

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah,
most Kind, most Merciful

Surat al-Isra' 17:23

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا
إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا
إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ
أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ
لَهُمَا أُفٌ وَلَا تَنْهَرَهُمَا
وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا

And your Lord has commanded that you shall not worship anyone except Him, and [he has commanded] kindness to parents. If either or both of them reach old age with you, say not to them [so much as] 'Ugh' and do not tell them off, but speak to them kind words.

Learning Objectives

- To understand the term 'rights'
- To explore why our parents have rights over us.
- To understand the rights of our mothers and fathers

I  my Mom!

Importance of Parents

By now we already know the great importance of our dear parents, how and why we should respect them and how we can pray and recite *du'as* for them. But, did you know that they have certain rights over us?

We also know the great emphasis *Allah* places on the importance of parents, as he mentions this so many times in the **Holy Qur'an**. But the amazing thing is that he often mentions respecting them straight after telling us to respect and obey Him! This is how valuable our parents are – they are mentioned in the same breath as *Allah*!

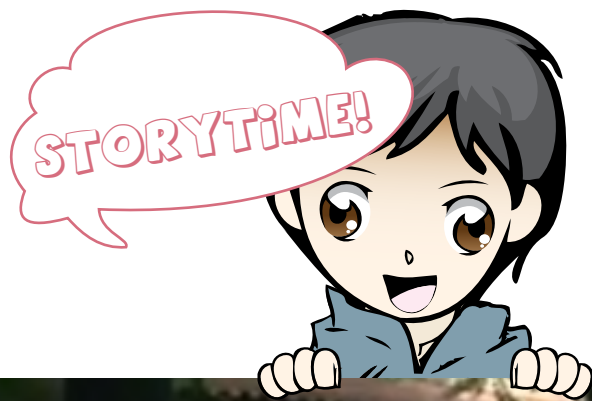


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WATCH
ON
YOUTUBE



Once, an old man was sitting in the garden with his son. A crow perched on the wall of the house. The man asked his son,

“” What is that?

His son replied,

“” A crow.

A few minutes later he asked his son the same question, and his son replied,

“” I just told you, it's a crow.

The father repeated the question a couple more times, and each time the son grew impatient and angry at his father, replying in a harsh voice.

The man then went inside and brought out an old diary, he opened a page and asked his son to read it. The son read out loud,

“” Today my little son was sitting with me in the garden when a crow appeared. He asked me 25 times what it was, and I replied to him 25 times that it was a crow. I did not feel angry, but instead I felt love for my child.’

The father explained to his son the difference between their attitudes: the father replied to his son's question with love and patience but the son, when his father only asked him a few times, replied with anger and impatience.

The moral of the story is to never be impatient with our parents when they reach old age. Remember the sacrifices they have made for us when we were little.

What are rights?

A 'right' is the name given to any duty and responsibility we have towards something. It is something that is known to be morally correct and expected of someone. You must have heard of the term 'human rights' and 'animal rights' and 'children's rights' – well, our parents also have rights over us! They have these rights because they have done so much for us out of love, and hence *Allah* expects us to give them something back in return.

With rights comes responsibilities!

It is important to understand that although our parents have many rights over us, they also have a huge responsibility when it comes to bringing us up. They have been given these rights as they have done so much for us, but we must not forget that their task is very difficult, and that they will be held accountable for their actions as well.

Allah in *Hadith-e-Qudsi* says:

I swear by My Glory and Power that if a (child who is) disobedient to his parents comes to me with all the good deeds of all the prophets, I will not accept them from him.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hadith-e-Qudsi is the name given to any hadith that has come from *Allah* Himself, as narrated by *Rasulullah*. These hadiths were revealed to *Rasulullah* who has narrated them back to the people.

Where do we find the Rights of our Parents?

We need to look no further than the *Qur'an* or the *Ahlul Bayt* to provide the answers for us. The *Qur'an* tells us that we should respect and honour our parents, and the exact way in which we do this is mentioned in the awesome book written by *Imam Zayn al-Abidin (a)*, called *Risalat al-Huquq*. This book is our charter of rights, covering everything from the rights of *Allah*, the rights of people around us, and even the rights of the parts of our body! It is interesting to note that our mothers and fathers have separate and different rights over us.

Rights of your Mother and Father

These are outlined in the boxes below. Note how many rights your mother has and the reasons that our *Imam* has given for her to deserve all these rights.



