

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Allah *azza wajal*, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate, The Most Merciful
All Praise is due to Allah *azza wajal*, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon
His Beloved Messenger *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*, his Family & Companions

THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS

There are numerous places in the Qur'an wherein Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*, side by side with commanding us to worship Him, has also commanded Muslims to be kind and respectable towards their parents. This is especially true when they reach old age. This is a time when we should avoid being impolite to them or say things which could annoy them.

Sometimes when they reach this old age their limbs become frail, including the way they think, they might say things to us which may seem childish. This is when we need to be very careful about saying something that might hurt their feelings.

One example

It is said that there was an old female who decided to test her son. She asked him a few questions repeatedly. On the third instance, the son became very angry at the repeated questions of his frail mother. She then went and brought a piece of paper to show him. On the piece of paper was recorded the number of times he had asked the same question to her when he was young. She also told him that every time he had asked the question, instead of shouting and getting irritated, she kissed him and given him the same answer over and over again. She also told him that this was the occasion for which she had kept the piece of paper.

We should remember that even if the parents becomes helpless and paralysed, still they are a means of mercy for the children. One should never consider their condition at this time as a burden. The sign of a good child is that when he comes home tired from work, the moment he sees his parents, all his wordily tiredness should disappear.

The 'Ulama say that one of the greatest gifts in this world is having parents and the greatest gift in the next world is to be lucky enough to enjoy the intercession of the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*. Only those people who do not have parents any longer understand the real status of a parent. They are also the very means of you having family in the first place. Through them, you have sisters and brothers, uncles and aunts, etc. In like manner, being a genuine follower of the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*, you

have also created spiritual relationship with everything associated with his blessed being.

Presently this is what happens

Presently, we see that once the father retires after working his entire life, instead of allowing him to rest, we give him the duty of taking the grandchildren to the shop so that they can be kept occupied. In other words, the parents are not kept in the house as esteemed guests, but as mere servants. Do not consider parents as a burden when their hair has become white through old age. Remember that whatever you have in life is through their Barakah.

In the Qur'an, we are told that Nabi Shu'aib *Alayhis Salaam* had no sons and only two daughters. They were so obedient that they never allowed him to do any work.

The same type of concern was shown by Nabi Yusuf *Alayhis Salaam* when he intended to keep back Bin Yameen instead of returning him to their father. When his brothers complained that by keeping him back it would create immense stress for their father, Nabi Yusuf *Alayhis Salaam* gave a piece of his clothing to them so that his father could recognize whose clothing this was and thereby become happy and comfortable.

N.B.

1. The reason that we are not allowed our Zakah to our give parents is because this is considered as the impurity of one's wealth, and obviously one's parents never fed you impure things when you were young, hence you are not allowed to feed them such impure things when they are in need.
2. It is only Islam which has given this status to parents. Among Hindus, even though the father is considered as the head of a family, but when he dies, it is his eldest son who lights the fire to cremate him. On the other hand, even if the parents were very poor in Islam, the children are able to bury their parents with respect and with all due decorum. The child kisses the grave, performs Esaale Thawaab for the parent, etc. Hence, if you are so obedient to them after they pass away, you should be even more obedient to them while they are still alive.

The good behaviour of a parent has an effect on the child even though he may not be good!

We see the story of Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* and Hadrat Khidr *Alayhis Salaam* in the Qur'an. When they visited a certain town, the people there were not kind to them and did not even respect them as travellers. However, in this same village, Hadrat Khidr *Alayhis Salaam* noticed a wall which was about to collapse. Hadrat Khidr *Alayhis Salaam* made sure that before leaving he reconstructed this wall so that it remained upright. When asked about this strange behaviour especially the fact that these people showed no respect to them, Hadrat Khidr *Alayhis Salaam* informed Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* that below this wall there was some wealth which belonged to two orphans. Had this wall collapsed, the people would see it and therefore rob these two children of this wealth.

We know that there are thousands of children in the world who are orphans. The reason that this special favour was performed for these children was because their father was very pious person! In like manner, when an obedient child makes Du'a for his parents who have passed away they certainly receive the reward in their graves.

