

## *Birrul Walidain/بر الوالدين*

All praises due to Allah subhanahu wata'la who created us from one man Adam alaihis salaam. Then He سبحانه وتعالى created Hawa (Eve) alaihassalaam from a rib bone of Adam alaihis salaam. Allah سبحانه وتعالى made this couple for a purpose. And that purpose is, to serve Allah's سبحانه وتعالى hukm/orders. We know all the angels of Allah سبحانه وتعالى always listen to His commands, they have no free will to disobey Allah subhanahu wata'la. As angels are meant to only obey Allah سبحانه وتعالى, their lives can't be that special than humans. Because when someone has choices between right and wrong things, he has the brain to select right things all the time out of wrongs. As we know the purpose of Adam's creation is to obey Allah سبحانه وتعالى, he and all of his children have to choose right things all the time to obey Allah سبحانه وتعالى. And to do that, they need to constantly fight with their mind. Once they obey Allah سبحانه وتعالى with the struggle, they become the best of Allah's creation. Hence we knew that Adam alaihis salaam was the best creation of Allah سبحانه وتعالى.

Now as Adam alaihis salaam was no longer living in Jannah/paradise after an incident which took place while they were in Jannah. Allah سبحانه وتعالى wanted them to try hard to go to Jannah following His guidance. Adam himself was a Nabi of Allah besides being the first man. So Adam (a) used to receive Allah's guidance directly. The couple (Adam and Hawa) had many children, and the human world started to grow with their enormous numbers. Thus the world was expanded more for humans. When the number of mankind was so many, they needed the guidance of Allah more frequently. Allah سبحانه وتعالى started guiding many pure hearted noble individuals to call people to Allah's guidance. And those pure hearted noble people are called Nabi (single), Ambia (plural of Nabi), Rasool (single), Rusul (plural of Rasool). With this guidance, first Nabi was Adam alaihis salaam and the last of them was our beloved Nabi and Rasool Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم.

Those guidelines which were given by our creator Allah سبحانه وتعالى to all Ambia were such as "Salah, Sawm, Zakah, Hajj" etc. These guidelines are known to everyone. Apart from these guidelines, Allah سبحانه وتعالى commanded us with some family and social bonds, which must be kept strong. One of them is called "Birrul Walidain" or in a simple word, being good to parents. It's so important that Allah سبحانه وتعالى brought it just after His worship in the final guidance of Allah (which is Al-Quran) in Surah Al-Isra. Ayah number 23, Allah SWT spoke about how we must be good with our parents. He told us to speak to them politely with a nice tone and good words. He سبحانه وتعالى told us to not shout at them, not even our expression of being annoyed with them should be shown. Allah SWT used the word "uff" in that ayah. And that "uff" is used to express your ill feelings towards them, so Allah SWT told us it's not allowed to express any ill feelings to them. If you ever feel that you're not being treated fairly by your parents, you must politely tell them. Remember not to mention them as you're treated unfairly. Allah SWT told us to look after them when they're old in the same ayah. Which means looking after parents is a duty given by Allah SWT to all children. Remember all these are guidance of Allah. So we must listen to them and follow to be the

best of Allah's creation. And if you're the best creation of Allah you'll definitely go to Al-Jannah.

Also when we are good with our parents, we'll all have good lives. Allah SWT purposely made this obligatory, to keep us united with our family. It's known to everyone that family is where your heart belongs to. Allah SWT also wants us to always be family oriented. In Arab society, in the time of Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم and before Islam people used to memorize their family lineage out of respect towards their ancestors. In Islam, it's not something to put effort to, but it's a great thing to know. There are many other ayahs of the holy Quran where Allah swt spoke about being good with parents. Allah SWT mentioned in Surah Al-Baqarah ayah number 83, Surah Al-An'am ayah number 151, Surah An-Nisa ayah number 36, Surah Al-Ahqaf ayah number 15, Surah Al-Ankabut ayah number 8, Surah Luqman ayah number 14. Insha'Allah when you'll be able, you can search those ayaht's meaning yourself.

Similarly our beloved Rasool صلى الله عليه وسلم spoke a lot about our parents. After studying all Quranic verses and hadiths of Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم we understand it very well that our parents are so important to us. Those who are not obedient to their parents are called "عقوق" (Uququl Walidain) in the words of our beloved Nabi Muhammad's (s) tongue. And those who are good are called "برالوالدين" (Birrul Walidain).

