

Shining Examples of Being Kind to Parents

We have heard enough painful stories of ingratitude and cruelty to parents; now let us hear some of the most shining stories, outstanding attitudes and noble biographies of our ancestors. We ask Allah Ta`ala to guide us to follow their footsteps and deeds.

The First Example

Allah Ta`ala relates to us in the Qur'an the story of His Prophet Isma`il (alayhis salam). When his father Ibrahim (alayhis salam) said to him, ["**O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you (offering sacrifice to Allah), so tell me, what do you think?" He said: "O my father! Do that which you are commanded, Insha-Allah, you shall find me of the patient.**"] (Surah Safaat: 102) Isma`il (alayhis salam) submitted himself to the will of Allah and accepted his father's demand; however, Allah Ta`ala honored him and ransomed him [**with a great sacrifice (a ram)**] (Surah Safaat: 107)

The Second Example

On authority of A`isha (radhiAllahu anha), the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "I entered Paradise and heard someone reciting, I asked: 'Who is reciting?' It was said to me: 'Haritha Ibn an-Nu`man'. The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) then said: 'That is because of Birr (kindness), that is because of Birr.'" Abdur Razzaq added in his narration: "Haritha Ibn an-Nu`man was most kind to his mother".

The Third Example

On the authority of Ibn Umar (radhiAllahu anhu), the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Once three persons (from the previous nations) were traveling, and suddenly it started raining and they took shelter in a cave. But the entrance of the cave closed while they were inside. They said to each other, 'Nothing can save us now except the truth, so each of you should ask Allah's help by referring to any such deed as he thinks he may have done sincerely (i.e. only to gain Allah's pleasure).'

One of them said, 'O Allah, You know that I had old parents whom I used to provide with the milk of my sheep every night. One night I was delayed, so by the time I had come, they were already asleep, while my wife and children were crying with hunger. But I would not to let them (i.e. my family) drink unless my parents had drunk first. I disliked waking them up and also disliked that they should sleep without drinking, so I kept waiting (for them to wake) until it became dawn. O Allah! If You consider that I did that for fear of you, then please remove the rock.' So the rock was shifted and they could see the sky." (Bukhari and Muslim)

The Fourth Example

Abu Abdur Rahman said: "There was a man who was very kind to his parents. They ordered him to get married, so he obeyed them. However, one day his mother and his wife got into an argument. His mother told him: 'Divorce her.' But it was not easy for him to divorce his wife, and at the same time he did not want to disobey his mother. Therefore, he went to Abu Darda (radhiAllahu anhu) seeking advice. After recounting his story, Abu Darda (radhiAllahu anhu) said: 'I will not order you to divorce your wife, nor to disobey your mother, but if you like I will tell you a Hadith which I have heard from the Prophet (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam). He (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Being dutiful to a parent is the best of the gates of Paradise; so if you wish, keep to the gate, or lose it." The man then said: 'You are my witness, I divorce my wife.' (Ahmed Aashur, Birr al-Waalidayn and Al-Mundhiri, Targheeb wat-Tarheeb)

The Fifth Example

Ma'mun said: "I have never seen anyone more kind to his father than Fadhl Ibn Yahya. His kindness reached the highest level when they were in prison. His father used to make wudhu only with hot water.

Once, on a cold night, the prison warden stopped supplying them with firewood; so when his father went to sleep, Fadhl filled a container with water and held it close to the fire of the lamp, to heat it up. He stayed in that position, awake till dawn, so that his father could make wudhu with hot water, so he went through all that out of kindness to his father." (Al-Manawi, Birr al-Waalidayn)

The Sixth Example

Abu Burda' Ibn Abu Musa al-Ash'ari said: "Ibn Umar saw a Yemeni man circumambulating the Ka'bah, carrying his mother. The man said to him, "I am like a camel for her, if her camel gets tired, I will never get tired!" Do you think I have paid her back, O Ibn Umar?" He replied, "No, not even for one cry at the time of birth!" (Adabul Mufrad of Imam Bukhari)

The Seventh Example

Ibn `Awn said: "A man visited Muhammad Ibn Sireen and found him with his mother. The man asked: 'What is wrong with Muhammad Ibn Sireen, does he suffer from anything? The guests said: 'No, but he is always like that when he sits with his mother.'

Some of Muhammad Ibn Sireen's relatives said: 'I have never seen Muhammad Ibn Sireen talking to his mother, but with humility towards her.' (Ibn al-Jawzi, Birr al-Waalidayn)

The Eighth Example

Abu Yazid al-Bustami, may Allah have Mercy on him, said: 'I was twenty years of age when my mother called me one night to look after her, because she was ill. I obeyed her; I put one of my hands under her head and with the other one I passed it over her body reciting Surat al-Ikhlās [Say: "**He is Allah, the One..**"]. My hand, which was under her head, became numb. I, then, said to myself: 'The hand is mine but my mother's right is for Allah's Pleasure. So I endured that pain till dawn, and ever since then I was never able to move my hand again like I used to.' When Abu Yazid al-Bustami died, one of his companions saw him in his dream flying in Paradise and Glorifying Allah, the Most Merciful. He asked him: 'How did you obtain this Mercy?' Abu Yazid al-Bustami replied: 'Kindness to my mother and endurance of hardships.' (Ahmed Aashur, Birr al-Waalidayn)

The Ninth Example

Abu al-Hasan Ali Ibn al-Husayn Ibn Ali Ibn Abi Talib (ra) who was called Zaynul-`Abideen, was one of the masters of the Tabe`een (the followers of the Companions). He used to treat his mother with so much kindness and love. Once

he was asked, 'You are the kindest person to his mother, yet we have never seen you eating with her, from a single dish.' He replied: 'I am afraid that my hand would take what her eyes have already seen in the dish, and then I would have disobeyed her.' (At-Tartushi, Birr al-Waalidayn)

The Tenth Example

Abdullah Ibn Awn set two slaves free because once, when his mother called him, he raised his voice over hers. (Ibn al-Jawzi, Birr al-Waalidayn)