

Mentor Me

(A Collection of Islamic Stories to Mentor Young Hearts)

Series 2- Parents' Love



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Preface

Each week, I hold mentoring sessions for Muslim children and teenagers. Despite this, I often wonder if I am truly making a significant impact on the Muslim community, given the relatively small number of participants in these sessions compared to the millions of Muslim children out there.

Then I felt if parents could be empowered to mentor their children, perhaps, we as a Muslim community can be able to raise many righteous, self and socially-aware Muslim children In shaa Allah.

However, recognizing the critical shortage of specialized Islamic mentoring resources that could aid Muslim parents in enhancing their parent-child relationships through mentoring, I was inspired to create this book.

"Mentor Me" offers a do-it-yourself approach to mentoring, enabling Muslim parents to mentor their children independently by using this book as a resource. The book is released in a series, covering carefully selected topics designed to mentor children. Alhamdulillah, this is the second series!

The book serves as an engaging resource for children (8 years and above), filled with captivating Islamic stories that stimulate their reasoning, awareness, spiritual and moral development. Needless to say that even adults will also find the book highly beneficial.

Feel free to let your children read the book and then hold focused discussions with them about the lessons and morals highlighted at the end of each story while relating them to their own experiences and realities.

If you are a child reading this book, just skip the preface; it's for your parent. Oh, did you just read the preface now? Smiles...

AbdulFattah Popoola
MAP Mentoring

Link to download series 1 for free -----> <https://selar.co/m159b9>

Introduction

Imagine a love so big and so deep that it's like a warm hug from the sky. That's the kind of love we're talking about when we think about how deeply our parents love and cherish us. As a result, we are commanded by Allah and the Prophet (SAW) to love our parents in return and be kind to them.

Allah says in the Qur'ān:

And we have enjoined on man (to be dutiful and good) to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness upon weakness and his weaning is in two years, so, give thanks to Me and to your parents. Unto Me is the final return (Qur'ān 31:14).

Once, a young man came to the Prophet (SAW) and sought that he be allowed to go for Jihad (fighting in the cause of Allah) seeking reward only from Allah. The Prophet (SAW) asked him if one of his parents was still alive and the man replied that both his two parents were alive. The Prophet (SAW) asked the man if he truly seeks reward from Allah, to which the man replied, yes. Thereupon, the Prophet (SAW) told him to go back to his parents and treat them with love and kindness.

This Hadith emphasised that the reward that the man was seeking to be granted to him by Allah for going on Jihad could also be achieved by being good to his parents.

Our parents are like a special light that can help us find a path to happiness in this life and hereafter. They do so much for us, and it's important to remember that showing them love and respect is something that makes both them and us happy.

This book is here to remind us how deeply parents could love their children and how important it is to love and honour them greatly in return. So let's dive into the stories in this book and learn a great deal about parents' love.

Who owns the baby?

Once upon a time, there were two women, each with a baby. One night, a wolf took one of the babies and ran off with it, never to be seen again.

There broke out a severe argument between the two women on whose baby was taken away by the wolf and who owns the remaining one child. None of them wanted to accept that it was her baby that was taken by the wolf and they both claimed the other baby.

They went to Prophet Dāwūd (AS) for help. Both of them were asked to narrate what happened but the older woman explained more convincingly than the other woman and thus Prophet Dāwūd (AS) judged that the baby belonged to the older woman.

Later, they went to Prophet Sulaimān (AS), the son of Prophet Dāwūd (AS), to tell him what had happened.

Prophet Sulaimān (AS) was not completely convinced, so he asked for a knife and said he would split the baby in half and give each woman half of the baby!

The younger woman was horrified to hear this. She screamed pleading that the baby shouldn't be hurt and that she would rather give up her claim to the baby instead of seeing it hurt. The older woman was silent.

Prophet Sulaimān (AS) observed the reaction of the older woman and decided that the baby should go to the younger woman. He realized that she loved the baby so much she would rather give it up than see it harmed.

It was clear that the one who jumped at the defence of the baby, and wanted to protect it as any caring mother would do was the real mother of the baby.

Let's discuss...

1. True Love is Selfless

The story shows that real love means putting others first. For example, the young woman was willing to give up her claim to the baby to keep it safe. This teaches us that true love is about caring about others' happiness and well-being, just like how our parents always put us first. We should also learn to support our parents and show them empathy, especially when they are experiencing low mood.

2. Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Even though the older woman was able to express herself and articulate her points well, her actions showed she didn't really care. This teaches us that it's not enough to just say we love someone; we need to show it through what we do. So, if you love your parents, you should not only say it but also show it by listening to them and making them happy.

3. Love Protects

The story shows that a mother's love wants to keep her child safe. The young woman immediately wanted to protect the baby from harm, showing how much she cared. This reminds us that our parents work hard and face challenges to keep us safe and give us a good life. We should understand and appreciate their efforts.

4. Wisdom in Judgement

Prophet Sulaimān (AS) used wisdom to find out who the real mother was by seeing how they reacted. This teaches us the importance of using wisdom to find out the truth, especially in tricky situations. We should be careful and not jump to conclusions but make sure we understand what really happened before deciding what to do.

The Daughter of Hatim Al-Asamm

Once upon a time, there was a pious scholar named Hātim al-Asam. He loved Allah very much and trusted Him completely. Although Hātim didn't have enough money for himself or his family, he really wanted to go for pilgrimage to the house of Allah (Ḥajj).

As the time for Ḥajj came closer, he told his wife about his desire to go for Ḥajj but she reminded him that there was not enough money for Hātim to leave behind for the family. This made Hātim to feel very sad. Hātim's daughter noticed her father's sad mood and asked him what made him sad. Hātim told her that without money, he couldn't go to Ḥajj.

His daughter smiled and said, "Don't worry my father, Allah will help us in ways we can't even imagine!"

Hātim asked her, "But what about the money for our family?"

She reassured him, "Allah will take care of us. We will be fine."

With her words of comfort, Hātim decided to go on his journey. He had no supplies, but he walked behind the group of travellers, hoping for the best. One day, the leader of the group was bitten by a scorpion and needed help. Because of Hātim's reputation for being wise and good-hearted, the leader asked him for help. By Allah's will, Hātim was able to cure the leader using Ruqyah (recitation of verses of the Qur'ān and some Adhkār for healing) on the spot of the bite.

As a thank you, the leader promised to cover all of Hātim's travel expenses and give him supplies for the journey. Hātim thanked Allah, saying, "AlhamduliLlah, O Allah, this is Your help for me. Now, provide for my family too!"

Back home, Hātim's family ran out of food and money started to feel very hungry. The family members blamed his daughter for letting their father go. But the daughter, instead of being upset, kept smiling.

"Why are you laughing when we are so hungry?" they asked. She replied, "Who do you think provides for us, our father or Allah? They answered, "Allah is the one who provides."

The daughter said, "Even though our father is away, Allah, the Provider, is always here!" Then, she performed ablution and offered two Raka'ah of Naafila prayer. She then raised her hands saying: "O Allah, if truly you said in your word that whosoever is conscious of You, You shall make a way for him and provide for him from where he never imagined (Qur'ān 65:2-3), please do provide for us"

Soon, there was a knock at the door. A man was asking for some water for the Caliph, the ruler of the land, who was passing by together with his entourage. The daughter happily gave him water, and it was the most pleasant water the caliph had ever tasted.

When the Caliph found out it was from Hātim's house, he wanted to reward them. But when he learned that Hātim was on Hajj, he sent a beautiful leather sac filled with gold to their home, telling everyone to follow his example and help Hātim's family. Many rich people and officials sent theirs too, and soon, the family had enough gold to last them for a very long time. They were overjoyed, but the daughter began to cry.

Her mother asked, "Why are you crying now that we have all this wealth?"

The daughter replied, "If a person who cannot do much for himself was so generous to us, imagine how wonderful it would be if the Generous Creator, Allah, looked upon us with kindness!"

Would you also like to be like this wonderful daughter of Hatim Al-Asamm?

1. Parents' Concern

Hatim was worried about his family's needs while he went on Hajj. He wanted to make sure his wife and kids had enough money to buy food and other things while he was away. Just like Hatim, our parents worry about us and how to pay for our food, school, and other needs. We should try to understand their worries and not ask for things they might not be able to give us right now.

2. Patience and Positive Attitude

Hātim's daughter remained positive and trusted in Allah's provision, even when there was just little for the family to survive on. She did not embarrass her parents by crying to people to complain about their situation. Instead, she prayed to Allah and trust in His help. This teaches us that whenever our parents or family are in difficult situations, the best we can do for them, after showing our understanding, is to pray for them and always hope for the best.

