

**MAL'AKH'S PSYCHOPATHIC GUILT AS SEEN IN DAN BROWN'S  
*THE LOST SYMBOL***

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Gaining the Degree of  
Bachelor in English Literature



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## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this research is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other writers opinions or findings included in this graduating paper are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, 24 January 2017



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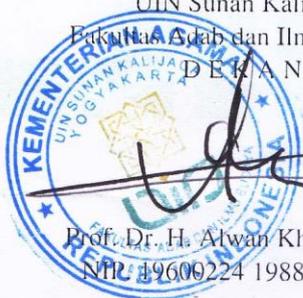
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*Assalamualaikum Wr. Wb.*

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Saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi sebagai syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatian yang diberikan, saya ucapkan terimakasih.

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## Abstract

Psychopath, one of the personality disorder, in modern literature, some novelists attempt to bring psychopath theme on their imaginary world. One of the novelists who take this theme is Dan Brown in *The Lost Symbol*, Mal'akh. As depicted in the novel, Mal'akh has done violence that tends to be psychopathic. This research aims to figure out how Mal'akh is portrayed in *The Lost Symbol* in terms of psychopathic guilt, as narrated in the novel. This graduating paper is a qualitative research, specifically done by library research. The research is done by reading the novel repeatedly to analyze the characteristic of Mal'akh. The main source of data is the text of *The Lost Symbol* novel itself. The primary object of the research is the main antagonist, Malakh, and his tendency to psychopath which is analyzed from his action in the novel. In order to answer the problem statements the writer applies the Theory of Guilt by Kalu Singh, that particularly focuses on guilt, seen by "Father-son fighting" as the residue of Oedipus Complex. From this research, it is comprehended that there are thirteen incident of father-son fighting by showing action, one incident of father-son fighting seen by telling actions, one incident of father-son fighting seen by sign and lack of remorse or guilt of Mal'akh. According to the theory, Mal'akh has lack remorse or guilt which is why he is categorized as psychopath.

**Keyword:** *father-son fighting, lack of remorse or guilt, psychopath*

## Abstrak

Psikopath, salah satu penyakit kepribadian, dalam literature modern, beberapa novelis mencoba membawa tema psikopat dalam dunia imajinasi mereka. Salah satu novelis yang menggunakan tema ini adalah Dan Brown dalam *The Lost Symbol*, Mal'akh. Seperti yang digambarkan di dalam novel, Mal'akh melakukan kekerasan yang cenderung ke penderita psikopat. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendapatkan bagaimana Mal'akh digambarkan di *The Lost Symbol* dalam istilah rasa bersalah seorang psikopat. Skripsi ini menggunakan penelitian kualitatif, secara spesifik menggunakan penelitian perpustakaan. Penelitian ini diselesaikan dengan membaca novel berulang ulang untuk menganalisa karakteristik dari Mal'akh. Data utama dari skripsi ini adalah teks novel. Objek utama penelitian ini adalah tokoh utama antagonis, Mal'akh, dan kecenderungannya ke psikopat yang akan dianalisis dari aksinya di dalam novel. Untuk menjawab masalah penulis menggunakan Teori Rasa Bersalah dari Kalu Singh, terutama rasa bersalah, terlihat dari "perkelahian antara ayah dan anak" sebagai sisa dari Oedipus Komplek. Dari penelitian ini, terdiri dari tiga belas kejadian pertengkaran ayah dan anak yang terlihat dari aksi showing, satu kejadian pertengkaran ayah dan anak yang terlihat dari aksi telling, satu kejadian pertengkaran ayah dan anak yang terlihat dari aksi tanda, dan ra penyesalan atau rasa bersalah Mal'akh. Berdasarkan teori, Mal'akh memiliki ketidakadaan rasa penyesalan atau rasa bersalah dengan demikian dia dikategorikan sebagai psikopat.

