



The Role of the Family in protecting children from Drugs

The First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah for His tremendous blessings. And gratitude to Him for His great favor. He has blessed us with the blessing of children, placing them as a trust and responsibility for their parents. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love and adoration, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon his name), is the perfect example of servanthood unto Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created universe.

To Continue: I advise you, dutiful servants of Allah, and myself, to adhere to a heartfelt consciousness (Taqwa) of Allah. For He, the Most Gloriously Transcendent, states:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ
مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي
تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah , through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed Allah is ever, over you, an Observer.

[Qur'an: ٤: ١]

O Muslims: Indeed the intellect is a blessing and a trust we will be accountable for, for Allah says:

إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا

Indeed, the hearing, the sight and the heart - about all those [one] will be questioned.[Qur'an: ١٧: ٣٦]

The word 'fouad' that is used for heart here, also indicates the intellect. Hence we will be asked about the intellect on the Day of Judgment, namely asked about what it is that we did with it. It is for this reason that the Sharia has appointed a great degree of importance to the caring of the intellect, making its preservation one of the foundational aims of the Sharia itself, thus deeming impermissible (haram) all the things that harm the intellect. Hence, Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ
رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

O you who have believed, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone alters [to other than Allah], and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful. [Qur'an: ٥: ٩٠]

Similarly the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) is reported to have said: **كُلُّ مُسْكِرٍ حَرَامٌ**

"Every intoxicant is unlawful." [Bukhari and Muslim]

An intoxicant here is considered to be any substance that when consumed causes one to lose his intellect or affects his consciousness in a way that he is no longer aware of his intellect. So this could be all manners of drugs, whether they be in liquid form such as alcohol, or whether they be smoked, ingested or even injected. From the most dangerous of these are the category of those addictive drugs that lead to substance abuse. This is evidenced by the fact that it is a global problem of epidemic proportion, wherein most of the countries of the world are suffering from this. In fact, these drugs have become so widespread, they are repeatedly crossing the borders of more than one hundred and seventy countries around the world, and sadly rank as third in terms of world global trade. Given all of this,

how do we protect our children from falling into such addictive drugs?

O Parents: Our children are a weighty trust placed upon our shoulders and we will be accountable for how we have rendered this trust in front of our Lord. For the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

الرَّجُلُ رَاعٍ فِي أَهْلِهِ وَهُوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالْمَرْأَةُ رَاعِيَةٌ فِي بَيْتِ
زَوْجِهَا وَمَسْئُولَةٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهَا

A man is the shepherd of the people of his house and he is responsible [for his flock]. A woman is the shepherd of the house of her husband and she is responsible [for her flock]. [Bukhari and Muslim]

Note thus that the family should be a place of refuge for children, their fortress by which they are protected, and their first school, where they are born, nourished, cared for and where they learn from. It is for this reason that Allah states that the family unit should be based on a foundation of love and affection, to enjoy the fruits of mercy and cohesion, tranquility and peace.

Hence, He says: وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا

لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً

And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in

them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. [Qur'an:٣٠:٢١]

In order that children growing in the shade of such a cohesive family are sheltered and nourished, it is essential that they be protected from all manners of societal evils. In a recent study it was found that ninety-five percent of those children who have fallen into the substance abuse of addictive drugs were said to have come from dysfunctional families. Their parents and wider relatives paid no attention to the wellbeing of their children and the result was the children sought comfort elsewhere, to their detriment. In contrast to this, how many a family through its intimate sense of protective care and cohesiveness was able to raise children who became distinguished in their morals and deeds. Children who excelled not only in their academic studies, but more importantly their character, going on to become assets to their wider communities and ultimately sources of pride to their nations.

