

ALI 317: Our Focus when raising children – Session 1

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تُلْهِكُمْ أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ ۚ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ ﴿٩﴾

63:9 O you who have believed, let not your wealth and your children divert you from remembrance of Allah. And whoever does that - then those are the losers.

Pooya/Ali Commentary: Material and human resources of all kinds are but fleeting sources of enjoyment. Remembrance of Allah introduces man to acts of goodness, noble and enlightened thoughts, kind and loving disposition. More often than not property makes man forget his duties and obligation to Allah and His servants. So, beware.

Ensure that all of you read Intro to the Sahīfa by Ayt. S M B al-Sadr & A. H. Sheriff. Both articles available at: www.academyofislam.com/index.php/resourcess/publications/sahifa

Children of Imam al-Sajjād (a): total of 15 (11 sons & 4 daughters): Muhammad al-Bāqir (a), ‘Abdullāh, ‘Abdul Rahmān, Ali, Hasan, Husayn, Husayn al-Asghar, Muhammad al-Asghar, Sulayman, ‘Umar, Zayd; ‘Aliyya, Fātima, Khadija, and Umm Kulthūm (*Kitāb al-Irsbād*, pp.391-92)

الإمام علي عليه السلام: لا تجعلن أكثر شعلك بأهلك وولدك؛ فإن يكن أهلك وولدك أولياء الله، فإن الله لا يضيع

أولياءه، وإن يكونوا أعداء الله فما هممك وشعلك بأعداء الله

Imam Ali to one of his companions: Do not devote much of your activity to your wife and children because if your wife and children are lovers of Allah, then He will not leave His lovers without caring for them. And if they are enemies of Allah, then why should you worry and keep yourself busy about the enemies of Allah (*Nabj*, Saying 362)

First four passages from Du ‘a 25

(1) اللَّهُمَّ وَمَنْ عَلَيَّ بِنَاءٍ وَوَلَدِي وَبِاصْلَاحِهِمْ لِي وَبِإِمْتِنَاعِي بِهِمْ

1 O God, be kind to me through the survival of my children, setting them right for me, and allowing me to enjoy them!

(2) إِلَهِي امْدُدْ لِي فِي أَعْمَارِهِمْ، وَزِدْ لِي فِي آجَالِهِمْ، وَرَبِّ لِي صَغِيرَهُمْ، وَقَوِّ لِي ضَعِيفَهُمْ، وَأَصِحِّ لِي أَبْدَانَهُمْ وَأَدْيَانَهُمْ

وَأَخْلَاقَهُمْ، وَعَافِيهِمْ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَفِي جَوَارِحِهِمْ وَفِي كُلِّ مَا عُنِيتُ بِهِ مِنْ أَمْرِهِمْ، وَأَدْرِزْ لِي وَعَلَى يَدِي أَرْزَاقَهُمْ

2 My God, make long their lives for me, increase their terms, bring up the smallest for me, strengthen the weakest for me, rectify for me their bodies, their religious dedication, and their moral traits, make them well in their souls, their limbs, and everything that concerns me of their affair, and pour out for me and upon my hand their provisions!

وَاجْعَلُهُمْ أَبْرَاراً اتَّقِيَاءَ بُصْرَاءَ سَامِعِينَ مُطِيعِينَ لَكَ، وَلَاؤَلِيَاءِكَ مُحِبِّينَ مُنَاصِحِينَ، وَلِجَمِيعِ أَعْدَائِكَ مُعَانِدِينَ وَنُعِضِينَ، آمِينَ

3. Make them pious, fearing, insightful, hearing, and obedient toward Thee, loving and well-disposed toward Thy friends, and stubbornly resistant and full of hate toward all Thy enemies! Amen!

(4) اللَّهُمَّ اشْدُدْ بِهِمْ عَضُدِي، وَأَقِمْ بِهِمْ أَوْدِي، وَكَثِّرْ بِهِمْ عَدَدِي، وَزَيِّنْ بِهِمْ مَخْضَرِي، وَأَخِي بِهِمْ ذِكْرِي، وَأَكْفِنِي بِهِمْ فِي

عَيْبَتِي، وَأَعِزِّي بِهِمْ عَلَى حَاجَتِي، وَاجْعَلُهُمْ لِي مُحِبِّينَ، وَعَلَيَّ حَدِيثِينَ مُقْبِلِينَ مُسْتَقِيمِينَ لِي، مُطِيعِينَ، غَيْرَ عَاصِينَ وَلَا

عَاقِبِينَ وَلَا مُخَالِفِينَ وَلَا حَاطِبِينَ

4. O God, through them strengthen my arm, straighten my burdened back, multiply my number, adorn my presence, keep alive my mention, suffice me when I am away, help me in my needs, and make them loving toward me, affectionate, approaching, upright, obedient, never disobedient, disrespectful, opposed, or offenders!