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Madani Q/A Time

18th Q/A

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Question:

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My father - a Hindu, needs proper attention and company and he would be shifting in with me soon, Inshaa Allah. He would need idols to pray and might not drink in my place but may drink at my aunt's place and come back. How do I deal with this? I would have to install a TV for him and buy idols for him to pray. Please advice.

Answer:

All praise is due to Allaah as many times as the number of His Creation and May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon the Final Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, his family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

Summary:

- 1) It says in al-Fawaakih ad-Dawaani 'ala Risaalat Ibn Abi Zayd al-Qayrawaani (2/290): One of the individual obligations upon every accountable individual is honouring his parents, i.e., treating them kindly, even if they are evildoers, with regard to anything that does not involve shirk (or sin), and even if they are mushrikeen, because of the verses which indicate that in general terms. Rights are not waived because of evildoing or being of different religions. End quote.
- 2) It is not permissible for you buy an idol for your father because that is major cooperation in sin and transgression; Allah says (what means): { And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. } [Quran 5:2]

You should always give priority to pleasing Allaah over pleasing anyone else, no matter who that person may be, and you should be proud of your religion and its teachings and not be ashamed to confess a ruling of Allah which you believe is the truth.

Therefore, you should inform your father that it is not permissible for you in your religion to buy an idol and that you fear the Wrath of Allaah upon you if you do so.

A Comprehensive Answer with Proofs:

The one whom Allaah has guided to Islam must hasten to convey this light to his family and relatives, because they are the first people whom he should call and to whom he should bring the light of Islam. If there are among them people who do not object to Islam, then this is a great blessing which the Muslim should make the most of to present Islam to them in the best manner. He may use any permissible means to call them to Islam, such as giving them audio and video tapes, books and websites, inviting influential Muslim people, drawing close to them by means of gifts, treating them kindly and good attitudes. He should avoid being harsh in his approach and he should always pray to Allaah to guide them.

As Allaah has enjoined treating parents with kindness even if they call their child to kufr and strive hard in doing so, then it is more appropriate that this kind treatment be extended to those who approve of your being Muslim and do not object to it. Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“And we have enjoined on man (to be dutiful and good) to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness and hardship upon weakness and hardship, and his weaning is in 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 with Me others that of which you have no knowledge, then obey them not; but behave with them in the world kindly, and follow the path of him who turns to Me in repentance and in obedience” [Luqmaan 31:14, 15].

Ibn Katheer (may Allaah have mercy on him) said:

“i.e., if they strive hard to make you follow them in their religion, then do not accept that from them, but do not let that prevent you from keeping good company with them in this world, i.e., by being kind to them. “and follow the path of him who turns to me in repentance and in obedience” means: the path of the believers.” End quote. [Tafseer Ibn Katheer (6/337)]

Shaykh Saalih ibn Fawzaan al-Fawzaan (may Allaah preserve him) said:

Allaah has enjoined kindness to parents even if they are kaafirs. He says (interpretation of the meaning):

“And We have enjoined on man (to be dutiful and good) to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness and hardship upon weakness and hardship, and his weaning is in 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 with Me others that of which you have no knowledge, then obey them not; but behave with them in the world kindly, and follow the path of him who turns to Me in repentance and in obedience” [Luqmaan 31:14, 15].

So you must treat your secular parents kindly, but with regard to religious matters, you should follow the true religion even if it is different from your parents’ religion, whilst also treating parents kindly in return for their good treatment. So you should treat them kindly and return their favours, even if they are kaafirs. There is no reason why you should not uphold ties with your father and honour him and return his favours, but do not obey him in any matter that involves disobedience towards Allaah, may He be glorified and exalted. End quote. [Al-Muntaqa min Fataawa al-Fawzaan (2/257, question no. 226)]

Allah Knows Best

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