

Muhammad encouraged full respect of mothers

A man asked Muhammad: "Who would deserve my closest support and companionship?" Muhammad replied: "Your mother". Then the man asked Muhammad who would be after her. Muhammad replied: "Your mother". The man asked the same question again and Muhammad replied for the third time: "Your mother". Then out of curiosity the man asked the same question for the fourth time (he realised that Muhammad wanted to emphasise the best treatment of mothers). Then Muhammad said to him: "Your father" (i.e. your father deserves your closest support and company after your mother)²

(Sahih Al-Bukhari, 2/8, 5971. Muslim, 8/2, 2548)

Scholars commented on the above story that mothers cannot escape three main sufferings: (1) pregnancy, (2) labor and delivery, (3) breastfeeding and weaning.