

Good Manners in Islam

The religion of Islam has rules of etiquette and a moral code involving every aspect of life. These are applicable for the whole society; the elderly, the young, men and women. We must not forget that the Prophet ((Pbuh)) said, 'Women are the counterpart of men.' Hence, what is required of men, in adhering to Islamic manners, is required of women; for together they form the Muslim society and through them Islam is introduced and identified

Islam is a beautiful religion, full of wisdom and harmony. If this wonderful religion is followed properly then a typical Muslim would only be a great example to follow.

The Prophet never used bad language or insult. He used to say 'The best amongst you are those who have the best manners and character.'

1. Repel Evils with Good:

Allah Almighty in the Noble Quran commands us to return the evil that is done to us by others to not only with good, but with best!. **"Those who patiently persevere, seeking the countenance of their Lord; establish regular prayers; spend out of (the gifts) We have bestowed for their sustenance, secretly and openly; and turn off evil with good: for such there is the final attainment of the (Eternal) Home."** Quran 13:22, also **"Repel evil with that which is best: We are Well-acquainted with the things they say."** Quran 23:96, **"Nor can goodness and evil be equal. Repel (evil) with that is better: Then will he between whom and thee was hatred become as it were thy friend and intimate!."** Quran 41:34

"Twice will they be given their reward, for that they have persevered, that they avert evil with good, and that they spend (in charity) out of what We have given them." Quran 28:54 and **"The recompense for an injury is an injury equal thereto (in degree): but if a person forgives and makes reconciliation, his reward is due from Allah: for (Allah) Loveth not those who do wrong."** Quran 42:40

Whether people speak evil of you, in your presence or behind your back, or they do evil to you in either of those ways, all is known to Allah Almighty. It is not for you to punish. Your best course is not to do evil in your turn, but to do what will best repel the evil. Two evils do not make a good.

You do not return good for evil, for there is no equality or comparison between the two. You repel or destroy evil with something which is far better, just as an antidote is better than poison. You foil hatred with love. You repel ignorance with knowledge, folly and wickedness with the friendly message of Revelation. The man who was in bondage of sin, you not only liberate from sin, but make him your greatest friend and helper in the cause of Allah Almighty!. Such is the alchemy of the Word of Allah Almighty!. Your credit for returning evil with good and paying for charity is double. Also if you forgive and return the evil with good, then Allah Almighty will love you and reward you.

2. Consult the Group for Decision:

"It is part of the Mercy of Allah that thou dost deal gently with them. Wert thou severe or harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about thee: so pass over (their faults), and ask for (Allah's) forgiveness for them; and consult them in affairs (of moment). Then, when thou hast taken a decision, put thy trust in Allah. For Allah loves those who put their trust (in Him)." Quran, 3:159

3. Be Generous

"Those who spend (freely), whether in prosperity, or in adversity; who restrain anger, and pardon (all) men; for Allah loves those who do good." Quran, 3:134

4. Turn Away from Ignorant

"Hold to forgiveness; command what is right; but turn away from the ignorant." Quran, 7:199

"And when they hear vain talk, they turn away there from and say: 'To us our deeds, and to you yours; peace be to you: we seek not the ignorant.'" Quran, 28:55

5. No Vain Talking or Foul Language:

Muslims are commanded to stay away from vain talkers. According to the Quran, any vain talk or foul language are prohibited. Muslims must always stay away from vain talkers. Those who participate with them will be from among them, and will face a great punishment.

"When thou seest men engaged in vain discourse about Our signs, turn away from them unless they turn to a different theme. If Satan ever makes thee forget, then after recollection, sit not thou in the company of those who do wrong" Quran, 6:68

"And when they hear vain talk, they turn away therefrom and say: 'To us our deeds, and to you yours; peace be to you: we seek not the ignorant.'" Quran, 28:55

"So leave them to plunge in vain talk and play about, until they encounter that Day of theirs which they have been promised!" Quran, 70:42

"(The sinners will say:) 'But we used to talk vanities with vain talkers;'" Quran, 74:45)

The Prophet said, "Whoever has the following four (characteristics) will be a pure hypocrite and whoever has one of the following four characteristics will have one characteristic of hypocrisy unless and until he gives it up.

