

رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

LOWER
YOUR
WING

Parents





In the Name of Allah,
The Compassionate, The Merciful



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WING

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صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ



Birds, soaring and diving, must end their flight slowly. Landing and lowering their wings is harder than taking off and stretching their wings.

Like a bird coming down from sky to earth that slows its wing beats and lowers them to gently touch land so was the Command of **ALLAH** (Glorified be He) to His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) regarding believers:

(And lower your wing to those of the believers who follow you)⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Translated meanings of Ash-Shu'ara' 26: 215.



Lower your wing
Lay down your pride
Let go of your own life
Adopt patience
Give and care for people
Relieve their burdens
Remove their ignorance
Let not your eyes overlook them
Man or woman, young or old, rich or poor,
strong or weak, enslaved or free
Humble yourself to them, O Muhammad
(peace and blessings be upon him)
And turn the darkness into light



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Parents



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Parents, as the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) described them, are the gate to Paradise. **“The parent is the middle (best) gate of Paradise. If you wish, either waste this gate or preserve it.”** ⁽¹⁾

A man once asked, **“O Messenger of Allah, what is the right due to parents from their children?”** He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“They are your Paradise or Hellfire.”** ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Abu Ad-Darda', Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Birr Waslah, Hadith no. 1822.

⁽²⁾ Abu Umamah, Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 3652.





Their kindness can never be repaid. “A son can never repay his father unless he finds him a slave, and he buys him and manumits him.” (1)

Yet, there must be striving to obey them, please them, and beware of their anger. The Lord is angry from their anger. “The Good Pleasure of the Lord lies in the pleasure of the parent, and the Anger of the Lord lies in the anger of the parent.” (2)

(1) Abu Hurairah, Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-‘Atq (Manumission), Hadith no. 2779.
‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Al-‘As, Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Al-Birr Waslah, Hadith no. 1821.



