

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH MOST GRACIOUS MOST COMPASSIONATE

THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN EDUCATING THE CHILDREN

Praise be to God, who bestowed us with the grace of children and commanded us to educate them for whatever serves their interests and the interests of all servants of God. I bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah, and I also bear witness that Muhammad (Pbuh), is His chosen and beloved Servant among His creatures. He educated his people on the noblest teachings and warned them to refrain from all vices .May Allah grant peace and honor on him, his family, companions and whoever followed him in truth along the perpetual succession of night and day.

O servants of Allah

I recommend you as I recommend myself to fear Allah and try always to seek His satisfaction in all your endeavors. You should know–May Allah bless you– that the grace of children is one of the greatest gifts from God. Therefore, raising them to righteousness is among the most sacred duties that we should fulfill. Actually, a child is a natural reflection of his parents, this is why the father has always a keen interest to make his son happy and he prevents whatever may cause misery to him. Yet, people have different opinions with respect to the interpretation of this happiness. On the one hand, some people think that they should give absolute freedom to their children and offer them gifts to make them feel happy. On the other hand, other people think that they should set limits to their children’ needs and narrow down the scope of their freedom. However, those who consider the speech of the divine revelation, they will find in it a parallel approach in this regard which provides a safe atmosphere for the child and makes the parents cherish him with their sincere and tender parental affection. You should , O loving father, have a look at the dialogue between Noah , (Pbuh) and his son who committed some misdeeds [and Noah called to his son who was apart [from them], "O my son, come aboard with us and be not with the disbelievers." [But] he said, "I will take refuge on a mountain to protect me from the

water." [Noah] said, "There is no protector today from the decree of Allah, except for whom He gives].¹ Despite the authority that Noah (Pbuh) enjoys over his son he let him make his decision freely after he made evident for him the risks thereof. You should consider also the last instruction of the prophet Jacob (Yacoub) (Pbuh) for his children before he died [Or were you witnesses when death approached Jacob, when he said to his sons, "What will you worship after me?" They said, "We will worship your God and the God of your fathers, Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac – one God. And we are Muslims [in submission] to Him]². O brother educator, try to observe these instructions of the servants of the Most Gracious God and compare them with the instructions of tyrants. Here is the example of Abu Abraham (Ibrahim), (Pbuh) who questioned his son rudely and harshly and threatened him fiercely [[His father] said, "Have you no desire for my gods, O Abraham? If you do not desist, I will surely stone you, so avoid me a prolonged time."]³. There is also the example of Pharaoh addressing Moses (Pbuh). He said [[Pharaoh] said, "If you take a god other than me, I will surely place you among those imprisoned."]⁴. Indeed, these are true illustrations of violent methods of instruction which are absolutely irrelevant to the true method. [So by mercy from Allah , [O Muhammad], you were lenient with them. And if you had been rude [in speech] and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from about you. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them and consult them in the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah . Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him]]⁵.

O Muslims

Educating children and conversing with them in a gentle manner is a prophetic method and a religious duty. Abu Umamah reported: ((A young man came to the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, and he said, "O Messenger of Allah, give me permission to commit adultery." The people turned to rebuke him, saying, "Quiet! Quiet!" The Prophet said, "Come here." The young man came close and he told him to sit down. The Prophet said, "Would you like that for your mother?" The man said, "No, by Allah, may I be sacrificed for you. Neither would people like it for their mothers." The Prophet said, "Would you like that for your daughter?" The man said, "No, by Allah, may I be sacrificed for you. Neither would people like it for their daughters." The Prophet said, "Would you like that for your sister?" The man

¹ Surat Hūd-42-43

² Surat Al-Baqarah

³ Surat Maryam-46

⁴ Surat Ash-Shu`arā' -29

⁵ Surat 'Āli `Imrān-159

said, “No, by Allah, may I be sacrificed for you. Neither would people like it for their sisters.” The Prophet said, “Would you like that for your parental aunts?” The man said, “No, by Allah, may I be sacrificed for you. Neither would people like it for their parental aunts.” The Prophet said, “Would you like that for your maternal aunt?” The man said, “No, by Allah, may I be sacrificed for you. Neither would people like it for their parental aunts.” The Prophet placed his hand on him and he said, “O Allah, forgive his sins, purify his heart, and guard his chastity.” After that, the young man never turned to anything sinful).

How wonderful is this prophetic method for the education of children and how sublime is this manner in making recommendations. It is a kind of exalted instruction in an affectionate tone. The prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) is the best illustration of the most wonderful Images of fatherhood. He is the most rightful prophet among God’s creatures and the best teacher ever. The prophet has dealt with a young person who was full of energy, brimming with vitality and power. He came upon the prophet to seek his permission to commit an immoral action out of a blind instinct, but he eventually left from there with a chaste and decent.