Your good and bad behaviour in this world affects your deceased parents!

Imam Raaghib Isfahani *Alaihir Rahmah* records an incident of a Saint who happened to walk past a graveyard one day. Through his spiritual powers he was able to see what was happening inside the graves. He noticed that all the people were sitting upright wearing beautiful clothing with sweet fragrance on their clothing. In front of them, there was a tray which had a special type of provision for them. They were enjoying eating this.

However, on one side, he also saw an old person who was wearing torn and tattered clothing and was not enjoying such benefits. On further inquiry, this person told him that the others had children who performed their Salaah. In their Salaah they made special Du'a for their parents while his children did not read Salaah and because of this they conveyed no reward to him. This Saint then went in search of these children and after conveying to them this account, they made sincere Taubah and began to perform their Salaah.

A few days later, this same Saint saw the condition of this old person and he noticed that like all the people in the grave, he was also enjoying the same benefits! This proves that our actions in this world, also affects the condition of our deceased family in the grave.

Parents who are still living should also ponder on this!

Once there was a certain Shah Saheb who explained to people during a lecture the message of a Hadith Shareef in which it was stated that if a person looks at his parents with love and respect even once, they would get the reward of one accepted Hajj, or Haj Mabroor. The Shah Saheb said that the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* was asked, "What about that person who looks this way at his parents a hundred times a day, will they also get reward for a hundred accepted Hajj?" The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* replied, "Yes, why not, Allah *azza wajal* is indeed Great and is indeed All Glorious." (In other words, there is no end to His Divine Bounty).

This same Shah Saheb, then narrates that three months after delivering this speech, he received a letter from a little child who was also very pious and regular in his Salaah. The child writes, "Every morning, I read the Fajr Salaah and then recite the Qur'an. After this, I sit at the bedside of my parents to look at their faces so that I could achieve the reward of one complete Hajj. However, what can I do? They only remove the bed sheet from their faces after 9 o'clock and I have to go to school before this!"

Beware where you send your children to learn Islam!

If this is the present condition of some parents, then we ask Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* to protect us. If parents behave in this manner, then children would obviously not find a reason to respect them. We must understand that our behaviour makes an impression on young minds. If we send our children to a Madressah which teaches our children “no respect” for the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* and if our children are taught that “Meelad is Bidat” or “Salaami is Bidat” or that Ma'azallah, “the Prophet is our big brother” then we have only ourselves to blame if one's children turn out to be “Satans” in the making! This is one of the reasons that previously, children used to learn and become pious people and today most of them turn out to be something we regret. The reason is that we are sending our children to acquire knowledge from religious thieves.

There is no doubt that a child who possesses in his heart love and respect for his Prophet *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* will show respect to his parents. Remember that all this respect which we are commanded to have for our parents is through the mercy of the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*.

Everyone knows the state of the world and of women before Islam. This same mother used to be sold in the market place. They were sold to the highest bidder and yet, it was the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasalla* who came and gave them the message that Paradise is to be found below the feet of the mother and this was that gift which even if you spent billions, you would not be able to purchase.

Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* and his companion in Jannah!

In the treatise entitled “Nuzhatul Majaalis” by Allamah Abdur Rahman Safoori *Alaihir Rahmah*, a story is mentioned from ibn Jouzis book, “Al Muntazim fi Tawaa rikhul Umam”:

Once, Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* asked Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* whether there was such a special person in the world who would be a companion of Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* in Jannah. Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* informed him to travel to a certain town and gave him a description of the person he was to meet. The person was also a butcher by trade.

However, while watching this person the entire day, Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* did not notice anything extraordinary that this person committed during this period. In the evening, when he was about to close his shop, Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* requested him to take him to his home. The butcherman accepted this request.

