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“Raising Children”

Indeed, all praise is due to Allah. We praise Him, seek His help, and ask Him for forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and from the consequences of our deeds. Whoever Allah guides, none can misguide; and whoever He allows to stray, none can guide. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone, with no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger, His chosen one among His creation and His beloved. He fulfilled trust, conveyed the message, and strove for the sake of Allah as he ought to have striven, until certainty came to him. May Allah’s abundant peace and blessings be upon him, his family, and all his Companions.

“O you who have believed, fear Allah as He should be feared and do not die except as Muslims (in submission to Him).” (Aal `Imran 3:102)

To proceed,

Indeed, the truest speech is the Book of Allah, the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, the worst of matters are those newly introduced, every newly introduced matter is an innovation, every innovation is misguidance, and every misguidance leads to the Fire.

Servants of Allah!

Children are a divine blessing and a gift from Allah, bestowed upon whomever He wills among His servants. Allah, the Exalted, says: **“And Allah has made for you from yourselves mates and has made for you from your mates sons and grandchildren and has provided for you from the good things. Then in falsehood do they believe and in the favor of Allah they disbelieve?”** (An-Nahl 16:72)

Children are the adornment and joy of life, among the greatest and most precious of gifts. When they are righteous, they bring comfort to the eyes, tranquility to the soul, and happiness to the heart. This is why one of the supplications of the servants of the Most Merciful is: **“Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous.”** (Al-Furqan 25:74)

Among the greatest signs of Allah’s favor and guidance to His servant is that he is blessed with children who worship Allah alone, without partner; that he sees his child praying before his eyes and reciting verses of the Qur’an in his presence. Such a sight fills him with happiness and surrounds him with joy. The righteousness of one’s children is therefore a precious aspiration and a blessing granted by Allah, the Most Subtle, the All-Aware.

Believers!

Raising children is a tremendous responsibility and a serious undertaking, particularly in light of the challenges we face in our modern age. Sound upbringing requires patience, wisdom, composure, and experience.

Raising children today is no longer what it was in the past. The means have changed, influences have multiplied, and challenges have accelerated. A child now lives in an open world, hearing, seeing, and being influenced by

these various forms of media and communication—often more than he hears from his parents or receives from those who raise and educate him.

Thus, raising children today is a daily struggle that requires constant patience. Allah, the Exalted, says: **“O you who believe! Ward off from yourselves and your families a Fire whereof the fuel is men and stones.”** (Al-Tahrim 66:6)

Al-Hafiz Ibn Kathir (may Allah have mercy on him) said: “That is, command them to do what is right and forbid them from what is wrong. Do not leave them neglected, lest the Fire consume them on the Day of Resurrection.”

Blessed believers!

Among the greatest means of helping to raise children in an age of challenges is to instill faith in their hearts from an early age. When the heart is filled with faith, the limbs become upright, behavior becomes refined, and the child develops an awareness of being watched over by Allah from within himself. He then remains upright even when no one is watching.

Ibn `Abbas (May Allah be pleased with them) said: “One day, I was riding behind the Prophet (peace be upon him) when he said, “O boy! I will instruct you in some matters. Be watchful of Allah (Commandments of Allah), He will preserve you. Safeguard His Rights, He will be ever with you. If you beg, beg of Him Alone; and if you need assistance, supplicate to Allah Alone for help. And remember that if all the people gather to benefit you, they will not be able to benefit you except that which Allah had foreordained (for you); and if all of them gather to do harm to you, they will not be able to afflict you with anything other than that which Allah had pre-destined against you. The pens had been lifted and the ink had dried up.” (At- Tirmidhi, who categorized it as Hadith Hasan Sahih)

O Believers!

Among the beneficial means of raising boys and girls is to train them from an early age to observe Allah’s commands and stay away from His prohibitions and warnings.

Allah, the Exalted, says: **“And enjoin upon thy people worship, and be constant therein. We ask not of you a provision: We provided for you. And the sequel is for righteousness.”** (Ta-Ha 20:132)

And Allah, the Exalted, says, relating the advice of His servant Luqman to his son, the dearest of his children:

“O my son, establish prayer, enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and be patient over what befalls you. Indeed, [all] that is of the matters (requiring) determination.” (Luqman 31:17)

`Abdullah Ibn Amr In Al-`As (may Allah be pleased with them) narrated: The Messenger of Allah (peace be with him) said: “Command your children to pray when they become seven years old and beat them for it (prayer) when they become ten years old; and arrange their beds (to sleep) separately.” (Reported by Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhi, who graded it Sahih (authentic).

Indeed, the Prophet (peace be upon him) gave special attention to children and regularly checked on their well-being. His approach to them was based on attentive upbringing, gentle questions, and compassion.

He would ask about a child’s prayer to make the child aware of its importance, accustom him to it, and nurture his connection with Allah.