1. Whenever he is entrusted, he betrays.
2. Whenever he speaks, he tells a lie.
3. Whenever he makes a covenant, he proves treacherous.
4. Whenever he quarrels, he behaves in a very imprudent, evil and insulting manner."

6. Be Kind and Just with Non-Muslims:

"Allah forbids you not, With regard to those who Fight you not for (your) Faith Nor drive you out Of your homes, From dealing kindly and justly With them: For Allah loveth Those who are just" Quran, 60:8

The Muslim needs to always be polite, humble, patient, loving and well mannered when he/she deals with others, whether they were Muslims or non-Muslims. Allah Almighty certainly doesn't love those who are offensive and rude to others.

7. Be Courteous and Always Greet People

Allah Almighty in the Noble Quran commands us to return a greeting with a better one or at least an equal one. We must maintain the high standards in manners and always be the best examples. **"When a (courteous) greeting is offered you, meet it with a greeting still more courteous, or (at least) of equal courtesy. Allah takes careful account of all things."** Quran 4:86

8. Respects and Honour Neighbour and The Guests:

Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) said, "Anybody who believes in Allah and the Last Day should not harm his neighbor, and anybody who believes in Allah and the Last Day should entertain his guest generously and anybody who believes in Allah and the Last Day should talk what is good or keep quiet. (i.e. abstain from all kinds of evil and dirty talk)"

9. Respecting Others' Properties:

Allah Almighty commands us to respect people's properties and not to be transgressors. **"O ye believe! Enter not houses other than your own, until ye have asked permission and saluted those in them: that is best for you, in order that ye may heed (what is seemly). If ye find no one in the house, enter not until permission is given to you: if ye are asked to go back, go back: That makes for greater purity for yourselves: and Allah Knows well all that ye do."** Quran 24:27-28

The conventions of propriety and privacy are essential to a refined life of goodness and purity. The English saying that an Englishman's home is his castle, suggests a certain amount of exclusiveness and defiance. The Muslim principle of asking respectful permission and exchanging salutations ensures privacy without exclusiveness and friendliness without undue familiarity.

That is, if no one replies: there may be people in the house not in a presentable state. Or, even if the house is empty, you have no right to enter it until you obtain the owner's permission, wherever he may be. The fact of your not receiving a reply does not entitle you to enter without permission.

10. Do not be a Stuck-up!

Allah Almighty commands us not to be stuck-up. He commands Muslims to be laid back and down to earth type of people. **"Nor walk on the earth with insolence: for thou can not rend the earth asunder, nor reach the mountains in height."** Quran17: 37

"And swell not thy cheek (for pride) at men, nor walk in insolence through the earth; for God loveth not any arrogant boaster." Quran, 31:18

Insolence, or arrogance, or undue elation at our powers or capacities, is the first step to many evils. Besides, it is unjustified. All our gifts are from Allah Almighty.

11. No Offensive Name-calling or Looking Down on Others!

"O you who believe! Let not a group scoff at another group; it may be that the latter are better than the former. Nor let (some) women scoff at other women, it may be that the latter are better than the former. Nor defame one another, nor insult one another by nicknames. How bad is it to insult one's brother after having Faith (i.e. to call your Muslim brother (a faithful believer) as: "O sinner", or "O wicked"). And whosoever does not repent, then such are indeed wrong-doers, etc.)" Quran, 49:11

12. Be loved by people

Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) said 'If Allah loves a person, He calls Gabriel, saying, 'Allah loves so and so, O Gabriel love him' So Gabriel would love him and then would make an announcement in the Heavens: 'Allah has loved so and-so therefore you should love him also.' So all the dwellers of the Heavens would love him, and then he is granted the pleasure of the people on the earth.

