

رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

LOWER
YOUR
WING

Mother





In the Name of Allah,
The Compassionate, The Merciful



LOWER
YOUR
WING

www.RASOULALLAH.net

LOWER
YOUR
WING



صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ



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



LOWER
YOUR
WING



Mother



رسول الله



To the mother that carries with hardship, gives birth with hardship, bearing and nursing for thirty long months. She bears hardship upon hardship, growing weaker and weaker in order for her baby to grow stronger and stronger. Months of pain and sacrifice; walking heavily, breathing painfully, eating reluctantly, and hardly sleeping, yet she is happy and only hopes for the growth and safety of her baby. To that merciful, selfless creature, Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) enjoins full reverence and piety, saying in His Noble Book:

{And We have enjoined on man to be dutiful and kind to his parents. His mother carried him with hardship and gave birth to him with hardship, and his gestation and weaning (period) is thirty





months, until when he attains full strength and reaches forty years, he says, “My Lord, grant me the power and ability that I may be grateful for Your Favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and that I may do righteous good deeds, such as please You, and make my off-spring good. Truly, I have turned to You in repentance, and truly, I am one of the Muslims (submitting to Your Will).”} (1)



(1) *Translated meanings of Al-Ahqaf 46: 15.*



Aminah

The Prophet's mother, Aminah bint Wahab, narrated, “(In a vision) I saw when I became pregnant with him a light that shone out of me, illuminating for me the palaces of Busra in Sham. When I carried him, by Allah I never saw a pregnancy lighter or easier than him. When I gave birth to him he fell, placing his hands on the ground, raising his head towards heaven.”⁽¹⁾

Although many long years had passed since the death of the Prophet's mother, who left him when he (peace and blessings be upon him) was only a



⁽¹⁾ Ibn Hisham, *As-Sirah An-Nabawiyyah: Birth of the Messenger of Allah*, vol. 1, p. 82.



little child, his love and longing for her survived, as strong as ever. Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) visited his mother's grave and cried, stirring the tears of those around him, then he (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **“I sought permission from my Lord to beg forgiveness for her, but it was not granted to me. I sought His Permission to visit her grave, and it was granted to me. Visit the graves, for they remind of death.”** ⁽¹⁾

He (peace and blessings be upon him) thus loyally visited his mother's grave and anxiously left her ultimate destination to His Lord, the Most Merciful, Who says about those who lived in a period of



⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Jana'iz, Hadith no. 1622.*



suspension of messengers: «We never punish until We have sent a Messenger (to give warning).»⁽¹⁾

Barakah

His mother, after his own mother, was his nurse, Barakah bint Tha'labah (may Allah be pleased with her), the Abyssinian slave woman who devotedly served his parents. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) regarded her as part of his family and used to call her, "Mother." She remained close to him throughout his life, from his birth until his death.⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ *Translated meanings of Al-Isra' 17: 15.*

⁽²⁾ *Ibn Sa'd, At-Tabakat Al-Kubra, vol. 8; Al-Hafiz Ibn Kathir, Al-Bidaya wa Al-Nihaya (The beginning and the End); vol. 5.*





Aminah, accompanied by Barakah, took her six-year-old orphan boy ⁽¹⁾ to visit his father's grave in Al-Madinah, who died before the birth of his son. On their way back Aminah died at Al-Abwa' on the road between Makkah and Madinah.

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), now an orphan, was left in the care of Barakah and his grandfather, 'Abdul-Muttalib, who dearly loved him and often cautioned Barakah, saying, **“O Barakah, do not lose sight of my son. I have found him with some boys near As-Sidrah. The People of the Scripture claim that this son of mine is the Prophet of this Ummah.”** ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ *In Arabic, an orphan is a child whose father is dead.*

⁽²⁾ *Ibn Sa'd, At-Tabakat Al-Kubra, vol. 1; Ibn Kathir, Al-Bidaya wa Al-Nihaya; vol. 2.*



Barakah surrounded the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) with kindness and protection and was there for him when, in the eighth year of his life, his grandfather died. She said, **“I saw the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) on that day weeping behind the bed of ‘Abdul-Muttalib.”** ⁽¹⁾

After the death of his grandfather, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was entrusted to the care of his uncle, ‘Abu Talib.

