

## **AADAAB (RESPECT) OF PARENTS**

(An extract from *Aadaabul Muaasharat- Etiquettes of Social Life* by Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi)

### **Virtues of respect and service to parents:**

1. Service to parents results in increase in rizq (earning a livelihood) and in longer life.
2. A gaze of love and mercy cast at parents is equivalent of an accepted Hajj.
3. Service to parents is superior to Jihad.
4. By rendering service to parents, one obtains the thawaab of a Hajj, Umrah, and Jihad.
5. Jannat lies under the feet of your mother.
6. Gazing with anger at one's parents is disobedience to parents.
7. Disobedience to parents is among the Kaba-ir (major) sins
8. He who is disobedient to parents will be disgraced. (The curse of disgrace is repeated thrice in the hadith).
9. Abusing parents is among the major sins, even the utterance of a harsh word or word of disrespect.
10. Allah curses the one who displeases his parents.
11. The one who troubles his parents will be punished here on earth (in addition the punishment in the Akhirah).
12. The one who disobeys his parents and displeases them will not enter Jannat. (He will first have to suffer his punishment before being admitted into Jannat).

13. The Doors of Jahannam are open for the one who disobeys his parents.
14. A murderer of parents will be among the worst-punished in the Aakhirah.
15. The pleasure of the parents is the pleasure of Allah and the displeasure of the parents is the displeasure of Allah.
16. Service to parents is among the noblest acts by Allah Ta'ala.
17. Parents are either the Jannat or Jahannam of their children. The cultivation of their pleasure leads to Jannat while displeasing them paves the way to Jahannam.
18. A mother's dua for her children is accepted with swiftness.
19. Jibraeel (alayhis salam) cursed offspring who displease their parents in their old-age.
20. The best door to Jannat is one's father. Either guard it or destroy it.
21. Whoever desires increase in earnings and long life should be kind and obedient to parents. Kindness to parents secures forgiveness for sins.
22. The calamity of disobeying parents will be experienced before death as well as after death.
23. Neither the Fardh nor the Nafl Ibaadat is accepted of a person who is disobedient to his parents.
24. Among the major sins, the worst is to commit shirk with Allah Ta'ala. This is followed by the sin of disobedience to parents.

## **RELATIONSHIP WITH PARENTS**

1. Never be disrespectful to parents. Do not say a harsh word to them.
2. Even if parents are unjust, it is not lawful for children to ill-treat, disobey, or displease them.

3. Obey them in all lawful things. If they instruct you to do anything which is unlawful in the Shariah, then politely and with respect and apology decline. Never refuse rudely nor argue with them.
4. When parents abuse, scold, or even beat their children, they should submit to such treatment with humility. Never should they utter a word of disrespect or complaint, nor should they display on their faces any indication of disgust or anger. Bear their treatment in silence and with patience. Make dua for them.
5. Assist them in all lawful ways even if they happen to be non-Muslim.
6. Whenever you see them, greet them.
7. If you are living with them take their permission before going anywhere. Inform them of your whereabouts.
8. If you are engaged in Nafil Salaat and your parents call you, break your Salaat and answer their call even if there is no urgency or importance in their call. If you are performing Fardh Salaat and you detect urgency in their call, then break even the Fardh Salaat to answer their call.
9. Do not call them by their names. Address them with a title of respect and honor.
10. After their death, make Dua-e-Maghfirat for them. Pray for their forgiveness and within your means, practice virtuous deeds with the intention of the thawaab thereof being bestowed on them by Allah Ta'ala.
11. Pay the debts of your parents.
12. If they had made any lawful wasiyyat (bequest), fulfill it if you are by the means to do so.
13. Be kind, respectful, and helpful to the friends of your parents.
14. When entering the private room of parents, seek their permission before entering.
15. Always be cheerful in their presence.

16. Speak kindly and tenderly to them.
17. When speaking to parents, keep your gaze low. Do not stare them in the face.
18. Do not raise your voice above the voices of your parents.
19. Be humble in their presence.
20. When accompanying parents on a walk, do not walk in front of them nor on the right or left side. Walk slightly behind them.
21. Even in their absence speak highly and respectfully of them.
22. Do not give preference to the wife over them (this does not apply to the rights of the wife. Where parents instruct their son to violate or discard the obligatory rights of his wife, it will not be permissible to obey them in this case – Translators note).
23. Always endeavor to keep them happy.
24. Do not embark on a journey without their permission.
25. When they question you, do not inconvenience them by delaying your reply.
26. It is highly disrespectful to refrain from answering them.
27. If at any time you were disrespectful to your parents, regret your action and hasten to obtain their pardon.

May Allah Ta'ala give us all the ability to respect our parents.  
Aameen.