

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا
وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

All Praise be to **اللَّهِ**.

We praise him and ask him for help and forgiveness. We ask him for protection from the evilness in ourselves and from our own bad deeds. Whom-so-ever God guides to the truth no one will lead astray, and whom-so-ever He leads astray, no one will ever guide.

I testify that there is no God but **اللَّهِ** to whom there is no partner
and I testify that Muhammad **ﷺ** is his servant and messenger

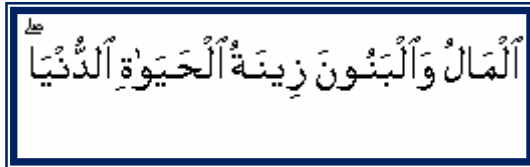
يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ
وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ
مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٦﴾

“O you who believe! Protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern (and) severe. They do not disobey Allah in what He commands them, and they do as they are commanded” (S66, A6)



Brothers and sisters, ASA.

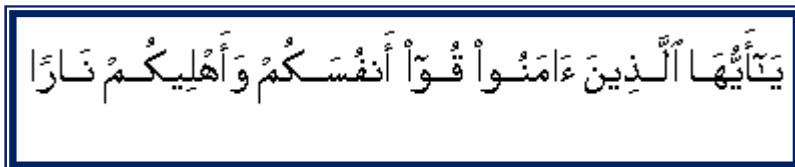
All praise be to Allah for a great blessing that we have with us this day. It is something that I keep going on about, and that is the blessing of our children.



“Wealth and children are the adornment of the life of this world” (S18, A46)

We all love children. The desire to have wealth and to have children is an innate part of our make up. For many of us who have been granted this blessing we probably do not recognize how it is not to have it. But to recognize how vital this desire is for us, we only need to look at fertility clinics all over the world. Infertile couples literally go through hell to have children. In many societies, we also witness single women who do not have the wish to have a partner but still have the strong desire to have children. More recently, we have also witnessed lesbian couples expressing the same desire. The desire to have children is stamped in the Holy Quran and there is little we can do about it.

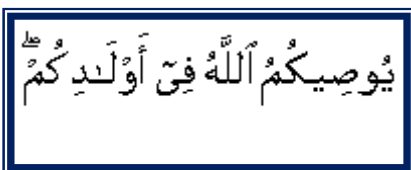
However, as with all desires, Islam teaches us that there are responsibilities. This responsibility is exemplified by the opening aya:



“O you who believe! Protect yourselves and your families from Fire” (S66, A6)

The topic for today’s khutbah covers the responsibilities of the parents towards their children. I hope that the children here will also take note and decide for themselves if these responsibilities are being taken seriously. I have a feeling that I might end up in trouble here, because my own children are also with us.

Allah(SWT) also states in the Holy Quran:



“Allah directs you concerning (the provision for) your children” (S4, A11)

The Prophet(SAAWS) said; *Allah(SWT) will question every person about every responsibility he/she were entrusted with. Have they guarded this trust or wasted it. This questioning will carry on until the man is asked about his household.*

There is no doubt in Islam about the responsibility of the parents towards their children and more specific, the responsibility of the man towards his family.

The topic for this khutbah came about after talking to brother Saad about a recent incident. A man died recently. This man did not visit the mosque, and from his life and the life of his children, he was not even perceived as being a Muslim. A few days prior to his death, he said, in passing to some of his neighbours “ASA”. This was the first Islamic gesture that his neighbours noted about this man. After his death, his neighbours exercised their Islamic duties and approached the local mosque regarding the burial.

Brother Saad was involved. He met the wife who was a local Christian lady. She had no initial intention of considering an Islamic burial. The son was approached, and his first comments were, I am not a Muslim, so why should I care. Do we now see the problem?

This Muslim man has no say any more in what will happen to him now that he has passed away. His family has no intention or guidance as to his wishes or his needs. The last possibility of the rest of the Muslim community making dua' for him is now being denied. It was a very depressing situation. This situation gave me the idea of re-iterating the responsibilities we have towards our children and our families.