Long before his prophethood, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) freed his beloved nurse Barakah. She married Ubayd bin Zaid and bore him a son named Ayman, thus her nickname **“Umm Ayman.”**

⁽¹⁾ *Ibn Sa’d, At-Tabakat Al-Kubra, vol. 1.*





Umm Ayman continued to show care, solicitude, and sometimes anger with her son Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that he went along with the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) to Umm Ayman who served the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) a drink in a vessel. Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) said, **“I do not know whether she found him fasting or he (peace and blessings be upon him) did not want it, so she started to yell and grumble at him (for not drinking it).”** ⁽¹⁾

And as sons love to cheer up their mothers, so did the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) out of kindness and love. She once came and said, **“Provide me with a mount.”** He (peace and



⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Muslim, Book of Fada'il Al-Shabah, Hadith no. 4491.*



blessings be upon him) said, “I will provide you with the offspring of a she-camel.” She said, “O Messenger of Allah, it will not tolerate me! I do not want it.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “I will only provide you with the offspring of a she-camel.”⁽¹⁾

He (peace and blessings be upon him) joked with her, but said nothing but the truth; for all camels are born from she-camels.

After the death of her husband, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Should one of you desire to marry a woman from the people of Paradise, let him marry Umm Ayman.”⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Ibn Sa’d, *At-Tabakat Al-Kubra*, vol. 8.

⁽²⁾ Ibn Sa’d, *At-Tabakat Al-Kubra*, vol. 8.





Zaid bin Al-Harithah, one of the dearest of all people to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), married her. She bore him a son, Usamah bin Zaid, nicknamed among the people as **“The Beloved to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him),”** who said, **“He who loves me let him love Usamah.”** ⁽¹⁾

After the death of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), the Companions continued to honor the woman whom the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) honored as his own mother. Anas narrated that Abu Bakr said to ‘Umar, **“Let us go visit Umm Ayman as the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to visit her.”** When they came

⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Muslim, Book of Al-Fitan wa Ashrat As-Sa’ah, Hadith no. 5235.*



to her, she wept. They asked her, “What makes you weep? What is with Allah is better for His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him).” She said, “I am not weeping for not knowing that what is with Allah is better for His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him), but rather because the revelations from heaven have stopped,” which moved them to tears, and they wept with her. ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Muslim, Book of Fada'il Al-Shabah, Hadith no. 4492.*





Halimah

It was the custom of the Arabs living in towns to send their children to Bedouin wet nurses to bring them up in the free and healthy desert atmosphere, away from the diseases of towns, whereby their stamina and bodies would grow stronger and they would master the Arab tongue.

‘Abdul-Muttalib sought a wet nurse for his grandson to have him raised a strong lad in the desert environment. So the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was offered to all wet nurses who came to Makkah looking for babies to suckle, but as soon as they learned that he was fatherless, they refused to take him.





“An orphan! What can his grandfather and mother possibly give?” Each was looking for the compensation she would receive from the child’s father; all except Halimah bint Abu Dhua’ib (also Halimah As-Sa’diah, may Allah be pleased with her), who was among the wet nurses, but could not get a baby to suckle.

Halimah narrated, “Every woman who came with me got a suckling, except me. When we were about to leave, I said to my husband, ‘By Allah, I hate to return with my companions without a baby. By Allah, I will return to that orphan and take him.’ He said, ‘There is no harm; it may be that Allah will grant us

(1)

(2)





blessings through him.’ I went and took him. The only thing that made me take him is that I did not find other than him. I lifted him in my arms and returned with him to my luggage. When I placed him in my lap, my breast provided him with as much milk as he wished. He drank to his heart’s content and so did his foster brother. Then both of them went to sleep, although previously we could never sleep because of my baby.”

Halimah recalled previous nights saying, “We could not have a wink of sleep during the night, because our baby would keep crying of

(1)