When they arrived at his house, there was an old and frail lady who was sitting in the corner. The butcher man had taken some meat from his shop and after cooking it till it became very soft, he personally fed this lady with his own hands. After she had finished eating, she mumbled a few words. Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* went quickly towards her so that he could hear what she was saying. He heard that she was making the following Du'a, “O Allah! Please make my

son a companion of Your Moosa in Jannah!” Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* then turned to the butcher man and informed him, “My mission has been fulfilled. Congratulations! I am Nabi Moosa and you will indeed be my companion in Jannah. I am not saying this as my personal opinion. I am revealing this to you directly on behalf of Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala*. The Du’a of your mother has certainly been accepted and Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala* has personally sent me (Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam*) to reveal this message to you.”

If this is the state of someone who was a Ummati of Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam*, imagine the state of that person who is a Ummati of the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam*?

Once while performing the Asr Salaah, the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* began to weep. When he was asked the reason, he replied that he was thinking about his mother. the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* then instructed everyone to visit the grave of his mother with him and while they were there he wept and everyone also wept with him.

In Islamic law, it is mentioned that if a son is reading any Nafil Salaah and his parents are not aware that he is in worship but if they call for him, then he is instructed to leave his Salaah and attend to them.

Warning for those who disobey their parents

Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Abbas *Radi Allahu ‘Anhuma* narrates that verse 59 in Surah Maryam, mentions a valley which is so horrific valley that even the Fire of hell seeks refuge from it! In this valley, the person who consumes alcohol, the person who consumes interest and the person who is disobedient to his parents will abide in this valley. On the forehead of this person will be written, “This is that (person) who was disobedient to his parents.” In like manner, we know that even on certain blessed occasions such as the Shabbe Baraat, etc. most people are forgiven except people who continue to disobey their parents.

This is sometimes the effect of “modern” education!

We see that when children come from modern institutes, they don’t kiss the hands of parents when they arrive. Instead it’s either “good morning” or “how are you”. Hadrat Peer Jamaat Ali Shah Saheb *Alaihir Rahmah* narrates an incident of this nature.

He says that once there was a person who had studied in London. On his return, he was nominated as the Deputy Commissioner. His father was someone who had actually sold most of the household items to make sure that his son completed his studies without any further financial problems. One day, his father decided to visit him so that he could see for himself the high status which his son enjoyed. He also told his son of his intention to stay a few days. However, on hearing this, his son replied that his house was very small and that the old man should find a nearby hotel. Can a son like this even find time to make Du’a for you when you pass away?

Western education has indeed been very cunning and deceiving. At the beginning stages of education, instead of our children learning “Alif” is for Allah, “Ba” is for Bismillah, “Meem” is for Muhammad, etc. They have changed it to “Alif” is Aam (mango), “Ba” is Bakri (goat), etc. We do not even take the time to notice these things. It is important that parents play a vital role in the education of their children and keep a close eye on what their children are being taught. The latest craze of the “modern” Tableeghi Jamaat is the establishment of so-called Islamic schools. You will find them springing up everywhere. Obviously, parents feel that this is the best school available. Yet, we find that when many children leave this school, or even while they are learning, they are beginning to question the pure and pristine teaching of the Ahle Sunnah wa Jamaah. If this happens, you should immediately remove your child from this satanic environment or else you will only have yourself to blame!

It is seen that those who do not respect their parents, on most occasion, their children also do not respect them. This is the result of what you sow, so shall you reap. Parents that are suffering from this should be the last to complain. It is said that once the son of a villager picked up his father and threw him into a barn. Instead of complaining, he began to laugh. When people asked him the reason for this, he replied, “This is exactly where I had thrown my own father!”

This is the actual mercy of a Mother!

It is reported that a person once became infatuated with a certain female. As a test, she informed him that if he really loved her he should cut out the heart of his mother and bring it to her. Only then would she be convinced that he really loved her. When he went home, without thinking, he stabbed his mother and removed her heart. On the way, he tripped and fell down. From the heart of his mother which he carried in his hand, a voice was heard saying, “My beloved son! I hope you have not hurt yourself by falling!”

