

## Good manners is a result of a strong belief in God

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 25 April 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

Oh Muslims,

The strong and true belief in God is a force to restrain you from the bad of both actions and speech; it is also a motive for every noble deed. That is why when the Quran directs Muslims to do good or avoid bad, it reminds them of their belief:

"O you who believe! Fear God, and (always) say a word directed to the Right"  
(alahzab 70)

"O you who believe! Let not some men among you laugh at others" (alhujurat 11)

"O you who believe! Fear God and be with those who are true" (altawbah 119)

and how that belief should remind them that God is their lord, Islam is their religion and Muhammad (pbuh) is their prophet.

A strong belief will create pleasant and kind manners whereas weak belief is a direct cause of the collapse of every good manner.

Some people came to the Prophet (pbuh) and said: "O God's messenger a lady is known to pray, fast and gives a lot of charity, but she harms her neighbours with her tongue." So the Prophet replied: "She is in Hell" Then it was mentioned to the Prophet that a lady was known for basic prayers, fasting and charity, but she did not harm her neighbours. So the Prophet said: "She is in Heaven".

The Prophet (pbuh) said, "By God, he is not a believer! By God, he is not a believer! By God, he is not a believer." It was asked, "Who is that, O Messenger of God?" He said, "One whose neighbour does not feel safe from his evil". [Bukhari and Muslim].

The lesson here applies to everyone with bad behaviour - the severest punishment awaits the one who has bad manners and this is a shameful description for the one who mistreats the people around him.

This guidance from the prophet (pbuh) is a great lesson of the importance of good manners; it is a warning not to neglect the rights between people even though you appear to be fulfilling your basic worships and doing extra worships - this might not benefit you if you have bad manners which contradict with the true manners of Islam. Prophet (pbuh) said: "Many people who fast get nothing from their fast except hunger and thirst, and many people who pray at night get nothing from it except wakefulness" and "Whoever does not leave evil talk and working according to it, then God does not need him to leave his food and drink". On the other hand he said (pbuh): "A person can reach the level of a person who prays all night and fasts all day just because of his good manners."

Stressing upon the same meaning, the Prophet (pbuh) once asked his Companions: do you know who the bankrupt is?" They said, "The bankrupt is the one who has no money and no possessions." He said, "Among my ummah, the one who is bankrupt is the one who will come on the Day of Resurrection with prayer and fasting and zakah (to his credit), but he will come having insulted this one, slandered that one, consumed the wealth of this one and shed the blood of that one, and beaten that one. So they will all be given some of his *hasanaat*, and when his *hasanaat* run out, before judgement is passed, some of their sins will be taken and cast onto him, and then he will be cast into the Fire." (Muslim)

It is like a trader who has a stock worth £1,000 but has a debt of £2,000, so he is a loser!

Prophet (pbuh) said: (The signs of a hypocrite are three: Whenever he speaks he tells a lie; whenever he is entrusted he proves dishonest; whenever he promises he breaks his promise (even if he prays, fasts and claims that he is Muslim)" and "Four traits whoever possesses them is a hypocrite and whoever possesses some of them has an element of hypocrisy until he leaves it: the one who when he speaks he lies, when he promises he breaks his promise, when he disputes he transgresses and when he makes an agreement he violates it. [Bukhari and Muslim].

How many of us are claiming to be Muslim and non muslims who are claiming to follow a religion, yet they commit acts which do not match with the noble manners of true belief. What is the value of belief which does not reflect good manners!! And what is the meaning of striving and corrupting in this life while claiming to be Muslim or religious!! How many Muslims and supposed religious people today commit cheating, fraud, deception and lying! How many Muslims today lie when they sell, do not do their best at work and they regard not the ties, either of kinship or of covenant with people around them!

Islam is noble manners - whenever your belief increase then your good manners will increase, our prophet (pbuh) summarised his whole message by saying: "Indeed, I was sent for no other reason, except to perfect the noble traits of character"

The Muslim who performs his worship without getting affected by them must have a weak belief. Acts of worships should restrain you from evil deeds, correct your actions and civilise your character because acts of worship should plant how to be aware of God the almighty inside you in every situation - if they don't then they are nothing but physical acts with no spirit:

"Recite what is sent of the Book by inspiration to thee, and establish regular Prayer: for Prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds; and remembrance of God is the greatest (thing in life) without doubt. And God knows the (deeds) that you do" (Al-Ankaboot 45)

## Second Khutba

The corruption that muslims have these days is from their own doing. Our weak faith is reflected in our daily life. If our faith was true and strong then our situation would change -

"Abu Bakr said: God's Messenger, when we are in your company, we are reminded of Hell-Fire and Paradise as if we are seeing them with our own eyes, but whenever we go away from you and attend to our wives, children and business, much of these things go out of our minds. Thereupon God's Messenger (may peace be upon him) said: By Him in Whose Hand is my life, if your state of mind remains the same as it is in my presence and you are always busy in remembrance (of God), the Angels will shake hands with you in your beds and in your paths but, Hanzala, time should be devoted (to the worldly affairs) and time (should be devoted to prayer and meditation). He (the Holy Prophet) said this thrice." [Sahih Muslim]