

Islamic Propriety and politeness with Allah

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In the name of Allah most Gracious most Merciful

All thanks be to Allah the Lord of the worlds, and peace, prayers and blessings upon our prophet Muhammad and upon his companions. Thanks be to Allah who created darkness and light, then those who did not believe have adjusted their ways. Thanks be to Allah who brought down this faith on to us. Thanks be to Allah who made propriety and modesty and good manners in the core of this religion, a matter which was not heeded by many people. Propriety is necessary for a Muslim with Allah may He be exulted, and with the messenger and with the creations. Propriety and good manners is necessary for a Muslim even when he or she is alone. It is through propriety and politeness a Muslim ought to know when to eat and drink, and comes and goes, in his socialising and speaking, in his pleasures and amusements, when gives congratulations or pays condolences, when he sneezes or yawns, and when he sets and when stands, and during interaction with friends, and when settles or travels, and when he sleeps or wakes up. Politeness and propriety is necessary for the old and young, man and woman, rich and poor, the scholar and ordinary person in the street in order for the effect of this faith to be visible in reality. It is no doubt that part of the greatness of this faith is in the politeness and propriety which came within this faith that distinguishes Muslims from other, and highlights this faith and integrity, perfection, completeness and greatness. Let us find out what the meaning of politeness and propriety is and what the different types are.

First: Meaning of the term politeness or propriety

Ebn Farris (إبن فارس) defined propriety is inviting people to something. And in Arabic the two words “a banquet” and “propriety” are almost the same (“مؤدب وأدب” and “مأدبة”).

Ebn-Hajur (إبن حجر) defined propriety as being the use of any commended words or acts. Others described it as going by the best of morals and ethics. It was also described as respecting and venerate who is above you, and being gentle with who is less than you.

In fact all matters of faith are forms of propriety and politeness. For example covering up is politeness, pre-*salah* washing and purifying showering (*Wado* and *ghusle*) are propriety. Purifying oneself from all dirt and evil is propriety in order to stand by Allah in a pure form. In fact the early Muslims used to beatify them selves and dress their best and most expensive out fit when entering into a prayer standing by Allah.

Ebn-Al-Qay-yem (إبن ن القيم) defined propriety as being the collection of all the good characteristics in the individual.

This word was used in books and documents meaning the good characteristics like: Islamic etiquettes when eating and drinking, and at intercourse, and going to the toilets, the etiquettes of walking, sleeping and many more. The scholars have written many workbooks. Some scholars use the word propriety for anything required whether compulsory or recommended, the even made classifications for propriety such as: the going to the toilet, the cleaning afterwards yet some of it is compulsory and some is desirable. Others classified it into prosperity of life or faith.

Second: Propriety and politeness when interacting with Allah

Abdullah Ebn Omar and some friends of his, were someday travelling through the desert, near enough a town and sat to eat. A young shepherd passed by with his sheep. He greeted them, and they invited him to eat. The young man said he was fasting. Ebn Omar was surprised he was fasting in such a hot day and wanted to test him. He said to the shepherd: “Would you sell us one of the

sheep, we pay you for it and we will also give you some of the meat to eat later”. He said: “It does not belong to me. It belongs to my master”. Ebn Omar said: “you could tell him the wolf ate it”. The young slave shepherd got annoyed and left while pointing his finger towards the sky saying: “and where do you think Allah is?” Ebn Omar kept repeating that: “Where is Allah!” and kept on crying. When he arrived to the town, he sought out the master of that sheep and shepherd, and bought the whole lot from him, sheep and shepherd. He set the young shepherd free. This is the way the faithful should be just like that young shepherd watching Allah all the time. Not committing a sin or a guilt because he knows Allah is always with him and sees him and hears him.

There are a number of forms of proprieties and politeness when dealing with Allah:

1) Not to take partners with Allah

Allah is the creator who deserves to be worshipped without a partner. Sincerity is a condition for accepting deeds. That is a deed which is not done as a show off to others or for any other purpose of securing any type of worldly gain.

2) Watching out for Allah

Allah views all His creation. Allah can see us and hear us and knows what we keep within us. A Muslim ought to obey his God in public in private, and keep away off what he is inhibited against. The messenger (ppbu) was asked about perfection. He said: {it is worshipping Allah as if you can see Him. And if you can not see Him then know that He can see you}.

3) Seeking help from Allah

A Muslim seeks help from Allah alone. A Muslim must be certain that Allah is capable of giving and withholding. Allah says: {And say, Allah, possessor of power, Thou givest power to whom Thou

pleasest, and Thou strippest off power from whom Thou pleasest: Thou enduest with honour whom Thou pleasest, and Thou bringest low whom Thou pleasest: In Thy hand is all good. Verily, over all things Thou hast power} 2:26.

4) Love of Allah

A Muslim loves his God and does not disobey Him. Allah says: {Those who have faith are those who love Allah most} 2:165.

5) Glorifying Allah's rituals

A Muslim ought to glorify Allah's rituals and commands by implementing them without delay. Also, looking at forbidden deeds as big and avoiding them.

6) Becoming annoyed if Allah's limits are transgressed against

If a Muslim sees someone who commits a sin or insist on doing a sinful act, will get upset and do his or her best to change that. One of the bad sins which causes Allah's anger is cursing Allah, or cursing Allah's religion or His book or His messenger (ppbu). A Muslim becomes annoyed to that and deters and warns against it.

7) Trusting in Allah

A Muslim trusts in Allah in all his matters. Allah says: {and trust in Him the Living who does not die} 25:58. Allah also say: {And if any one puts his trust in God, sufficient is (God) for him. For God will surely accomplish his purpose: verily, for all things has God appointed a due proportion}. The messenger (ppbu) said: {if you just trust in Allah true trust then he would gives you just as he gives birds as they go hungry and they return full}

8) Contentment and acceptance of Allah's fate

A Muslim accepts what Allah has decided for him or her. That is a sign of faith in Allah and he is patient in the face of what strikes him. Never to say as some people say: Why do you do that to me God? A Muslim does not object to Allah's will, but ought to say what would satisfy his God. Allah says: {Be sure We shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil), but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere. Who say, when afflicted with calamity: "To God we belong, and to Him is our return". They are those on whom (descend) blessings from their Lord, and Mercy, and they are the ones that receive guidance.} 2:155/157.

9) Using Allah's name in their oath

A Muslim only makes an oath or only swears using Allah's name, and only does that in truthfulness.

10) Giving thanks to Allah

Allah has bestowed uncountable number of mercies and blessings, and a faithful person should constantly give thanks to Allah with all his heart and all his or her senses. Allah says: {And remember! your Lord caused to be declared (publicly): "If ye are grateful, I will add more (favours) unto you; But if ye show ingratitude, truly My punishment is terrible indeed"}.

11) Repentance to Allah

Allah says: {O ye who believe! Turn to God with sincere repentance: In the hope that your Lord will remove from you your ills and admit you to Gardens beneath which Rivers flow.} 66:08.

Allah also says: {And O ye Believers! Repent you all together to Allah, that ye may attain Bliss.} 24:31. The messenger (ppbu) said:

{O' people, repent to Allah for I repent to Allah a hundred times a day}. It is like that that Muslim's behaviour and politeness ought to be towards Allah. Gives Him thanks for His mercies, and be shy from Him, and be truthful when repenting to Him, and trust truthfully into Him, and expect and hope for his mercy, and fear His punishment, and accept His fate and be patient with calamities and test, and call no one else other than He, and his tongue should not seize from uttering His name (Allah), and not to make an oath except with the name of Allah, and ask for no help except from Him, and always watch out for Allah, and be sincere to Allah in public and private.