3. The Power of Faith

Hatim's daughter believed that Allah would help her family. Because of her faith, they received unexpected help from the generous Caliph. This shows that believing in Allah can lead to wonderful surprises and blessings. Allah knows what we need and wants us to ask Him for help.

4. The Generosity of Allah

The daughter's tears of joy reflect her deep understanding that Allah's generosity surpasses all human acts of kindness. The wealth received was a reminder of Allah's boundless generosity. This teaches us that while people may be kind to us, Allah's generosity and kindness are limitless and beyond our imagination. This should inspire us to appreciate and be grateful for Allah's continuous blessings in our lives and that of our parents.

The story of Juraij

Juraij was a devoted servant of Allah known for his piety and dedication. His reputation among the Banū Israīl (children of Israel) was very high, and they often praised him for his extensive devotion and ascetic lifestyle. Juraij lived away from the people in order to focus solely on his worship to Allah.

One day, Juraij's mother called out to him, but he was deep in prayer and did not respond. He pretended as if he did not hear his mother's call and continued his prayer.

The mother was upset by his lack of attention and she prayed a heartfelt prayer to Allah, saying, "O Allah, show Juraij the immoral women." Her prayer was for Allah to test Juraij's faith.

An immoral woman in the community, who heard about Juraij's esteemed reputation, decided to test him. She wanted to prove Juraij's piety wrong and tempt him to commit a sin. Despite her efforts to make Juraij commit a sin, Juraij remained steadfast and did not give in to the wrong she wanted him to do.

The woman was angry by his rejection. She left him and went to another man who was a shepherd. She engaged in an immoral act with him, and eventually, she gave birth to a child.

When the child was born, the woman claimed that the child was Juraij's, even though this was untrue. The people, believing her accusations, were furious. They came to Juraij, accusing him of committing a grave sin and demanding to know why he had behaved so wrongly. They destroyed his place of worship and his hermitage.

Juraij was surprised by the accusations and asked to see the child. He performed a prayer and then approached the baby. Gently, he touched the child's stomach and asked, "O boy, who is your father?" Miraculously, the child responded clearly, saying, "I am the son of the shepherd."

The people were astonished and realized that Juraij was innocent. They felt deeply regretful for their actions. They rushed to Juraij, asking for his forgiveness and offering to rebuild his place of worship with gold as a gesture of their remorse. However, Juraij humbly declined the offer. He expressed that he had no need for such and requested that his hermitage be rebuilt with mud instead.

The people complied with his request, and Juraij's place of worship was restored to its original modest state, reflecting his true values and devotion.

Let's discuss...

1. Respect and Obedience to Parents

Juraij didn't answer his mom's call because he was busy with his prayers. Even though he was very religious, this story reminds us that it's also important to listen to and help our parents. Balancing our personal interests with family responsibilities is key.

2. True Piety Is Tested Through Trials

Juraij's faith was tested by false accusations and temptation, but he remained steadfast. This teaches us that being truly good and faithful is shown when we face challenges, not just when things are easy..

3. The Power of Innocence and Truth

Juraij's truthfulness was proven in a miraculous way by Allah, showing that honesty always wins in the end. This reminds us to always be truthful and honest, even if others might wrongly accuse us.

4. Avoiding Rash Judgement

The story shows that people can easily be tricked by false stories or first impressions. It teaches us to be careful and not judge others quickly. Instead, we should look for the truth before deciding how to feel or act.

The Story of Abu Hurairah and His Mother

Abu Hurairah was one of the Sahabah of the Prophet (SAW) who loved his mother very much. He wanted her to become a Muslim and follow the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad ((SAW)). Even though he tried many times to explain Islam to her, she didn't accept it and even made fun of the Prophet.

One day, Abu Hurairah felt very sad because his mother mocked the Prophet (SAW). He went to see the Prophet (SAW) with tears in his eyes. He asked the Prophet to pray to Allah so that his mother would find the right path and become a Muslim.

The Prophet (SAW) prayed to Allah, asking Him to guide Abu Hurairah's mother. Abu Hurairah left feeling a bit hopeful because the Prophet (SAW)'s prayer gave him comfort.

When he got home, he found the door was locked. His mother called out to him, telling him to wait. He heard water running because his mother was taking a bath. After she finished, she opened the door with a smile and said something wonderful:

"O Abu Hurairah, I testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and Muhammad is His servant and His messenger." She had just become a Muslim!

Abu Hurairah was overjoyed! He ran back to the Prophet (SAW), tears of happiness streaming down his face. He told the Prophet that his mother had become a Muslim, just as he had prayed for.

