

WHY SHOULD WE RESPECT OUR PARENTS ?

Various views expressed by U.S. born kids

1. Though times have changed tremendously over the centuries, one piece of advice has stood strong: obey your parents. There is a reason this golden rule has feathered the test of time, which is that it works. Parents are always at an age where they have matured over the years and have gone through the troubling times and hard decisions in life. It's through these experiences that parents can share their knowledge and insight to their children. The young mind will always think it knows best, but wisdom acquired throughout the years will always prevail in the end. Children can achieve this obedience through keeping an open mind. Oftentimes, children will picture their parents as a part of an older generation which does not understand the problems and issues that are dealt with in current times. However, the decades may go by, but issues will always remain the same. Along with an open mind, children need to keep their egos under control. Just as Sikhism teaches all of society to control their five sins, ego is the one that is most problematic when it comes to children and their parents. An inflated ego will oftentimes inflame a situation into something enormous. The combination of an open ear and the controlled ego will allow children to take in what their parents are telling them and make children realize that an older generation does know what they're talking about.

2. "It's not only children who grow. Parents do too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours. I can't tell my children to reach for the sun. All I can do is reach for it, myself." ~ Joyce Maynard.

. I found this quote online and agree with it fully. Children learn from example, and therefore, why should children obey their parents, if their parents are not obeying and respecting their own parents. It is an endless cycle which continues to flourish as the greatest bond on this Earth between mother and child. I do not have much experience on being a mother as of yet. However, seeing the world through the eyes of a mother, I now understand everything my parents have done for me. All I want in life is to be as good a parent as my parents have been to me. Through teaching my child to respect everyone and not just his parents, I can help raise my son to be the change I want to see in the world. I want my child to grow up understanding the sacrifices his parents have made for him and understanding that the only thing a parent wants in return is respect and love from their child. All in all, I understand how much love and respect means to parents and once this bond is in place in the heart of child, obeying them will follow naturally.

3. Obeying one's parents is analogous to obeying Waheguru. If we are not able to obey our parents, who brought us into this world and continue to support and love us, then how will we be able to

obey God? It is easy to look the other way and forget how much our parents have sacrificed for us. Similarly, it is easy to forget the One who created us. However, even if children disregard, disobey, or forget their parents, parents have the capacity to forgive as a result of their selfless and unconditional love. Parents wish that their children will prosper and succeed in life. Parents hope that their children will obey them because they want their children to succeed and surpass them. They remain ready to provide blessings to their children. This loving relationship parallels the relationship between God and His children. The following *Shabad* beautifully illustrates the infinite love our *Mataa* has for His *Poota*:

ਗੂਜਰੀ ਮਹਲਾ ੫ ॥

goojaree mehalaa 5 ||

ਜਿਸੁ ਸਿਮਰਤ ਸਭਿ ਕਿਲਵਿਖ ਨਾਸਹਿ ਪਿਤਰੀ ਹੋਇ ਉਧਾਰੋ ॥

Remembering Him, all sins are erased, and ones generations are saved.

ਸੋ ਹਰਿ ਹਰਿ ਤੁਮ੍ਹ ਸਦ ਹੀ ਜਾਪਹੁ ਜਾ ਕਾ ਅੰਤੁ ਨ ਪਾਰੋ ॥੧॥

So meditate continually on the Lord, Har, Har; He has no end or limitation. ||1||

ਪ੍ਰਤਾ ਮਾਤਾ ਕੀ ਆਸੀਸ ॥

O son, this is your mother's hope and prayer,

ਨਿਮਖ ਨ ਬਿਸਰਉ ਤੁਮ੍ਹ ਕਉ ਹਰਿ ਹਰਿ ਸਦਾ ਭਜਹੁ ਜਗਦੀਸ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

that you may never forget the Lord, Har, Har, even for an instant. May you ever vibrate upon the Lord of the Universe. ||1||Pause||

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਤੁਮ੍ਹ ਕਉ ਹੋਇ ਦਇਆਲਾ ਸੰਤਸੰਗਿ ਤੇਰੀ ਪ੍ਰੀਤਿ ॥

May the True Guru be kind to you, and may you love the Society of the Saints.

ਕਾਪੜੁ ਪਤਿ ਪਰਮੇਸਰੁ ਰਾਖੀ ਭੋਜਨੁ ਕੀਰਤਨੁ ਨੀਤਿ ॥੨॥

May the preservation of your honor by the Transcendent Lord be your clothes, and may the singing of His Praises be your food. ||2||

ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤੁ ਪੀਵਹੁ ਸਦਾ ਚਿਰੁ ਜੀਵਹੁ ਹਰਿ ਸਿਮਰਤ ਅਨਦ ਅਨੰਤਾ ॥

So drink in forever the Ambrosial Nectar; may you live long, and may the meditative remembrance of the Lord give you infinite delight.

ਰੰਗ ਤਮਾਸਾ ਪੂਰਨ ਆਸਾ ਕਬਹਿ ਨ ਬਿਆਪੈ ਚਿੰਤਾ ॥੩॥

May joy and pleasure be yours; may your hopes be fulfilled, and may you never be troubled by worries. ||3||

ਭਵਰੁ ਤੁਮਾਰਾ ਇਹੁ ਮਨੁ ਹੋਵਉ ਹਰਿ ਚਰਣਾ ਹੋਹੁ ਕਉਲਾ ॥

Let this mind of yours be the bumble bee, and let the Lord's feet be the lotus flower.

ਨਾਨਕ ਦਾਸੁ ਉਨ ਸੰਗਿ ਲਪਟਾਇਓ ਜਿਉ ਬੂੰਦਹਿ ਚਾੜ੍ਹਕੁ ਮਉਲਾ ॥੪॥੩॥੪॥

Says servant Nanak, attach your mind to them, and blossom forth like the song-bird, upon finding the rain-drop. ||4||3||4||

4. Living in a world controlled by greed and attachment; it's very easy to fall victim to worldly pleasures and to think that you're above others and that you should be placed on a pedestal. Growing up in such an environment, we can only cross over to greener pastures (better living) with the guidance, love and wisdom of our parents, as they themselves, are our first guide to achieving salvation in this world and beyond.

Considering the average human life span is considerably less than 100 years, it's important for us (myself included) to realize that we do not have enough time to re-invent the wheel of parenthood and love, and instead, it's vital we adapt to lessons and methods passed down to us from previous generations (by parents and grandparents.)

As easy as it is to reflect on your childhood and give guidance and advice to how (and why) we should respect our parents, it's important to stress that love is what brings forgiveness. Our world is that which punishes wrong-doers and rewards those who set positive examples. However, in the court of our parents, we can be guilty a million times, but the love and attachment our parents possess for us will always prevail and our mistakes will be washed away and forgiven in an

instance.

There's no school or book that possesses the knowledge of our grandparents, and there's no military base that provides the sanctuary and comfort as that of your parents embrace (with a hug etc).

Therefore, we should respect our parents as without them, we wouldn't be here, and without them, we wouldn't have any of the million things we take for granted every day of our lives and without them, we wouldn't have been introduced to our religion, our Guru Ji's and the ultimate guide on how we should live our lives.

I know I've done a lot of good things, and a lot of bad things that may have hurt my parents feelings. But, all in all, they know that my heart and theirs is of the same DNA and blood, and that every breath I take, is a tribute to them and the lessons they've embedded within my soul.

In my hour of need, I'm thankful to have my parents and grandparents to ease my fears and end my sorrows.