



The Father's Responsibility First Sermon

All Praise is due to Allah to the extent of what exists on earth and in the heavens (the entire universe), Who has charged fathers with the responsibility of looking after their children. I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah Alone, Who has no partner, and I bear witness that our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, is the Servant and Messenger of Allah. O Allah, send blessings, salutations and benedictions upon him, his family, all of his Companions and those who are guided by their guidance until the Day of Judgment.

As to what follows: I counsel you, O Servants of Allah, and myself to have *Taqwā* of Allah (i.e. reverential consciousness and self-restraining fear of Allah). Allah Almighty says:

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ

إِمَامًا

[Q٢٥:٧٤] ["Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the People of Taqwa)."]

O Believers: Fathers have a high rank and exalted station with Allah Almighty. Allah Most High says:

(وَوَالِدٍ وَمَا وَلَدٌ)

[Qur'an ٩٠:٣] [And (I swear by) the father and that which was born (of him)]

This is due to the fact that the father's task is immense and his responsibility revered and honourable. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَأَلَ كُلَّ رَاعٍ عَمَّا اسْتَرَعَاهُ، حَفِظَ ذَلِكَ أَمْ ضَيَّعَ؟

حَتَّى يَسْأَلَ الرَّجُلَ عَنِ أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ»



[Indeed Allah will question every caretaker and every custodian about the charge that has been placed in his care and custody: has he looked after it or has he neglected it, until He questions a man about his household]

[Narrated in the Sahih of Ibn Hibban]

The father is responsible for strengthening his children's relationship with their Lord and for instilling Fear of Allah in their hearts and minds. Here is Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) (may Allah's peace be upon him) directing his sons to that which is good for them, feeling his responsibility towards them, and instructing them to do that which will bring them closer to their Lord and preserve for them their religion. Allah Most High says:

(وَوَصَّىٰ بِهَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ بَنِيهِ وَيَعْقُوبُ يَا بَنِيَّ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ لَكُمُ الدِّينَ فَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ)

[Qur'an 2:132] [And Ibrahim (Abraham) instructed his sons [to do the same] and [so did] Ya'qub (Jacob), [saying], "O my sons, indeed Allah has chosen for you this religion, so do not die except while you are Muslims.")

The father is responsible for the wellbeing of his children and keeping them out of harm's way, for indeed Prophet Nuh (Noah) felt this responsibility towards his son and went out his way to save him, calling him from the depths of his heart (as related in the Qur'an):

(يَا بَنِيَّ ارْكَبْ مَعَنَا)

[Qur'an 11:42] [O my son, come on board with us]

Truly, it is this paternal emotion, this fatherly feeling, that was stirred by love and a sense of responsibility. Part of a father's responsibility is to ensure that his children acquire expertise and experience in the various areas of life and learn to get along well with others and to teach them to keep abreast of developments whilst at the same time holding fast firmly to their noble customs and authentic traditions.

The ancient poet says:

وَيَنْشَأُ نَاشِئُ الْفِتْيَانِ مِنَّا عَلَى مَا كَانَ عَوَّدَهُ أَبُوهُ

*The growing child from among our youth is firmly raised * on what his father accustomed him to of traditions duly praised*



O Allah protect our children, make them a source of happiness and joy for us and help us to carry out our responsibility for the sake of the stability of our families and the cohesion of our societies.

I say these words of mine while I seek Allah's Forgiveness for you and for me, so seek His Forgiveness, for He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

Second Sermon

All Praise be to Allah Alone and Peace and Blessings be upon him after whom there is not Prophet, and upon his Family, Companions and those who follow his guidance. Furthermore, I counsel you, O Servants of Allah, and myself to have *Taqwā* of Allah.

Dear and Honourable Fathers: The life of a father is one of giving to his family and doing his outmost for his children, whilst showing his love and affection for them. When one of the small grandchildren of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) would come to him, he would pick him up and carry him and kiss him out of love and compassion. Al-Aqra' ibn Habis once saw him and said: I have ten children, and I have not kissed a single one of them. So the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) looked at him and then he said:

«مَنْ لَا يَرْحَمُ؛ لَا يَرْحَمُ»

(Whoever does not show mercy, will not be shown mercy to)

(Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim)

This is how the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) makes fathers aware of showing love and affection to their children. The father is the source of safety and security for his children. He is a role-model for them whose behavior affects them and impacts upon them. Therefore, part of his responsibility is to set aside time for them, sit in their company, listen attentively to them, get to know their needs, during their various stages of growth and development, guide them in their choice of friends, support and assist them with their talents and develop their skills in order that they may grow into a fruitful, wholesome and firmly rooted tree, who make their country proud and bring honour to their families.

Having said this, request Allah to send peace, blessings and salutations upon our Master and Prophet, Muhammad. O Allah send peace, blessings and salutations upon him, his Family and all of his Companions, peace,



blessings and salutations that will last and continue uninterruptedly until the Day of

Judgment, and send peace and blessings on him at every moment in time.

O Allah: continue to bestow on the UAE Your Blessings and Bounties forever more, and spread happiness amongst its people.

O Allah: Grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his Deputy, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, the Rulers of .the Emirates and guide them to all that is good

O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum

O Allah: .and the other UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy .We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace

O Allah: Have mercy on the honorable and loyal martyrs of our nation and increase their reward.

O Allah have mercy on the Muslim men and Muslim women, those of them who are living and those of them who have passed on. O Allah remove from us and the entire world this pandemic and heal those who have been inflicted with this disease and every other disease, O Answerer of Prayers.

O Allah, give us water from the rain that You have sent down, and let us not be of the despondent. O Allah, send us rain. O Allah, send us rain. O Allah, send us rain.

O Servants of Allah: Remember Allah, the Supremely Magnificent and He will remember you, and stand up and establish the prayer.