The Prophet (SAW) was very pleased and thanked Allah. Abu Hurairah then asked the Prophet to pray for him and his mother to be loved by all the believers. The Prophet prayed that they would be loved by everyone who believes in Allah and loves all the believers.

From that day on, everyone who met Abu Hurairah loved him, just as the Prophet (SAW) had prayed.

Let's discuss...

1. Love for Parents is Deep and Persistent

Abu Hurairah's story shows that even when his mother did not accept Islam and even mocked the Messenger of Allah, he continued to love and care for her. This teaches us that love for our parents should remain strong, regardless of their beliefs or actions. We should always treat our parents with respect and kindness, no matter what.

2. Seek Guidance and Pray for Others

Abu Hurairah sought the help of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) to pray for his mother's guidance. This shows the importance of seeking guidance from Allah and praying for our parents. It's a lesson for us to understand that we should turn to Allah and those we respect for help when we need it, especially in matters concerning our loved ones.

3. Patience and Hope

Abu Hurairah showed patience and hope even when faced with disappointment. He didn't give up on trying to guide his mother and remained hopeful. This teaches us the importance of patience and hope. We should be patient with our parents and not say unkind words to them.

4. Love and Respect for Believers

The Prophet (SAW) prayed that Abu Hurairah and his mother would be loved by all believers. This emphasizes the importance of mutual love and respect among Muslims. It's a lesson for us to be kind and loving towards our Muslim brothers and sisters, and to develop a sense of unity and compassion.

The Story of Alqamah

There was a young man named Alqāmah. He was very devoted to Allah. He prayed a lot, fasted, and gave generously to those in need. One day, Alqāmah became very ill, and as his illness grew worse, his wife sent a message to the Prophet (SAW). She told him that Alqāmah was dying and needed his help.

The Prophet (SAW) sent three of his companions—Ammār, Suhaib, and Bilāl—to visit Alqāmah. He asked them to help him say the *Kalimat-ush-Shahādah*: “*La ilāha illa Allah, Muhammad RasūluLlah*” meaning “There is no deity but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.”

When they arrived at Alqāmah’s house, they found him struggling and in great pain. They asked him to say the *Shahādah*, but his tongue wouldn’t move. They sent a message back to the Prophet (SAW), saying he couldn’t speak.

The Prophet (SAW) then asked if Alqāmah’s parents were still alive. They told him that his mother was alive but very old. The Prophet (SAW) sent for her and asked her to come to him, or if she couldn’t, he would come to her. She decided to go to the Prophet (SAW), even though she was very frail.

When she arrived, the Prophet (SAW) greeted her and asked her honestly about her son. She said that Alqāmah prayed, fasted, and gave charity generously. But when the Prophet (SAW) asked about her feelings towards him, she admitted that she was angry with him because he had put his wife before her and disobeyed her.

The Prophet (SAW) said to Alqāmah’s mother that her anger was what was preventing Alqāmah from saying the *Shahādah*. He then asked Bilāl to gather some firewood. Alqāmah’s mother was surprised. She asked “O Messenger of Allah, what do you plan to do? The Prophet (SAW) replied: “I will burn him in front of your eyes”.

Alqāmah’s mother was shocked, she lamented “O Messenger of Allah, he is my son! My heart cannot bear seeing you do that to him!” She didn’t want to see her son hurt.

The Prophet (SAW) told her that Allah’s punishment is much more severe and long-lasting. He said that if she wanted Allah to forgive her son, she needed to be pleased with him. The Prophet (SAW) swore by Allah that Alqāmah’s prayers, fasting, and charity wouldn’t help him as long as his mother was angry with him.

Seeing how serious this was, the mother agreed to forgive her son. She called upon Allah, His angels, and everyone present to witness that she was now pleased with her son.

Bilāl went back to Alqāmah’s house to see if he could now say the Shahādah. As soon as Bilāl arrived, he heard Alqāmah saying the *Shahādah*. When he entered the house, he confirmed that it was true—the mother’s anger had blocked Alqāmah’s words but now, her forgiveness had set him free. Alqāmah passed away that same day.

After his funeral, the Prophet (SAW) stood by his grave and addressed the crowd. He warned everyone that if someone favors their wife over their mother, they would face the anger of Allah and all of creation. He said that Allah would not accept their good deeds unless they repented and reconciled with their mother. Allah’s pleasure is found in the mother’s pleasure, and His anger is in her anger.

Let's discuss...

