

Children Discussed in Holy Qur'an

Introduction:

For some people, children are like worldly gains, such as wealth. Resources, such as wives and children are only temporary trials for people in this material world. Sometimes children can lead their families to success and bring about happiness. Whereas, some other times children can become the cause of much grief and regret. This reflects circumstantially on those children's parental upbringing. The Holy Qur'an, as the revealed handbook for humanity's guidance towards the correct paths, has so many verses, which are intended to help parents in achieving successful upbringing of their children, provided of course, people read the Holy Qur'an regularly. The discussion below does not cover all of those verses, but some salient ones only, in keeping this article short.

Discussions:

- 1) In Islam, the Holy Qur'an stresses that mankind must always remember their humble beginnings of all peoples until their end of life. Mankind has been created to die; but most importantly, mankind must fully adhere to compliance before death¹. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ64:15** *"Your wealth and your children are only a trial, and Allah — with Him is a great reward."*
- 2) Almighty God created mankind from micro-dust, then into a life-germ, then into a clot, then He brings mankind into this world, each as a child, then allows mankind to live variable time. Almighty God allows some people to live shorter periods before reaching maturity, some people to reach maturity and some people to grow much older; and mankind must be aware of the Creator at all times. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ40:67** *"He it is Who created you from dust, then from a small life-germ, then from a clot, then He brings you forth as a child, then that you may attain your maturity, then that you may be old; and of you are some who die before and that you may reach an appointed term, and that you may understand."*
- 3) Yet mankind is very boastful of the pride of their children and their wealth, without appreciating that the Giver is Almighty God. The Holy Qur'an subtly warns people in priding about their children and their wealth. This

¹ People must maximise all the stipulated virtues and not get swayed into conspiracies with the devil by sinning.

is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ63:9** *"O you who believe, do not let your wealth nor your children divert you from the remembrance of Allah; and whoever does that, these are the losers."*

- 4) The Holy Qur'an warns mankind and draws comparisons with a field, which was once uncultivated, then cultivated and planted with crops, green with yield of harvest; but there can be sudden times, when the farms are hit with drought and the field turns to wilting and destruction. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ57:20** *"Know that this world's life is only an idle sport and play and an attraction and boasting among yourselves and a race in the multiplication of wealth and children. It is as rain, whose causing the vegetation to grow pleases the tillers, then it withers away so that you see it turning yellow, then it becomes chaff. And in the Hereafter is a severe punishment, and (also) forgiveness from Allah and (His) pleasure. And this world's life is nothing but a source of vanity."*
- 5) Mankind are warned not to pride in the wealth of their children but become thankfully grateful of them, as gifts from Almighty God. Prophet Abraham (*as*) had two sons (Ishmael and Isaac) and out of whom descended all the communities of the Middle East² and spread out to the world. Hence Prophet Abraham (*as*) is referred to as the father of humanity. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ4:54** *"Or do they envy the people for what Allah has given them of His grace? But indeed We have given to Abraham's children the Book and the Wisdom, and We have given them a grand kingdom."*
- 6) Several religious scriptures were revealed upon different communities of mankind directly through Prophets³, many of whom were descendants of

² Prophet Abraham (*as*) had two sons, each from his two wives. The elder (by 12 years) of the two sons was Ishmael, given birth by his second and younger wife Hagar, from whom descended the Arabic speaking communities, and also from whom descended their only prophet, who was Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) in the period 570AD-632AD. The younger of the two sons was Isaac, given birth by his first and elder wife Sarah, from whom descended the Twelve Tribes of Israel as Jews and Christians.

³ A total of 124,000 Prophets (*Nabi*) were ordained by Divine revelations, but directly delivered to them by Archangel Gabriel, as spiritually contracted. Out of 124,000 Prophets, only 313 are Messengers (*Rasul*). Out of 313 Messengers, only 25 have been mentioned by name in the Holy Qur'an. Note: that every Messenger (*Rasul*) is also a Prophet, but every Prophet (*Nabi*) is not a Messenger. All of these 124,000 prophets were regular human beings who must eat food, drink water, breath air and need atmospheric pressure to stay alive. The figure of 124,000 prophets is quoted in Hadith No 21257 of *Musnad ibn Hanbal*. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was the Last and Final Prophet and after his death in 632AD, that sealed off all prophets of any description whatsoever being ordained by Divine revelations, to serve humanity on earth. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ33:40** *"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all things."* Seal means total shutting off arrival of any prophet of whatsoever description: No new prophet and no re-entry of any of the past 124,000 prophets will eventuate.