**Kata kunci:** *pertengkaran antara ayah dan anak, ketidakadaan rasa menyesal atau rasa bersalah, psikopat*

## **MOTTO**

The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page

(Augustine of Hippo)

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world

(Nelson Mandela)

I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better

(Maya Angelou)

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.

(Mahatma Gandhi)

The past has no power over the present moment.

(Eckhart Tolle)

There'll be time to feel like losing our life. But do remember. You'll find

reason to hold on and go on

(Azian Septian Hardini Akita Riesnugroho)

## **DEDICATION**

**For :**

**My mother Siti Nafsiati**

**My Father Suroto**

**My husband Danu**

**My son Danis**

**My sisters Asri and Eni**

**My friends Zie, Kamesy, and Tina**

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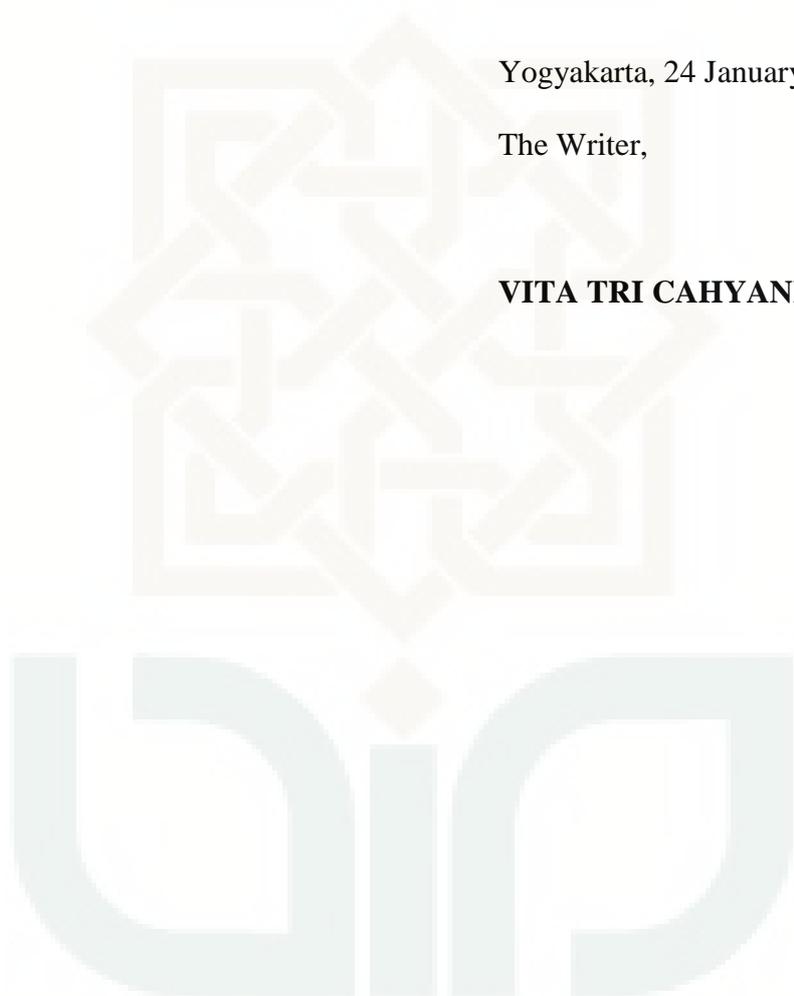
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The Writer,