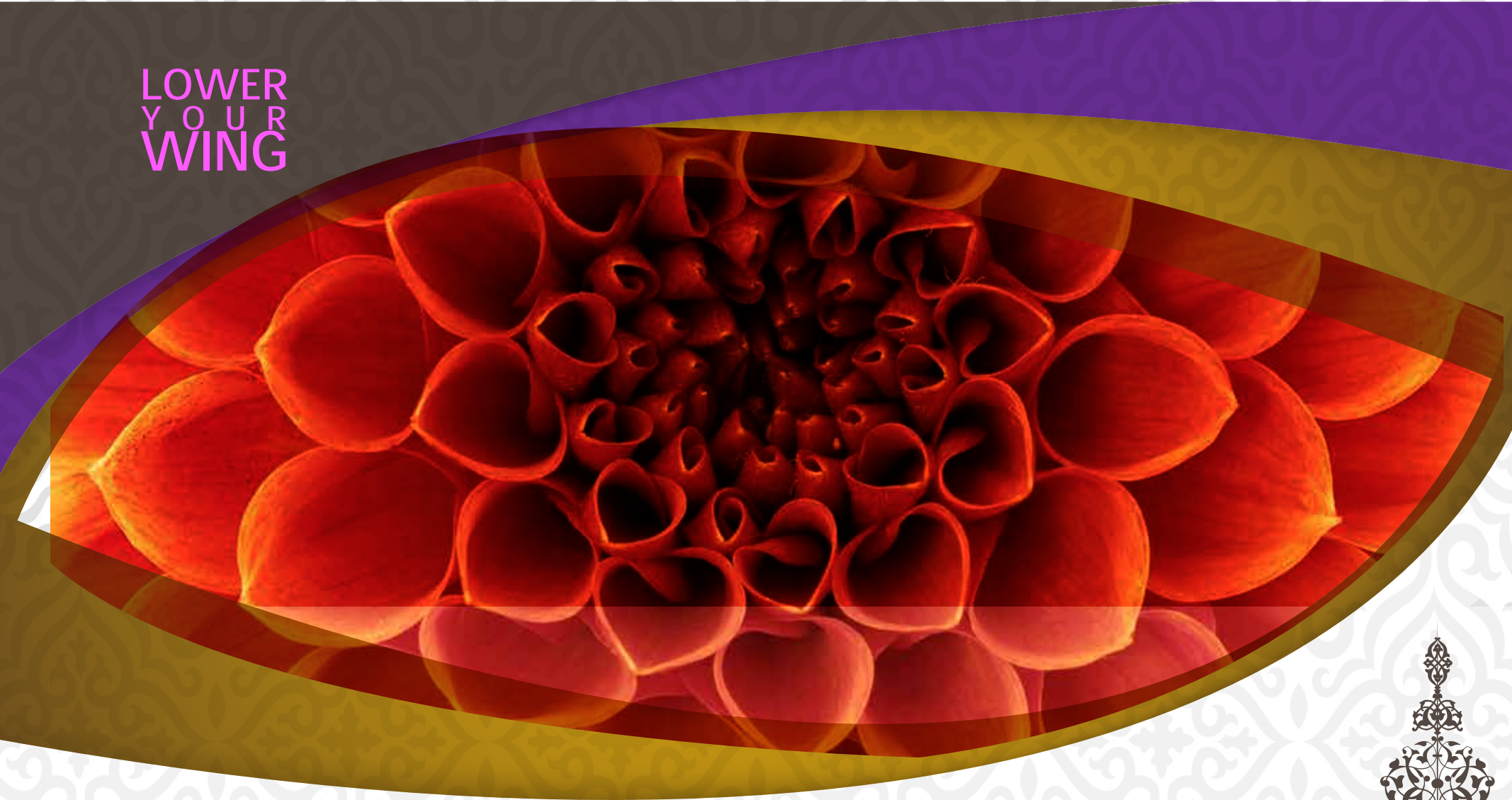


hunger. There was not enough milk in my breast. Even the she-camel had nothing to feed him. We constantly prayed for rain and relief.”

“My husband then went to a she-camel that belonged to us. To his surprise he found plenty of milk in it. He milked it and drank, and I drank our fill. It was a most blessed night for us. The next morning, my husband said, ‘Do you know, By Allah, O Halimah, you have taken a blessed soul.’ I replied, ‘By Allah, I hope so.’”

(1)





Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) was a true blessing upon his foster-family. Halimah and her family lived on the barren ground of Banu Sa'd, but ever since the arrival of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) the sheep belonging to Halimah gave milk abundantly; other people's sheep hardly gave a drop. This made her people say to their shepherds, **“Woe to you! Go to the pastureland where the shepherd of Bint Abu Dhua'ib grazes.”** Still their sheep returned hungry and dry, and Halimah's sheep returned milky and satisfied.

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) stayed with Halimah for two years until he was

(1)





weaned. They took him back to his mother and begged her to keep him with them a little longer for the blessings he (peace and blessings be upon him) had brought them, substantiating their request by their anxiety over the child catching the plague that was breaking out in Makkah. They were granted their wish. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) stayed with them until he (peace and blessings be upon him) was four years of age.⁽¹⁾

Halimah gave the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) the motherly care and tenderness she gave to her own children in a family he (peace and blessings be upon him) became part of, which was always repaid by love and filial piety. After becoming a prophet, whenever he (peace and



(1) *Details of Halimah's story: Safi-ur-Rahman Mubarakpuri, Ar-Raheeq*

(2) *Al-Makhtum (The Sealed Nectar); Birth and Forty Years Prior to Prophethood: At Banu Sa'd. Ibn Hisham, As-Sirah An-Nabawiyyah: Halimah's Account of the*

(3) *Blessings She Witnessed After They Handed Him to Her.*



blessings be upon him) saw her, he (peace and blessings be upon him) would spread out his cloak for her to sit on, giving her his attention and care. Abu At-Tufayl (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “I saw the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) distributing meat at Ji‘ranah. I was a boy at that time carrying the bones of camels, when a woman came forward and approached the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), who spread out his cloak for her, and she sat on it. I asked, ‘Who is she?’ The people said, ‘She is his foster-mother.’”⁽¹⁾

Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 4478.

