

Islamic Correspondence Course



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ISLAMIC CORRESPONDENCE COURSE BASIC LEVEL - BOOK 4

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Part 1
LESSON ONE - GOOD MANNERS

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) explained the most important objective of his mission in these words: -

"Indeed I have been sent only to perfect good manners."

In fact the whole religion is based on good manners; Islam in all its ramification (i.e. worship, dealing, jurisprudence and other laws) is concentrated in good manners.

As we have explained in Book One, good manners is an essential part of Islam. This part includes those deeds that are liked in Islam and those that are disliked.

In the following lessons we shall show some of those deeds that are obligatory to every Muslim and those that are optional.

Part 2

LESSON TWO - OBLIGATORY ACTS

(1) To Do Good Deeds with Sincerity and honesty:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "Indeed, all deeds depend upon their intentions."-----

(2) Depending Upon God:

God had declared: "... .. and upon God you should rely if you are true believers (65:3).

(3) To Do Justice (To Refrain From Oppression) The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has stated:

"One's faith cannot be perfected until one has three qualities: to help others even when he himself is in need; equality and justice between himself and his fellow beings, greeting much with salam."

(4) To Do Good To Both Parents God has ordered:

"And God has ordered that you should not worship anyone but Him alone, and to do good to parents. If one of them attains old age before your eyes, or both, do not utter even "Fie"; nor must you be angry with them; and speak to them with utmost respect. Lower your wing of humility with kindness to them and say, 'My Lord! Have Mercy on them (My parents) as they nursed me in my childhood.'" (17:24)

(5) To Look After One's Blood Relations:

God has enjoined: "... .. and fear God, in Whose name you importune one another, and (be mindful) of kinship; Verily God is watchful over you." (4:1)

(6) To Help Each Other In Good Deeds:

God has ordered: "... .. and help one another in righteousness and piety, and help not one another in sin and aggression." (5:2)

(7) To Reconcile People: God has declared:

"So fear God and set aright matters between yourselves and obey God and His Apostle if you are believers." (8:2) "Indeed, the believers are but brethren, so make peace among the brethren and fear (the wrath of) God that you be blessed with mercy." (49:10)

(8) Truth: God has stated:

"... .. God certainly knows those who are truthful and He certainly knows those that are liars (29:3) God has ordered us to "be always with the truthful ones." (9:119)

Part 3
LESSON THREE - GOOD DEEDS

(1) Cultivating Good Habits:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "Indeed! amongst the believers the one who has perfected his faith is one who has good habits."

(2) Acquiring Knowledge:

God has declared that "Verily only those of His servants fear God, who are endued with knowledge." (35:28) The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has stated: "One seeking knowledge (a student) loved by God, by the angels, by the Prophets and only a good person will like religious knowledge."

(3) Bravery The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said:

"It does not befit a man of faith to be a miser or a coward In the Qur'an, God praises the people of faith thus: "Muhammad is the Apostle of God and those who are with him are vehement against the infidels." (48:29)

(4) Humility:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "Indeed, humility exalts a man's position with God.

Thus, be humble and God will shower you with mercy."

(5) Mercy and Gentleness:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has stated: "The erudition of a man of faith is mixed with politeness for education without politeness is useless."

(6) To Deal Well with People:

Imam Jafer As-Sadiq (a.s.) has declared, "A Muslim is a brother to a Muslim and does not oppress, deceive, abandon, backbite, betray or deprive him."

(7) Generosity: God has declared:

"... .. As for him who gives (alms) and guards (himself against evil) and believes in the Book (of all religions, Islam), We will smoothen for him then the path unto bliss." (92:5-7) The Prophet (s.a.w.) has said, "A generous person is a friend to God, and a miser an enemy of God."

(8) Leading a Moral Life:

(Controlling One's urges, especially sexual): The Prophet (s.a.w.) has declared: "Whosoever protects his stomach from eating the unlawful, his sexual organs from doing what is unlawful act, and his tongue from saying what is forbidden, has guarded himself well and his place is in Paradise."

(9) Helping the Weak:

God has said, "And in their property was a share due to the beggar and the destitute." (51:19)

Part 4
LESSON FOUR -GOOD DEEDS

(10) To Salute Aloud:

Greeting aloud means raising one's voice sufficiently to be heard and not silently that one be silent not to have uttered the greetings.

(11) Patience:

God has said, "... .. and give glad tidings to the patient ones who, when misfortune befalls them, say, 'Verily we are God's and verily to Him we shall return'. Those are the ones upon whom are the blessings from their Lord and (His) Mercy; and they are the ones that are (rightly) guided. (2:155-157) Also He has said: "... .. Verily the patient ones will be paid their recompense without an account." (39:10)

(12) To Entertain:

Feeding people causes mercy to be showered upon one and the removal of calamities. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has stated: "Any guest who comes to a place brings his sustenance with him from the heavens, and when he eats food God forgives his hosts."