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## TABLE OF CONTENT

|   |      |
|---|------|
| TITLE.....  | i    |
| A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT .....                           | ii   |
| ABSTRACT.....   | ii   |
| APPROVAL.....   | iii  |
| NOTA DINAS .....  | iv   |
| ABSTRAK .....   | v    |
| MOTTO .....   | vii  |
| DEDICATION .....  | viii |
| ACKNOWLEDMENT.....  | ix   |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS .....                                   | x    |
| CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION.....                              | 1    |
| 1.1. Background of Study .....                            | 1    |
| 1.2. Problem Statements .....                             | 4    |
| 1.3. Objective Of Study .....                             | 4    |
| 1.4. Significance Of Study .....                          | 4    |
| 1.5. Prior Research .....                                 | 4    |
| 1.6. Theoretical Approach .....                           | 5    |
| 1.7. Methods Of Research .....                            | 8    |
| 1.8. Paper Organization .....                             | 9    |
| CHAPTER II: ELEMENTS OF THE NOVEL .....                   | 10   |
| 2.1. Theme .....  | 10   |
| 2.2. Character and Characterization .....                 | 10   |
| 2.3. Plot .....   | 18   |
| 2.4. Setting .....  | 20   |
| 2.5. Point of View .....                                  | 21   |
| 2.6. Author Biography .....                               | 21   |
| CHAPTER III: DISCUSSION.....                              | 23   |
| 3.1. Father and Son Fighting Seen by Showing Action ..... | 23   |
| 3.2. Father and Son Fighting Seen by Telling Action ..... | 36   |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 3.3. Father and Son Fighting Seen by Sign.....      | 36 |
| 3.4. Guilt of Mal'akh .....                         | 37 |
| CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION .....                        | 39 |
| 4.1. Conclusion .....                               | 39 |
| 4.2. Suggestion .....                               | 39 |
| 4.3. Islamic Perspective Toward Mal'akh Guilt ..... | 40 |
| WORK CITED.....                                     | 42 |



# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background Of Study

Novel is a long prose which contains narrative story and tells about someone life and their environment. “The novel is characterized as the fictional attempt to give the effect of realism, by representing complex characters with mixed motives who are rooted in a social class, operate in a highly developed social structure, interact with many other characters, and undergo plausible and everyday modes of experience” (Abrams, 1971: 112). Novel is more interesting than movie because when we read novel, reader can imagined the characters are like and the places since novel describes them in detail. Another reason is reader read the book without worrying about running out the battery.

Novel has many genres, one of them is thriller novel. Thriller novel has a purpose to make the reader thrilling when the story is read. Thriller novel focuses on fear and anxiety story. According to A S Hornby in Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary defines that thriller novel is a novel, play or film with an exciting plot, especially one involving crime: a thriller writer (1995: 1245).

Character is the most important thing in a story. A novel will not flow without characters within the story. According to Abrams in his book Glossary of Literary Terms (1971: 21) characters are the persons, in a dramatic or narrative work, endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say—the dialogue—and what they do—the action.

Every character in a novel has different characteristics. Each of them has its own duty to build a story. “In the story the author describes the character into two, protagonist and antagonist. Protagonist character is whom our interest center, protagonist also called as hero. While antagonist character is who is pitted against important opponent” (Abrams: 1971:28).

A story have conflicts to make the plot. An antagonist character usually causes conflicts in a story.

conflict, tension, in particular conflict and tension that had been around the protagonist. Characters who cause conflicts called antagonist character. Antagonist character, maybe can called, opposition with protagonist character, direct or indirect, physical or spiritual..... cause of conflict in a novel, maybe in the form of antagonist, power of antagonist, or all at once. (Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 179)

Most recently, Dan Brown also uses the antagonist character which is described above. First two books of Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angel and Demon* uncover conspiracies within Catholic Church.

*The Lost Symbol* is written by an American writer, Dan Brown. It is one of the best seller thriller novels that was published in 2009 which also uses fascinating antagonist character to build the story.

“A masterpiece which will make you feel as if sitting on peak of Everest. Thoroughly gripping it is. With first page, this book will hook you and the pace will be as of a supersonic jet. Author with his writing takes the reader to the journey of the Dark history of Washington, introducing Masons, their rituals, secret and the ‘Truth’ ..... (Amazon.in September 13, 2015)

A thriller novel *The Lost Symbol* was published by Doubleday in September 15, 2009 that has 509 pages. In hardcover, it consists of 1 prologue, 133 chapter,

and 1 epilogue. This novel tells about the adventure Professor of symbology in Harvard University Robert Langdon in United States.

