

Rights of Old & Weak People in Islam♦

Islam is a religion based on nature. It teaches good ethics and well dealings. By the virtue of its teachings, a human being becomes a perfect human being. The Prophet of Allah (pbuh) was sent only for the sake of teaching good ethics. An important element of the good ethics that Islam teaches is to respect old and aged people and to pay their rights to them. Islam obligates its followers to respect old and aged people, and fulfil their necessities in a perfect way.

In this context, this very historical seminar of Islamic Fiqh Academy India (IFCI) emphasizes great importance of Islamic and ethical perspective and approves the following resolutions:

- (1) If a man/woman has wealth he/she will be responsible for his/her bread and butter, and expenditure. But, a husband is responsible for his wife's bread and butter.
- (2) If parents are poor their children will be responsible for their expenditure. The children are not allowed to compel their parents for earning livelihood, thought they are capable.
- (3) A human being will be responsible for other close relatives' expenditure if the relatives are poor and unable to earn.
- (4) If the parents earn money and are independent the children will not be responsible for their expenditure. But, children should morally fulfil every lawful desire of their parents.
- (5) Children are obliged to serve their parents. This service is a means of success in the very world and the world hereafter. Leaving the parents who needs the children' service and moving to another city, state or other country only for the sake of earning more than necessity and availing high standard life will be allowed for children at the time when other people are available to serve parents and the parents are pleased with it.
- (6) It is not incumbent on a wife to serve parents-in-law. But, it is her moral duty to serve them while being in the limitation of Shariah.
- (7) A son and a daughter both are responsible to serve their parents.
- (8) If parents are helpless or they fall prey of sickness in which they need their daughter's help and there is none besides the daughter to serve them, in this case, the daughter should serve them and her husband should allow her to do so.

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- (9) The children are not allowed to prevent their father to make second marriage and the father is not capable to afford the expense of that wife the well-to-do children will be responsible to pay the expense to the second wife (their step mom).
- (10) The children do not have right to demand property distribution of their parents if the parents are alive. But, if the parents willingly distribute and hand over the ownership to them then, nothing will be wrong therein.
- (11, a) It is a religious duty on the children to serve an old relative by themselves or by appointing others to serve him. Therefore, "old age home" is not compatible with Islam and its teachings. But, establishing such old age home where Shariah requirements are met, for helpless and poor people and inhabiting them therein is lawful according to Shariah.
- (b) Those who can serve their parents by themselves or by appointing others to serve them are not allowed to inhabit their old parents in such hostels without the prior permission and will of their parents. But, if the parents are inhabited in such hostels with the permission and consent of their parents then, the children are obligated to be in contact with their parents and go to pay visit to them.
- (12) Before getting to the age the government fixes to provide concessions, availing benefits from those concessions are not allowed.