(13) Forgiveness:

God has declared: "... .. and if you forgive, overlook and cover up (their ills) then verily God is Oft-Forgiving, The Most Merciful." (64:14)

(14) Fulfilling People's Needs:

The Holy Prophet has declared: "Whoever fulfills the needs of his Muslim brother, is akin to one who has worshipped God his whole lifetime."

(15) Equity:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has stated: "Whatever one likes for oneself, he must like for others. Do justice amongst your wives if you have more than one and do not favour any one of them particularly." God has declared: "The (way to) blame is against those who do injustice unto the people and transgress in the earth unjustly; these, for them shall be a painful chastisement." (42:42)

(16) Fearing God:

Fear God and abstain from all evil. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "A few Deeds with fear of God are better than many deeds without fear of God."

(17) Cleanliness:

The Holy Prophet has declared: "Cleanliness and purity is part of faith." Imam Ali Ridha (a.s.) has said: "To be pure and clean is amongst the habits of the Prophets."

(18) Modesty:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "Modesty (a sense of shame) is part of faith." Whosoever without shame (doing as he pleases) is not a Muslim.

(19) Marriage:

Marriage is in the tradition of the Prophet (s.a.w.). The Holy Prophet has declared: "He who gets married has already safeguarded half of his faith; so he should remain on guard about the other half by fearing God."

(20) Cheerfulness:God has said:

~~"Thus it is a mercy of God that you are lenient unto them. Had you been severe and hard-hearted they surely would have dispersed away from you." (3:158)~~

(21) Respecting Others:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has stated: "Respect the elders for their age; treat the young with kindness and love, and your equals as you would like to be treated."

(22) Thanking God:God has declared:

"... .. and he who is grateful, verily he is grateful for his own self, and whoever is ungrateful, then verily My Lord is Self-Sufficient and Bounteous." (27:40) God has stated, "What harm can God do to torment you, if you are grateful and you believe? While God is the Appreciator (of your worth) and all-Knowing." (4:147) God has declared: "If you are grateful I will increase (My favour) unto you, and if you be ungrateful, Verily My torment is indeed severe." (14:7)

Part 5

LESSON FIVE - FORBIDDEN ACTS

(1) Rebellious Against and Disobeying Parents:

In Hadith Qudsi, God has said: "I swear by my Honour and by my Omnipotence that anyone who does not obey his parents even if he comes with the deeds of the Prophets in front of me, I will never accept them."

(2) Fornication/Adultery:God has warned:

"And do not approach fornication (and adultery). Verily, it is a shameful act and an evil way (opening to many other evils)" (17:32)

(3) Sodomy:God has declared:

"Verily ye come to men in lust instead of women; nay, ye are a transgressor people." (7:81) "And whosoever disobeys God and His Apostle and transgresses His limits, he will be thrown into Hell-Fire to abide therein and for him shall be a shameful torment." (4:14)

(4) Lesbianism:

The ruling for this is like that of sodomy and it is one of those acts that have been severely condemned by God and His Prophets. A tribe "As-habur-Ras" was exterminated (by punishment from Allah) for this abnormality, just as the people of Sodom were exterminated because of Sodomy

(5) Drinking Liquor:God has declared:

"O you who believe! Verily, intoxicants and games of chance (dedications of) stones (i.e. idols) and (divination by) arrows, are only an abomination of Satan's handiwork, so stay away from it so that you may be successful." (5:90)

(6) Gambling:

It is as bad as drinking liquor. God has joined it with drinking in the verse of the Qur'an quoted in No. 5 above (i.e. 5:90).

(7) Eating dead flesh and Swine and other forbidden Animals:God has stated:

"Verily, verily He has but prohibited that which dies of itself and blood and the swineflesh and whatever has other than God's name invoked." (2:173)

(8) Devouring Other People's Property:

God has warned: "O you believers! devour not each other's property among yourselves unlawfully except that be trading by mutual consent." (4:29)

(9) Bribery:God has declared:

"You will see many of them vying with sin and exceeding the limits, and their eating what is forbidden, certainly evil is what they have been doing." (5:62) Hazrat Imam Ali (a.s.) has said, "God has cursed one who takes bribe, one who gives bribe and one who causes bribe to be given."