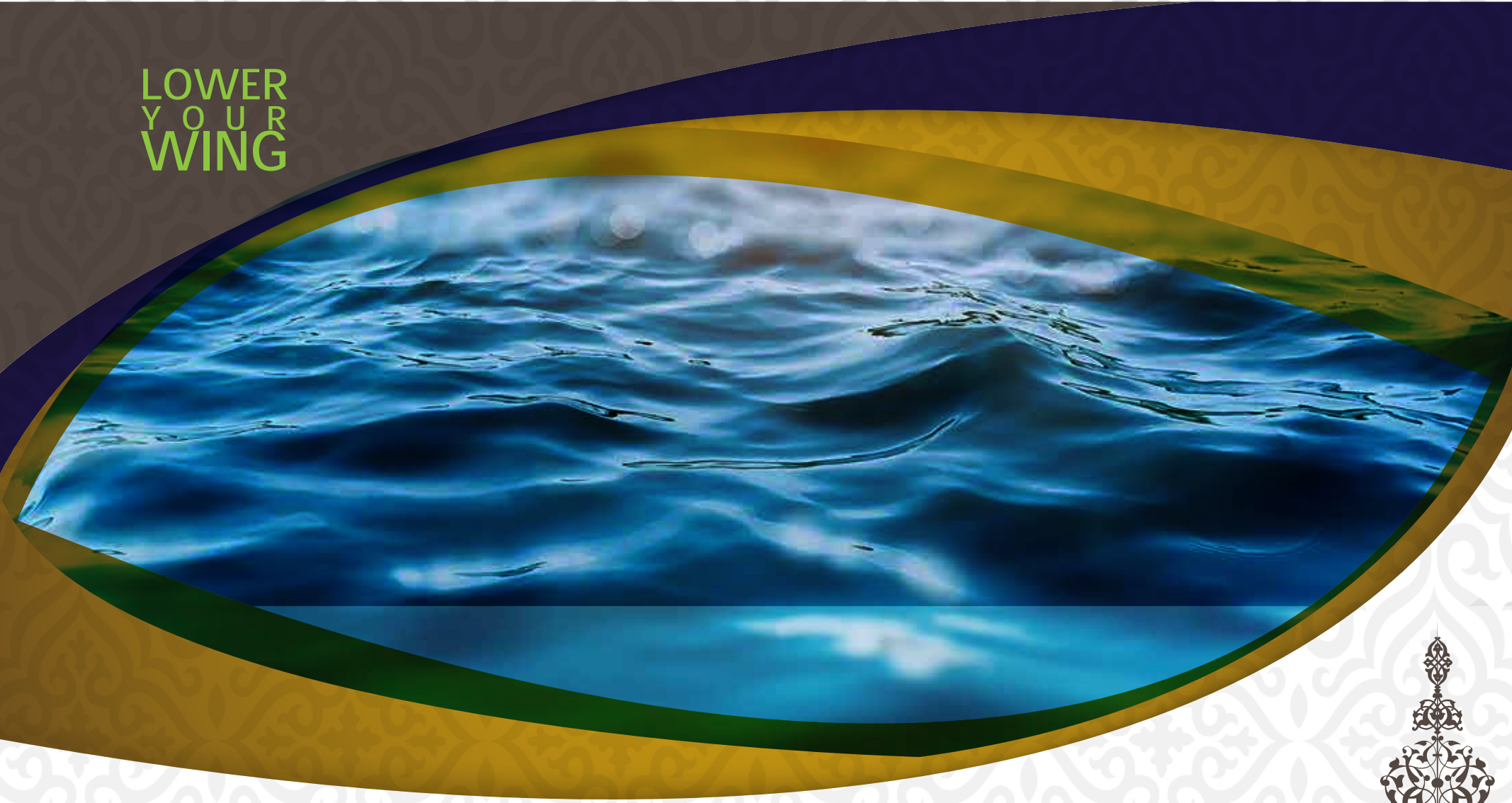


Although an orphan since early childhood, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) typified filial piety through his treatment of his foster-family (Halimah's family). 'Umar bin As-Sa'ib reported:

One day while the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was sitting, his foster-father came to him. So he (peace and blessings be upon him) spread out part of his garment for him, on which he sat. Then his foster-mother came to him, so he (peace and blessings be upon him) spread out the other side of his garment for her, on which she sat. Then his foster-brother came to him, whereupon, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) stood for him and seated him in front of him.⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 4479.





Road to Heaven

Parents need not be reminded of their children; rather, children need to have their emotions powerfully stirred towards those who exhausted themselves and became withered for their sake.

Life, running with those living, directs their strong attention to what lies ahead of them, to offspring, to new generations. It rarely directs their attention to what lies behind, to parents, to aging generations. Sons and daughters, therefore, need a strong charge of conscience that makes them look back and pay attention to their mothers and fathers.





Parents are naturally motivated to look after their children and sacrifice everything, even their own lives, for them. And, as a sprouting plant absorbs the nutrition in the seed and leaves it wrinkled, so do children; they absorb all the vigour, power, energy, and attention of their parents and leave them old. Despite this, parents are happy! Children, contrarily, soon forget all this and move ahead, towards their own spouses and offspring, and so life takes them away from their parents.

Through memories of their past kindness, of their protection of them when they were little and weak, children are reminded of those who today, in their old age, have the same weakness and need for care and love.⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Sayyid Qutb, *In the Shade of the Qur'an, interpretation of Surat Al-Isra'* [17: 23].





Therefore, second only to the command of worshipping Him Alone, Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) enjoins kindness and obedience to one's parents. (And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind and dutiful to your parents. If one or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them (so much as), "Uff,"⁽¹⁾ nor shout at them, but address them in terms of honor. And lower unto them the wing of submission and humility through mercy, and say, "My Lord, bestow on them Your Mercy as they brought me up when I was small.")⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ *The mildest word of disrespect.*

⁽²⁾ *Translated meanings of Al-Isra' 17: 23-24.*





Even if the parents were disbelievers, Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) enjoins the same dutifulness towards them. (And We have enjoined on man to be dutiful and good to his parents. His mother bears him in weakness and hardship upon weakness and hardship, and his weaning is at two years - give thanks to Me and to your parents. Unto Me is the final destination. But if they (both) strive with you to make you join (in worship or divinity) with Me that of which you have no knowledge, obey them not, but accompany them in the world with kindness, and follow the path of him who turns to Me in repentance and in