Ibn `Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them) said:

"I spent a night with my maternal aunt Maimunah. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) came after the evening has come. He asked: Did the boy pray? She said: Yes. 'Yes.'" (Reported by Abu Dawud and graded as Sahih by Ibn Hibban)

The Prophet's guidance, peace and blessings be upon him, was not limited to outward acts of worship. It also extended to the finer details of manners and conduct, including eating and drinking and similar matters.

`Umar Ibn Abi Salamah (may Allah be pleased with them) reported: "I was a boy under the care of Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), and my hand would wander about in the dish. Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said to me "Mention Allah's Name (i.e., say Bismillah before you start eating), eat with your right hand and eat from what is near to you". I always followed this way of eating after this incident." (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

O Muslims!

Among the phrases that have most damaged child-rearing in our time is the saying, "Leave him; he is only a child."

Such a phrase is used to excuse mistakes, silence guidance, and open the door to leniency. A child may do whatever he wishes without being corrected, and a girl may wear whatever she wishes without being advised or guided. Eventually, a generation grows accustomed to wrongdoing, becomes accustomed to neglect, and no longer cares about what is said to him. What is planted well in childhood will bear fruit throughout adulthood.

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated: "Al-Hasan bin `Ali took a date from the dates given in charity and put it in his mouth. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, 'Expel it from your mouth. Don't you know that we do not eat a thing which is given in charity?'" (Al-Bukhari)

Ibn Al-Qayyim (may Allah have mercy on him) said: "Whoever neglects to teach his child what will benefit him and leaves him without guidance has treated him most unjustly. Most children are corrupted because of their parents and their neglect of them, and because they fail to teach them the obligations and practices of the religion. They neglected them when they were young, and as a result, they neither benefited themselves nor benefited their parents when they grew older."

Good character grows like plants

when watered with the waters of noble virtues;

It flourishes when tended by a mentor,

rising upon the stem of virtue and bearing fruit.

May Allah bless me and you through the Noble Qur'an, and may He benefit me and you through its verses and wise reminders.

I say these words of mine, and I seek Allah's forgiveness for myself and for you from every sin, and I repent to Him. So, seek His forgiveness and repent to Him. Indeed, He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

The Second Khutbah

All praise is due to Allah for His kindness, and thanks are due to Him for His guidance and favor. May peace and blessings be upon the one who calls to His pleasure, Muhammad ibn Abdullah, and upon his family, his Companions, and all who follow his way until the Day of Judgment.

To proceed,

Fear Allah, servants of Allah, as He deserves to be feared, and be mindful of Him in private and in secret. Know that you will be gathered before Him.

O Muslims!

Among the means that aid in raising children is setting a good example. It is an education without words; it silently shapes the hearts of children. A child grows up influenced by the sound character and wholesome example he sees. Therefore, one of the most dangerous things that causes deviation and behavioral problems in a child is witnessing a contradiction between what is said and what is done.

Allah, the Exalted, commanded His Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, to follow the example of the Prophets and Messengers who came before him, peace be upon them. He says: **“Those are they whom Allah guides, so follow their guidance.”** (Al-An`am 6:90)

He also guided the Ummah to follow the example of its Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him, in all his words, actions, and circumstances. He, Glorified and Exalted is He, says: **“Verily in the messenger of Allah ye have a good example for him who looks unto Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah much.”** (Al-Ahzab 33:21)

This demonstrates that the presence of a good example is one of the foundations upon which a society is built and a major means of raising righteous individuals who bring benefit to those around them.

O Blessed Believers!

Indeed, among the most effective means of raising children is being attentively aware of their interests, understanding what occupies their minds, and opening the door of dialogue with them, so that barriers are removed, and they feel safe when speaking and discussing matters. In this way, a father or mother becomes a guardian in the form of a friend and a responsible parent in the guise of a companion, combining respect with affection, and guidance with emotional support.

Reflect upon the dialogue between Ibrahim, the close friend of Allah, and his son Isma`il (peace be upon them):

“And when he reached with him [the age of] exertion, he said, "O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I (must) sacrifice you, so see what you think." He said, "O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast.” (As-Safat 37:102)

And when Yusuf, peace be upon him, saw that vision, he confided it only to his father. Secrets are entrusted only to one in whose presence the heart feels safe: **“When Joseph said unto his father: O my father! Lo! I saw in a dream eleven planets and the sun and the moon, I saw them prostrating themselves unto me.”** (Yusuf 12:4)

An orphan is not one whose parents,
burdened by the cares of life, leave him in disgrace;
rather, the orphan is one who has
a neglectful mother or a father too busy to care for him.

O Allah, forgive the Muslim men and women, those who are living and those who have passed away.

Our Lord, lift from us affliction, epidemics, hardship, and adversity. Continue Your blessings upon us and ward off Your punishment from us. Purify our souls, for You are the Best of those who purify them.

Our Lord, grant us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and protect us from the punishment of the Fire.

O Allah, guide our Amir and his Crown Prince to what You love and are pleased with. Take them by their forelocks to righteousness and piety.

Make this country safe and secure, prosperous and flourishing, and grant the same to all the Muslim lands.

(Committee for preparing the model sermon for Friday Prayer.)