



Appreciating Our Fathers

Islam highly values treating our parents with kindness. In today's world, we might see messages that dismiss respect for parents, pushing for independence instead. However, Allah SWT instructs us with Ihsan, which means treating our parents with the utmost respect, honor, compassion, and giving them our best efforts. We owe our parents a lot – after all, they raised us and brought us into this world.

Our Fathers' Unique Love

Our fathers greatly love us, even if they express that love in various ways. Sometimes, they may be tough on us when we make mistakes, but even this toughness is a form of fatherly love. One of the most incredible things our fathers do is instill good morals and manners within us. Our fathers are there to guide us through life.

Our fathers work very hard to provide us with a good living and to protect us from any harm. They also teach us how to be disciplined so we can live a focused life despite hardships and distractions. Our fathers teach us to live a life of love and mercy by leading by example and by giving us good advice.

Fathers - Through the Lens of the Quran and Seerah

We, as Muslims, are well aware of the emphasis Islam places on respecting our fathers. In the Quran, there are many examples of great fathers, such as the Prophet Ya'qub AS, Prophet Nuh AS, and Luqman AS, who all advised their children. Can you remember what the advice was?

The greatest example is that of Prophet Muhammad SAW, who was an excellent father of seven children. He never felt ashamed to express his love for his children nor believed showing love was a sign of weakness.

Throughout his life, he taught us how to raise and treat children properly.

The Prophet SAW said, "The father is the best door to Paradise" (through service and honor of him)" *Tirmidhi*. He SAW also said, "The pleasure of the

Lord is in the pleasure of the parents, and the displeasure of the Lord is in the displeasure of the parents."

Father's Day

Father's Day began in 1909 by Sonora Dodd, who wanted to honor her dad for his effort in raising his six children alone. It became a national holiday in 1972, with the third Sunday of June being Father's Day. Although it was originally primarily a religious holiday, Father's Day has been commercialized with the sending of greeting cards and the giving of gifts.

According to many scholars, Father's Day and Mother's Day are pointless. In fact, to single out just one day of the year to honor our fathers and mothers is an embarrassment and humiliation to our parents. *Every single moment of our lives* is for our fathers and our mothers. Islam has placed a high emphasis on the rights and honor of parents at all times, not just one day of the year.

Balancing Kindness and Boundaries

Islam stresses obedience and kindness to parents, except in obeying orders that are against Islam. Even if your father is difficult, respect is key. Disrespect is a major sin. If issues arise, seek mediation or pray for understanding. Once, a companion of the Prophet (saw) said, "A man's insulting his father is one of the major sins in the sight of God, the Almighty" (*Adabul Mufrad*).

Conclusion

The rights of parents are significant, and no matter how much we do for them, we can never fully repay their sacrifices. In an attempt to give back for all of the good they've done, we should constantly be making the dua, "My Lord! Grant my parents Your Mercy in the same manner they were merciful to me when I was young" (Quran: 17:24). May Allah bless our fathers! Ameen!

References

[Father's Day | Definition, History, & Facts | Britannica](#)

[The Position of a Father In Islam – Jamiatul Ulama KZN](#)

[Why Fathers Matter - MuslimMatters.org](#)