



NURTURING OF CHILDREN

*Part 3- -
Correcting Fundamental Beliefs -*



*SPIRITUAL LIGHT
TRANSLATION OF TARBIYATUL AULAAD FIL ISLAM*

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THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- 1- Correcting fundamental beliefs (aqaa'id)
- 2- Instilling noble character
- 3- Physical nurturing
- 4- Mental nurturing
- 5- Psychological nurturing
- 6- Preparing the youth for their future roles in the community
- 7- Educating the youth regarding responsible sexual behavior

Numerous aayaat and ahaadith stress the importance of these seven responsibilities, so that every parent/guardian can realise their true weight and intricate nature e.g.

وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا لَا نَسْأَلُكَ رِزْقًا نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُكَ وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلتَّقْوَى (طه)

'Instruct your family to do the prayer, and be constant in it. We do not ask you for provision. We provide for you. And the best end result is gained by taqwaa.'

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا (التحریم)

'You who believe! Safeguard yourselves and your families from a Fire.'

فَوَرَبِّكَ لَنَسْأَلَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ عَمَّا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ (الحجر)

'By your Rabb, We will question them all, every one of them, about what they did!'

In the ahaadith the following is mentioned:

علموا اولادكم واهليكم الخير وادبهم (عبد الرزاق)

'Educate your household regarding that which is good and impart to them good character.'

الرجل راع في اهله و مسئول عن رعيته (بخارى , مسلم)

‘A man is the shepherd of his household and he shall be questioned regarding his flock.’

ما نحل والد ولدا افضل من ادب حسن (ترمذى)

‘There is no better gift that a father could ever give his child than good character.’

For this reason, throughout the ages people have sought able *asaatidhah* and *mashaayikh* to see to their children’s nurturing, especially with regards to their beliefs and character.

Inshaa-Allaah these seven responsibilities will now be discussed in detail. Allaah Ta’ala alone guides to all that is good and He alone gives *taufiq*.

CORRECTING FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

As soon as a child gains slight understanding, he must be made aware of the fundamentals of *Imaan*, and made habitual of *salaah*, and fasting. Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam)'s guidance in this respect is mentioned below:

- Begin the Child's Education with the *Kalimah* of Islam

افتحوا على صبيانكم اول كلمة بلا اله الا الله (مستدرك حاكم)

'The first words to be taught to a child are Laa Ilaaha Illaa Allaah.'

This is done so that the greatest *shi'aar* (symbol) of Islam (i.e. the *kalimah*) can penetrate deep into the child's heart. It is for this very reason that immediately after birth *adhaan* is given in the right ear and *iqaamah* in the left.

- Make the Child Aware of *Halaal* and *Haraam* from the Earliest Possible Age

'Abdullaah bin Abbaas (radiyallaahu anhu) said, "Be obedient to Allaah and refrain from His disobedience. Order your children to do the same. Only this can save you from Allaah's punishment. [*Ibn-e-Jarir and Ibn-e-Mundhir*]

If a child becomes habitual to the laws of *shari'ah*, he will never be inclined to any other way or religion.

- From the Age of Seven make them Punctual with '*Ibaadah*

عن عبد الله بن عمر ان رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال : مروا اولادكم بالصلوة و هم ابناء سبع سنين و اضربوهم عليها و هم ابناء عشر و فرقوا بينهم في المضاجع
(حاكم , ابوداؤد)

'Order your children with salaah from the age of seven and hit them (for missing salaah) after the age of ten. From the age of ten separate their sleeping places.'

This law applies to fasting as well. If possible, the child should be taken for hajj as well and from an early age the child should be shown how to spend in the path of Allaah Ta'ala.

From the command of separating their beds at the age of ten, we come to realise that from this age onwards, extra precaution needs to be taken regarding the chastity and purity of mind of the child

- Teach the Child the Love of the Family of Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) and Make Him Habitual in Reciting the Noble Qur'aan

'Ali (radiyallaahu anhu) narrates that Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said,

“Teach your children three things:

- 1) The love of your Nabi
- 2) The love of my family (Ahl al Bayt)
- 3) Recitation of the Noble Qur'aan, since the carrier of the Qur'aan will be in the shade of the throne of Allaah Ta'ala, in the company of the Ambiyaa' (alayhimus salaam) and the chosen servants of Allaah Ta'ala.

From this we can deduce the importance of teaching our children regarding the wars of Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam), the history of the Sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) and the illustrious sons of Islam, which will inspire our children to follow in their footsteps.

Sa'd bin Abi Waqqaas (radiyallaahu anhu) narrates that the Sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) would teach their children regarding the battles fought by Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam), just as how they would teach them the surahs of the Noble Qur'aan.