Slaves of Allah: Indeed, the development of a sense of religious faith and a deep-felt spirituality in the hearts of our children is one of the primary means by which we can protect them from drugs, so parents should pay special attention to this. This was the way and wisdom of Luqman al-Hakim who the Quran notes as giving his son advice, wherein he reminded him of the omnipotence of God, thus strengthening his son's faith in Him. He said:

يَا بُنَيَّ إِنَّهَا إِنْ تَكُ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِنْ خَرْدَلٍ فَتَكُنْ فِي صَخْرَةٍ أَوْ فِي
السَّمَوَاتِ أَوْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَأْتِ بِهَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ

[And Luqman said], "O my son, indeed if wrong should be the weight of a mustard seed and should be within a rock or [anywhere] in the heavens or in the earth, Allah will bring it forth. Indeed, Allah is Subtle and Acquainted. [Qur'an: ٣١: ١٦]

This example entails that we too strengthen the relationship our children have with their Lord, instilling in them the sense of self-governance or mindfulness of their Creator at all times. We should provide for them a safe educational environment, whereby they can have a degree of spiritual, psychological and physical protection, steering them away from all forms of negative behavior, shunning all distrust and suspicion, all in accordance with the words of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) who said: دَعُ مَا يَرِيْبُكَ إِلَى مَا لَا يَرِيْبُكَ

Leave that which makes you doubt for that which does not make you doubt. [Tirmidhi]

Yes indeed, idle curiosity and the craving to experience the effects of certain drugs has trapped many children in the vicious addictive cycle of substance abuse. As a way of preventing this, what is more beautiful than when parents sit with their children in a family atmosphere of love and mutual affection. Indeed, the

Messenger of God (peace and blessings be upon him) used to sit with his family and he used both converse and listen to what they had to say. In this regard Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, narrates that: “I [Ibn Abbas] once stayed overnight in the house of my aunt Maimuna. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessing be upon him) talked [i.e. both conversed and listened] with his wife for a [significant] while and then went to bed.” Parents should thus likewise give their children their time, expressing their love and interest in their affairs, devoting a certain amount of their attention and precious moments to them. This requires true communication, which entails empathy, the ability to act as their friends, to counsel them in their situations, listening to their opinions and concerns as well, collaborating with them, and sharing their hopes before proposing resolutions to their problems. Note that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

إِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ بِأَهْلِ بَيْتٍ خَيْرًا؛ أَدْخَلَ عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّفْقَ

If Allah wishes to enter upon the people of a house good, He enters in them [i.e. their hearts] gentleness. [Ahmad]

Indeed it is affection that brings about connection, instilling mutual understanding and closeness between parents and their children. This is especially important, because if children do not find in their homes an example that speaks to their minds, and a love that

draws in their hearts; they tend to turn to their companions and friends, and the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

الرَّجُلُ عَلَى دِينِ خَلِيلِهِ؛ فَلْيَنْظُرْ أَحَدُكُمْ مَنِ يُخَالِلُ

A man follows the religion of his friend; so each one should consider whom he makes his friend.

[Tirmidhi]

In this is a call and warning to parents to get to know the friends of their children, to guide them in ensuring that they have the best of companionship, who will take them by their hands towards that which is good and keep them safe from the doors of evil. Studies have indicated that up to 90% of those addicted to drugs availed them for the first time through an introduction by ‘friends’ of the worst kind.

Additionally, from the most important things parents can instill in their children is to fashion their characters as people of high aspiration. This is so they are able to invest their energies, utilize their time, and develop their skills and talents to the best of their potential. In this regard note how the Caliph Umar bin al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, said: **“Teach your children swimming, archery and horse riding.”**

O Muslims: Indeed parents should develop the minds of their children with all manner of new and useful information, and encourage them to take part in fruitful endeavors, useful courses, and engage in voluntary

work. For the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

المؤمن القوي خير وأحب إلى الله من المؤمن الضعيف، وفي كل خير، احرص على ما ينفعك، واستعن بالله ولا تعجز

“A believer who is strong (and healthy) is better and dearer to Allah than the weak believer, but there is goodness in both of them. Be keen on what benefits you and seek help from Allah, and do not give up.” [Muslim]

May Allah safeguard our children, giving us Baraka in our families, and may He assist us all in the way of piety and obedience. Piety towards Your trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), the ability to be dutiful towards those You have commanded us to be dutiful towards, in accordance with Your words: **O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.** [Qur'an: ٤:٥٩]

May Allah bless me and bless you with the Noble Qur'an and with the Way (Sunnah) of His Noble Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). I say this, and I seek forgiveness for me and for you, so seek His forgiveness, for He is the All-Forgiving and the All-Merciful.