This is a popular novel. Many people like this novel. It is frequently discussed in some forums. One of them is by Janet Maslin in New York Times (September 13, 2009) says “*The Lost Symbol* manages to take a twisting, turning route through many such aspects of the occult even as it heads for a final secret that is surprising for a strange reason: It’s unsurprising. It also amounts to an affirmation of faith. In the end it is Mr. Brown’s sweet optimism, even more than Langdon’s sleuthing and explicating, that may amaze his readers most”.

From the reason above, this research is intended to discuss about one of the antagonist characters in this novel, Mal’akh, someone who is so ambitious to get something that he wants. He will do anything to achieve his dream, including doing psychopathic actions toward’s his own family, like taking his grandmother life, cutting his father’s right hand, using his aunt as human hourglass. His dream is to be in the higher spirituality level in order to be the holy one.

For his ambition Mal’akh tattooed all of his body excepts for a spot on the crown of his head. He will tattoo the spot on the crown of his head with the last symbol which is only known by Master of Freemansory. All of his tattoos are mysticism symbols. He believes that he is the chosen one. He believes that he is precious as a sacred offering.

The writer wants to examine Mal’akh’s character on his ambition and psychopath motives in terms of lack of remorse or guilt. He does psychopathic actions toward his own family to achieve his desire. This paper will analyze

Mal'akh's character by using psychoanalysis theory, specifically guilt theory by Kalu Singh to find out whether Mal'akh is a psychopath or not and the proofs that prove them.

### **1.2. Problem Statements**

How Mal'akh is portrayed in the *The Lost Symbol* in terms of psychopathic guilt?

### **1.3. Objective Of Study**

Based on the problem statement, the objectives of study are:

To find out Mal'akh is portrayed in the *The Lost Symbol* in terms of psychopathic guilt.

### **1.4. Significance Of Study**

This research serves some significances, those are:

1. Theoretically, it hopes that this research can be used as helpful reference for everybody who is interested in characters who has mental disorder especially psychopath in term lack of remorse or guilt.
2. Practically, this research can be used to understand that many aspect can be analyzed from novel, one of them is character who has different characteristic in every story.

### **1.5. Prior Research**

The first prior research is a graduating paper from Vita Utami Putri Rani in 2015 from Gunadarma University entitled *The Analysis of Mal'akh Personality Growth in a Novel The Lost Symbol*. This paper uses Adler's individual

psychological theory to identify the growth of Ma'akh since he is a child until the end of his life.

The second prior research is a thesis from Irna Nur Faidah in 2015 from Brawijaya University entitled *Zachary Solomon's Aggressions In Achieving Apotheosis Depicted In Dan Brown's The Lost Symbol*. This research uses Maslow's hierarchy of needs and aggression theory to identify several kinds of Zachary's aggression in achieving his apotheosis.

The third prior research is a thesis from Raditya Putri Budi Rizkyanita in 2013 from Brawijaya University entitled *The Manifestation Of Mal'akh As The Archetypal Ancient Mythology In Dan Brown's The Lost Symbol*. This research use archetypes theory by Carl G. Jung to show the manifestation of Mal'akh archetypes and to analyze the portrayal of Mal'akh's archetypes as the representation of his images through his collective unconscious.

Three prior researches above take Mal'akh as their research objects. The writer also uses Mal'akh characteristic in her paper but using guilty theory by Kalu Singh to examine Mal'akh's character who has mental disorder in Dan Brown *The Lost Symbol*.

