**Etiquettes of Salam**

After learning the importance of greeting with *Salam*, now we will look into the etiquettes of greetings in Islam. In social life, how do we greet each other, who greets the first, where, when and whom to greet?

﴿وَإِذَا حُيِّيتُم بِتَحِيَّةٖ فَحَيُّواْ بِأَحۡسَنَ مِنۡهَآ أَوۡ رُدُّوهَآۗ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيۡءٍ حَسِيبًا﴾ 4:86

*“When you are greeted with a greeting (of peace and goodwill), answer with one better, or (at least) with the same. Surely Allah keeps account of all things.”*

This verse tells us that if you are given a Salam then greet back with a better one or at least respond with the same greeting. For examples, a **Muslim** friend walked to you and said:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

You should greet back by saying:

وَ عَلَيْكُمُ السَّلَامُ وَرَحْمَةُ اللهْ

Or

وَ عَلَيْكُمُ السَّلَامُ وَرَحْمَةُ اللهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهْ

Or at least:

وَ عَلَيْكُمُ السَّلَامْ

It is important to note that giving Salam is *Sunnah*, while taking it [and greeting back] if *wajib* or obligatory – a duty we should never miss out.

Now let’s look at how our Noble Teacher used to give Salam at some different occasions:

عَنِ الْمِقْدَادِ بْنِ الأَسْوَدِ قَالَ‏:‏ كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَجِيءُ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ، فَيُسَلِّمُ تَسْلِيمًا لاَ يُوقِظُ نَائِمًا، وَيُسْمِعُ الْيَقْظَانَ‏.‏ رواه مسلم

Al-Miqdad ibn al-Aswad said, “The Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, used to come at night and would give the greeting in such a way that it would not awaken anyone asleep, but the person who was awake would hear it.”

This is called *adab* – or good manners. He (s.a.w) used to care about people, in this particular occasion, both the sleeping ones and the ones that were awake…

عَنْ أَبِي أُمَامَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم ‏ "‏ إِنَّ أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِاللَّهِ مَنْ بَدَأَهُمْ بِالسَّلاَمِ ‏"‏ ‏.‏ د

*Abu Umamah reported that, the Prophet (ﷺ) said: Those who are nearest to Allah are they who are first to give a salutation.*

This *hadith* also teaches us to hasten in good deeds. Instead of postponing or delaying a good deed, it is always better hasten toward doing it. Think of how many a times you postponed to do a good act, then never did it, simply because things came along the way or you’ve just forgotten it…

وعن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أن رسول الله صَلّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وسَلَّم قال : « يُسَلِّمُ الرَّاكبُ عَلَى الْمَاشِي ، وَالْماشي عَلَي القَاعِدِ ، والقليلُ على الكَثِيِرِ » متفق عليه . وفي رواية البخاري : والصغيرُ على الْكَبِيرِ » .

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, “A rider should greet a pedestrian; a pedestrian should greet one who is sitting; and a small group should greet a large group (of people).” The narration in Al-Bukhari adds: Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "The young should greet the elderly.''

وعنه عن رسول اللَّه صَلّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وسَلَّم قال : « إذا لَقيَ أَحَدَكُمْ أخَاهُ فَلْيُسَلِّمْ عَلَيْهِ ، فَإنْ حَالَتْ بَيْنَهُمَا شَجَرَةٌ أو جِدَارٌ أوْ حَجَرٌ ثُمَّ لَقِيَهُ فَلْيُسَلِّمْ عَلَيْه » رواه أبو داود .

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, “When one of you meets a brother (in Faith) he should greet him. Then if a tree or a wall or a stone intervenes between them and then he meets him again, he should greet him.”

This hadith reaffirms the command of **“spread the Salam”** command mentioned in

وعن أبي يوسف عبد الله بن سلام رضي الله عنه قال : سمعت رسول الله صَلّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وسَلَّم يقول « أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَفْشُوا السَّلاَمَ وَأَطْعِمُوا الطَّعَامَ وَصَلُّوا وَالنَّاسُ نِيَامٌ تَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ بِسَلاَمٍ» رواه الترمذي

'O you people! **Spread the Salam**, feed (others), and perform Salat while the people are sleeping; you will enter Paradise with(the greeting of) Salam.'”

Another important thing to remember is when we enter our house we should remember this duty of giving salutation to the household. Here is what Allah says in the Qur’an:

﴿فَإِذَا دَخَلۡتُم بُيُوتٗا فَسَلِّمُواْ عَلَىٰٓ أَنفُسِكُمۡ تَحِيَّةٗ مِّنۡ عِندِ ٱللَّهِ مُبَٰرَكَةٗ طَيِّبَةٗۚ ﴾ 24:61

*“…when you enter any of these houses, greet one another with a blessed, pure and good salutation appointed by Allah.”*

Do you have family problems?

Are you in financial crisis?

Or having any other problems in your life?

Then, be the above verse your first remedy. Apply it and reap the benefits..

وعن أنس رضي الله عنه قال : قال لي رسول الله صَلّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وسَلَّم « يابُنَّي ، إذا دَخَلْتَ عَلى أهْلِكَ فَسَلِّمْ يَكُنْ بَركةً عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَى أهلِ بَيْتِكَ » رواه الترمذي وقال : حديث حسن صحيح .

Narrated Anas:

"The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said to me: 'O my little son! When you enter upon your family then give the Salam, it will be a blessing for you and upon the inhabitants of your house."

… And finally children:

عن أنس رضي الله عنه أنَّهُ مَرَّ عَلى صِبْيان فَسَلَّمَ عَلَيْهمْ وقال : كانَ رسول لله صَلّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وسَلَّم يَفْعلُهُ . متفق عليه .

Anas (May Allah be pleased with him) passed by some children and greeted them (by saying As-salamu 'alaikum to them). Then he said: The Prophet (ﷺ) used to do the same.

Rasulullah (ﷺ) teaches us to give Salam to children, too. That way not only will we invoke the Mercy of Allah on them by making dua of Salam, but also inculcate and build the true Islamic Identity.