O Muslims

The spiritual tuition and prophetic education also include instructing the children about their responsibilities towards their mothers and fathers as well as blood relationships and relatives. Hence, we find that the Prophet (Pbuh) has always insisted on teaching his companions about these duties and used to guide them for whatever kept them away from evil. ((It was reported by 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr, that "A man came to the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, wanting to do jihad. The Prophet asked, 'Are your parents alive?' 'Yes,' he replied. He said, 'then exert yourself on their behalf.'"))). So how come that some people ignore the rights which their parents have upon them and neglect their duties towards blood relatives? In effect, it is very important to ask the children about their belongings, toys and foods. Here we can mention the example of Abû Bakr As Siddîq , May Allah be pleased with him, who reported that he used to ask about the food which his servant used to bring him. So how can parents turn a blind eye on what their children have into their hands despite they most of the time know very well that it is not their own property? It was reported that in one of the Hadiths, the Prophet (Pbuh) said that “((All of you are guardians and are responsible for your subjects))

O servants of Allah, Fear Allah and try always to follow good manners in instructing your children about their studies , companions and all their life aspects. Try always to open prospects of dialogue with them about all information and ideas they may acquire. You should show them the positive sides and drive them to break with all negative aspects lest you guarantee a good end for them and for you and assure that you meet the satisfaction of your Lord.

I say this saying of mine, and I seek forgiveness from Allah for me and for you, and to the rest of the Muslims, so ask Him for forgiveness, He is the forgiver, the Merciful and call upon Him, He will respond to you, as Allah is the most generous.

Praise be to Allah , the most exalted and Glorified who ordered us to instruct our children and converse with them kindly and advocated us to be a good example for the next generations. We bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad, his Prophet and Messenger; He is the head of all other Prophets and Messengers and the guide of all teachers. May Allah grant peace and honor on him, his family and companions and whoever followed him to the Day of Judgment.

Actually, the Holy Quran is rich with various examples of spiritual instruction and education which date back to the early history of humanity. It is noteworthy, among these examples, the dialogue which took place between the most beloved Prophet to the Lord, May Allah grant him peace and honor, and his people. Almighty God says [And recite to them the news of Abraham, When he said to his father and his people, "What do you worship?" They said, "We worship idols and remain to them devoted." He said, "Do they hear you when you supplicate? Or do they benefit you, or do they harm?"]⁶. It is an accurate question about wrong perceptions and calling into account for misguided beliefs. Parents and educators should hardly insist on the spiritual conversation with girls and boys in this time which is characterized by the scrambling and diversity of information because giving free rein to children raises a great risk and most of the time leads to unpleasant consequences and serious harm. Actually the book, the computer and other knowledge channels are just means which have advantages but can equally have disadvantages. This fact actually necessitates from fathers and mothers to play an active role in directing their sons and daughters to the safest channels for their ideas and to follow them closely based on affection and close relationship. Concerning the way of Ibrahim Al Khalil (Pbuh) which is full of tenderness, affection and respect when he converses with his son . Almighty God says [And when he reached with him [the age of] exertion, he said, "O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I [must] sacrifice you, so see what you think." He said, "O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast."]⁷ . This is the

⁶ Surat Ash-Shu`arā'-69-73

⁷ Surat Aş-Şāffāt-102

best illustration of a serene dialogue and nice instruction whose result is response and obedience to God and to his chosen Prophet (Pbuh).

So fear Allah—O servants of Allah— and try always to ensure what is beneficial for the safety of your children’s spirit so that Allah makes pleasant both your end and consequence. You should remember when you supply your children at time of leaving for school with material stuff including food and drink , to give them also a moral charge by directing them to righteousness and asking them to benefaction to ensure that they grow up on the best morals and most graceful qualities.

So, send your blessings upon the leader of Messengers, as Allah has ordered you in the Holy book by saying: [Indeed, Allah and His Angels send blessings upon the Prophet. O you who believe! Send blessings on him and greet him (with) greetings]⁸.

O Allah! Send your mercy on Muhammad and on the family of Muhammad, as You sent Your mercy on Abraham and on the family of Abraham. And send Your blessings on Muhammad and the family of Muhammad, as You sent your Blessings on Abraham and on the family of Abraham. Verily You are the Most Praise-worthy, the Most Glorious.

O Allah! Be content with his Righteous Caliphs, his wives mothers of believers, his companions all together and the believers, men and women to the Day of Judgment, and be content with us too by Your Mercy, O Most Merciful.

O Allah! Bless our gathering here today and make us disperse in peace and in protection from sin and not to make us deficient in our religion.

O Allah! We ask you guidance, piety, chastity and wealth.

O Allah! We ask you to grant each of us honest tongue, humbled penitent heart, righteous deeds, useful knowledge, firmly belief, pure faith and lawful and blessed sustenance. O Allah you are the most glorious and honourable.

O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! And grant support and unity to Islam and Muslims, O Allah! Let down tyrants and infidels. O Allah! Grant peace and security to all your servants.

O Allah! Grant us security in our homelands! Grant us long-lasting safety and stability in our homeland! Grant glory to our Sultan and support him with the truth and make him a guide to truth.

⁸ Surate Al-Ahazab- 56

O Allah! Send upon us rain from the sky in showers and make us among those who remember you during day and night and who seek your forgiveness during evening and dawn.

O Allah! Bestow us the blessings of the sky and the bounties of the earth and bless our fruits and crops and our entire livelihood. O Allah you are the most glorious and honourable.

O Allah! Give us in this world good and in the Hereafter good and protect us from the punishment of the Fire."

O Allah! Let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us and grant us from Yourself mercy. Indeed, You are the Bestower.

O Allah! We have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers."

O Allah! Forgive all the believing men and women, those of them who were living and those of them who were dead, you are the most hearing and respondent.

Slaves of Allah! [Allah commands justice, the doing of good, and liberality to kith and kin, and He forbids all shameful deeds, and injustice and rebellion: He instructs you, that you may remember.]