In Ihya-ul-'Ulum, Imaam Ghazaali (rahimahullaah) advises that children be taught the Noble Qur'aan, the ahaadith, incidents from the lives of the pious and the laws of the *shari'ah*.

A FEW HINTS FOR GOOD NURTURING

- 1) Children should be encouraged to ponder over the creation of Allaah Ta'ala and thereby gain some recognition of the power of Allaah Ta'ala's power and greatness by means of this.

2) Guide one's children towards creating *khushu'*, *khudhu'* (outward and inner concentration) and spirit in their *'ibaadaah*. The way to do this is by explaining to them the great power of Allaah Ta'ala in such a manner that they come to realize that the rule of Allaah Ta'ala extends over all things, big and small.

If this spirit can be created while the child is still young, it will Insha-Allaah remain forever, although it may be difficult in the beginning.

3) Make the child aware that Allaah Ta'ala is watching his every move. This is the centrepiece, around which a parent must base all his efforts. Allaah Ta'ala says:

وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ (البينة)

'They were only ordered to worship Allaah, making their din sincerely His.'

Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

ان الله عز وجل لا يقبل من العمل الا ما كان خالصا وابتغى به وجهه (ابوداؤد , نسائي)

'Allaah only accepts those actions which are done solely for His pleasure.'

4) Teach the child *Muraaqaba* (to meditate on the presence of Allaah Ta'ala), and *Muhaasaba* (to take stock of his actions).

5) Make the child memorise at least the last ten verses of Surah Baqarah, as well as those verses which contain supplications.

Listen well! It is this very nurturing which is being mocked at by western circles. The reason behind this mockery is that only this type of nurturing will enable children to avoid irreligiousness, evil conduct, and immodesty.

The great western author Dastor Faski himself admitted, that only when God is abandoned can one come in the grasp of the devil.

The famous philosopher Kant once remarked, 'Without three basic beliefs, good character can never be created:

- 1) Belief in a creator
- 2) Belief in the soul remaining alive after death
- 3) Belief in reckoning after death

From the above it becomes clear that the root of good upbringing is to instill *tauhid* (monotheism) in the hearts of the children from an early age.

‘Abdullaah bin Abbaas (radiyallaahu anhu) narrates that he was once riding behind Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam). Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) turned around and said to him:

يَا غُلَامُ إِنِّي أَعَلِّمُكَ كَلِمَاتٍ أَحْفَظِ اللَّهَ يَحْفَظَكَ أَحْفَظِ اللَّهَ تَحِذَهُ تُجَاهَكَ إِذَا سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلِ اللَّهَ
وَإِذَا اسْتَعَنْتَ فَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ الْأُمَّةَ لَوِ اجْتَمَعَتْ عَلَى أَنْ يَنْفَعُوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَنْفَعُوكَ إِلَّا
بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ لَكَ وَلَوْ اجْتَمَعُوا عَلَى أَنْ يَضُرُّوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَضُرُّوكَ إِلَّا بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ
عَلَيْكَ رُفِعَتِ الْأَقْلَامُ وَجَفَّتِ الصُّحُفُ (ترمذی)

“O my nephew! I wish to teach you something. Fulfill Allaah’s rights; He will then most certainly protect you. Remember Allaah’s rights, you will always find Him with you. When you ask, ask only from Him, and when you seek assistance seek only from Him. Remember, even if the entire ummah gathers to benefit you, they will not be able to give you except that which Allaah has destined for you. If they gather to harm you, they will not manage to do so except that which Allaah has decreed for you. The pen has been lifted and the ink has dried.” (i.e. everything has been predestined)

In another narration the following words appear:

إِحْفَظِ اللَّهَ تَجِدَهُ أَمَامَكَ تَعْرِفْ إِلَى اللَّهِ فِي الرِّخَاءِ يَعْرِفُكَ فِي الشَّدَةِ وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ مَا أَخْطَأَكَ لَمْ
يَكُنْ لِيَصِيبَكَ وَمَا أَصَابَكَ لَمْ يَكُنْ لِيَخْطِئَكَ وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ النَّصْرَ مَعَ الصَّبْرِ وَأَنَّ الْفَرْجَ مَعَ
الْكُرْبِ وَأَنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا (الاربعون النووية)

“Fulfill Allaah’s commandments, you will find Him always at your aid. During times of ease, worship your Creator, He will then be there to help you in times of difficulty. Remember, whatever you miss was not meant for you and whatever afflicts you has been destined for you. Allaah’s help comes through patience, no matter how severe your condition may be, the road will soon open up and after every difficulty you will most certainly enjoy times of ease and comfort.”