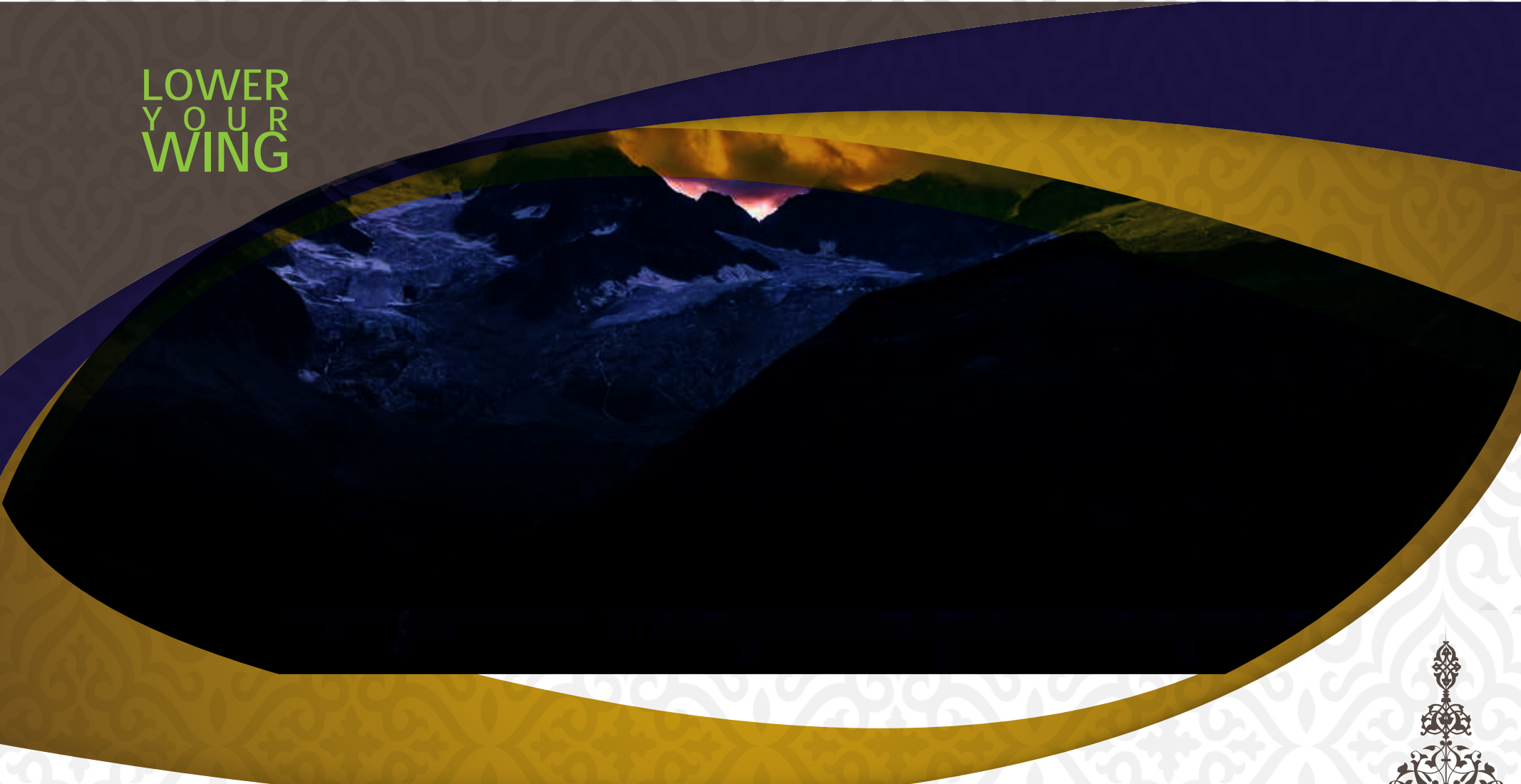
obedience. Then to Me will be your return, and I shall tell you what you used to do.)⁽¹⁾

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) treated the parent-child relationship as sacred, and taught that serving one's parents is higher in Allah's Eyes than the greatest act of sacrifice, which is Jihad (striving) with one's soul in His Path.

- 'Abdullah bin 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "A man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) asking his permission to participate in Jihad. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him)


⁽¹⁾ *Translated meanings of Luqman 31: 1415-*





asked (him), ‘Are your parents alive?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘In (pleasing) them let your Jihad (striving) be.’”⁽¹⁾

- ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Al-‘As (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that a man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, “I came to you to pledge the oath of allegiance to you for Hijrah (emigration to Al-Madinah), and I left my parents crying.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Return to them and make them laugh as you made them cry.”⁽²⁾



⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Jihad wa Al-Siyar, Hadith no. 2782.*

⁽²⁾ *Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Jihad, Hadith no. 2166.*



- ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Al-‘As (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that a man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, ‘I pledge the oath of allegiance to you for Hijrah and Jihad, seeking reward from Allah.’ The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) asked, ‘Are either of your parents alive?’ He said, ‘Yes, both of them.’ The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘Are you (truly) seeking reward from Allah?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘Go back to your parents and be a good companion to them.’”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Birr Waslah Waladab, Hadith no. 4624.



- Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “A man emigrated to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) from Yemen. He (peace and blessings be upon him) asked (him), ‘Have you anyone (relatives) in Yemen?’ The man said, ‘My parents.’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) asked, ‘Did they permit you to emigrate?’ The man said, ‘No.’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘Return to them and ask their permission. If they permit you, strive; otherwise, be pious to them.’”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Jihad, Hadith no. 2168.



- ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Al-‘As (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that a man came to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, ‘**O Messenger of Allah, I have wealth and children, but my father needs my wealth!**’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘**You and your wealth belong to your father. Truly, your children are from the purest (or best) of your earnings, so eat from the earnings of your children.**’” ⁽¹⁾



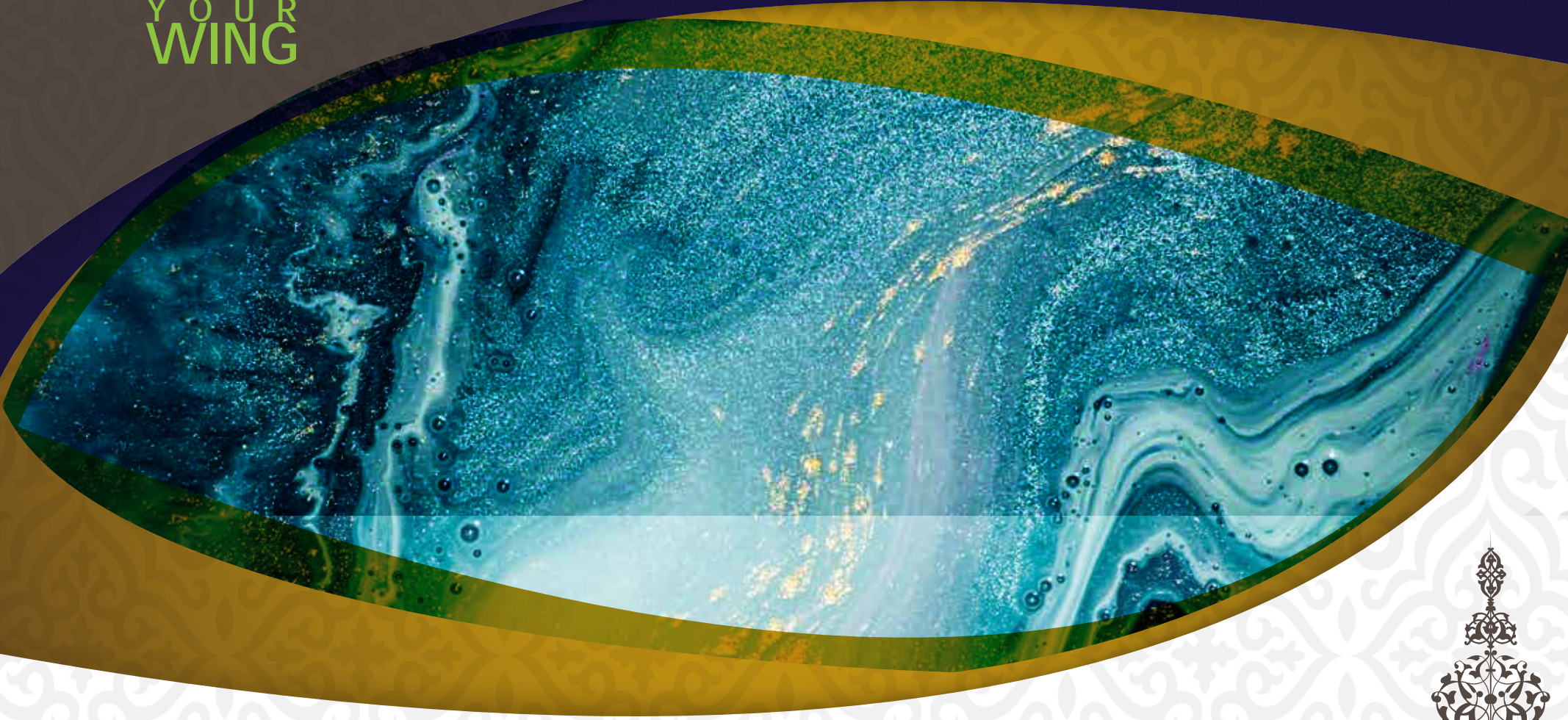
⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Buyu’ (Transactions), Hadith no. 3063.