Once Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala* sent revelation of Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam*. “O Moosa! He who is obedient to his parents but may not be obedient to Me, (there is a chance) I will pardon that person. However, he who is disobedient to his parents, even though he may worship Me profusely, I will never pardon him.” (Tafseer Ahmadi)

N.B. Kindly bear in mind that this is not a Qadiani Tafseer. It is a Tafseer written by the eminent scholar of the Ahle Sunnah wa Jamaah namely Mullah Ahmed Jeewan *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* who was also the teacher of Sultan Aurangzeb Alamgheer. It is said his family lineage also goes to Hadrat Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddique *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu*.

The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* has also stated that, “The Divine Pleasure of Allah *azza wajal* is in the pleasure of one’s parents and the Divine Wrath of Allah *azza wajal* is in the anger of one’s parents.” (Tirmidhi Shareef)

The respect the Nabi Yusuf *Alayhis Salaam* displayed for even his step-mother!

It is reported that when Nabi Yusuf *Alayhis Salaam* became the Governor of Egypt, he was

visited by his father Nabi Yaqub *Alayhis Salaam*, his brothers and his step-mother who was actually the sister of his mother who had passed away. However, in the Qur'an, in Surah Yusuf, verse 100, the Qur'an declares:

وَرَفَعَ أَبَوَيْهِ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ وَخَرُّوا لَهُ سُجَّدًا

“And he seated his father and mother on the throne,
and all fell down in prostration for him.”

This clearly proves that even though she was not his own biological mother, yet he displayed immense respect for her.

The Du'a of the mother of Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam*!

It is reported that whenever Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* used to travel of the Mount of Tur, his mother always made Du'a for him in the following words, “O Allah! You are the Divine Being Who is One that possesses Divine Wrath and my Moosa is also one that is Jalaali. If while conversing with You, he says something unbecoming, please forgive him.”

When his mother passed away, Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* sent a message to Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* which was, “O Moosa! Be careful when you speak”.

Nabi Moosa *Alayhis Salaam* replied, “O Allah, You are the same Allah and I am the same Moosa and this is the same Mount of Tur. What has happened that I am now being commanded to be cautious?” The reply came, “Everything is the same, however, today, there is no one that is spreading their hands for you and making Du'a.”

Message from the Ahadith in this regard

* Hadrat Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Masud *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* narrates that once the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* was asked, “Which action is most liked by Allah?” He replied, “Salaah in its stipulated time.” He was again asked and he *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* replied, “To be good to ones parents.” The third time he *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* replied, “Jihad in the Path of Allah.” (Bukhari Shareef)

* Someone once approached the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* and requested permission to join in Jihad. The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* asked whether the person had parents and he replied that he had. The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* replied, “Serve them and earn the Thawaab of Jihad.” (Bukhari Shareef)

* Hadrat Abdullah ibn 'Umar *Radi Allahu 'Anhuma* narrates that the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* has declared that, “Three people would not be allowed to enter

Jannah. The person who disobeys his parents, the one who is without shame and the female who adopts a male exterior.” (Mustadrak)

* Hadrat Abu Imaamah Bahili *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* narrates that the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* has stated that, “There are three people whose Nawafil and Fard are not accepted by Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala*. The one who oppresses his parents, the one who gives charity and boasts about it and the one who rejects destiny.” (Maj mu’az Zawaa’id - Imam Baihaqi)

* Hadrat Abu Bakr *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* narrates that the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* has stated that, “The punishment for all sins, if Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala* so wishes, would be given on the Day of Judgement, but the one who disobeys his parents, his punishment would be given even before he dies.”

* Once a person approached the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* and complained that his father wanted to take away his entire wealth. The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* replied, “You and your entire wealth belongs to your father.”