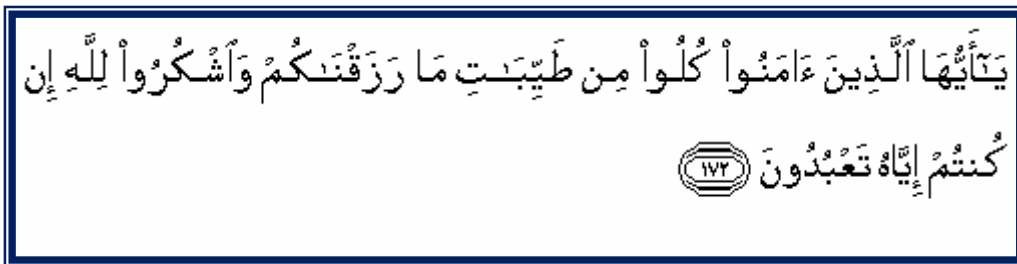
What does Islam say about the responsibilities of the parents? In answering this question, we first have to consider the standard responsibilities of health, nutrition, maintenance and education. These standard responsibilities must start as early as when one is contemplating marriage. I will not go into the choice of the spouse as this has been covered in previous khutbahs, and last week brother Saad mentioned issues regarding marriage in Islam. It must be mentioned however, that of all the qualities in a person, the quality of being a good Muslim stands above all, when one is choosing his partner for life.

Having said that, we need to mention mundane issues like our own health. How many parents neglect their health? We have Muslim parents that smoke, that are overweight, that do not exercise, that have poor dietary habits and so on. These are routine mundane issues that do not relate to Islam specifically but are essential when it comes to our responsibilities. As Muslims, it is our duty to keep fit and it is our duty to make sure that our children are kept fit as well. The physical fitness of our children is an Islamic duty. The balanced diet of our children is an Islamic duty. The overall education of our children and not just Islamic studies, is an Islamic duty.

This is over and above the standard duty of bringing them up as good Muslims with knowledge of the Quran, the Sunnah and the Seerah. This is also over and above the standard duty of instilling in our children the ethics and morals of Islam. This is over and above the standard duty of helping them to adhere to the pillars of Islam which include Salat and Siyam. In saying that, I am reminded that when we educate our children in the pillars of Islam, we sometimes tend to forget the Pillar of Zakat and we need to instill in our children the idea that giving is a wonderful thing.

Sometimes Muslims fall into one of two traps. They either focus on the Islamic teachings while ignoring things like diet, fitness and general education, or they focus on these aspects at the expense of teaching them their Islamic duties. Islam is clear that both are important. The Prophet(SAAWS) said that the believer who has strength is better than the believer who is weak, and in both there is goodness.

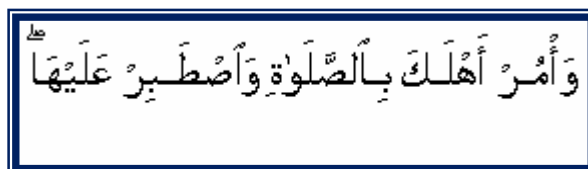
But, with all this, there is a crucial point to be made here. When we feed our children, when we cloth our children and when we put a roof over our children and our families, it is an absolute responsibility that the money a Muslim uses is Halal. This may sound very straight forward until each and every one of us starts questioning; where is my money coming from? Is anyone here happy to feed their children from “Haram” income? The food that we are putting in the mouths of our little children, is it “Halal”.



“O you who believe! Eat of the good things that We have provided for you, and be grateful to Allah, if it is Him you worship” (S2, A172)

Please let us not forget this critical issue: Is the food that we are putting in the mouths of our little children, is it “Halal”.

It is our responsibility to instill in our children the habit of practicing the pillars of Islam, and as we know “Salat” is the most important, as everything else hangs on that. For that reason, the Quran states:



“And enjoin prayers on your family, and be patiently constant therein.” (S20, A132)

Teaching our children to read, recite and memories the Quran is another fundamental duty of the parents. The Prophet(SAAWS) said: *the best of you is the one who learns the Quran and teaches it.*

As we can see, we have clear objectives as Muslim parents. However, once we have looked after the physical and spiritual needs of our children and once we have sorted our own conduct and behavior to make sure that we only spend on our children of what is “Halal”, our Islamic responsibilities do not end there.

