

Up bringing of Children 2

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In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

We continue our talk about bringing up the children. What makes up concentrate about the importance of the family is what we see of tremendous risks faced by the bringing up of the children. Perhaps one of the most important of those risks is the failure of parents before any other to up bring and educate their children. Also the failure the Islamic educational organizations in Ireland to put in place curricula and educations programs which can contain young people in comprehensively and meet their spiritual, intellectual and moral and physical needs and perceiving the Islamic values in the Koran and Sunnah. Indeed, the right way to create the future generation and the better society is for the parents to return to take their responsibilities in brining up their children.

So, the important question is how do we bring up our children the right way. Allah says: {you who believe, protect your selves and your families a fire that is fueled by people and rocks}. Bringing up is "the coordinated and balanced religious, intellectual and moral development of a person". Based on this, up bringing the children is a gradual operation of building and care, and repair until perfection is reached. That is gradually starting at birth until puberty. This way, bringing up the children is an Islamic duty for all fathers and mothers to implant faith and to realize Allah's laws. It is a responsibility and a trust which can not be ignored. Allah says: {we have offered entrust upon the skies, earth and the mountains who refused to carry it, and they feared it. But, the human took it on, for the human being was an ignorant aggressor}.

How do we bring up our children?

First: let us look at some of the useful means in bringing up the children. I need to point out here to one very important point and that is there should be absolute agreement between our behaviour and what we ask of our children. In other words, we should not ask our children to do or refrain

from doing something when we do something different. Allah said: {You who have faith, why do you say what you do not do. It is a great dislike to Allah that you say what you do not do}. For example when you ask your child not to smoke while he sees you smoke, then he will not listen to you. He or she might say if my dad was truthful about it then he wouldn't be smoking himself. When you ask him to do prayers in a group at the Mosque and he finds you pray alone at home then he might tell you he is going to the mosque when he may go elsewhere.

The first mean for the right upbringing of our children is to ingrain into them from a young age the love for Allah, and fear of Allah, and the love to obey Him, and go along His straight path. That is not an easy task. We should make it a little easier is our own belief that Allah is with us. Allah says: {and those who strive in our cause, We shall certainly guide them to our paths}. And remember that Allah's reward is in direct relation to the difficulty. Do not use excuses like lack of knowledge, or weakness of education or lack of time to sit with our children. All that can be overcome if the true intention was there.

The upbringing of children starts at the time when one starts thinking about marriage. It starts with the selection of the right mother and the right father to be. The messenger (ppbu) encourage everyone to seek out the one with the religious character as much as one possibly can. The one who has faith offer better support for the husband to obey His God, and support for the upbringing of children. The messenger (ppbu) said: {a woman is sought out for marriage for four characteristics: riches and status and beauty and religion. Pick the religious one and you will win}. The messenger (ppbu) also encouraged the guardian of girl to make a proper selection of a husband when he said: {if one proposes to you whom you are satisfied with his faith and his morals then accept him for marriage. For if you do not there will be much temptation and corruption in the land}.

Second: the Messenger (ppbu) said: {if one of you before approaching his wife is to say: In the name of Allah (), Allah make us avoid Satan, and Satan avoid what you have given us. And then a child is born from that then Satan will never harm that child}

Third: the proper selection of a name. For a good name has good effect on the individual and the bad name has a bad effect on the individual. The messenger (ppbu) said: {The most loved names to Allah are Abdulla and Abdur-Rahman}. The messenger (ppbu) discouraged against names that carry a hateful meaning, or a meaning which endorses the individual. The messenger (ppbu) forbade the name indicating slavery and worship to other than Allah.

Fourth: to make Azan (a call to prayer) into the ear of the newly born. Those four are rights of child upon his father in his early stage of life.

Fifth: teaching children behavior, and good morals and educating them. This starts by strengthening the ties of the child with faith, and understanding the foundations of Islam. Faith here means faith into Allah, angels, the scriptures, the messengers, paradise and hellfire, and the reconvening or accountability and other un-sensed issues. Islamic foundations here we refer to: all physical and financial worship rituals like prayers, fasting, zakah (charity), pilgrimage (Hajj).

The messenger (ppbu) said: {make a starter with your children's first word is " " (No God except Allah)}. That should be one the child's hearing and tong first get used to.

Also bring to the attention of the child what can be comprehended of what is lawful or allowed (Halal) and forbidden (Haram). The messenger (ppbu) said: {be God fearing in what you do, and avoid disobedience of Allah, and command your children to adhere to Allah's commands, and to refrain from his commanded against. That will be protection to you and them from hell fire.}

The messenger (ppbu) advised to command children to start worship at the age of seven. The messenger (ppbu) said: {command your children to perform prayers at age of seven years, and punish them for it at age of ten and separate them in bed}. Similar to prayers then similar conclusions can be drawn for other worship rituals like fasting and Hajj. When a children performs worships then they are brought up with obedience to Allah, and

with doing Allah's rights, and giving thanks to Allah, and taking refuge to Allah. Such worships should purify the child soul and improves his morals.

Some of the messenger's guidance is to teach children the love of the messenger (ppbu) and love of the messenger's family, and the love to recite the holy Koran. From that we can draw also teaching them the battles the messenger (ppbu) attended, and the history and life of his companions. So, our children can take example from the life of the messenger (ppbu) and his companions. Imam Ghazali recommended to teach children the Holy Koran, Hadeeth (the messenger sayings), and the stories of the good people, and some of religious rulings.

Finally let us not forget the importance and benefit of asking Allah in a prayer (Duaa) in their up bringing. Make dua for your children. Ask Allah to give you or grant you God fearing children. Allah says: {Our Lord Bestow on us from our wives children that would delight the eyes or give us peace}.

Do not make a negative Duaa upon your self or upon your children, or those who work for you, and do not make a negative dua about your money, just in case you do it in an hour of response, and Allah may reply to your dua}. Indeed, if a parent makes such a bad dua about their child, and if something happens to that child then it could cause a feeling of guilt with the parent for the rest of their life.

Finally, remember the fact that success or failure of the up bringing operation is: one is born with the natural inclination of believing into one single God and the parents turn the child into a Christian or a Jew or make him an unbeliever. If the right environment is made available for the up bringing at home a child will grow with faith and good morels. Imam Ghazali said that a child is entrusted to his parents, with his or her heart as a pure and precious jewel. If taught goodness then it would grow with goodness and becomes happy in this life and next. And if taught the bad and ignored then it will be doomed.