* Hadrat Talha bin Mu’awiyah Salami *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* narrates that he once approached the court of the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* to seek permission to join in Jihad. The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* inquired, “Is your mother still alive?” He replied that she was still alive. The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* then declared, “Stay at the feet of your mother, this is where Jannah is.” (Ibn Maja)

Hadrat Abdullah ibn ‘Umar *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* narrates that he once had a wife whom he loved a lot. However, his father Hadrat ‘Umar *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu*, for some reason did not like this person and asked him to give her Talaq which he refused. Hadrat ‘Umar *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* then complained about this to the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* who called him forward and advised him to give this woman a Talaq (and to obey his father). In other words, he was advised to choose his father over his wife. (Mishkaat Shareef)

Look at how high the status of a parent is. The only reason that the person was ordered to give his wife Talaq was because she was not liked by the father of the husband. Of course, in the present time, this is completely opposite. The husband makes sure that he sacrifices his parents for the sake of his wife. Always remember this important lesson, which is, there is always another wife, but there will never be another set of parents.

Hadrat Abdullah ibn ‘Umar *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* narrates that the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* has declared that, “Whenever anyone of you gives charity then give this charity with the intention that your parents also receive the Thawaab. In this manner, they will receive the reward and there will also be no decrease in reward (for the person giving charity). (Maj ma’uz zawaa’id)

Hadrat Abdullah ibn ‘Umar *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* narrates that the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* has declared that: “Whosoever visits his parents grave with the intention of reward or one of their graves, he will receive reward equal to one accepted Hajj and he who visits their grave in abundance, the Angels will visit his grave.” (Kanzul Ummaal)

A’la Hadrat Imam Ahmed Raza *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu*, in the 9th Volume of “Fatawa Radawiyyah” presents this incident from “Oyunil Hikaayah” compiled by Muhaddith ibn Jouzi *Alaihir Rahmah* and this is reported by Imam Mohanmed bin Ishaq Warraaq *Alaihir Rahmah* who narrates:

“Once a person was travelling with his son on a journey. He passed away. This was in a jungle and the son buried his father and continued on his journey. A few days later, while the son was passing this same area, he did not even stop at the grave and continued walking. Suddenly, a voice said to him. “We see that you travel at night in this jungle and yet the one who is under the tree you do not even consider it important or necessary upon yourself to even speak to him. Yet, that person (who is buried here) is such a person who, if you were buried here and if he was travelling through, he would certainly visit your grave and greet you.” (Jaami’ul Ahadith)

* Hadrat Abu Darda *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* narrates that the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* has stated that, “A father is the middle door of Jannah, if you wish, you can break it or protect it.” (Tirmidhi Shareef, ibn Majah and Ibn Habbaan)

Some thought provoking incidents

Before he could pass away, he could not utter a word!

Hadrat Anas bin Malik *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* narrates:

There was once a person named Alqamah. He was a very pious, God-fearing and generous person.

One day, he became very ill. His wife approached the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* and informed him that these were the last few moments of Alqamah in this world and she wished that the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* could make a special Du’a for him.

The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* then sent Hadrat Bilal, Hadrat Ammaar, Hadrat Ali and Hadrat Salman *Radi Allahu ‘Anhum* to visit Alqamah and keep him informed about his condition. When they visited Alqamah, they advised him to read the Kalimah. But Alqamah could not speak or even move his tongue. They then told Hadrat Bilal *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* to report to the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* what they had seen.

Hadrat Bilal *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* then mentioned to the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu*

'Alayhi Wasallam, "O Prophet of Allah! We have endeavoured to make him recite the Kalimah, but no words seem to appear from his lips."

The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* asked whether his parents were alive and was told that he still had a very old mother who was still alive. The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* requested someone to go to his mother and inform her that if she had the strength to come, she should visit the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*. If she could not, he would go to her. Hadrat Bilal *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* then went to the mother of Alqamah and conveyed Salaams and the message of the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*.

When she heard this, she replied, "May I be sacrificed for the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*. I will go to him myself."

She then took her walking stick and appeared in front of the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*. The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* then asked her about her son. She replied that he was very pious, generous, etc.

The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* replied, "He is as you say, however, how is his relationship with you?"

She replied that she was very angry with him because he had chosen most of the time the words of his wife and had also tried to make her subservient to his wife. Besides this, she had no other complaints about him.

The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* then ordered Hadrat Bilal *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* to collect some wood so that Alqamah could be put into the fire and burnt alive.

