

Ramadan Lesson 9: Spreading the Islamic Greeting of Salam

Sheikh Khalid Al-Husainan
(May Allah protect him)

[Please note: Images may have been removed from this document. Page numbers have been added.] I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the accursed:

O you who believe! Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was for those before you, that you may attain Taqwa. [They are] prescribed number of days."

All praise be to Allah, may good, pure and blessed praises. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship but Allah, alone, without partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

From the advice that our Messenger (ﷺ) imparted to us was to give salams to each other, which is a factor which fosters love amongst the Muslims. Indeed we are in dire need in these times that the Muslims love each other and are united. The Prophet (ﷺ) said in the hadeeth related by Muslim: "You will not enter Paradise until you be-lieve, and you will not believe until you love each other. Shall I not direct you to something which if you do, you will love each other? Spread salams amongst your-selves."

So our discussion today is about spread salams. Our Messenger (*) was asked about the best traits of Islam, "Which Islam is best?" This hadeeth is in the Saheeh. He rep-plied: "That you feed people, and that you say salam to those who you know and those who you do not." The problem which we face now my dear brothers, is that we only say salam to those we know, to the extent that today, doctors say salam to others doc-tors, and others of the same social status. If he sees a poor person, like a sweeper, he does not give him salam. He says, I am a doctor! I have a degree! How can I say sa-lams to him?! He should say salam to me!

The same goes for managers, or ministers... they don't say salam except to those with the same social status... or those from the same county. Regretfully, when some people see migrant workers, even at mosques, if they see a migrant worker praying, no one pays any attention to him or gives him salam. But if this person was from the same country and wears its traditional garb, or from the same tribe, then you see everyone giving him salam. This is a societal ill which we must be rid of, that we don't give salam except to those we know.

This may even be due to arrogance, vanity and looking down on others. Allah's Mes-senger (*) said: "Its enough evil for a person to look down upon his Muslim brother." Some people, when they see others, even in mosques, and don't like their looks, their clothes, or their appearance, they do not say salam to them. For example, he will say salam to the person on his right because he is from his country or he knows him, but he will not say salam to the person on the left. Why? Because he does not know him. He does not like his clothes or his appearance so he won't say salam to him. As I said, this is a societal ill.

Once the Messenger (ﷺ) was sitting, and a person entered and said, "Asalamu alay-kum", then sat down. The Prophet (*) said, "Ten." Meaning ten rewards. Then another person stepped in and said, "Asalamu alaikum wa Rahmatullah," and the Prophet (*) said, "Twenty." Then a third person came in and said, "Asalamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh," i.e. he added the words "wa Barakatuh," so the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Thirty," meaning thirty rewards. For this reason,

you should ac-custom yourself to completing the salam. Some people deprive themselves. Poor per-son. When he joins a gathering or talks on the phone, he says, "Asalamu alaykum." May Allah reward you my brother, but complete it! Say, "Asalamu alaikum wa Rah-matullahi wa Barakatuh," so that you get thirty rewards, and each is rewarded ten-fold, which equals at least three hundred rewards, and Allah gives even more in-crease to whom He wills. So don't deprive yourselves from reward. Don't suffice with saying, "Asalamu alaikum," but rather say, "Asalamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh." Always accustom yourselves to saying this so that it becomes natural.

From the Sunnah as well is when a person leaves a gathering, he says, "Asalamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh," as mentioned in some hadeeths that, "The first does not have more right than the other." Some people deprive themselves... when they leave a gathering, they say, "Fee Amanillah (may Allah protect you)," or "Ma' Salamah (with safety)," or other phrases which they have become accustomed to in their country. We say, no, the Sunnah when you leave a gathering or end a tele-phone conversation, is to say "Asalamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh." Accustom yourselves to the word, "Wa Barakatuh." We must spread the greeting of salam amongst ourselves.

From the humbleness of our Messenger (It), as related by Anas bin Malik, is that when the Messenger (*) would pass by young children, he would give them salam, while he () is the final prophet and the best of creation on the face of the earth, he would give salam to children. Some people pass by children who are playing but don't give them salam. He pays no attention to them, none. Give them salam.

Some people when they meet a person with his young children, they will say salam to the father and not his children. This is incorrect. This is against the Sunnah. Rather, you should give salam to the children, and this is from the Guidance of the Messen-ger (*). So my dear brother, let's be keen on spreading salam. That this trait... this is also a right of a Muslim over other Muslims, as the Messenger (*) said, "The right of a Muslim over another is that when he meets him, he gives him salam," and, "The better of the two is he who initiates the salam." This is from humbleness that you al-ways initiate the greeting of salam, welcoming them warmly. This is an indication of your tolerance and your humbleness. So this trait must be engrained in us, the trait of giving salam, that we always spread salam amongst ourselves, to the extent that Ibn Umar (24) would go to the marketplace specifically to spread salam, because of all the reward in it. The greeting of salam is something loved by Allah Most High.

I ask Allah the Magnificent, Lord of the Noble Throne, that He guides us and you to what He loves and is pleased with. And our final prayer is that all praise is for Allah, the Lord of all that exists.

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