- ‘Abdullah bin Mas’ud (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “I asked, ‘O Prophet of Allah, which deeds are (take one) closer to Paradise?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘(Performing) Salah at its prescribed times.’ I said, ‘What is next, O Prophet of Allah?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘Piety towards parents.’ I said, ‘What is next, O Prophet of Allah?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘Jihad in the Way of Allah.’”⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of Iman, Hadith no. 121.





By the same principle, impiety towards parents is the gravest of sins.

- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“Shall I inform you of the gravest of major sins?”** They said, **“Yes, O Messenger of Allah.”** He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“Associating others with Allah and impiety towards your parents.”** ⁽¹⁾

- About negligence of parents in their old age, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“Let his nose be stuck to dust! Then let his nose be stuck to**



⁽¹⁾ Abu Bakrah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Ista'dhan, Hadith no. 5802.



dust! Then let his nose be stuck to dust!”⁽¹⁾ They said, “Who, O Messenger of Allah?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “The one who attains his parents at (their) old age, one or both of them, and yet does not enter Paradise.”⁽²⁾ That is, for not serving them when they became old as they served him when he was young to deserve the reward of Paradise.

- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “There are three whom Allah shall not look at on the Day of Resurrection: the one who



⁽¹⁾ *An Arabic expression denoting degradation, i.e. let him suffer disgrace.*

⁽²⁾ *Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Birr Waslah Waladab, Hadith no. 4628.*



disobeys his parents, the woman who imitates men, and the Duyuth (cuckold, the weak man who feels no jealousy over his womenfolk). And three shall not enter Paradise: the one who disobeys his parents, the one addicted to Khamr (intoxicants), and the one who reminds (people) of what he gives (his favors).”⁽¹⁾

- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Among major sins is that a man reviles his own parents.” They said, “O Messenger of Allah, is it possible for a man to revile

⁽¹⁾ ‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar bin Al-Khattab, *Sunan An-Nasa’iy*, Book of Zakah, Hadith no. 2515.





his parents?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Yes, he curses the man’s father who in turn curses his father, and he curses his mother who in turn curses his mother.”⁽¹⁾

Because of parents’ continuous kindness during their children’s journey of growth, it deserves the continuation of filial piety even after the parents’ death.

- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) shall elevate the righteous servant a degree

⁽¹⁾ ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Al-‘As: Sahih Muslim, Book of Iman, Hadith no. 130.



in Paradise, so he will ask, ‘O Lord, from where did I earn this?’ He (Glorified and Exalted be He) shall say, ‘By your son beseeching forgiveness for you.’”⁽¹⁾

- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “When a person dies, their deeds come to an end, except from three sources: Ongoing charity, knowledge benefited by, or a pious child who supplicates for them (the deceased parent).”⁽²⁾



⁽¹⁾ Abu Hurairah: Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Mukthrin, Hadith no. 10202.

⁽²⁾ Abu Hurairah: Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Wasiyah, Hadith no. 3084.



- Abu Usaid Malik bin Rabi'ah As-Sa'idi (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “A man from Banu Salmah came to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, ‘O Messenger of Allah, is there something left from my (acts of) piety towards my parents that I can use to show kindness to them after their death?’ He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘Yes. To supplicate blessings (from Allah) upon them, beg forgiveness for them, fulfill their pledge after them, join the ties of the womb that are only maintained through them, and honor their friend.’”⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 4476.



- Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that a woman from the tribe of Khath'am came in the year of the Farewell Pilgrimage and said, "O Messenger of Allah, the duty of Hajj which Allah has enjoined upon His servants has become due on my father when he is an old man and cannot sit firm on a mount; would it make amends on his behalf if I perform Hajj on his behalf?" He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "Yes."

(1)



(1) Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Hajj, Hadith no. 1721.

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