

## **Good Manners (Good Behaviour) To The Highest Perfection.**

All praise are due to Allah and I bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except for Allah and I bear witness that Mohammad (p.b.u.h) is His servant and messenger.

Brothers and sisters in Islam,

Good manners, good behaviour and good conduct has no limitation when it comes to practise in daily life because it is there in every aspect of the Muslims day to day life. Good conduct can determine the Muslims level of faith (imaan). Reported by Imam Al-Tirmidhi (r.a), Abbu Hurairah (r.a) relates that Allah's Messenger (p.b.u.h) said:

*"The most perfect of believers in respect of their faith are those whose behaviour is most excellent and the best of you are those who behave best towards their wives."*

A commentary says that this hadith brings in to light the corollary of faith and complaisant manners. We may put it in this way, that the degree of a mans excellent behaviour determines the degree of his faith. Or the sublimity of faith calls for the sublimity of morals. Similarly, a man who is polite and courteous to his wife will be considered as the best. Good manners are the character of all Prophets led by Prophet Mohammad (p.b.u.h) to whom Allah has said, -meaning:

*"And verily, you (O Muhammad) are on an exalted standard of character (high moral excellence) – 68/4".*

And since the Prophet (p.b.u.h) is our leader, our teacher and our exemplar, we must follow and imitate His conduct both in words and in actions in order to get nearer to Him on the Day of Judgement and attract His love.

Imam Al-Tirmidhi (r.a), reported that Jabir (r.a.) relates that Allah's Messenger (p.b.u.h) said:

*"The dearest and nearest among you to me on the Day of the Judgement will be those who are the best behaved of you (the best of you in manner)."*

Brother and sisters in Islam, a muslim should apply good manner to all his dealings and conducts and with all people, muslims and non-muslims alike, with neighbours, work colleagues, school peers, business customers, shopkeepers, street walkers, park visitors, the young and the old, men and women, even animals and plants, friends, relatives and family members. Islamic teachings has included and covered all the above and more.

In fact, good behaviour can also help the muslim to reach the high rank achieved by worshippers through constant and continuous Ibadat such as voluntary salat and saum (voluntary prayer and fast) without having to do as much nafil salat and saum as they did. Reported by Imam Abu Daud (r.a.), Aisha (r.a) relates that she heard Allah's Messenger saying:

*“A believer will attain the rank of one who fasts during the day and spends the night in salat (prayer) through his good behaviour and good conduct.”*

Good behaviour is one of the heaviest and good deeds to be put on the justice-scale on the Day of Resurrection helping the polite, courteous believer gain huge abundance of Hasanat on that needy Day.

Good manners cost nothing but pays a lot in return gift and reward. Reported by Imam Al-Tirmidhi (r.a.), Abu-Darda (r.a.) relates that the Prophet (p.b.u.h) said:

*“Nothing will be heavier in the Scale (balance) of the believer on the Day of Judgement than good manners (good behaviour). Allah hates (abhors) one who utters foul or coarse language (loose talk).”*

Brothers and sisters in Islam, one Alim said regarding good behaviour:

*“Good manners and qualities of mind and character enjoy a place of crucial importance in the structure of Islamic teachings.”*

Moral evolution and uplift was one of the main objectives for which the sacred Prophet (p.b.u.h) was raised up. The prophet (p.b.u.h) himself has said:

*“I have been sent to bring good manners (good behaviour) to the highest perfection.”*

Brothers and sisters in Islam, no one can emphasise enough the importance of good manners, good behaviour, good conduct and high morals. That is because, as some Ulema said:

*“Islam is not simply a religion but it is a complete way of life and so it gives us a code of conduct and behaviour as well as a set of rights and responsibilities for the individual and the society.”*

May Allah bestow upon His mercy and forgiveness and grant us good manner, good behaviour, respect and practice of all Islamic teachings.

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