HONORING ONE'S PARENTS: The difference between 'respect' and 'honor'.

Today is the 22nd of Av, 5770

In The Torah there are two Mitzvot which regulate children/parents relationship. The first one is *kabbed et abikha ve-et imekha* "**Honor your father and your mother**".
This important Mitzva is the fifth of the Ten Commandments. There is a second Mitzva (*vaikra* –Leviticus- 19, 3) *ish immo veabiv tira'u* "**A man should fear/respect his mother and his father**". These two Mitzvot are different from each other and actually complement each other.
'**Honoring**' includes all what **we must do for our** parents: watch them and when necessary feed them and help them to get dress, take them out, drive them, etc. In other words: take good care of them.
'**Respect**', on the other side, is about what **we are not allowed to do** to our parents: we can't call our parents by their name, we can't sit in their seat, we can't contradict them, etc.
In a practical sense, the Mitzvah of '**respect**' applies **mainly** when we are young and we depend on our parents. A Jewish child observes a strict system of discipline and behavior which trains him to accept authority.
The second Mitzva, **honoring**, applies **mainly** when our parents are older, and (or when) they depend on us. We have a direct obligation to take good care of them. This Mitzva emphasizes the duty of gratitude and payback for those who fed us, dressed us, and took care of us when **we** were children.