

# The Role of the Parent in Teaching the Children the Basics of Islam

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَغِيثُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شَرِّهِ وَأَنْفُسَنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

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

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا

فَإِنْ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثُ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَأَحْسَنُ الْهُدَى هُدَى مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَشَرُّ الْأُمُورِ مُحَدَّثَاتُهَا وَكُلُّ مُحَدَّثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ وَكُلُّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ وَكُلُّ

As for what follows:

Parents have a specific role in teaching their children the basics of the religion of Islam and their failure to do so has serious consequences on the child and society at large. The parent is the first teacher of the child and is in many ways the cause for the child's rectification or corruption. Allah has made parents responsible for saving their children from the Hell-fire. Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا

O you who believe! Ward off from yourselves and your families a Fire (Hell)

[66:6]

Imam Qurtubi rahimahullah said in the commentary of this verse:

فيعلمه الحلال والحرام ، ويجنبه المعاصي والآثام ، إلى غير ذلك من الأحكام

“So he teaches him [the child] the halal and haram. And he prohibits him from disobedience and sin and other than that from the rulings”.

[Taken from Tafsir Qurtubi]

And so, the only way parents can protect their children from the Hell-fire is by teaching them the religion. The Prophet sallahu alayhi wa salam said:

إنما أنا لكم مثل الوالد لولده أعلمكم إذا أتيتم الغائط فلا تستقبلوا القبلة ولا تستدبروها وأمر بثلاثة أحجار ونهى عن الروث والرمة ونهى أن يستطيب الرجل بيمينه

I am to you like a father to his son, and I teach you. So when you go to relieve yourselves, do not face the Qiblah or turn your backs towards it.' He ordered us to use three pebbles, and he forbade us to use dung and bones, and he forbade cleaning oneself with the right hand.

[Reported by Sunan Ibn Majah. Graded **Saheeh** by Al-Albani in Saheeh Ibn Majah no. 226]

Imam Abul-Hasan as-Sindhi rahimahullah said in the explanation of the Hadith:

قوله ( إِنَّمَا أَنَا لَكُمْ مِثْلُ الْوَالِدِ لَوْلَدِهِ ) كُلُّ مَا يَحْتَاجُ إِلَيْهِ وَلَا يُبَالِي بِمَا يَسْتَحْيِي بِذِكْرِهِ فَهَذَا تَمْهِيدٌ لِمَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ مِنْ آدَابِ الْخَلَاءِ إِذِ الْإِنْسَانُ كَثِيرًا مَا يَسْتَحْيِي مِنْ ذِكْرِهِ سِيَّمَا فِي مَجْلِسِ الطَّعَامِ

His statement: **Verily I am to you like a Father to his son**: that is in everything he needs. **He does not care about what is usually shied away from mentioning**. This is an introduction to what he [sallahu alayhi wa salam] will clarify to them from the etiquette of using the washroom since many people are shy to mention it especially during eating or dining.

[Taken from Hashiyah ‘ala Sunan Ibn Majah]

Imam al-Khattabi rahimahullah said:

وَفِي هَذَا بَيَانٌ وَجُوبِ طَاعَةِ الْآبَاءِ، وَأَنَّ الْوَاجِبَ عَلَيْهِمْ تَأْذِيبُ أَوْلَادِهِمْ وَتَعْلِيمُهُمْ مَا يَحْتَاجُونَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ  
أُمُورٍ دِينِيَّةٍ

In this is a clarification of the obligation of obeying the parents and that it is obligatory upon them to discipline their children and **that they teach them what they need from the affairs of their religion.**

[Cited by Imam Mulla Ali Qaari in *Mirqaatul Mafaateeh Sharh Mishkaat ul-Masaabeeh*]

Today, puberty has become a taboo in our Muslim communities. How many adolescents reach puberty unaware of it and its rulings? Parents have become so shy to discuss this natural process with their sons and daughters that the youth are left confused and isolated. They are left to seek answers from their friends at school or the internet or even from the disbelievers! To make things worse, classes given at local masjids do not offer much guidance on the issue or at least not publicly. So parents need educate their children, whether it about the method of making ghusl or the rulings associated with menstruation. Allah, the Exalted says:

وَاللَّهُ لَا يَسْتَحْيِي مِنَ الْحَقِّ

but Allah is not shy of (telling you) the truth.

[33:53]

And the Prophet sallahu alayhi wa salam said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى : لَا يَسْتَحْيِي مِنَ الْحَقِّ

Verily Allah the Exalted does not shy from the telling the Truth

[Saheeh Jami no. 1852]

So parents should not be shy of educating their children. The consequences of such negligence is severe. Children ignorant of the basics of their religion are harmful to themselves and others. Their

misguidance and ignorance can eventually be traced back to the parents, if they neglected their duties.

Ibn Qayyim rahimahullah said:

وإذا اعتبرت الفساد في الأولاد رأيت عامته من قبل الآباء

“If you reflect on the corruption of the children, you will see that most of it is by the parents”

And he said:

وأكثر الأولاد إنما جاء فسادهم من قبل الآباء وإهمالهم لهم وترك تعليمهم فرائض الدين وسننه

“And the corruption of most of children comes from their parents and their neglect towards them and abandoning teaching them the obligation of the religion and its Sunan”

[Taken from *Tuhfatul Mawdood bi Ahkaam ul-Mawlood*]

So it is a must upon the Parents that they educate their children in order protect them from corruption and misguidance. We ask Allah to make it easy for them and to grant them upright children, steadfast upon the religion.

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