

Encouragement to Be Kind to One's Parents

1.) Abdullah Ibn Mas`ud (radhiAllahu anhu) said: "I asked the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam): "O Allah's Messenger! What is the best deed?" He (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) replied, 'To be good and dutiful to one's parent's.' I further asked, 'What is the next in goodness?' He (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) replied, 'To strive in Allah's cause.'" (Bukhari & Muslim)

2.) Abdullah Ibn Amr Ibn Aas (radhiAllahu anhu) said: "A man came to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and said: 'Shall I participate in striving in Allah's cause?' The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: 'Are your parents still alive?' The man said, 'Yes.' The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: 'Strive for their benefit (i.e. looking after them is your struggle).'" (Bukhari & Muslim)

3.) Imam Muslim narrated: "A man came to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and said, 'I came to you to take the oath of allegiance with you on emigration and striving in Allah's cause, seeking the reward of Allah.' The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: 'Are any of your parents alive?' The man said, 'Yes, both of them are still alive.' The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) asked him, 'Do you seek the reward of Allah?' The man said, 'Yes'. then the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: 'Go back to your parents and be kind to them and exert yourself in their service.'" (Muslim)

4.) Talhah Ibn Mu`awiya as-Sulami (radhiAllahu anhu) said: "I came to the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) and said, 'O Messenger of Allah, I want to participate in striving in Allah's Cause.' He (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) asked me, 'Is your mother still alive?' I said, 'Yes'. He (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) then said: 'Sit by her feet, that is where Paradise is.'" (Tabarani)

5.) On the authority of Thawban (radhiAllahu anhu), the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Only supplication averts the decree of Allah; only kindness to parents and relatives prolongs one's life; and a man is deprived of provision for a fault he commits." (Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah, and al-Hakim)

6.) The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Whoever pleases his parents in the morning will have two gates opened for him towards Paradise,

and whoever pleases his parents in the afternoon will have the same; but if he pleases one of them, he will have only one gate." The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) was asked: "Even if they treat him unjustly." He (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) kept saying three times: "Even if they treat him unjustly!" (al-Adab al Mufrad)

7.) Abu Hurairah (radhiAllahu anhu) reported: "A man came to Allah's Messenger and said, 'O Allah's Messenger! Who is more entitled to be treated with the best companionship by me' The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said, 'Your mother.' The man said, 'Who is next?' The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said, 'Your mother.' The man further said, 'Who is next?' The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said, 'Your mother.' The man asked, for the fourth time, 'Who is next?' The Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said, 'Your father.'" (Bukhari and Muslim)

8.) Abu Usayd Malik Ibn Rabi`ah as-Sa'idi (radhiAllahu anhu) said: "While we were with the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) a man of Banu Salamah came to Him and said: 'Messenger of Allah! Is there any kindness left that I can do to my parents after their death?

He (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) replied: 'Yes, you can

(1) invoke blessings on them,

(2) forgiveness for them,

(3) carry out their final instructions after their death,

(4) join bonds of relationship which were dependent on them,

(5) and honour their friends." (al-Adab al Mufrad, Ibn Majah, and Abud Dawud)

9.) Al-Hasan al-Basri, may Allah have Mercy on him, said: "Voluntary Hajj and striving in Allah's path is nothing close to the kindness of parents." (al-Muhalhal in "al-Waqt 'Amaar aw Damaar")

10.) When his mother died, Iyaas Ibn Mu`awiya, may Allah have Mercy on him, cried. He was asked: 'Why do you cry?' He said: 'I used to have two gates open to Paradise, now one of them is closed.' (Ibnul-Jawzi in "Birr al-Waalidayn")

11.) Hisham Ibn Hassaan said: "I asked al-Hasan. 'I recite the Qur'an and my mother waits for me for dinner.' He said: 'Go to eat dinner with your mother and make her happy, for that is better for me than a voluntary Hajj.'" (Ibn al-Jawzi in "Birr al-Waalidayn")

12.) It has been narrated by Ibn `Abbas (radhiAllahu anhu) that the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Any child who looks to his/her parents with a kind glance of mercy, then for each glance, he/she receives the reward of an accepted Hajj." So the sahabah said: "Even if he glances a hundred times a day?" So the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said, "Allah is capable of granting much more than that!" (Narrated by Bayhaqi in *Shu`abul Iman*)