



Nurturing Piety and Taqwa: Upholding Values during the Holiday Season

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يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ

**O believers! Be mindful of Allah and be with
the truthful. [9:119]**

As the holiday season dawns upon us, it heralds a time of joy, festivities, and a break from the routine of daily life. Yet, amidst these moments of relaxation and celebration, it's crucial to uphold our values of piety and Taqwa (God-consciousness), ensuring that our spiritual growth remains steadfast. Reflecting upon the dedication of a mother hen nurturing her eggs offers profound lessons applicable to our roles as nurturers of faith within our families.



The unwavering commitment of the mother hen provides a striking analogy for parents and individuals alike. Just as she guards her eggs diligently, we must remain dedicated to the upholding of our Iman. The guidance and nurturing of correct Islamic beliefs, values, and character require unwavering attention and continuous effort, not leaving our spiritual development to chance.



The fundamental requirements for nurturing our Iman and faith parallel the needs of the eggs for incubation. Much like the controlled temperature and humidity necessary for hatching, our homes must be infused with the warmth of Islamic teachings. Regular practices of prayers, recitation of The Quran, supplications, and lessons that foster love for Allah, His Messenger SAW, and the righteous predecessors must prevail within our households.

The Prophet (SAW) said: “Take advantage of five matters before five other matters: your youth before you become old; your health, before you fall sick; your wealth, before you become poor; your free time before you become preoccupied, and your life, before your death” (Musnad Ahmad).

Moreover, constant vigilance is paramount. Just as the hen turns her eggs to ensure even development, we need to continuously watch and shape our habits and behavior in alignment with Islamic principles. However, amidst the critical aspect of vigilance cannot be overstressed. In a moment's distraction, the chick could fall victim to a predator, signifying how even a brief lapse in oversight can lead us astray.



This vigilance doesn't merely apply to physical protection but extends to guarding against the influences of a morally precarious world. Many vices, from substance abuse to exposure to harmful content online, often find their roots in unmonitored freedom. We must remain aware and proactive, especially during the holidays when we have more unstructured time, ensuring that we are not left susceptible to harmful influences. Even in those early times, the Prophet (S.A.W.) said that "There are two blessings which many people waste: health and free time."
[Sahih Bukhari]



The reality of modern challenges, such as substance abuse or exposure to inappropriate content, underscores the necessity for heightened awareness. Instances of recovering addicts frequently point to unmonitored freedom as a catalyst for their downfall. Hence, it becomes incumbent upon us to exercise vigilance in this digital age.

As the holiday season beckons, it's a time for families to bond and cherish moments together. However, embedded within these moments should be a conscious effort to safeguard the values and principles integral to our faith. Let us utilize this time not only for merriment but also for reinforcing the nurturing of our spiritual selves. As Allah says, "By the time, indeed, mankind is in the state of loss, except those who believe and do good.

[Surah Al-Asr]



While the holiday season brings joy and respite, it should also serve as a period of increased mindfulness for parents and individuals. Let us emulate the dedication of the mother hen in our roles as nurturers, ensuring that our homes are sanctuaries of piety and taqwa. Through unwavering commitment, adherence to Islamic values, and constant vigilance, may we navigate this season while safeguarding our families from the pitfalls that threaten their spiritual well-being.