

Keeping a disbeliever mother company

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: What is the ruling of residing with a disbeliever mother?

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee (May Allaah the Most High preserve him): All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

The mother should be obeyed and treated with goodness and kindness. We should also consort with her kindly even though she is a disbeliever but with disavowing her Shirk (ascribing partners to Allaah) and trying to invite her to Islam. This should be the case with all the relatives. In fact, hating disbelievers and polytheists does not mean that it is permissible to wrong them whether by words or acts, Allaah (*Mighty and Majestic is He*) said:

﴿وَإِنْ جَاهِدَاكَ عَلَىٰ أَنْ تُشْرِكَ بِي مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعْهُمَا وَصَاحِبُهُمَا فِي الدُّنْيَا مَعْرُوفًا﴾

The meaning of the verse:

﴿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﴾

[Luqmaan: 15]

Allaah (*Mighty and Majestic is He*) also said:

﴿وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَبِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَالْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْجَارِ الْجُنُبِ وَالصَّاحِبِ بِالْجَنبِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ﴾

The meaning of the verse:

﴿Worship Allaah and join none with Him in worship, and do good to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, Al-Masaakin (the poor), the neighbour who is near of kin, the neighbour who is a stranger, the companion by your side, the wayfarer (you meet), and those (slaves) whom your right hands possess﴾

[An-Nisaa' (The Women): 36]

Keeping a disbeliever mother company

The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) told the man who came to him to ask who of people is more entitled to be treated with the best companionship: “**Your mother**”. The man said: “Who is next?”. The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said: “**Your mother**”. The man said: “Who is next?”. The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said: “**Your mother**”. The man said: “Who is next?”. The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said: “**Your father**”¹.

Thereupon, the hate of disbelievers does not prevent from acquitting their rights and behave with them properly; Allaah (*Mighty and Majestic is He*) said:

﴿لَا يَنْهَاكُمُ اللَّهُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَلَمْ يُخْرِجُوكُمْ مِنْ دِيَارِكُمْ أَنْ تَبَرُّوهُمْ وَتُقْسِطُوا إِلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ﴾

The meaning of the verse:

﴿Allaah does not forbid you to deal justly and kindly with those who fought not against you on account of religion nor drove you out of your homes. Verily, Allaah loves those who deal with equity.﴾

[Al-Mumtahana (The Woman to be examined): 8]

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah (*May He be Exalted the Most High*). Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet, his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

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¹ Reported by Al-Bukhaaree in the chapter of “Good behaviour” (Hadeeth 5971) and Muslim in the chapter of “Virtue, good manners and joining of the ties of relationship” (Hadeeth 6664), from the hadeeth of Aboo Hurayrah (*May Allaah be pleased with him*).