

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

June 5, 2009

RIGHTS OF THE PARENTS

Dear Mumins!

Humans have two main responsibilities in this worldly life; one is towards Allah (s.w.t.), and the other one is to the creatures around us. Humans' responsibility to the Creator is to know His existence, to believe in His oneness, and to execute the financial and bodily ibadahs. As for the human's duty to the creatures, it is to show them compassion and mercy, and to observe their rights.

Dear Mumins!

Certainly the closest one to the man and the most deserving of compassion among all creatures are the parents. For it is the mother who has carried him or her in her womb within the terrific sufferings; has brought the child into the world despite the risk of death; has suckled and abdicated her own comfort for the sake of the child's comfort at night, and has furthermore felt agony in each case when the baby cries. Briefly, she has unhesitatingly sacrificed everything that she held in order to be able to bring up her child in a healthy and peaceful way. Similarly the father demonstrates self-sacrifice physically, mentally, materially, and spiritually to support and nourish the child, and to provide all of the elements the child needs during his or her upbringing and beyond, to include a comprehensive education.

Dear Mumins!

Allah (s.w.t.) ordained for us to be respectful and dutiful to the parents just after calling worship to Him, the Exalted as follows: "Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of disrespect, nor shout at them but address them in terms of honor. And lower unto them the

wing of humility through mercy, and say: "My Lord! Bestow on them Your Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood."¹

Dear My Brothers and Sisters!

Regardless of the social situation of the parents, whether highly educated or illiterate, employer or employee, Mumin or non-Muslim, healthy or sick; the child should never present any deficiency in kindness or in service. If the parents order something unopposed by the religion, the child must fulfill to that request. Conversely, should they demand something contrary to

the religion, then he or she may refuse to obey. ² Asma'a binti Abu Bakr (r.anha) came to the Prophet (s.a.w.) and inquired of Him: 'My mother has come to see me and she is expecting something from me. May I oblige her?' He said: 'Yes, be kind to your mother.' ³ And Abdullah ibn Mas'ûd has narrated: "I said:

O Prophet, which act is the best in the sight of Allah? The Prophet answered: "Prayer in its defined time periods". I said: "And then what?" He said: "Righteousness towards your parents." I said: "Then what?" He said: "Jihad in the path of Allah."⁴

"The pleasure of Allah lies in the pleasure of one's parents, and His wrath lies in their wrath."⁵ O you who seek the pleasure of Allah! Think well about how you should respect and be dutiful to your parents and keep them always contented!



¹ Al-Isrâ', 23-24.

² Refer to: Lukmân, 15.

³ Bukhâri, Hibah, 30; Muslim, Zakât, 50.

⁴ Bukhâri, Eimân, 153.

⁵ Tirmidhî, Birr, 3.