### **1.6. Theoretical Approach**

Since this research aims to analyze Mal'akh's characteristics, the writer uses the theory of guilt according to Kalu Singh; 'Guilt' is a concept that form part of matrix to do with moral division and reunion: 'transgression', 'fault', 'accusation', 'blame', 'plea', 'shame', 'contrition', 'remorse', 'repentance', 'apology',

‘punishment’, ‘revenge’, ‘forgiveness’, ‘reparation’, ‘reconciliation’ (Singh, 2000: 5).

| <b>Matrix</b> | <b>Definition According to Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary</b>  | <b>Sources</b>     |
|---------------|--|--------------------|
| Transgression | A person who transgress. Transgress: to go beyond the limit of what is morally or legally acceptable.  | Hornby, 1995: 1270 |
| Fault         | An aspect of something that is wrong or not perfect.   | Hornby, 1995: 424  |
| Accusation    | A statement accusing person of a fault.  | Hornby, 1995: 9    |
| Blame         | Something on somebody to consider or say that somebody is responsible for something bad.   | Hornby, 1995: 111  |
| Plea          | An urgent emotional request.   | Hornby, 1995: 885  |
| Shame         | Feeling of distress and regret as a result of one’s own wrongdoing, failure, foolish behavior, etc or that of people one is associated with. | Hornby, 1995: 1081 |
| Contrition    | Filled with or showing deep regret for hving done wrong  | Hornby, 1995: 252  |
| Remorse       | Deep regret for having done something wrong  | Hornby, 1995: 990  |

|                |   |                      |
|----------------|---|----------------------|
| Repentance     | Regret or sorrow for something bad hat one has done                                       | Hornby,<br>1995: 992 |
| Apology        | A word or statement to say one is sorry for having done something wrong or for upsetting. | Hornby,<br>1995: 46  |
| Punishment     | The action of punishing somebody or of being punished.                                    | Hornby,<br>1995: 941 |
| Revenge        | Deliberate punishment or injury inflicted in return for what one has suffered.            | Hornby,<br>1995: 463 |
| Reparation     | The action of compensating for wrong or damage done.                                      | Hornby,<br>1995: 992 |
| Reconciliation | An end of disagreement.   | Hornby,<br>1995: 463 |

It is at the next developmental stage that ‘guilt’ is introduced, forming the negative of the dichotomous pair with ‘initiative’. The guilt here is once again the nameless residue of the Oedipal situation. What the child must relinquish is the desire to know its mother’s body, transforming it into a desire to know the non-mother world (Singh, 2000: 49).

Given the theoretical primacy of the Oedipus complex, it is interesting that there are, in reality, very few narratives of fathers and sons fighting. There seems to be an asymmetry in the sense of a right to self-defence in the fight between fathers and sons. The son knows intuitively that he needs the father to be alive to give him a self he can defend and live with (Singh, 2000:52)

## 1.7. Methods Of Research

### 1. Types of Research

The writer chooses qualitative research to analyze this novel since the research is supported by some materials from books. Typically, more flexible – that is, they allow greater spontaneity and adaptation of the interaction between the researcher and the study participant. (Mack, 2005: 4)

### 2. Source of Data

In the qualitative research, there are two data sources: primary data and secondary data. Primary data is the main data which gathered for some specific purposes while secondary data is the supporting data. The main data of this research is the texts of Dan Brown's novel, *The Lost Symbol* which contain the psychopath actions (showing and telling) and sign of psychopath actions of Mal'akh in term of lack remorse or guilt. The secondary data is another references which explain about *The Lost Symbol*, character, and personality disorder.

According to Abram, action can describe into two those are showing and telling. A broad distinction is frequently made between alternative methods available to an author in "characterizing" a person in a narrative, showing and telling. In showing (also called "the dramatic method" the author merely present his characters talking and acting and leaves the reader to infer what motives and dispositions lie behind what they say and do. In telling, the author himself intervenes authoritatively in order to describe, and often to evaluate, the motives and dispositional qualities of his characters. (Abrams, 1971:21)

### 3. Method of Collecting Data

The first method is writer reading the novel repeatedly and then taking a note to some parts which is supporting the data that writer needs, like the

psychopath action including showing action and telling action and sign of psychopath actions in terms of lack of remorse or guilt of Mal'akh from the texts. The writer also reads other supporting data that related to this research.