1. Respect and Obey Your Parents

Alqāmah couldn't say the Shahadah because his mother was angry with him. This story shows that even if we are good at other things, we must always show respect and listen to our parents. It's important to make sure we treat them with honor and care. We must refrain from any action that may make our parents to be angry with us.

2. The Power of Forgiveness

Alqāmah's mother forgave him, which enabled him to say the Shahadah. This teaches us that our parents' forgivingness for the wrongs we did to them can make things better and help us move forward. As such, we must learn to say sorry and change our bad ways. We must also seek forgiveness all the time from Allah, our Creator.

3. The Importance of Reconciliation

The story shows that not fixing problems with our parents can affect important things in our lives. It is possible for our parents to also offend us or do to us what we don't like, it is important to resolve whatever issue we have with them and not try to hold grudges or stay angry with our parents or siblings.

4. The Connection Between Good Deeds and Parental Relationships

Alqāmah's good actions weren't accepted because he had an unresolved issue with his mother. This teaches us that doing good things isn't enough if we're not also treating our parents and family well. Good relationships with our family help make our actions and prayers more meaningful.

Prophet Muhammad's Love for Fātimah

Fātimah (RA) was a little girl when her father, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), started spending time alone in the mountains near Mecca. She was the fifth child of the Prophet (SAW) from his beloved wife, the mother of the believers, Khadijah (RA).

Fātimah was around five years old when she knew about her father's prophethood. As she grew up, she saw how people treated him.

One day, when Fātimah was nearly ten, some people from the Quraysh tribe, who did not believe in the Prophet (SAW)'s message, did something very mean. They approached the Prophet (SAW) while he was praying at the Masjid al-Haram. Their leader, Abu Jahl, dared someone to bring something very dirty and throw it on the Prophet (SAW).

Uqbah ibn Abi Muayt, one of the worst among them, brought the filthy remains of an animal and threw it on the Prophet (SAW) while he was on *Sujūd* (prostration) in his prayer.

Fātimah saw this terrible act, but she didn't let it scare or embarrass her. Instead, she bravely went to her father, who was still praying, to clean the dirt off his shoulders and she stood up to the rude people. The Quraysh were stunned by her courage and didn't know how to respond.

Fātimah continued to stand by her father's side, supporting him as he faced more insults and hardships from the Quraysh in Mecca. Her bravery and love for her father brought them even closer together.

The Prophet (SAW) cherished Fātimah deeply. After Fātimah got married, whenever she visited the Prophet (SAW), he would greet her warmly, stand up for her, kiss her by her forehead, and always make her feel special. Fātimah would also do the same for her father (SAW) whenever he visited her. They shared a strong bond and comforted each other.

One day, the Prophet (SAW) called Fatimah to him. He kissed her and whispered something in her ear that made her cry. Then he (SAW) whispered again, and she smiled. Aisha (RA), one of the wives of the Prophet (SAW), saw this and asked Fatimah why she was both crying and smiling.

Fātimah explained that the Prophet (SAW) first told her he would soon meet Allah, which made her sad. But then he told her she would be the first from his family to join him, which made her happy because it meant she would soon be with him again.

Fātimah's love for her father was so strong that even the thought of joining him in the next life brought her comfort and joy. Their relationship was a beautiful example of a loving father and daughter, showing how deeply they cared for each other.

Let's discuss...

1. Courage in Adversity

Fātimah was very brave even when people were unkind to her father, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW). This teaches us that it's important to stand up for what's right and support our loved ones, even when things are tough or people are unkind.

2. Respect and Love for Parents

Fātimah and her father had a special, loving relationship. The Prophet (SAW) showed his love for Fatimah, and she loved him back. This teaches us to build loving relationships with our parents, following the example of the Prophet (SAW) and his daughter.

3. A Father's Love

The Prophet (SAW) showed us how much a father can love his children. Even though fathers might be busy and not always around, it doesn't mean they don't love their kids. Sometimes we might think only our moms show love, but dads love us too in their own special way.

THE END...

...And we conclude the series 2 of 'Mentor Me' with this beautiful prayer of Prophet Sulaimān (AS):

رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ وَأَدْخِلْنِي بِرَحْمَتِكَ فِي عِبَادِكَ الصَّالِحِينَ

“My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to do righteousness of which You approve. And admit me by Your mercy into [the ranks of] Your righteous servants.”
(Qur'an 27:19)

See you in Series 3
Assalam Alaykum,
Bye for now!