RIGHT OF YOUR MOTHER

It is the **right of your mother** that you should appreciate that she **carried you** and fed you the **fruits of her heart**, and **protected you** [during pregnancy] with her ears, eyes, hands, and her whole self **gladly, cheerfully and carefully**, suffering patiently all the worries, pains, and difficulties.

Then she was most **happy feeding you**, forgetting her own hunger, **clothing you**, giving you every **comfort** with her own hardships, putting you to sleep while keeping herself awake.

And remember that it was she who was suffering the heat and cold of this world for your safety, therefore you must **remain thankful** to her.



RIGHT OF YOUR FATHER

It is the right of your father to realise that he is **your root** and **you are his branch** and that **without him** you would not have **existed**.

Therefore, whenever you find in yourself anything likeable remember that your father is the basic means of that gift [of *Allah*] to you. And be thankful to *Allah* and **grateful** to your father accordingly.

Rasulullah (s) has said:

A child should **not call** his father by name, he should **not walk** ahead of him, he should **not sit** until his father has seated himself, and he should **not do such acts** as a result of which people **abuse his father**.



Faith in Action

Surprise your parents by writing or typing the rights of both parents on a paper with a scroll printed on it and decorate the paper. Punch two holes at the top and tie a piece of ribbon or string. Hang these in the kitchen or family room to act as a reminder to always respect your parents!





There was once a man named *Uways Qarni*, who came from a small place in Yemen called Qarn. He had a blind mother who he cared for lovingly. He longed to come to Madina and visit *Rasulullah* but he never could as he spent all his time caring for his mother. One day his mother gave him permission to leave for a short while and visit *Rasulullah*. He came eagerly to Madina and when he went to the house of *Rasulullah*, he was told that he had just missed him and he had gone out of town for a couple of days. Because he had promised his mother that he would return quickly, he left Madina, sad at not having met *Rasulullah*. When *Rasulullah* returned from his trip, he immediately said,

“ I smell the beautiful fragrance of my companion *Uways Qarni* from Yemen. He is surely going to paradise due to the way he has looked after and obeyed his mother.

Uways was the only companion of *Rasulullah* whom he had mentioned by name but had never met in person. He was given such a status of being guaranteed heaven, because of how he looked after his mother!

HIGHER LEVEL



- 1 **Qadha salah** of a father (any prayer that was not offered by a father whilst he was alive), must be offered by the eldest son, after the father has passed away. This rule is outlined in the book *Islamic Laws* by Ayatullah Sistani:

ISLAMIC RULE 1399

If a person did not offer some of his obligatory prayers, and did not care to give *qadha*, in spite of being able to do so, after his death, it is upon his eldest son, as an obligatory precaution to perform those *qadha*, provided that the father did not leave them as a deliberate act of transgression. If the son cannot do so, he may hire someone to perform them. The *qadha* prayers of his mother is not obligatory upon him, though it is better if he performs them.

- 2 **Salat al-Walidayn**: this is a special *salah* that can be prayed as a gift to your parents, whether they are dead or alive. *Walidayn* is the Arabic term for parents. It is a two *rak'ah salah*, prayed just like the *fajr salah*:

- i Make *niyyat* of *salah* for 'gift to my parents'.
ii In the first *rak'at*, after the recitation of *Surat al-Fatihah*, recite this *du'a* ten times:

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ
يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ

- iii In the second *rak'at*, after the recitation of *Surat al-Fatihah*, recite this *du'a* ten times:

رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلَمَنْ دَخَلَ
بَيْتِي مُؤْمِنًا وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ
وَلَا تَزِدِ الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا تَبَارًا

- iv After the *salam*, recite this *du'a* ten times:

رَبِّ اَرْحَمُهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا



Faith in Action

Salat al-Walidayn

Learn how to pray this *salah*, perhaps you can design a small card with the method and verses written/typed which can be put into your prayer mat. Make a habit of praying this beautiful *salah* as often as you can.



- 1 Who has greater rights over us: our father or mother?
- 2 What acts can we do to fulfil the rights of our parents?
- 3 According to *Risalat al-Huquq of Imam Zayn al-Abidin (a)*, list one right for each of your parents.
- 4 Why do our parents have rights over us?
- 5 What is the name of the special *salah* that we can pray as a gift for our parents?

KEYPOINTS

- 1 *Allah* and the *Ahlul Bayt* have put a lot of stress on the rights our parents have over us; this is mentioned in the *Qur'an* and in *Risalat al-Huquq of Imam Zayn al-Abidin (a)*
- 2 Our mother has greater rights over us.
- 3 With these rights of parents come huge responsibilities for which they will be answerable on the Day of Judgement.