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي ولكم

2nd Khutbah: الحمد لله ثم الحمد لله. الحمد لله نستعينه ونستغفره ، ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا وسيئات أعمالنا . أما بعد :

The Prophet(SAAWS) said: *educate your children in three characteristics; the love of your Prophet, the love of “Aal-alBait” and the love of reading the Quran. For it is those who hold the Quran that will be under the shade of Allah when there will no other shade, and they will be amongst the messengers of Allah and the most chosen.*

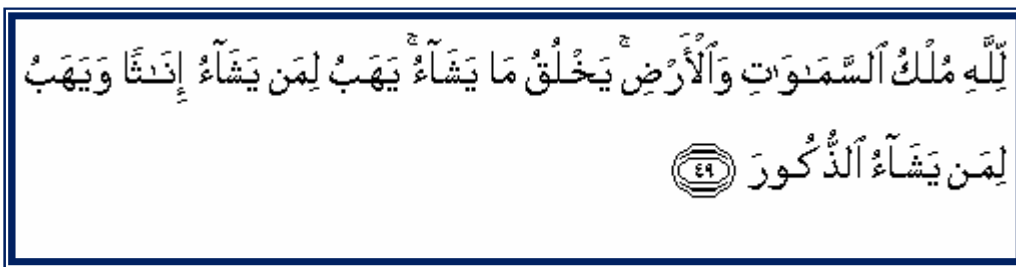
But, as we noted, our Islamic responsibilities do not end here. They do not end with the teaching of Salat, Siyam, Zakat and the Quran. The parents have other vital responsibilities that initially do not seem that vital. It is the responsibility of the parents to make sure that our children do not fall into the wrong company. We must guide our children to choose their friends well. They need to have friends that will guide them to Allah and not away from Him. Once our children start to mature and venture away from the home, their guidance drifts away from us to the friends they end up choosing. It is these friends, or more accurately, these “companions” that will have more influence on the behavior and conduct of our children. We must be wise to this fact and plan from an early stage to guide our children to choose their friends appropriately.

Now for a difficult responsibility. Establishing equality among our children, male and female alike is a very difficult responsibility. How many of us can put their hands on their hearts and claim that they love all their children equally, both male and female alike. If that is the case, then we have no worries.

This however, does not mean that on certain occasions, a child may require more love and attention. Someone was asked once, who amongst your children do you love the most? She gave a beautiful answer; she said the sick until they recover, the youngest until they grow, and the one who is away until they return.

What about female children. We know that some cultures still find the daughter as more of a burden, and they still favour the son. Even in the more moderate cultures, the son tends to represent the continuation of the family. Inevitably, there is a tendency to show more attention and care to the boy. The Prophet(SAAWS) ordered us when he said: *be just amongst your children.*

Allah tells us that the blessing of female and male children is from Him and Him alone:



“To Allah belongs the Sovereignty of the heavens and the earth. He creates what He wills. He bestows female children upon whom He wills, and bestows male children upon whom He wills” (S42, A49)

The Prophet(SAAWS) said in one hadeeth; he who looks after two girls until they reach adulthood, comes with me thus, and the Prophet(SAAWS) put his fingers together. In another hadeeth, the Prophet(SAAWS) said: he who has three girls, was patient with them, looked after them from what he has worked, they will be a barrier for him against the fire”.

Brothers and sisters, Islam came to build a just and sound society. This society is built on the framework of reforming the individual and reforming the family unit. As parents, it is a major responsibility of ours to reform ourselves. It is then a major responsibility of ours to reform our families. The duties are clear. What we do not want to happen is to end up like our poor Muslim brother who passed away having neglected both duties. We ask Allah(SWT) for his mercy upon our departed brother and upon his family to give them the patience and tranquility and the guidance, and we ask Allah(SWT) to grant us the same.

The topic of the responsibility of the parents is vast and cannot be covered in one khutbah. Today, it was a quick reminder, but the parents need to go back to the Quran and the Sunnah to reform their houses and their homes, and provide their children with the best start in life.