِضَاهُمَا وَأَسْتَكْثِرَ بَرَّهُمَا بِي وَإِنْ قَلَّ، وَأَسْتَقِلَّ بَرِّي بِهِمَا وَإِنْ كَثُرَ

O Allah, fill me with awe of my parents, the awe one has toward a tyrannical sovereign, and let me be devoted to them, with the devotion of a compassionate mother! Make my obedience and devotion to them more gladdening to my eyes than sleep to the drowsy and more refreshing to my chest than drink to the thirsty, so that I may prefer their inclination to my inclination, set their satisfaction before my satisfaction, make much of their devotion to me though it be little, and make little of my devotion to them though it be great.

Imam Ali: Goodness to parents is the biggest obligatory act (بِرُّ الْوَالِدَيْنِ أَكْبَرُ فَرِيضَةٍ)

H P (s): spending a day & night with them better than one year of Jihad



Commentary S 24:5 - 1

Why the awe of parents similar to tyrannical ruler?

In Hadith al-Qudsi: *Tell (O Prophet), to the child who is obedient to his parents: "Do whatever (good deeds) you want (to do), you will never enter the Fire (of Hell);" and say to the child who is disobedient to his parents: "Do whatever (good deeds) you want (to do), you will never enter Paradise. "* In a Prophetic Hadith that the parents are our paradise and our Hell.

Why we need to have the compassion of a devoted mother?

At seniority they need our compassion & patience, similar to that of a mother. Sons/daughters lose their temper quickly.

Obedience to parents: gladdening to eyes & refreshing to our chest

Shows that children often feel burdened to serve parents. Aim: *I may prefer their inclination to my inclination, set their satisfaction before my satisfaction. HP: look of mercy & affection is equal to an accepted Hajj*

There is no limit to obeying & serving parents: *[O Allah] make much of their devotion to me though it be little, and make little of my devotion to them though it be great*



The Sahifa, Du'ā 24, passage 6

اللَّهُمَّ خَفِّضْ لَّهُمَا صَوْتِي، وَأَطِبْ لَّهُمَا كَلَامِي، وَأَلِنْ لَّهُمَا عَرِيكَتِي، وَاعْطِفْ
عَلَيْهِمَا قَلْبِي، وَصَيِّرْنِي بِهِمَا رَفِيقًا، وَعَلَيْهِمَا شَفِيقًا

- S 24:6 [AM] O Lord let me lower my voice for them, and let my speech be agreeable to them, and soften my conduct towards them, and let my heart be kind to them, and make me tender and lenient unto them both.
- S 24: 6 [WC] O Allah, lower before them my voice, make agreeable to them my words, make mild before them my temper, make tender toward them my heart, and turn me into their kind companion, their loving friend!

Imam al-Sadiq (a): *Goodness towards the parents is (sign of) a person's excellent cognizance (husnul ma'rifah) of Allah. For there is no worship that hastens towards the happiness of Allah than exhibiting goodness to one's Muslim parents for the sake of Allah; and Do not cast your gaze upon them except with love and compassion; do not raise your voice above theirs; do not raise your hands above theirs; do not walk ahead of them.*



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/>

A page from an old copy of Sahifa