Prophet Abraham (*as*). The Holy Qur'an reiterates that wealth of children and the entire family is gifted from Almighty God. They must never be prided upon; and on Judgement Day, neither their children nor their accumulated wealth will stand to their defences. This fact is succinctly stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ3:116** *"Those who disbelieve, neither their wealth nor their children will avail them at all against Allah. And these are the companions of the Fire; in it they abide."*

- 7) However, the Holy Qur'an further stresses that neither the peoples' wealth nor the wealth of their children should divert them from their remembrances of Almighty God, the Giver. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ6:151** *"Say: Come! I will recite what your Lord has forbidden to you: Set up no partner with Him, and do good to parents, nor kill your children for (fear of) poverty — We provide for you and for them, nor go near to indecencies, open or secret, nor kill the soul which Allah has made sacred except in the course of justice. This He enjoins upon you that you may understand."*
- 8) The Holy Qur'an then further warns humanity that their wealth and their children would not profit them on the Day of Resurrection. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ34:37** *"And it is not your wealth, nor your children, that bring you near to Us in rank; but whoever believes and does good, for such is a double reward for what they do, and they are secure in the highest places."* There is further ramification with the verses at **HQ60:3** *"Your relationships and your children would not benefit you, on the day of Resurrection — He will decide between you. And Allah is Seer of what you do."*
- 9) The Holy Qur'an warns mankind in no uncertain terms that neither parents would be coming to rescue of their children nor would the children come to the rescue of their parents on the Day of Judgement. Each soul is independently liable and answerable, as each for own compliance performance. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ31:33** *"O people, keep your duty to your Lord and dread the day when no father can avail his son in the least, nor will the child avail his father. Surely the promise of Allah is true, so do not let this world's life deceive you, nor let the arch-deceiver deceive you about Allah."*
- 10) Children are special precious gift from Almighty God and parents must plan their families so that the children in the family are well-loved and not becoming problems. Sensible family planning is essential and

parents must not kill their children to manage poverty. The Holy Qur'an warns at **HQ6:140** *"They are losers indeed who kill their children foolishly without knowledge, and forbid what Allah has provided for them, forging a lie against Allah. They indeed go astray, and are not guided."*

- 11)** Mankind is helpfully advised that belief in One Almighty God, prayer at prescribed times; charity, fasting and remembrances of Almighty God will profit them on the Day of Resurrection. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) said⁴: *"He is not of me who severs or breaks the ties of kinship. No sin is more swiftly punished than oppression, and the breaking of family ties. Be kind and good to your parents and your children will be kind and good to you. Paradise lies at the feet of mothers. Every one of you is a ruler and every one of you shall be questioned about those under his rule; the king is a ruler and he shall be questioned about his subjects; the man is a ruler in his family and he shall be questioned about those under his care; the woman is a ruler in the house of her husband and shall be questioned about those under her care; and the servant is a ruler so far as the property of his master is concerned, and he shall be questioned about that which is entrusted to him"*

Synopsis:

- A.** Humanity is a precious gift from Almighty God. Wealth and children are divine gifts from Almighty God. Abundance of wealth and gift of children should not distract people from worshipping Almighty God.
- B.** People must seek and explore in their scriptures to understand better the gift of their children. Children should not be killed in extreme poverty.
- C.** Children should be taught to keep sincere duty to Almighty God and prepare for final Day of Judgment. People should discuss with qualified religious leaders for guidance and people should also be self-disciplined in thoughts. All people should be kind and good both to parents and to children so that next generation of children will be good to their parents.

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⁴ These are in different Hadith, some of which are Musnad Ahmad, Sunan An-Nasâ'i, Sunan Ibn Mâjah as examples.