

Fellow Muslims! After Allah had enjoined us to worship Him Alone, He enjoined us to be kind to our parents.

"Thy Lord hath decreed that ye worship none but Him, and that ye be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in thy life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor. Thy Lord hath decreed that ye worship none but Him, and that ye be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in thy life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor."

Kindness to parents, brothers in Islam, includes doing each righteous deed for them that you can and refraining from doing anything that may hurt them.

Kindness to parents is the dearest deed to Allah, after Prayer.

The Prophet was asked: "Which deed is the dearest to Allah? (In another narration it was said: which deed is the best?) He replied: **"Performing prayer on its time."** It was asked: What is next? He said: **"Kindness to parents."** It was asked: What is next? He said: **"Jihad in the cause of Allah."** (Bukhari & Muslim)

A man came to the Prophet and said: I pay homage to you to emigrate and struggle in the cause of Allah, seeking reward from Allah.

The Prophet asked: **"Are any of your parents alive?"** He said: Both are alive. The Prophet said, **"Do you seek Allah's reward?"** He replied, "Yes". The Prophet said: **"Then return to them and be a good companion to them"**
Muslim

You should address your parents gently and politely and consult them in your affairs, and make many supplications for them and ask Allah to forgive their sins. You should not raise your voice in their presence, nor look at them angrily or with contempt.

You should not wave with your hands when you talk to them, nor interrupt them when they speak.

You should not argue with them, tell them lies, nor travel except after taking their permission. All of these are some aspects of being kind and dutiful to parents.

Kindness to parents requires you to speak to them using honorable speech i.e., saying something good to them with esteem and respect, and to lower the wing of humility out of mercy to them, in all your words and deeds.

Act towards them politely without feeling discontent, whether you like it or not. Many of us think that kindness to parents is only practiced when it coincides with

their own desires. However, kindness to parents cannot be achieved except by doing what pleases them, even if it is against our own tendencies.

Fellow Muslims! Your parents are the most compassionate of all people to you and the most forbearing of your faults.

Many times they overlook your mistakes and forgive you.

They struggle in life in order for you to feel happy and trouble themselves in order that you may be at ease.

They give to you in such a way that does not cause you to be indebted to them or in a way that hurts your feelings.

They wish you long life. On the contrary, if you serve them and provide them with food, you make them feel indebted to you and you anticipate their death in order to be relieved of their service.

O Muslims! Fear Allah! Be aware that kindness or unkindness to your parents is an act that will be repaid likewise. If a Muslim obeys his parents, his children will obey him. If he honors his parents, his children will honor him, and vice versa. It was narrated in a Hadith: **"As you are kind to your parents, so will your children be kind to you."**

Beware of Allah's punishment, because of your unkindness to your parents. The Prophet said: **Let him be humbled, let him be humbled, let him be humbled.** It was said: Allah's Messenger, who is he? He said, **"He who accompanies his parents in old age, either one or both of them, but did not use their presence (by doing good to them, etc.) to cause him to enter Paradise"**. (Muslim).

'Umar bin 'Abdul-'Aziz, may Allah be pleased with him, said: "Do not befriend one who is unkind to his parents, for how can he be kind to you while he is unkind to his parents?"

Brothers and Sisters! If your parents or one of them died while you did not fulfill your duties towards them and you regret it, you still have a chance to set things right. This can be done by asking Allah's forgiveness and mercy for them, by giving charity on their behalf and visiting relatives they used to visit.

This can also be done by visiting their friends and fulfilling vows they made before their death.

These and similar good deeds please parents after their death, since they alleviate their sins and increase their good deeds