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2 | Mercy is a Part of Good Character

عَنْ مَسْرُوقٍ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - قَالَ كُنَّا جُلُوسًا مَعَ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ
عَمْرٍو - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - يُحَدِّثُنَا إِذْ قَالَ: لَمْ يَكُنْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى
اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَاحِشًا، وَلَا مُتَفَحِّشًا، وَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يَقُولُ: "إِنَّ
خِيَارَكُمْ أَحْسَنُكُمْ أَخْلَاقًا".

Masruq رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrated: We were sitting with Abdullah ibn Amr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ who was narrating to us: He said, "Allah's messenger صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was neither obscene¹⁴ nor tried to be obscene¹⁵," and he used to say, "the best among you, are the best in character."¹⁶

Regarding Rasulullah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Allah's Messenger صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ did not talk of evil neither did he tell lies to make people laugh (i.e., when one tells jokes) rather our beloved Nabi صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ reminds us in this hadith that 'the best among you, are the best in character'. This signifies the importance of developing one's character as a Muslim. Compassion and mercy are characteristics Nabi صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ demonstrated abundantly; we must consider this as essential in building good character.

Furthermore, Rasulullah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said "Verily, Allah does not look at your external forms and your wealth, but he looks at your intentions and actions."¹⁷

¹⁴ One who talks evil

¹⁵ A person who conveys evil talk or a person who speaks obscene evil words to make people laugh

¹⁶ Sahih Al-Bukhari, Book 78 (Book of Good Manners) Hadith 6035

¹⁷ Shariat and Tasawwuf, Volume 1, Page 57

Lessons for the Ummah

- Mercy is part of good character, which is part to becoming a great Muslim and human being (Insaan).
- We learn that the best of people is those who are the best in character. We must continually try to improve ourselves, regardless of the amount of knowledge we have or how old we are.
- We should not talk of offensive and detestable things.
- We should not tell lies to make people laugh.
- We should practice incorporating compassion and mercy in all situations. Especially when making important decisions, that can affect others. As Rasulullah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ would always consider others before himself. This approach should be at the forefront of our decisions in life.
- Rasulullah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: “He who maintains silence has attained salvation.”¹⁸ “A Muslim should not speak in abundance other than with the remembrance of Allah.”¹⁹ As abundance in speech hardens the heart.²⁰
- Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “I am leaving behind a thing which if you hold onto, you will never go astray. One is the book of Allah and the other is my Sunnah.”²¹
- Following the path (*Sunnah*) of Nabi صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ should be a goal of all Muslims. Included within that, is the act of sending Durud Shareef (blessings) upon the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. “The meaning of the believers invoking blessings, is to follow the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, love him and to mention and praise his sublime qualities.”²² It must be noted that this prestigious act of sending Durud is the only act which Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى and the angels also participate in.²³

¹⁸ Ahmad, Tirmidhi

¹⁹ Malik cited in The Path To Perfection, Page 40

²⁰ The path To Perfection, Page 40.

²¹ Heavenly Ornaments, Volume 2, Page 139

²² Virtues of Invoking blessings and peace on the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, Page 11

²³ Holy Qur'an 33:56 (Surat Al-Ahzab, verse 56)

Therefore, we must recognise it to be of the highest virtue to be partaking in an act with Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى and his angels.²⁴ Furthermore, Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has assigned great rewards for reciting Durud Shareef. The Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ mentions “Whoever invokes one blessing upon me, Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى will invoke ten blessings upon him.” Another narration mentions these people to be the most entitled to Rasulullah’s صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ intercession.²⁵

يَا رَبِّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ دَائِمًا أَبَدًا عَلَى حَبِيبِكَ خَيْرِ الْخَلْقِ كُلِّهِمْ

O Sustainer, shower salaam and salaam forever and ever upon your beloved who is the best of all creation



²⁴ Virtues of Invoking blessings and peace on the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ,

²⁵ Virtues of Invoking blessings and peace on the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ,

17 | Mercy to Hadhrat Anas رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

حَدَّثَنَا أَنَسٌ - رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ - قَالَ خَدَمْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَشْرَ سِنِينَ، فَمَا قَالَ لِي: أُوْفٍ، وَلَا: لِمَ صَنَعْتَ، وَلَا: أَلَّا صَنَعْتَ.

Hadhrt Anas رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ narrates: “I served Nabi صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ for 10 years, and he never once said to me, “uf”⁹⁸ and never blamed me by saying, “Why did you do so or why didn’t you do so”.⁹⁹

Regarding Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

The Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ always treated Anas رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ kindly, as the hadith makes clear Nabi صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ never rebuked him for anything he did or did not do in his 10 years of service. This Hadith illustrates the consistent temperament of Nabi صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ towards Anas رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ and further demonstrates his lofty character.

The Prophet of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ would reserve great amounts of mercy and compassion for his companions and family members, as he would always treat them with the utmost respect and kindness.

Lessons for the Ummah

- We should treat everyone with kindness regardless of their status.
- We must have patience with others if they have not completed a task that has been asked of them.
- We must not be harsh in asking someone to complete a task.

⁹⁸ An Arabic term, used as a minor harsh word denoting impatience

⁹⁹ Sahih Al-Bukhari, Book 78 (Book of Good Manners), Hadith 6038

- We should learn to be patient, kind and forgiving in particularly with our parents, children, and spouses. As often people tend to have more patience with those outside of their home than with their family members.
- We must not use words or phrases that denote negative connotations towards others, including any type of mocking or bullying.
- We must ensure we treat people correctly and fulfil their rights. As a Muslims have several duties towards other Muslims, these include; When you meet, you give salaam; when issued with an invitation, accept it; when asked for your advice, give it; when they sneeze and praise Allah *سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى*, say ‘May Allah have mercy on you’; when they are ill, visit them and when they pass away, follow the funeral prayer.¹⁰⁰

يَا رَبِّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ دَائِمًا أَبَدًا عَلَى حَبِيبِكَ خَيْرِ الْخَلْقِ كُلِّهِمْ

O Sustainer, shower salaam and salaam forever and ever upon your beloved who is the best of all creation



¹⁰⁰ Translation & Commentary of Mishkaatul Masaabih, Volume 2, Book of funerals, Hadith 1525