#### 4. Method of Analysis

The data of this research will be analyzed descriptively using Guilt theory to analyze Mal'akh personality in terms of lack of remorse or guilt. The main goal of this type of research is to get the conclusion whether Mal'akh a psychopath or not in terms of lack of remorse or guilt.

### **1.8. Paper Organization**

Paper organization is divided to four chapter; Chapter I is introduction. Introduction consists of Background of Study, Problem Statement, Objective of Study, Significance of Study, Literary Review, Theoretical Approach, Method of Research and Paper Organization. Chapter II is Discussion, this chapter discusses about intrinsic element of this novel such as theme, character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view. Chapter III is Analysis and the last chapter is Conclusion.

## CHAPTER IV

### 4.1. Conclusion

After doing the research it can be seen that Zachary Solomon (Mal'akh) is someone who lives in a loving and wealthy family. He lives in sufficiency. After his father (Peter Solomon) leaves him in prison to teach him about life he begins to hate his father. After escaping from the prison he begins his new life with a new ambition. He wants to be God. He commits horrible acts beyond common sense in order to achieve his goal without feeling guilty.

According to Theory of Guilt Mal'akh done thirteen incidents of son father fighting by showing action, one incident of son father fighting by telling action, and one incident of son father fighting seen by sign. All incidents prove that Mal'akh is someone who has lack remorse or guilt. He does crimes to his own family and another people but does not show his remorse or even sympathy. Lack of remorse or guilt is actually one of the characteristics of psychopaths. So it can be concluded that Mal'akh is a psychopath.

### 4.2. Suggestion

Based on analysis of the novel, the writer wants to give suggestions to the reader, those are:

1. It is suggested that people are allowed to have ambition but not too much and do not sacrifice another people.
2. It is suggested that bad ambition only damages ourselves and another people.
3. It is suggested being a prodigal person
4. It is suggested to respect and care about the parent who have given birth and raise child.

### 4.3. Islamic Perspective Toward Mal'akh Character

Islam is a peaceful religion. That is why Islam forbids to slay one and others. Human is ordered to keep alive another human. Al-Qoran, as the guiding of Moslem, clearly state this prohibition in Al-Maaidah 32:

مِنْ أَجْلِ ذَلِكَ كَتَبْنَا عَلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنَّهُ مَن قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَلَقَدْ جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ ثُمَّ إِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنْهُمْ بَعَدَ ذَلِكَ فِي الْأَرْضِ لَمُسْرِفُونَ ۝ ٣٢ [سورة

المائدة, ٣٢]

48

32. For this reason did We prescribe to the children of Israel that **whoever slays a soul, unless it be for manslaughter or for mischief in the land, it is as though he slew all men; and whoever keeps it alive, it is as though he kept alive all men;** and certainly Our messengers came to them with clear arguments, but even after that many of them certainly act extravagantly in the land. [Al Ma'idah32]

Based on that verse, it is seen that Islam truly cares and respects about human life. Every people has their own right to live on this earth. None has no rights to take other's life away for any reasons.

In regards to respecting the prents, Al-Qor'an has also mentioned the command as stated in Al-Israa' 23;

﴿وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أُفٍّ وَلَا تَنْهَرَهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا ۝ ٢٣ [سورة

الإسراء, ٢٣]

23. And your Lord has commanded that you shall not serve (any) but Him, **and goodness to your parents. If either or both of them reach old age with you, say not to them (so much as) "Ugh" nor chide them, and speak to them a generous word.** [Al Isra"23]

In the verse seen above, all Moslem are obliged to love and care about parents. People are also forbidden to be a prodigal child. We must take care of them in good manner. They have also taken care of child since people are young up till people grow up. Indeed, saying "Ugh" to our parents is not allowed. Islam teaches us to spak softly and politely to parents.



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