

The Example of the Sahaba in Respecting One's Parents and Elders

Incident #1: There was a man making tawaaf of the ka`bah, carrying his elderly mother on his back, reading this poetry:

I am my mother's humble camel,

(The difference is) if a camel gets tired, I won't get tired!

Then this man asked Ibn Umar (radhiAllahu anhu), **"O Son of Umar! Do you think I have fulfilled the right of my mother?"**

So Ibn Umar (radhiAllahu anhu) answered, **"No, you have not even fulfilled the right of one cry of hers."** (In other words, by doing all this he was not even able to fulfill the one cry of pain that his mother gave at the time of giving birth to him.) (*Adabul-Mufrad*)

Lesson #1: We learn from this incident of how great the rights of the parents are over us, especially the right of the mother.

Lesson #2: We should not feel ashamed of serving our parents even if we have to carry them on our backs.

Lesson#3:

Incident #2: Abdullah ibn Amr (radhiAllahu anhu) narrates that a man came to Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) to accept Islam and he had left his parents in a condition which they were crying because of him.

So the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) told him, **“Go back and make them laugh just as you have made them cry.”**

Lesson #1: We learn from this incident that accepting Islam is a very great virtue, but after Islam the greatest act of virtue is pleasing the parents.

Lesson #2: We learn from this incident that making the parents happy is equal to making Allah happy and making the parents displeased is equal to making the parents displeased.

Lesson #3:

Incident #3: It is narrated that Sa`d bin Abi Waqqaas (radhiAllahu anhu) was very good to his mother. But when he accepted Islam his mother said, **“What is this that you have done?! If you do not leave this religion then I swear that I shall not eat or drink anything until I die! Then everyone will say that you had killed your mother.”**

Sad replied, **“O my mother! Please do not do this because I will not leave Islam for anything.”**

So one day and night passed and she had not eaten or drunk anything, and this had made her very weak. Then another day and night passed without her eating or drinking anything, and her weakness became more severe.

When Sad saw this he said to her, **“O my mother, if you had a hundred lives and you were to give up each life, one by one, then**

still I would not leave Islam for anything. So if you want, then starve yourself, and if you want then eat.” So his mother saw that he will not turn away from Islam, so she left her hunger strike.
(Narrated by *Muslim* and *Tafsir ibn Kathir*)

Lesson #1: We learn from this incident that if our parents tell us to disobey the commandments of Allah Ta`ala and Rasul (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) then we must not obey them.

Lesson #2: We learn from this incident that our love for Allah and Rasul (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) should be more for than our love for anyone or anything else in this world.

Lesson #3: