

Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Awqaf
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Societal Solidarity:

The Rights of Parents, the Elderly and the Weak people as A Model

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, “**Do good, for Allah loves those who do good.**” I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

The message of Islam is a message of humanness, righteousness, and compassion that aims at making people enjoy a decent life in the light of cooperation and solidarity and on the basis of consolation and mutually appreciating others’ hardships. Islam aims also to remove all manifestations of selfishness and greed. The Prophet (PBUH), said, “He is not a believer whose stomach is filled while the neighbor to his side goes hungry.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “Allah has blessed certain people with graces, and He will keep these graces as long as those people help in fulfilling Muslims’ needs. If they became bored with helping others, Allah would withhold these blessings.”

If those religious, humanitarian and societal values are required among all people, they become more required at times of hardships and crises, and become more necessary for the weak people who need special care. If goodness shown to the poor is a charity, it is considered charity and a form of showing compassion for the relatives when this poor person is a relative.

As for the rights of parents and showing them kindness, it is an uncomparable act in its goodness, as the Almighty Allah has ordered us to be fully kind to our parents and show them courtesy, saying: **“Your Lord has commanded that you should worship none but Him, and that you be kind to your parents. If either or both of them reach old age with you, say no word that shows impatience with them, and do not be harsh with them, but speak to them respectful. And lower your wing in humility towards them in kindness and say, ‘Lord, have mercy on them, just as they cared for me when I was little.’”** It goes without saying that kindness to parents is the trait of people of good nature, and it is a righteous deed fostered by all Divine Messages. Moreover, it is the conduct of Prophets and Messengers (Peace be upon them all). Allah said about Prophet John (PBUH), **“[He was] kind to his parents, not domineering or rebellious.”** Allah also said about Prophet Jesus (PBUH), **“To be kind to my mother. He has not made me arrogant or defiant.”** Once, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) visited the grave of his mother, and he and wept and caused those around him to weep out of his love for her.”

Parents have several rights over children, including: Showing them full reverence, respect and obedience, as the Almighty Allah said, **“lower your wing in humility towards them in kindness.”** Once, Abu Hurayrah saw two men. He asked one of them: What is the relation of that man to you? He replied, “He is my father.” Abu Hurayrah said, “Do not call him by his name, walk in front of him, or sit down before he sits.”

These rights also include: showing them excessive kindness when they get elder, as this is a form of compensating them for part of what they have did. Allah, the Most High, said, **“If either or both of them reach old age with you, say no word that shows impatience with them, and do not be harsh with them, but speak to them respectful. And lower your wing in humility towards them in kindness and say, ‘Lord, have mercy on them, just as they cared for me when I was little.’”**

In addition, we affirm that a blessed person is one who wins the supplications from his parent due to his good treatment for them. In that way, he would win the happiness in this life and the afterlife. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “There are three supplications that will undoubtedly be answered: the supplication of one who has been wronged; the supplication of the traveler; and the supplication of a father for his child.” Thus, the supplication made by parents to their sons and daughters will be answered by Allah. The one who is not good with his parents has no goodness at all.

He cannot be taken as a close friend, and people cannot be safe from his betrayal.

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

As the pure Islamic Shari'ah emphasized on being kind to parents, it ordered us to be kind to the elderly and vulnerable people and show them due respect and care. Moreover, it stated that honoring them is a sign of honoring the Almighty Allah. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "It is out of reverence to Allah to respect the aged Muslims." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "He is not one of us who does not have mercy on our young and does not respect our elders." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "The young should greet the old." Once the Prophet (PBUH) said to a person who wanted to speak before an aged man, "Give preference to the old age," that is give the aged person his status and do not speak before him.

The humanness of our religion is manifested in the fact that it does not differentiate between the elderly and the vulnerable people in terms of showing them respect and kindness based on their religion or race. Once Umar Ibn al-Khattab saw an elderly man from the people of the Previous

Scriptures, and he was begging from people. He took him to his home, gave him what may fulfill his needs. He then sent to the officer of the treasure and commanded him, "Look for this person and his alike, and relive them of any dues. It is not fair to benefit from him in his young age and neglect him in his old age."

How much do we need to promote the values of solidarity, respect and recognizing others' favors in order to spread fraternity and affection throughout the whole society.

May Allah save our country, Egypt and all other countries of the world!