When the old lady heard this, she was very perturbed. The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* also advised her that if she did not forgive Alqamah, then none of his worship would be accepted by Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala* and that he would burn in the fire of Hell.

As a mother, she then forgave Alqamah.

The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* then asked Hadrat Bilal *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* to go and see the state of Alqamah. When Hadrat Bilal *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* arrived at the front door of Alqamah, he could hear Alqamah reading the Kalimah and these were his final words before he passed away. [abridged]

He carried his frail mother on his shoulders during the Tawaf!

Ibn Katheer in his "Tafseer ibn Katheer" narrates an incident:

Once a person carried his infirm mother on his shoulders so that she could perform the Tawaaf. Suddenly, a thought appeared in his mind that perhaps he had repaid his mother for the all the good she had done for him in life. With this thought in his mind, he approached the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam*. The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* replied, "You have not even paid back the right of one single breath of hers besides all the other rights."

How you do, so shall you reap!

In the "Masnawi Shareef" it is reported:

A young man informed his father that he was creating a problem at home by living there and that he should find his own place to live. The father replied that he was very old and asked as to where would he be able to find a place to stay. However, he told his son to leave him anywhere and he would find a place to stay.

His young grandson also insisted that he accompany both his father and grandfather on this journey. After a while, the son found a remote area and gave his father a piece of old cloth and advised him that when he felt cold, he could use this as a covering.

He began walking away with his young son. Suddenly, his young son informed his father that he would like to go back to his grandfather. The young boy took the piece of cloth which his father had given his grandfather and tore it in half. He then kept one half for himself and gave the other half to his grandfather. When his father asked him the reason for this, he replied, "Today you are young. Your father is old. You only gave him a single piece of cloth and removed him from the house. I took this piece of cloth so that tomorrow when I am a young adult and you are old, I will give you this piece of cloth and remove you from the house!"

The young man immediately understood the folly of his mistake and apologised to his father. He took him back home.

He wiped his mother's feet with this beard!

Hadrat Allamah Abdur Rahman Safoori *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* in his treatise, "Nuzhatul Majaalis" narrates a story of a very eminent scholar in the Ahle Sunnah wa Jamaah, namely, Hadrat Allama Abu Ishaq Isfaraa'ini *Radi Allahu 'Anhu*.

While the great scholar, Hadrat Allama Abu Ishaq *Radi Allahu 'Anhu*, was teaching Hadith, one of the students revealed that he had seen a very strange dream about his teacher. Hadrat Allama Abu Ishaq Isfaraa'ini *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* asked the student to explain his dream. The student replied, "I saw a dream in which I noticed that your beard was bright and it seemed like it had jewels and pearls hanging on it. In fact, the beard was so bright that it dazzled the eye".

The great Imam replied, "My son! You have spoken to truth. However, they were not pearls. In

fact, last night when I noticed some sand on the feet of my mother, I wiped it away with my beard. In fact, those pearls which you saw were in fact the dust which I had removed from the feet of my mother.” (Nuzhatul Majaalis)

What a blessed period that was in which even such great personalities of Islam used to clean the feet of their mothers. Today, it is sad that we even read about stories in which children have murdered their own parents!

Reward for taking care of his father!

The same eminent scholar of the Ahle Sunnah wa Jamaah, namely Allama Abdur Rahman Safoori Shafi *Radi Allahu ‘Anhu* narrates an incident:

Once there were once three brothers. Unexpectedly, their father became very sick. The eldest brother told his two brothers that he would take care of their father and that they could keep whatever inheritance was there to keep including his share as well. They gladly accepted this and left the care of their old and weak father to their eldest brother.

The eldest brother continued to look after his father until the time the father passed away. He never once complained about anything. He did not even ask one single thing from his brothers. One night, while he slept, someone informed him to go to a certain place and retrieve a single Ashrafi (which was the currency at that time). He asked the person in his dream whether there would be Barakah in this. He was told that there is nothing for him but this single Ashrafi. He decided not to retrieve that single Ashrafi.

