

Family members caring for loved ones

By Faisal Ally

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Parts of this report were taken from other reports previously published in the Diverse City Magazine.

Disclaimer: The researcher/writer of this article is not offering any advice, but is only providing information that's available to the public, along with some of his opinions and views. Reports may get updated, and links may change. If there are errors, once the writer becomes aware of them, he will carry out further research on the topics and make necessary updates and or clarifications. The writer noticed that many articles on Martins had different information.

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Section I - Caring is our responsibility

As a boy in Guyana I saw how people took care of each other. Some had full time jobs and others didn't have jobs. Some faced illness. Some were elders with their own sufferings and need caring. Everyone in the household contributed to that caring. It was not the or a business for the elders, but normally always the person was cared for at home amongst family members. There are always exceptions; some do not have anyone to care for them or the illness may be very severe that other options has to be taken, but in general most are cared for at home amongst family members until they die. And no body got paid to carry out that caring, nor did they receive anything for the government. It was often a shared responsibility. Not that they though of it that way, but it was a normal process to provide the time to provide care. As far as I remember, nobody got paid to carry out that caring. Its done out of love, and also it's a duty and a responsibility for family members. And today, I certainly do not get paid by anyone or by the government to care my mom. I do it out of love. It's also our duty and our responsibility. I'm not here to judge anybody, as I understand that there are times when other options are taken. Everyone has to decide what they are capable of, and of course when all the load falls on one person or on one couple, that breaks down the people involved. So it should always be a shared responsibility amongst family members.

Section II - An innate love for our parents

I had watched DVD called 'Why Man Should Recognize God' by Shaykh Khalid Yasin, who had converted from Christianity to Islam back in the 1990s who stated, 'we have an innate love for our parents, from the time we were born to the time they depart from this world, and in the same way we also have an innate love for God when we where born. That's a very important message, as I have seen many showing that love to their parents

and trying their best.

Also an important message from the Holy Quran is:

“And our of tenderness, lower to them the wing of humility, and say: “O My Lord! Bestow Your Grace upon them as they had cherished and reared me when I was a child.” (Quran, 17:24)

Where does it say that it's the government responsibility or the responsibility of an institution? Where does it say that it's always a senior's home responsibility? It clearly states that it's the children's responsibility. Often there are others involved, such as spouses, or the child or children of their children etc...and this is often done at home in the family environment. It worked great in Guyana, but I cannot say the same thing for Canada because most people are too busy working and paying bills.

Comments on the verse above

(1) When the parent was strong and the child was helpless, parental affection was showered on the child: when the child grows up and is strong, and the parent is helpless, can he do less than bestow similar tender care on the parent? (2) But more: he must approach the matter with gentle humility; for does not parental love remind him of the love with which God cherished His creatures? There is something here more than simple human gratitude: it goes up into the highest spiritual region. Another excerpt from Ref 14 is: “A strong sense of spirituality will help us face the challenges of living in today's modern world. A strong spirituality is one that enables a believer to be confident in fulfilling their religious duties wisely and responsibly. A confidence that is based on spirituality will lead to a serene heart that will help one to face and overcome the stresses of life in today's modern world...” *“Let us not be among those who forget the obligation to be kind to others, especially to our parents and family members simply because we are too tired from work or we are facing difficult problems. Be fair and do not take it out on our family members who are in need of our love, care and concern.”*

Reference 14 :readnreap.wordpress.com/2015/08/02/24-practical-islam-advice-from-quran-to-be-respectful-and-caring-to-parents/

Section III - None of us get paid to give care; we do it out of love, else it's our duty

I do not carrying out care giving to be paid. I do it out of love and it's also a duty and a responsibility. I don't get paid to do this. The government does not pay me anything to do this. I do not get any kind of credits to do this. I have to make a sacrifice; it's much easier to go out and work and earn money and buy this and that, but I know what my duties and responsibilities in life are.

Caregivers are very important. Many are paid and some are unpaid. In Guyana we didn't use terms like caregiver, because caring for an elderly or an ill family member was

normally a part of the family's responsibility, and no body got paid, everyone took care of each other.

Very often the ones taking care of family members are unpaid and give their time because of love, as in myself being a caregiver along with other family members being involved in our mom's caring and program. I also assist others in taking them to the doctor, for physio, for an outing etc...And we don't call it caregiving, we call it love. It's our duty regardless. We're all unpaid as caregivers, and I could say the same for about all families I know of that are originally from Guyana and living in places like Edmonton, Toronto, New York, Florida and other places.

Some are in positions where they cannot care for a family member at home because of situations. We may all end up in that situation, but as long as I'm alive I will do my part to my best ability. I'm not judging anyone by writing these articles. These articles are not being written to judge any of my relatives, friends or anybody. All I'm doing is sharing my experiences and our way of life with others.

We all learn from each other. For example when we were younger, we didn't understand what dementia is and the behaviors that came with it.

Section IV - Serve the creator - he told us what our responsibilities are

When we worship the creator, we are serving him, therefore in many instances worshipping is the same as saying serving. Note how the word worship and serve are used interchangeable. When you take care of your parents, orphans, giving charity to the poor etc and you are following the guidance from God, you are worshipping him, in other words you are serving him with what he asked you to. It's easily to go astray and to forget our duties. Many of us strives in the remembrance of God through out the day, else the devil and his followers can easily throw us off the straight path and make us forget our responsibilities, as the shaitan (devil) and his followers are waiting for us on the straight path to lead us astray in the way Iblis (Satan) had done to Adam.

Section V - It's a great sin and crime to abuse a person that requires care

Recently, in the in the mainstream media there have been some articles concerning the caring of a person with illnesses or an elderly person where abuse were involved. That abuse also has happened in seniors home.

Below is a recent example of where the ones that requires care are abused by the caregiver.

Care home worker jailed for abusing residents with dementia almost 40 times
<https://ca.yahoo.com/news/care-home-worker-jailed-abusing-145131940.html>
by Callum Parke, published July 3, 2023

The article states: 'A care worker has been jailed for abusing three care home residents with dementia almost 40 times.' 'Sharlene Bosita was seen on CCTV making it look like

she was about to elbow residents, slapping them with gloves and pulling and pushing them, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said.’

They are paid lots of money to provide care, yet many are not paid a penny but still provide care out of love and compassion

In the example above, the care givers are paid well provide care, yet have done a terrible job. What if that care is done by a more loving, caring and compassionate family member and that family member gets paid something, so that family member does not always have to rush out looking for some work to pay bills etc...

Conclusion

As it is, the family structure is broken badly, and it’s about time that people learn to live together take care of each other and share the responsibilities before it’s too late and each and every one of us are thrown into old folks home. I believe that’s what’s being planned for all of us. This is probably the world’s last opportunity to come together and take care of each other. 1) When the parent was strong and the child was helpless, parental affection was showered on the child: when the child grows up and is strong, and the parent is helpless, can he do less than bestow similar tender care on the parent? (2) But more: he must approach the matter with gentle humility; for does not parental love remind him of the love with which God cherished His creatures? There is something here more than simple human gratitude: it goes up into the highest spiritual region.