

## On the guidance of the Prophet pbuh in raising children

### First Sermon

All praise is due to Allah the Grand, the Exalted. He bestowed upon us the favour of having offspring. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master and Prophet Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

#### As to what follows,

I urge you and myself, **O Servants of Allah**, to be aware that you are asked to obey Him the Most Exalted in line with His orders: “**and those who say, "Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous."** (Al-Furqan: ٧٤).

#### Dear Muslims,

There is no doubt children are a great favour and precious bounty that Allah the Almighty has endowed upon us. The Most Exalted says, “**He gives to whom He wills female [children], and He gives to whom He wills males.**” (Ash-Shoora: ٤٩). Indeed, children are joy for the heart, a source of happiness and adornment in the worldly life. Allah the Almighty has illustrated this in His holy Book for He says, “**wealth and children are [but] adornment of the worldly life.**” (Al-Kahf: ٤٦).

In this context, childhood is the most important period in a person’s life, extending from the time of birth until the age of adolescence. It is the building brick for creating and developing the person’s characteristics, mental abilities and all essential skills.

It is for this reason the Prophet pbuh has attributed much care to children, setting in his approach to children an example for people to emulate. So, let us advise each other on the Prophet’s attitude towards and behaviour with respect to children.

Our Master Muhammad pbuh loved children and treated them in kindness and leniency, ensuring to make them feel his care for and

affection towards them in words and deeds. To this, it was narrated that Abu Huraira, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Messenger of Allah pbuh tightly hugged one of his grandsons and said, “O Allah, indeed, I love him.” This is an indication to his kind-hearted attitude towards children, something which was also accentuated by Anas, may Allah be pleased with him, who once said, “I have never seen anybody who was more compassionate towards children than the messenger of Allah pbuh.”

As part of his sympathetic approach towards children, the Prophet pbuh would dedicate part of his time to them, respect their inclination to play as part of their body growth as well as to satisfy their active nature. Playing would really make children spirited and energetic. On this account, it was narrated that the Messenger of Allah pbuh once came across some boys who were playing, so he greeted them.

Another aspect of the Prophet’s kindness towards and care of children is that he would give them gifts as a token of affection and attention. It was narrated in this regard that Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, said that the Messenger of Allah pbuh has once been given a gold ring, so he gifted it to his granddaughter and said, “Adorn yourself with this, my dear daughter.”

Furthermore, the Messenger of Allah pbuh used to play with children even in the streets in order to touch their hearts with delight. An illustration of this can be seen in this story. Yaala Ibn Al Aameri said, “I went out with the Prophet and passed by Al-Hussain playing with the boys in the street. The Prophet hurried towards him to catch him while Al-Hussain was running right and left to escape, and the Prophet was laughing with him.”

Truly, these are but examples of the Prophet’s great character and his generous attitude towards the little ones. He has really set a model for parents, teachers and educators to emulate. They should take guidance of his example in being merciful and kind to children, avoid scolding them or being harsh to them and help them to occupy their leisure times with good and beneficial activities. They should also engulf them with love and grant them trust and security. Encouraging such attitudes towards children, the Prophet pbuh did praise some women for their tenderness and warm-heartedness with their children.

## **O Followers of the Prophet's Guidance,**

Please know that the Messenger of Allah pbuh was lenient with children, wise while instructing them, and showed tolerance in raising them. He pbuh was keen to teach them the verses of the holy Quran so as to nurture in them a sound common sense. On this account, it was narrated that Abdullah Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said that when he was very young he memorised some Suras of the holy Quran from the Messenger of Allah pbuh. He also said, "Whoever learnt the Quran before reaching puberty would have been given judgement while yet a boy."

More to the point, amongst the other aspects of the Prophet's care of children is that he pbuh used to strengthen their bonds with their Lord and teach them that Allah the Almighty is the One who protects them and takes care of their matters, and that He is the ally of them. An expressive example on this is the one reported by Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Prophet pbuh said to him, "O young man! I shall teach you some words (of advice): Be mindful of Allah and He will protect you."

In the same context, the Prophet pbuh has urged parents to teach their children how to perform prayer "when they become seven year old." The reason is that when they start performing prayer at such a small age they would grow attached to it and it will become part and parcel of their daily practice, thus, they will maintain it all their lifelong.

It is, therefore, such a beautiful thing to offer our youngsters those precious advices and teach them such noble values in order to fortify their minds against misconceptions and make acts of kindness an integral part of their characters. The Messenger of Allah pbuh said, "Goodness is a habit." From this perspective, he pbuh advocated his companions to raise children on good manners and promote good conduct in their words and deeds. For instance, he pbuh once said to Anas, may Allah be pleased with him, "O my little son! When you enter upon your family then greet them, it will be a blessing for you and upon the inhabitants of your house."

From the guidance of the Messenger of Allah pbuh is also to teach children decent behaviours and etiquette. In this sense, he pbuh used to

instil in children good habits in all their daily life matters. A good example on this is the one of Omar Ibn Abu Salama, may Allah be pleased with him, who said, “I was a boy under the care of Allah’s Messenger and my hand used to go around the dish while I was eating. So Allah’s Messenger said to me, ‘O boy! Mention the Name of Allah and eat with your right hand, and eat of the dish what is nearer to you.’”

### **O Honourable Fathers,**

It is also good to know that part of the guidance of our Master Muhammad pbuh is that he used to engage children in social occasions, the aim being to better shape their characters and enhance their positivity. It was, for instance, his practice to give lifts on his camel to children when he returned from journeys. To this, it was narrated that Abdullah Ibn Jaafar, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “When the Messenger of Allah pbuh came back from a journey, the children of his family used to accord him welcome. It was in this way that once he came back from a journey and I went to him first of all. He mounted me before him. Then there came one of the two sons of Fatima and he mounted him behind him.”