13. Always be Clean and Fresh

If a person has a bad breath or body smell, then he not only will harm his fellow Muslims, but also the angels as well. Notice that the first Saying of our beloved Prophet is not just limited to bad breath. Any type of bad smell that comes out of a person is not accepted. This could be the smell of bad body sweat, morning breath, etc....

These people should not come close to other Muslims or the Mosques. For that reason, we were asked to keep clean by bathing and brushing of the teeth as much as we can

14. Never Brag About His sins.

Muslims need to watch out from being proud and bragging about sins they have committed to gain worldly publicity and reputation among people. Allah Almighty will not forgive such sins. The Prophet (Pbuh) said, "All the sins of my followers will be forgiven except those of the Mujahirin (those who commit a sin openly or disclose their sins to the people)".

If you have committed a sin in secret, then keep it in secret, unless of course you feel that you need to seek help and talk about it with a friend or loved one, or feel that you must share your problem with somebody. We all make mistakes and we all sin. Allah Almighty Understands and Knows. But what He doesn't like is for you to go around and spread evil to the people and advertising sins and tempting people to commit them.

All sins can be forgiven in Islam, except associating partners with Allah Almighty: **"God forgiveth not that partners should be set up with Him;** but He forgiveth anything else, to whom He pleaseth; to set up partners with God is to devise a sin Most heinous indeed." Quran 4:48

15. Control Your Rage

Prophet Muhammad said "The strong-man is not one who wrestles well but the strong man is one who controls himself when he is in a fit of rage".

16. Does not Nurse Hatred, Jealousy or Enmity to His Brother in Islam

Prophet Muhammad said "Neither nurse mutual hatred, nor jealousy, nor enmity, and become as fellow brothers and servants of Allah. It is not lawful for a Muslim that he should keep his relations estranged with his brother beyond three days."

17. Be Kind to the Parent

"Thy Lord hath decreed that ye worship none but Him, and that ye be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in thy life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honour. And, out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility, and say: "My Lord! bestow on them thy Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood." Quran 17:23-24

"And We have enjoined on man (to be good) to his parents: in travail upon travail did his mother bear him, and in years twain was his weaning: (hear the command), "Show gratitude to Me and to thy parents: to Me is (thy final) Goal." Quran 31:14

18. Does Not Kill Innocent Life

"Nor take life - which God has made sacred - except for just cause. And if anyone is slain wrongfully, we have given his heir authority (to demand justice or to forgive): but let him nor exceed bounds in the matter of taking life; for he is helped (by the Law)." Quran 17:33

"On that account: We ordained for the Children of Israel that if any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people: and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people. Then although there came to them Our apostles with clear signs, yet, even after that, many of them continued to commit excesses in the land." Quran 5:32

"Fight in the cause of God those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for God loveth not transgressors." Quran 2:190

"But if the enemy incline towards peace, do thou (also) incline towards peace, and trust in God: for He is One that heareth and knoweth (all things)." Quran 8:61

19. Shall not Commit Adultery

"Those who invoke not, with God, any other god, nor slay such life as God has made sacred except for just cause, nor commit fornication; - and any that does this (not only) meets punishment." Quran 25:68

"Nor come nigh to adultery: for it is a shameful (deed) and an evil, opening the road (to other evils)." Quran 17:32

20. Shall not steal

"As to the thief, Male or female, cut off his or her hands: a punishment by way of example, from God, for their crime: and God is Exalted in power. But if the thief repents after his crime, and amends his conduct, God turneth to him in forgiveness; for God is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." Quran 5:38-39

21. Shall not Cause Injustice

"O ye who believe! Stand out firmly For justice, as witnesses To Allah, even as against Yourself, or your parents, Or your kin, and whether It be (against) rich or poor: For Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (Of your hearts), lest ye Swerve, and if ye Distort (justice) or decline To do justice, verily Allah is well-acquainted With all that ye do. Quran 4:135

"O ye who believe! Stand out firmly For Allah, as witnesses To fair dealing, and let not The hatred of others To you make you swerve To wrong and depart from Justice. Be just: that is Next to Piety: and fear Allah. For Allah is well-acquainted With all that ye do." Quran 5:8