⁽¹⁾





The Pious Son

His giving was not limited to his mothers. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) lived as a kind father to the young and a pious son to the elders through words and works. He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “**Verily, part of veneration of Allah is to honor the white-haired Muslim.**”⁽¹⁾

An old man came who wanted to see the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), yet people tarried in making room for him, to which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) objected, saying, “**They are not of us, those**

⁽¹⁾ Abu Musa Al-Ash'ary, Sunan Abu Dawud, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 4203.

⁽²⁾





who do not show mercy to our young ones and do not revere our elders.”⁽¹⁾ He (peace and blessings be upon him) instructed them, saying, “When anyone of you leads the people in Salah, he should lighten it, for among them are the weak, the sick, and the old. Whereas, when any of you prays alone, he may prolong Salah as he wishes.”⁽²⁾

A world of new heights was that which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was shaping, where the old are honored and the young are shown mercy, not as a sign of charity but as a manifestation of true faith. The visits which he (peace and blessings be upon him) used to pay to his servant Anas (may Allah be pleased with him)

⁽¹⁾ Anas bin Malik, Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Birr Waslah, Hadith no. 1842.

⁽²⁾ Abu Hurairah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Adhan, Hadith no. 662.





in his house, and the gestures of modesty and kindness towards Anas's family and other elders, bring us closer to this world.

Anas bin Malik, the Prophet's servant, narrated:

- My grandmother Mulaikah invited the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) to a meal which she herself had prepared for him. He (peace and blessings be upon him) ate of it and then said, **“Get up to offer Salah for you.”** Anas said, **“So I brought a mat belonging to us that long use had turned black. I sprinkled some water over it (to soften it), and the**

(1)





Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) stood on it. The orphan (Damirah) and I aligned behind him, and the old lady (Mulaikah) stood behind us. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) led us in a two-Rak'ah prayer and then left.”⁽¹⁾

- The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) paid a visit to Umm Sulaim (Anas's mother). She served him dates and ghee, but he (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Put your ghee back in its skin and your dates in their vessel; I am fasting.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) stood



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of As-Salah, Hadith no. 367.



in one corner of the house and offered a supererogatory Salah and then supplicated Allah's Blessings on Umm Sulaim and her household. Umm Sulaim said, "O Messenger of Allah, I have a special simple request." He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "What is it?" She replied, "(Please supplicate for) your servant Anas." So he (peace and blessings be upon him) did not leave whatsoever is good in the Hereafter or in this world without supplicating Allah to bestow it upon me and said, "O Allah, give him (i.e. Anas) wealth and children and give blessings to him in them."⁽¹⁾

(1) *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of As-Sawm, Hadith no. 1846.*

(2)





- Malik bin Huwairth (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated, “We came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) when we were young men of nearly equal ages. We stayed with him for twenty days and nights. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), being very merciful and kind, when he (peace and blessings be upon him) felt that we longed for our families, asked us about whom we had entrusted to care for them after we departed, which we told him. He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, ‘Return to your families, stay with them,



(1)



teach them (the religion), and instruct them (to do good).”⁽¹⁾

Paradise Lies Under Her Feet

A man circumambulating the Ka‘bah while carrying his mother on his back asked the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), “**Have I repaid her?**” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “**No, not even for a single sigh.**”⁽²⁾

Not even a single sigh that escaped a mother while suffering labor pangs can be repaid. That is the value of the mother as instilled into the souls of the Companions by their Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). He (peace and blessings

⁽¹⁾ *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Adhan, Hadith no. 595.*

⁽²⁾ *Reported by Al-Hafizh Abu Bakr Al-Bazar on the authority of Buraidah from his father.*





be upon him) taught them that all acts of kindness just humbly dwindle before the mother's unlimited capacity for giving without any expectation of reward.

She is the inestimable blessing, towards whom love, devotion, and dutifulness were enjoined by the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) as a religiously binding duty.

- Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that a man came to the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and asked, **“O Messenger of Allah, who among the people is the most deserving of my good companionship?”**





He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Your mother.” The man asked, “Then who?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Your mother.” The man asked, “Then who?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Your mother.” The man asked, “Then who?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Your father.”⁽¹⁾

- Mu‘awiyah bin Jahimah As-Salami (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that Jahimah (may Allah be pleased with him) came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, “O Messenger of Allah,

⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Adab, Hadith no. 5514.





I want to fight (in the Cause of Allah), and I have come to consult you.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) asked, “Do you have a mother?” The man said, “Yes.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Stay with her, for Paradise is under her feet.”⁽¹⁾

- Ibn ‘Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that a man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, “O Messenger of Allah, I have committed a grievous sin. Is there repentance for me?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) asked, “Do you have a mother?”

⁽¹⁾ Sunan An-Nas‘ay, Book of Jihad, Hadith no. 3053.





The man said, “No.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Do you have a maternal aunt?” The man said, “Yes.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Be pious towards her.”⁽¹⁾

- Asma' bint Abu Bakr narrated that her mother came to her while she was still a Mushrik ⁽²⁾ during the lifetime of the Messenger of Allah. She consulted the Messenger of Allah, saying, “My mother came to me, and she is desirous (of filial piety). Should I join the ties of kinship with her?” He r said, “Yes, join the ties of kinship with your mother.”⁽³⁾



⁽¹⁾ Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Birr Waslah, Hadith no. 1827.

⁽²⁾ One who associates others with Allah in His Divinity or worship.

⁽³⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Hibah (Gifts), Hadith no. 2427.



Even after the death of the mother piety towards her must continue.

- Lady 'Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) narrated that a man said to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), “My mother died suddenly. I believe if she were to speak, she would give charity. May I give charity on her behalf?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Yes, give charity on her behalf.”⁽¹⁾

- Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him)



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Wasiya (Wills and Testaments), Hadith no. 2554.



narrated that a man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, “O Messenger of Allah, my mother died and she ought to have fasted one month. Should I fast it on her behalf?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “If your mother had a debt, would you repay it on her behalf?” The man said, “Yes.” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “The debt owed to Allah is more worthy to be paid.”⁽¹⁾

- Sa'd bin 'Ubadah (may Allah be pleased with him) consulted the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him), saying, “My



⁽¹⁾ Sahih Muslim, Book of As-Sawm, Hadith no. 1937.



mother died and she had an unfulfilled vow.” He said, “Fulfill it on her behalf.”⁽¹⁾

- Ibn ‘Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that a woman came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, “My mother had vowed to perform Hajj, but she died before performing it. Should I perform Hajj on her behalf?” He (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Yes, perform Hajj on her behalf.”⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Ibn ‘Abbas, *Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Wasiya, Hadith no. 2555.*
Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-‘Atsam Bil-Kitab wa As-Sunnah (Holding Fast to the Qur’an and Sunnah), Hadith no. 6771.





In simple terms, mother is the gate to Paradise.

- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “I slept and saw myself in Paradise. Then I heard the sound of a reciter reciting (the Qur’an). I asked, ‘Who is this?’ They said, ‘This is Harithah bin An-Nu‘man.’” The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said to ‘Aishah, “Thus is piety! Thus is piety! He was the most pious of all people to his mother.”⁽¹⁾

Lady ‘Aishah, Musnad Ahmad, Book of Al-Ansar, Hadith no. 24026.



Impiety towards her closes the gates of mercy.

- The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “**Verily, Allah has forbidden you impiety towards mothers, burial of girls alive, and withholding (what you should give) and demanding (what you do not deserve).**”⁽¹⁾

Al-Mughirah bin Shu‘bah, Sahih Al-Bukhary, Book of Al-Istiqrad, Ada’

(1) *Al-Dayun, Al-Hajir wa At-Taflis (Loans, Payment of Debts, Freezing of*

(2) *Property, Bankruptcy), Hadith no. 2231.*





That is the sacredness that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) bestowed upon mothers, whose wombs weave humanity into families in relationships of reciprocal care and obligations, and tie them with indissoluble bonds. Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says in the Divine Hadith ⁽¹⁾:

“I am Allah, and I am Ar-Rahman (the Most Merciful). I created Ar-Rahim (the womb) and derived for it a name from My Name. Whoever joins it (its ties), I will join him (to My Mercy); and whoever severs it (its ties), I shall sever him (from My Mercy).” ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ *Divine Sayings, other than the Noble Qur’an, transmitted on the authority of the Prophet.*

⁽²⁾ *Sunan At-Tirmidhy, Book of Al-Birr Waslah, Hadith no. 1830.*



LOWER
YOUR
WING



رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

LOWER
YOUR
WING



www.RASOULALLAH.net