More to the point, he pbuh encouraged parents to accompany their children to beneficial assemblies so that they could draw from the wisdom of the elders, acquire beneficial skills and learn the noble habits and authentic traditions of their community. This was illustrated by Khalid Ibn Saeed, may Allah be pleased with him, when he said that he took his little daughter to the assembly of the Messenger of Allah pbuh, so he pbuh invoked Allah the Almighty to grant her a long life.

You are urged, therefore, to strive to follow such a great guidance of the Prophet pbuh in raising your children. This way, they will definitely become a delight for their families, instrumental in supporting their community and building their homeland. Indeed, the children of today are the youth of tomorrow and the men of the future. Unquestionably, the hope of the nation lies in them.

Bearing this in mind, let us implore to Allah the Almighty to grant our sons and daughters success and make them a source of happiness to us. May Allah bless them for us.

we seek Allah’s favour to guide us all to obey Him and obey His Messenger Muhammad pbuh and obey those He have commanded us to

obey in line with His orders: “**O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.**” (An-Nisaa: ٥٩).

May Allah direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Quran and the Sunna of His Messenger pbuh.

I say this and ask Allah for forgiveness for me and you, so invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

### **Second Sermon**

All praise is due to Allah, the Endower of bounties and Bestower of favours. I praise Him the Most Exalted as befitting to His Sublime Countenance and Supreme Status. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. He was the possessor of great character and straight guidance. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

I urge you, **O Servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him, the Most High and Exalted.

### **O Worshipers,**

Please know that invoking Allah the Almighty for our children is of tremendous positive impact on guiding them to the straight path and righteousness. It is also conducive to help them to excel in their endeavours. No wonder then that it was part of the guidance of the Prophet pbuh to supplicate for children. In this regard, it was narrated that Asmaa, may Allah be pleased with her, said that she brought her new born baby to the Prophet pbuh, so he invoked Allah for him.

Furthermore, amongst the other benefits of supplications is that they are means of protecting children from every harm and seeking refuge with Allah for them from the evil of Satan. Abdullah Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, accentuated that this was part of the practice of the Prophet pbuh as he said, “The Prophet pbuh used to seek Refuge with Allah for Al-Hasan and Al-Husain and say, ‘Your forefather (i.e. Abraham) used to seek Refuge with Allah for Ishmael and Isaac by reciting the following: O Allah! I seek Refuge with Your Perfect Words

from every devil and from poisonous pests and from every evil, harmful, envious eye.”

Thus, it is a duty incumbent on every parent and teacher to take care of children in terms of education and raising up. They should seek refuge with Allah by supplicating to Him to grant their children success, bless them, protect them and be their ally. By so doing, they will be following the great guidance of our Master and Prophet Muhammad pbuh.

That is said, please bear in mind that you are instructed to invoke peace and blessings on the Prophet pbuh. Allah, the Most Sublime, says, **“indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.”** (Al-Ahzab: ٥٦).

On the same matter, the Prophet pbuh said, “For everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah.”

O Allah, please confer Your blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.

May Allah be pleased with the Rightly Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and all of the noble Companions.

Our Lord, please enable us to be grateful to Your favours which You have bestowed upon us and upon our parents. Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us and our children regular in observing prayer. O Allah, please accept our supplications.

O Allah, we implore to You to continue blessing us with Your bounties, endow upon us Your favours and make us rejoice peace of mind and wellbeing. O Allah, please accept our good deeds and accept our prayers.

O Lord, may we also ask You to rewards us in multiples for our good acts, forgive us our past and future misdeeds and honour us with happiness in this world and in the Hereafter.

O Lord, please make us amongst those who are dutiful to their parents and kind to their kith and kin.

May Allah grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah, we also seek Your favour to grant him continued health and care. May Allah also ensure success to his Vice-President, trustworthy Crown Prince and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, please forgive all of the Muslims, men and women, living and dead. We pray to Allah to show mercy on late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the late UAE Sheikhs. O Lord, grant them abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whoever has done a favour to us.

O Allah, may we ask You to guide us to all that may help us attain Your mercy and forgiveness and grant us rewards for our good deeds.

O Allah, we implore to You to protect us from every major sin and grant us the reward of every good deed. O Allah, we seek Your grace to make us amongst those who will win Your Paradise and save us from the Hellfire.

O Allah, we implore You at this instance not to let a sin un-forgiven, a distress unrelieved, a debt unpaid, an illness unhealed, a dead without mercy or a need unsatisfied, for You are the Most Generous and over all things Competent. Indeed, You are over all things Competent and to prayers ever responding.

We pray to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, to continue blessing the UAE with stability and welfare and increase it in bounties, knowledge, civilisation, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with happiness and security.

May Allah have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the prophets. May Allah make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You are ever responding to the supplications.

O Allah, please grant the best reward for the families of the martyrs and offer them patience and solace. May Allah grant victory to the soldiers of the Arab Coalition who gathered to restore the rights to their owners.

O Lord, please be by their side and guide the Yemeni people to everything that is good. O Allah, make them rally for the word of truth

and legitimacy, and bless them with welfare and stability, O the Most Generous.

O Lord, we beseech You to bless all of the Muslim countries and the whole world with stability and peace.

Our Lord, give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire. O Allah, admit us to Your Paradise with the righteous. Indeed, You are Exalted in Might and Forgiving.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to send us wealthy rain and make us not amongst those who are despondent. O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us with a wealthy, healthy and sufficient rain! O Allah, give us from the blessings of the sky and grow for us from the blessings of the earth.

Remember Allah and He will remember you. Be grateful of His benevolence and He will increase His blessings to you.

Please stand up for prayer.