Part 6
LESSON SIX - FORBIDDEN ACTS

(10) Foresaking Duties:

~~Here duty means duty towards God, towards the Prophet (s.a.w.) and of Muslims towards one another. To miss any one of these is a sin.~~

(11) Stealing:

Stealing is a universal sin. God has declared: "As for the man who steals and the woman who steals, cut off their (right) hands; as a recompense for what they (two) have earned, as an example of punishment from God." (5:38)

(12) Pimping and helping in adultery of One's wife:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said, "A DAY-YUS' will neither enter heaven nor smell its scent." He was asked what is a DAYYUS? He replied, "It is that husband who very well knows (and feels no shame) that his wife sleeps with others."

(13) Lying:

Lying is forbidden and is a great sin. Imam Mohammed alBaquir (a.s.) has said, "Indeed, God has put locks upon every evil and the key to these locks is drinking; and lying is worse than drinking."

(14) Backbiting and Creating Discord:

God has stated: "... .. and let not some of you backbite the others; What! would one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother?" (49:12)

(15) Usury:

God has warned: 'Those who take interest they say, 'trade is only like (earning) interest whereas God has decreed trade lawful and has forbidden interest.' (2:275)

(16) Murder:

God has stated: "And whosoever kills a believer intentionally, his recompense shall be Hell, he shall abide therein and God's wrath shall be on him and His curse; and (there) is prepared for him a great torment." (4:93)

(17) Embezzlement:

"God has declared: "Verily God does not love those who embezzle." (8:58) "Verily God doth ward off (the mischief of infidels) from those who believe: Verily, God loveth not any of the unfaithful, ungrateful (ones)." (22:38)

(18) Oppression:

God has warned: "And do not think God to be heedless of what the unjust ones do. He only respites them to a day when the eyes shall be fixed upon (Staring up with terror)." (14:42)

Part 7

LESSON SEVEN - FORBIDDEN ACTS

(19) Extravagance:

God has said: "... .. eat and drink and commit not excesses; verily He (God) does not love extravagants." (7:31)

(20) Snobbery:

God has declared: "O, you who believe! let not men laugh at (other) men to (scorn) who perhaps may be better than them; nor let women laugh at other women who perhaps may be better than these... .." (49:11)

(21) Annoying People:

God has warned: "And those who annoy believing men and believing women without their having earned it, indeed they bear the guilt of slander and a manifest sin." (33:58) The Prophet has declared "A Muslim is he from whose hands and tongue Muslims are safe."

(22) Betraying Secrets:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "The conversation between two people is a trust; so if you betray it you are not trustworthy." So to betray one's secret is a big sin. A secret can be personal shortcoming or any other matter, but it is after all a secret.

(23) Hoarding:

Hoarding of food (needed by people) with intention of selling it at higher price is a great sin. There is a tradition of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) stating, "a hoarder of food is one who is cursed by God."

(24) Looking at Forbidden Women:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has explained: "A look is an arrow from the arrows of Satan. One who refrains from looking for fear of God, he will be filled with faith (Iman) whose taste he will feel in his heart/" God has enjoined in the Qur'an: "Say unto believing men that they should cast their eyes down (and not look at what is forbidden) And say unto believing women to cast down their eyes and guard their Private Parts." (24:30)

(25) Attending Dance and Cinema:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has forbidden us to attend any place where evil is being performed and where what is forbidden takes place. In the cinema one is subjected to music and obscene words and deeds; and these are forbidden in Islam as has been explained in this book.

(26) Singing and Listening to Music:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "One who plays a 'musical instrument' will rise in the Day of Judgement with a dark face and will have a guitar of fire in his hands. Above him will be 70,000 angels of punishment each carrying a sickle and beating him on the head and face with it. Anyone who sings will rise blind, deaf and dumb. Likewise the fornicator. The same fate will befall those who play a pipe and the tambourine."

Part 8

LESSON EIGHT - FORBIDDEN ACTS

(27) Masturbation:

Masturbation is forbidden and is a sin. It brings a lot of harm to one's physique.

(28) Breach of Promise:

One of the signs of faith according to the Prophet: "One who when gives promise fulfills. Whoever does not fulfil his promise is not of the faith."

(29) Wearing of Golden ring and Ornaments by men:

It is forbidden for a man to wear any golden ornament even if it is mixed with other metals.

(30) Cheating:

It is forbidden to hide the defect of a thing one sells to another person.

(31) Adulterating:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) stated: "Whoever adulterates a thing and sells it to his Muslim brother not of us." (32) Spying In Other People's Affairs: God has said in the Qur'an: "O you who believe avoid suspicion, for verily suspicion (in) some (cases) is a sin, and do not spy." (49:12)

(33) Abusing and Recriminations:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "It is a vice to abuse or accuse another believer."

