

“I Have Only Been Sent to
Perfect Good Manners”

Prophet (PBUH)

Muslim Character

Month of Rabi-al-Awwal. Seerah of the Prophet (PBUH) is in people's minds. If we love the Prophet (PBUH), we should be thinking of his Seerah and applying it to our life all the time. Manners or Character is one of the most important aspect of Seerah that we need to emulate.

Yahya related that Prophet (PBUH) said "I Have Only Been Sent to Perfect Good Manners" (Malik)

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ 68:4

And indeed, you are upon a noble conduct, an exemplary manner (Al-Qalam 68/4)

Best Nation

Al- Imran

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ 3:110

YOU ARE indeed the best community that has ever been brought forth for [the good of] mankind:

Are we behaving like the best of people. Do other people think we are the best of character. If not, we need to see why?

Good neighbor example.

Muslims behaving like Muslims

Dealings with Each Other

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أَشِدَّاءُ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ رُحَمَاءُ بَيْنَهُمْ تَرَاهُمْ رُكَّعًا سُجَّدًا يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانًا سِيمَاهُمْ فِي وُجُوهِهِمْ مِّنْ أَثَرِ السُّجُودِ ذَلِكَ مَثَلُهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَمَثَلُهُمْ فِي الْإِنْجِيلِ كَزَرْعٍ أَخْرَجَ شَطْأَهُ فَآزَرَهُ فَاسْتَغْلَظَ فَاسْتَوَىٰ عَلَىٰ سُوقِهِ يُعْجِبُ الزُّرَّاعَ لِيغِيظَ بِهِمُ الْكُفَّارَ وَعَدَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ مِنْهُمْ مَغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا (48:29)

48:29 MUHAMMAD is Allah's Apostle; and those who are [truly] with him are firm and unyielding towards all deniers of the truth, [yet] full of mercy towards one another. You can see them bowing down, prostrating themselves [in prayer], seeking favour with Allah and [His] goodly acceptance: their marks are on their faces, traced by prostration.

Are we acting with mercy with each other? How do we deal with workers and scholars?

Prophet is a model

His character was an excellent example, model to be imitated, and symbol of respect and admiration.

Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) - 33:21

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا (33:21)

33:21 VERILY, in the Apostle of God you have a good example for everyone who looks forward [with hope and awe] to God and the Last Day, and remembers God unceasingly. [24]

Yazid ibn Yabnus said, "We went to 'A'isha and said, 'Umm al-Mu'minin, what was the character of the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, like?' She replied, 'His character was the Qur'an.

Prophet's (PBUH) Mission in the Making

Prophet (PBUH) worked with his people for 40 years before bringing them the message.

He established his great character and earned two titles Al-Sadiq and Al- Amin. He managed to avoid a major tribal conflict in Makkah while they were repairing the K'abaa and it was time to replace the Black Stone. It was only because he was known for his character.

You can earn all sort of bad nicknames but to earn a title such as Al-Sadiq and Al- Amin must have required effort. Such was the character of our Prophet PBUH.

Poet Said

إِنَّمَا الْأُمَمُ الْأَخْلَاقُ مَا بَقِيَتْ

فَإِنْ زَهَبَتْ أَخْلَاقُهُمْ زَهَبُوا

Indeed nations continue to exist with moral standards, and they cease to exist the moment their moral standards are lost.

Does this not describe us?

Rights of Parents

I-Isra (The Journey by Night) - 17:23

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا آفٌ وَلَا تُنْهَرْهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا
(17:23)

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. - 17:23

Al-Isra (The Journey by Night) - 17:24

وَاحْفَظْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذُّلِّ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا
(17:24)

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." - 17:24

Take care of the elderly. If your kids see you take care of them now, they will Insha'Allah be there for you. Someone takes care of his father even if he is abusive. Because the father took care of the mother.

