

Different Attitudes

The following is a conversation between a person and his/her mother:

The **mother** calls her son: 'My son, my son'.

The son: 'What! What does this old woman want?'

The **mother**: 'I feel some pains and I want you to take me to the hospital.'

The son: 'Your demands never stop, I am busy!'

The **mother**: 'I want you just to take me.'

The son: 'I told you I am busy, busy!'

The **mother**: 'Busy doing what? You are just staying at home all day.'

The son: 'Is this an investigation?'

The **mother**: 'No, but I am very ill.'

The son: 'Stop moaning, I will take you but make yourself ready in five minutes, otherwise I will leave you here!'

The **mother**: 'I will be ready in a minute son.'

This is another conversation between the same person and his friend:

The friend: 'Hey, how are you doing friend?'

The **person**: 'Pretty good, how about you?'

The friend: 'Let's go to the park to play some basketball.'

The **person**: 'Alright! Let's do it. I'll meet you there in a minute.'

The friend: 'Great.'

The **person**: 'Don't worry, lunch is on me!'"

Brothers and sisters in Islam, unfortunately, many people prefer other friends to their mothers. They treat their buddies and friends with kindness and fulfill all their needs, but they do not care about their mothers, who gave birth to them and breast-fed them. Worse than that, some people have even beaten and yelled at their mothers and threatened to expel them from the house.

Shaikh Ahmad al-Qattan said: "A mother came to me crying and complaining about her son's breaking of family relations. She said: 'He never listened to my complaint, nor fulfilled my needs. He listened only to his wife. His wife changed dramatically when he was absent from the home. She became violent towards me and treated me badly, day and night. As soon as my son came back, she started crying and complaining to him that I had said this and I had done that. I tried to

defend myself but ended up arguing with her, so my son had no option but to slap men in the face, in front of his wife.'" There is no power and no strength, save in Allah

Another man had abandoned his mother in order to live with his wife, in another house. Some people tried to reconcile him with his mother, but he refused. They told him, 'Fear Allah and visit your mother, Paradise is under the feet of mothers,' but he said mockingly, 'No, paradise is under the wives' feet.' They said: 'Why did you abandon her?' He said: In order to discipline and teach her!"

A wife asked her husband to expel his mother from the house and build her a room in an annexed building. He did not hesitate for a second. But, when winter came, she could not stay in that cold room, alone. The poor mother said: 'I tried to get into the house, but all the doors were closed. I felt so cold and my health deteriorated. I thought that my son would have taken me to a hospital, but, to my surprise and shock, he took me to a social home, and has never asked about me, since that day.'

Some Advice to a Disobedient Person

Do not ignore your parents' rights, nor show ingratitude towards them, nor any rudeness. Your parent's obedience is an obligation upon you, so be kind to them and never neglect them. You are seeking paradise, while it is under your mother's feet (referring to the Prophet's (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) hadith. She carried you for nine months, with hardship and brought you forth, with hardship; She breast-fed you, cleans your dirt and prefers you to herself. She used her lap as a bed for you, and showered you with love, care, and kindness. If you fell ill, she got worried about you and passed the nights awake, by your side. She took you to the doctor and spent her money so that you could get well.

She sacrificed her life so that you could live. All these sacrifices were made, yet you still treat her with rudeness and ingratitude. When she gets old and needs you, you will expel her; you satisfy your appetite while she goes hungry; you prefer your wife and kids, yet neglect her. You become agitated by her presence and cannot wait for her death. You abandon her at a time when she most needs you. Allah Ta`ala has forbidden you to disrespect her, or to show ingratitude to her. In this world, you will be punished by your own children's disobedience, and in the Hereafter, you will be distanced from the Lord of the Universe. Allah Ta`ala will call you, [that is because of what your hands have sent forth, and verily, Allah is not unjust to His slaves] (Dhahabi)

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Allah Ta`ala has forbidden you to be undutiful to your mothers." (Bukhari)

You are simply being paid back for what you did

Allah Ta`ala says: **You are only being paid back for what you used to do...**
(Surah Tur: 16)

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Treat your parents with kindness and your children will treat you with kindness; be chaste and your wives will be chaste too." (Tabarani)

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Allah delays all sins (that is, does not call you to account for them), by His Will, till the Day of Judgement, except disobedience to ones parents; He punishes the one who is undutiful to his parents before his death." (Hakim and Asbahani)

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Two sins are punished immediately in this world: Injustice and disobedience to ones parents." (Hakim)

There is no doubt that whoever is undutiful to his parents, his/her children will be undutiful to him/her; and whoever shows kindness to them; his/her children will show kindness to him/her.

Here are a number of stories, which confirm this:

Al-Asmai' said: "A man told me: 'I left home looking for the most undutiful person to his parents. One day, I met an old man with a rope around his neck attached to a bucket, drawing water from a well. It was very hot and even the camels could not bear the heat of that day. Behind the old man there was a young man beating him with a whip. I said: 'Fear Allah, the old man is weak and cannot bear the way you treat him, let alone your beating.' He said: 'He is my father.' I said: 'May Allah never Bless you.' The young man said: 'Shut up, this is how he used to treat his own father, and how his father used to treat his grandfather.' Then, I said to myself, 'This is the most disobedient person on earth.'"

Another story which should be taken seriously, and as a reminder **[for him who has a heart or gives ear while he is heedful]** (Qaaf: 37). We were told that a young man used to spend all his time playing in amusement centers. He had a

pious father who often advised him and warned him not to take the wrong path, nor to follow bad company. He reminded him that Allah Ta`ala never forgave unjust people. However, the more the father tried to advise his son, the more disobedient and cruel he became. One day, he insisted on his advice to his son, but was shocked when his son hit him on the face. The father swore that he would go to the *Ka'bah* and ask Allah Ta`ala to avenge him. He went to the *Ka'bah* and said: 'Oh Allah! People come from all over the world to visit Your House, I come to You to answer my prayers; my son is disobedient to me and I ask You to take my revenge on him. I ask You Lord to paralyze his body, You are the Majesty, You beget not, nor are You begotten.'

No sooner had he finished his appeal to Allah than the right side of his son's body became paralyzed. We ask Allah Ta`ala to protect us from disobedience, harshness of the heart, and from committing sins and evil deeds.

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Three supplications are answered, without any doubt; the one of a father to his son, that of a traveler and that of one who has been wronged." (Bukhari, Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi, and Ahmad)