(34) Indecent Dressing by Women:

Wearing indecent dress which shows the parts of the body has become very common nowadays. But it is strictly forbidden in Islam. God has stated, "And stay in your abodes and do not display your finery like the display of the ignorance of the past." (33:33)

(35) To Help the Oppressor:

God has declared: "... .. and help (one another) in righteousness and piety, and do not help (one another) in sin and aggression." (5:2) God has said: "And think not God to be heedless of what the unjust ones do. He only respiteth them to a day when the eyes shall be fixed open (staring up with terror)." (14:42)

(36) To Rule Against Islamic Laws:

God has stated: "... .. and whoever does not judge by what God has sent down, those are the infidels." (5:44) "And whosoever does not judge by the Rules God has sent down, these then are the transgressors." (5:47)

Part 9
LESSON NINE - BAD HABITS

(1) Bad Manners:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has stated:

"Bad manners spoil the (good) deeds of a person in the same way as vinegar spoils honey."

(2) Niggardliness:

God has declared: "And let not those who are niggardly in giving what God has granted them of His Grace reckon it is good for them; That which they have been niggardly of, shall shortly be clung to their necks on the Day of Resurrection." (13:179)

(3) Envy:

God has stated: "And do not covet that by which God has raised some of you above others; for men shall have of what they earn and women shall have of what they earn, and ask God of His Grace. Verily God is (very well) in the Know of all things." (4:32) God has said: "Or do they envy the people for what God has given them of His grace." (4:54) The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "Envy devours goodness like firewood is consumed by fire."

(4) Cowardice:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "It does not become a believer to be niggardly or cowardly." Believing to fear God and leave off sins is the sign of a good man.

(5) Lack of Courage:

A person lacking in moral force and enterprise is amongst the bad ones, so is the one whose energies are directed towards evil ways. One must keep away from such ways.

(6) Treachery And Enmity:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "Anyone who has even a little tendency of cheating and vengeance in his heart will be resurrected by God with people of the Times of Ignorance" (i.e. the Non-believers before the advent of Islam).

(7) Vengeance:

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has declared: "I swear in the name of Him who has my life in His hand there are three things that are most holy: one's wealth is never decreased by giving alms (so, do give alms), one never will regret who has forgiven him (for the sake of God) who has oppressed him (because Allah will elevate his status on the Day of Judgement); and whoever begins to beg, God opens the doors of poverty for him." God has stated: "If you do good openly or conceal it, or pardon an evil, then verily, God is Oft-Forgiving, Powerful." (4:149)

8. Complaining When In Distress:

This is a most undesirable trait and its opposite is Patience and Forebearance. God rewards patience.

Part 10
LESSON TEN - BAD HABITS

(9) Boasting:

On the day the Prophet captured Mecca he stood before the people and proclaimed: "O you People! God has removed from you the empty boast and pride of pedigree of the Times of Ignorance; Indeed you are all from Adam and Adam issued forth from dust. The Best of you is the one who most fears God."

(10) Love of Leadership, Honour and Wealth:

God has declared: "That abode in the hereafter, We assign it for those who intend not to exult themselves in the earth, nor (to make) mischief (therein); and the end is (best) for the pious ones. Whosoever desireth life of this world and its pomp, We shall pay them (the recompense for) their deeds therein, they shall suffer not any loss. These are they for whom there is nothing in the hereafter but (the Hell) fire, and vain shall be (all) that they wrought in it, and vain shall be what they were doing." (11:15-16)

(11) Greed:

It is a good sign to be "greedy" in doing good deeds, but to be greedy of food and in accumulating wealth is undesirable. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has said: "Two greedy persons are never satiated: those greedy of acquiring knowledge and those greedy of accumulating wealth."

(12) Haste:

There is a proverb that goes: "Haste is Waste." The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has explained: "Haste is from Satan and patience from God."

(13) Laziness:

Laziness is a very bad habit. A lazy person always misses many a good thing and is always in trouble. God has declared: "And that there is naught for man but what he has striven for." (53:39)

(14) Blabbering:

God has stated: "He does not pronounce a word but unto him is a watcher ready (to record it)" (50:18)

(15) Vain Talks:

In the Qur'an it is stated by God in connection with the Day of Judgement that when the sinners will be asked: "What has brought you into Hell?" They will say we were not of those who offered the regular prayers (to God) and we used not to feed the poor and we used to talk vanities with vain talkers." (74:42-45)

(16) Self-Humiliation:

One who belittles himself is ridiculed and lacks courage. Imam Jaafar-as-Sadiq (a.s.) has explained, "Indeed, God has left to a believer all his dealings except to belittle himself for hasn't it been stated in the Qur'an, 'But for God is all honour and for His Apostle and for the believers, but the hypocrites know (it) not.'" (63:8)

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