The second night, the same person informed him that he should go to a certain place and retrieve ten Ashrafis. He asked the same question again and he was informed that no there would be no Barakah in this. He decided not to go to that place pointed out to him.

The third night, the same voice told him to go to a certain place and retrieve a single Ashrafi and there would be a lot of Barakah in this.

The next morning, he went to the place that was pointed out to him and he retrieved this single Ashrafi. He went to the market place and purchased a fish. When he opened the fish, he found two valuable pieces of pearls in them. He sold this to the King for nearly seventy thousand Ashrafis.

That night while he slept, a voice informed him that the reason he was rewarded in this manner was because of the service he had rendered to his old and frail father. (Nuzhatul Majaalis)

The story of the young boy and his cow in surah Baqarah!

The commentators of the Qur’an narrate that the name of this Surah is based on the following incident.

There was once a very pious person in the Bani Israel who had a young son. He also had a young calf. When it came close to his time of death he took this calf and left it in the wild and made the following Du'a, "O the Creator of the entire universe! I hand over this calf to You to be protected for this young boy. When this young boy becomes a young man, please return this Amanah to him." He then passed away.

This same young calf roamed freely in the wild and no predator ever approached this calf until it became fat and healthy. The son continued to stay with his mother until he became a young man. He was also a very obedient and pious young man. During the day, if he had an income, he used to divide it into three parts. He gave one part in charity, one part to his mother and one part he kept for himself.

One day, his mother remembered the young calf and informed him that this was something which his father had left for him and that he should go and bring the animal back to their house. When he brought back the animal, his mother informed him to then take the animal to the market place and sell it for three Ashrafis and not to agree to any sale until and unless he had not informed her.

When he reached the market place, he met a person who wanted to buy this cow. The son said that the price was three Ashrafis, however, he said that he had to also inform his mother first. The buyer replied that he would give him six Ashrafis on condition that he did not inform his mother. The young man refused.

The buyer then informed him that he could give him twelve Ashrafis. The son refused again and informed the person, "Even if you gave me gold equal to the weight of this cow, I will never sell it to you until and unless I have not informed my mother."

After this incident, he then returned home and informed his mother about this strange buyer. (This buyer was in fact an Angel who had appeared in human form to test the young man). His mother understood that this was in fact an Angel and she informed her son that the next time he met this same buyer, he should ask him whether he should sell the cow or not.

The next day, when he met this buyer, he asked him whether he should sell the cow or not. The buyer informed him, "Tell your mother not to sell this cow at this moment. Very soon, there will be a murder among the Bani Israel and they will be told to sacrifice a certain type of cow, the qualities of which is only to be found in this cow. When these people approach you, you should inform them to remove the meat and fill the skin with gold as a price".

This is exactly what happened. This story is mentioned in many commentaries of the Qur'an.

How the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu 'Alayhi Wasallam* treated Sayyidah Hali-mah Saadiyah *Radi Allahu 'Anhu*!

In the "Mishkaat Shareef," Hadrat Abu Tufail *Radi Allahu 'Anhu* narrates:

“Once while the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* was sitting among us. Suddenly, a lady, whose face was covered, approached. The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* stood up and placed his shawl on the floor for her to sit. The companions were surprised and thought to themselves that this is the blessed creation of Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala* for whom even the Angels and the companions place their eyes and their necks on the ground for him to walk over. And yet, the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* is showing so much of respect to this lady. As long as she remained in his blessed company, he sat silently listening to her every word with all due attention and respect. When she got up to leave at her own free will, he also rose and wished her farewell.

The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* then looked at the blessed companions and asked, “Do you know who this was?” The blessed companions replied, “Only Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala* and His beloved Prophet *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* know”. The Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* replied, “This was my mother Halimah Saadiyah who came to meet me.”

This also is a lesson to the Ummah that a son will always remain a son no matter what status he achieves. Being the mercy of the universe, if this is the respect and decorum the Noble Messenger of Allah *Sallal Laahu ‘Alayhi Wasallam* displayed for someone who merely fed him when he was a child, imagine the love and respect he has for his own mother?