The Second Khutbah

All praises are for Allah, Lord of all the Worlds. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love and adoration, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon his name), is the perfect example of dutiful servanthood towards Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created universe. O Allah: We ask you to bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon him; his family; all of his companions; and whomsoever follows and seeks to emulate him in the best of ways till the Last Day. I advise you, O servants of Allah, and myself, with Taqwa of Allah (glorified be He).

O Muslims: Sayyidina Ali ibn Abi Talib (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates: **عَلِّمُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ الْخَيْرَ**

Teach yourselves and your children the good.

[Mustadrak]

Parents should thus encourage their children from a young age to take responsibility upon themselves, attaching their hearts to the gatherings of the Quran and Sunnah, and instilling in them a discipline that is far from triviality and which gives them a sense of seeking excellence in all that they do. An attitude like this will ensure that they do not fall prey to the clutches of drugs and its promoters. Finally, if you as parents find any of your children displaying any signs of substance abuse;

do not delay, there is help, and you can contact and report the matter to the special and competent authorities who have been established first and foremost in the interest of your children's well-being and welfare. Additionally as wider society and as a nation, it is important for us collectively to facilitate and allow for the integration within our society of its members who may have fallen, but are trying to get up, those who are recovering from addiction and drugs. So we should be embracing them into our collective hands in a spirit of mercy and compassion (not judging them), as this not only encourages them in their recovery but serves as a cause of hope and motivation for others to follow the same course.

And with this, let us send our peace and blessings upon the one we have been commanded to send our peace and blessings upon, as Allah 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.** [Qur'an: ٣٣:٥٦]. So, O Allah, bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon our Master, our Prophet and upon his family and all of his companions. And may Allah be pleased with the Righteous Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali; and the noble companions of the Prophet, the Sahaba, may Allah be pleased with all of them. O Allah, we ask You for soundness in our faith, and trust in good character, and a true success that will be followed by eternal bliss.

O Allah, we ask You for Your mercy, for true prosperity, for Your redemptive forgiveness and Your pleasure. O Allah, make us from those who are obedient, respectful, those who venerate their parents, honoring their mothers and their fathers, embodying excellent character towards their families and wider societies.

O 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 seek Your favour in granting him continued good health and care. O Allah, we also ask You to grant success to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, we ask You to forgive all of the Muslims, both the men and women, the living and dead. O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to the mercy of their Lord. O Lord, grant them from your abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Allah, we ask you to admit them into Paradise, being given bounties therein without being taken to account. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whosoever may have a right upon us.

O Allah, we ask You, from your loving kindness, for the immensity of your forgiveness, for the reward of all righteousness, for the safety and protection from all sin. O Allah, we ask you for the ultimate success in

attaining Paradise, and the ultimate respite in being saved from the Fire. O Allah, do not allow us to sin except that You forgive us, nor to have any worry except that you relieve us therein, nor for any debt to come upon us except that You see it compensated, nor for there to be any sick amongst us except that You see them healed. Let there be no dead, except that You have covered them in Your mercy, and let there be no pressing need, amongst any of us, except that You see it met and fulfilled. O most Noble of the Noble, You are capable over all things, and You are the most generous in responding to those who call upon You.

We ask You, O Allah, the Lord of all domains, to continue blessing the UAE with stability, welfare, increase in its bounties, knowledge, civilization, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with safety and security. O Allah, have mercy on the honorable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the Prophets. O Allah, make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You are ever-responsive to those who call upon You. O Allah, grant to the people of Yemen that which is good, and unite them upon that which is True and Sacred, and provide for them all manners of prosperity, O most Noble of the Noble.

O Allah, spread peace and security amongst all the Muslim nations, and the entirety of the world. O our

Lord, we ask You for the best of this World, the best of the Hereafter, that You will protect us from the punishment of the Fire, and that You enter us into Your paradise with the righteous. Indeed You are the Most Generous and Most Forgiving.

O Servants of Allah: Remember Allah, the Majestic, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings and He will increase you therein. And establish the prayer.

So stand up for prayer.