We have to try to be the last one, to go to Jannah without any barriers, Insha'Allah. Our duas (supplications) to Allah SWT sometimes stay in pending when we don't be good with our parents. If someone is listening to all of Allah's commands and not treating their parents well, then it's very tough for them to enter Jannah. We have evidence from some of our beloved Muhammad's صلى الله عليه وسلم hadith. We can only disobey parents when they tell us to do something against our creator Allah's commands. Ulama (scholars) of Islam have agreed; when our parents call us and if we're even praying any optional Salah, then we should break it to listen to them, then we must re-pray it. After all these discussions we understood very well that we have to be obedient to our parents. And Allah SWT taught us a dua to make for them in the Surah Al-Isra which is "Rabbirhamhuma kamaa rabbayaani sagheera" (meaning; oh my lord shower your mercy over them the way they looked after me in my childhood). Many scholars have said; the one who makes this dua regularly he's being counted as good to parents in the sight of Allah سبحانه وتعالى.

We'll now try to learn some ways to be good with our parents.

- ☐ We will always try giving them salaam as soon as they come home, or as soon as we come home. As Allah SWT encourages us to greet each other with salaam in Surah An-Noor ayah 61.
- ☐ Always try to stay by their sides as much as possible, because staying by their sides will make you do something good for them.
- ☐ Help them when they need help in anything, the way they didn't feel any bad to help us when we were very young.
- ☐ Engaging ourselves in chit-chat with parents about something beneficial for both parents and us. It'll create a good bond between parents and kids.
- ☐ Give them gifts sometimes, as they always used to give us everything possible and affordable for them when we were young.

- ☐ *Respect their belongings, just feel their belongings as yours, and protect them from any harm or danger.*
- ☐ *Lower your voice when you speak to them, as it's also an order of Allah SWT which we find in Surah Al-Isra.*
- ☐ *Share any important matters with them, so they may give you advice on it. If they can't give any advice, surely they'll make dua for it.*
- ☐ *Show all your achievements to them first, it'll make them happy, and they'll make dua for you.*
- ☐ *When parents give you something (which is always out of love), do not put any bad comments on it if you can't praise it.*
- ☐ *When you're an adult and if you involve yourself in debating, then leave the debate with parents. And make dua for them if you think you're right. That is what our beloved Nabi Ibrahim alaihis salaam did with his father, when Ibrahim (a) wanted to convince him to worship one Allah SWT and his father chose to worship idols.*
- ☐ *Never stop talking to them for anything which you might have thought was right and they did not agree with it. It could be your fault, as the parents usually do everything for children's wellbeing and goodness.*
- ☐ *Think; one day you'll be a father or a mother, and if your children do not listen to you, (how would you feel?) Drawing this question in your mind will make you a better kid.*
- ☐ *Hug parents each time you meet them, giving them a hug will draw closeness to both parents and kids. You may kiss them on their foreheads or cheeks with respect when you see them after a long time.*
- ☐ *Ask how they are whenever you meet them or talk to them after some time.*
- ☐ *Offer them something which they like, do that often. That will make them happy, and Allah SWT will be happy too.*
- ☐ *If you ever want to say no to their words, use good words and delay the answer. Do not say no straight on their face. You may stay quiet for the time, and then come back at a good time when you can share your opinion.*
- ☐ *If they call you while you're at home, respond to them on their first call. If you are delayed for some reason, then tell them why you responded lately. You may say sorry if you think that caused them to get angry over you.*
- ☐ *Never treat parents like your friends or siblings, parents should be friendly with us, but that doesn't make us think they're weightless (as in they don't deserve respect)*
- ☐ *Try to eat your meal with them whenever it's possible.*

*Those were some of the methods/ways to be good with our parents when they are with us and alive.*

**Now we will learn how to be good with them if they're not alive. This may sound a bit different to us, as there might be a question in our mind; wait! is there anything called being good to parents after they pass away !?**

**Yes, we can continue our Birrul Walidain or being good to parents even after they pass away. Our Nabi MUHAMMAD ﷺ taught us how to continue**

**being good with them. If we look at ahadeeth of Rasool صلى الله عليه وسلم then we find the following things**

- ☐ **Make dua for their maghfirah/forgiveness of Allah regularly asking Allah SWT to forgive them and elevate their ranks in Jannah.**
- ☐ **Sometimes meet up with their friends with whom they used to be around to have good company.**
- ☐ **Look after any uncles or aunties who could be your parent's siblings. If there's none, then any uncle or aunty of your parent's age.**
- ☐ **Organize some feast on behalf of your parents if you are able to do so with the intention of getting thawab and passing it to them.**
- ☐ **Sometimes give voluntary charity on behalf of them if you're earning money yourself.**
- ☐ **Do any charitable work with the intention of getting reward from Allah SWT and pass the reward to them.**
- ☐ **Engage yourself with those good works which they used to do in their lives.**
- ☐ **Stay away or keep those things away from yourself or from your household which they used to not like. Remember to only do that when the things are okay to do in Islam.**

**Alhamdulillah, we have learnt a few things about how to be good with our parents while they're with us alive or while they're in their grave lives. Now we need to apply them in our actions. اللهم وفقنا لما تحب وترضى**