

## 58-Children & Youth

After having taught the Veda, the teacher instructs the pupil: 'Say what is true! Do thy duty! Do not neglect the study of the Veda! After having brought to thy teacher his proper reward, do not cut off the line of children! Do not swerve from the truth! Do not swerve from duty! Do not neglect what is useful! Do not neglect greatness! Do not neglect the learning and teaching of the Veda!

Hinduism, *Taittiriya Upanishad*, 1: 11.1

My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart always; tie them about your neck.

Judaism, *Mishlei (Proverbs)* 6: 20-21

Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching; for they are a fair garland for your head, and pendants for your neck.

Judaism, *Mishlei (Proverbs)*: 1: 8-9

Whoever does not rise when it is time to rise, who, though young and strong, is lazy, who is weak in will and thought, that lazy and idle person will not find the path of wisdom.

Buddhism, *Dhammapada* 280

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth."

Christianity, *Ephesians* 6: 1-3

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Christianity, *Timothy I* 4: 12

We have enjoined on man kindness to his parents: In pain did his mother bear him, and in pain did she give him birth. The carrying of the (child) to his weaning is (a period of) thirty months. At length, when he reaches the age of full strength and attains forty years, he says, "O my Lord! Grant me that I may be grateful for Thy favour which Thou has bestowed upon me, and upon both my parents, and that I may work righteousness such as

Thou mayest approve; and be gracious to me in my issue. Truly have I turned to Thee and truly do I bow (to Thee) in Islam.

Islam, *Qur'án* 46: 15

At the outset of every endeavour, it is incumbent to look to the end of it. Of all the arts and sciences, set the children to studying those which will result in advantage to man, will ensure his progress and elevate his rank. Thus the noisome odours of lawlessness will be dispelled, and thus through the high endeavours of the nation's leaders, all will live cradled, secure and in peace.

Bahá'i, Bahá'u'lláh,  
*Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 168-169

While the children are yet in their infancy feed them from the breast of heavenly grace, foster them in the cradle of all excellence, rear them in the embrace of bounty. Give them the advantage of every useful kind of knowledge. Let them share in every new and rare and wondrous craft and art. Bring them up to work and strive, and accustom them to hardship. Teach them to dedicate their lives to matters of great import, and inspire them to undertake studies that will benefit mankind.

Baha'i, 'Abdu'l-Bahá  
*Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, p. 129