Lecture #14

**Fundamental Human Rights in Islam**

**Rights of Parents**

1. **Significance of Parents in Islam**:
   * The Quran emphasizes showing gratitude to both Allah and parents. Special mention is made of the mother’s hardship in bearing and nursing children:  
     *“And We have enjoined on man (to be good) to his parents: in travail upon travail did his mother bear him, and in years twain was his weaning: (hear the command), 'Show gratitude to Me and to thy parents: to Me is (thy final) Goal.'”* (Quran 31:14).
   * Another verse highlights the covenant to worship Allah alone and treat parents with kindness, along with other vulnerable groups like orphans and the needy:  
     *“Worship none but Allah; treat with kindness your parents and kindred, and orphans and those in need; speak fair to the people; be steadfast in prayer; and practice regular charity.”* (Quran 2:83).
2. **Story of the Three Persons**:
   * The Prophet (PBUH) narrated a story of three men trapped in a cave by a rock. Each invoked Allah with a good deed they had performed sincerely for His sake:
     + **First Person**: He prioritized his parents over his family by giving them milk first every day. One day, though his children cried in hunger, he waited until dawn to serve his parents, who had fallen asleep. Allah accepted this sincerity and moved the rock partially.
     + **Second Person**: He refrained from committing adultery with a woman he deeply loved when she reminded him to fear Allah. He abandoned his sinful intentions and left her. Allah moved the rock further.
     + **Third Person**: A worker he had employed refused payment. Instead of keeping the money, he invested it, and when the worker returned, he gave him the full yield, including cows and a shepherd. Allah fully removed the rock, allowing them to escape (Bukhari 3:418).
3. **Dearest Deeds to Allah**:
   * A companion asked the Prophet (PBUH) about the most beloved deeds to Allah:
     + **First**: Offering prayers at their fixed times.
     + **Second**: Being good and dutiful to one’s parents.
     + **Third**: Participating in Jihad for Allah’s cause (Bukhari 1:505).
4. **Great Sins**:
   * The Prophet (PBUH) listed the following as great sins:
     + Associating partners with Allah (Shirk).
     + Being undutiful to one’s parents.
     + Killing unjustly.
     + Giving false witness (Bukhari 3:821).
   * He emphasized that being undutiful to parents is among the **biggest sins**, second only to Shirk (Bukhari 8:290).
   * Cursing parents indirectly is also a grave sin, such as abusing someone else’s parents, which leads to retaliation (Bukhari 8:4).
5. **No Paradise for the Disobedient**:
   * The Prophet (PBUH) stated: *“Let him be humbled into dust, who sees either of his parents in their old age, or both of them, but does not enter Paradise.”* (Muslim 1160).
   * Those who remind others of their favors, disobey parents, or are addicted to alcohol will not enter Paradise.
6. **After Their Death**:
   * Kindness to parents does not end with their death. The Prophet (PBUH) outlined actions that continue to benefit them:
     + Invoking blessings and forgiveness for them.
     + Fulfilling their final instructions.
     + Maintaining relationships with relatives connected to them.
     + Honoring their friends (Abu Dawood 2440).
7. **Obedience with Exceptions**:
   * Parents are described as "your Paradise and your Hell," meaning obedience to them leads to rewards, and disobedience leads to punishment.
   * However, if parents command something that involves Shirk or disobedience to Allah, they must not be obeyed, but still treated kindly:
     + *“If they strive to make thee join in worship with Me things of which thou hast no knowledge, obey them not; yet bear them company in this life with justice.”* (Quran 31:15; 29:8).

**Rights of Children**

1. **Duties of Parents**:
   * The parent-child relationship is reciprocal. The rights of parents are the duties of children, and vice versa. Parents must safeguard their children from Hellfire by instilling moral and religious values (Quran 66:6).
2. **Spiritual and Moral Development**:
   * Children are entrusted to parents, who are accountable before Allah for their upbringing. Parents must ensure their children grow into righteous individuals who can pray for them after their death.
   * A Hadith states that a child’s prayer is one of three sources of ongoing reward for parents (Sahih Muslim).
3. **Material Support**:
   * Parents must provide for their children’s food, clothing, and protection until adulthood. Protection includes safeguarding them from physical, moral, and intellectual harm.
   * Strictness may be necessary for discipline, but children must respect it.
4. **Right to Education**:
   * Education must include religious and moral training alongside academic knowledge. Parents should actively engage in their children’s education and lead by example.
   * The Prophet (PBUH) said:
     + *“Acquisition of knowledge is a must for every Muslim boy and girl.”*
     + *“The best of you is one who gives a good education (intellectual and moral) to his children.”*
   * Special emphasis is placed on educating daughters:
     + *“He who provides good upbringing to 3 daughters shall go to Paradise.”* This applies even to those with two or one daughter.
5. **Psychological Needs**:
   * The Prophet (PBUH) showed immense love for children. He would play with them, kiss them, and even let his grandsons ride his shoulders during prayers.
   * He once rebuked a man who claimed never to kiss his children, saying: *“What can I do if Allah has taken away love and compassion from your heart?”*
6. **Equality Among Children**:
   * Parents must treat all children equally. Favoritism leads to jealousy and discord among siblings and is considered injustice (Zulm), which is forbidden in Islam.
   * A Hadith recounts a man gifting one child but not others. The Prophet (PBUH) said:
     + *“Take back your gift.”*
     + *“Be afraid of Allah, and be just to your children.”*
   * Exceptions are allowed for urgent needs, but consistent favoritism is prohibited.