An-Nisa (The Women) - 4:36

وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَبِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَالْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْجَارِ الْجُنُبِ وَالصَّاحِبِ بِالْجَنبِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ مَن كَانَ مُخْتَالًا فَخُورًا
(4:36)

AND WORSHIP God [alone], and do not ascribe divinity, in any way, to anyone beside Him. And do good unto your parents, and near of kin, and unto orphans, and the needy, and the neighbour from among your own people, and the neighbour who is a stranger, and the friend by your side, and the wayfarer, and those whom you rightfully possess. Verily, God does not love any of those who, full of self-conceit, act in a boastful manner; - 4:36

So good akhlaaq is for everyone including your parents, your relatives, the poor, the orphans, all of mankind. Even if you are going on a journey and you have a companion next to you, be good to him.

Al-Furqan (The Criterion) - 25:63

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا (25:63)

25:63 For, [true] servants of the Most Gracious are [only] they who walk gently on earth, and who, whenever the foolish address them, reply with [words of] peace;

Here Allah SWT commands us to say that which is best. Say good statements. Allah describes the Ibaad-ar-Rahman, the servants of Allah, as those who walk with humility and humbleness on the face of this earth. They are not arrogant. This is from the characteristics of the believers. Allah hates arrogance in all of its forms. Allah hates kibr and pride in all of its forms.

Good character is a dominant theme in the Qur'an and Sunnah In one hadith Prophet (PBUH) said to Muadh:

"Fear Allah wherever you are, follow up an evil deed with a good deed, and when you meet with the people, interact with good character." Three phrases, but beautiful and comprehensive.

Narrated by Abu Darda' (RA) that Prophet (PBUH) said "There is nothing heavier in the justice of Allah than good behavior." (Abu Dawood)

Narrated Abu Hurairah (RA) that Prophet (PBUH) said "The things that make people enter paradise are Taqwa and good manners." (Tirmizi)

It was narrated that a man from Banu Suwaah said: I said to Aishah: Tell me about the character of the Messenger of Allah (saw).' She said: 'Have you not read the Quran: "And verily, you (O Mohammed [SAW]) are on an exalted (standard of) character?" (Ibn Majah)

Narrated Aisha (RA) that when Prophet (PBUH) looked in the mirror, he said "O'Allah in as much as you made my good shape, make my character good." (Ahmad)

After the blessing of Eman, the best blessing that a person can be given, far greater than any money, wealth, status, family and children, or anything of this world, is that of good character. Nothing is a greater blessing, after of course having eman. The Prophet sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam said: "The best blessing that a person can be given in this life is character."

Narrated Abu Hurairah (RA) that Prophet (PBUH) said "You cannot have the ability to encompass people through your wealth, but you can accommodate them with your pleasantness and delightfulness as well as with good manners."

In another hadith he said: "Mankind has not been given anything better than good character."

Abdullah bin 'Amr reported, Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, 'The best among you are those who have the best manners and character.' (Bukhari)

In another hadith a person came to the Prophet sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam and asked him for some advice. The Prophet sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam responded: "Be firm, be perseverant, be straight in your following of the straight path. Let your character be good to the people."

The Prophet sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam also said: "Have fear of Allah, and do not trivialize anything of goodness, even if it is that you take from your bucket of water and pour it into your brother's bucket."

And he said: "Even if you were to meet your brother with a smiling face, do not trivialize it."

The Prophet sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam also said, "If someone curses you or tries to find fault with you, in a matter that does not exist in you," or in other words he accuses you in a fault that you do not have, then, "do not find fault with him in a matter that he does have."

So even if he lies about you and slanders you, do not point out the mistakes he himself has. He, sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam, went on and said: "Leave him, because the evil of that deed will be against him, and the good will be for you."

Closing

We pray that Allah subhaanahu wa ta 'aala grants us knowledge, grants us the character to preach and call to act upon that knowledge, resurrects us along with the Prophet sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam, grants us his shifa'a, and grants us Jannah because of our deeds and because of the forgiveness of Allah SWT.