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COMMENTARY ON THE Riyâd-us-Sâliheen

Volume Two

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5. THE BOOK OF GREETINGS

CHAPTER 131 **EXCELLENCE OF PROMOTING GREETINGS**

Allâh, the Exalted, says:

"O you who believe! Enter not houses other than your own, until you have asked permission and greeted those in them." (24:27)

"But when you enter the houses, greet one another with a greeting from Allâh (i.e., say: السلام عليكم As-Salâmu 'Alaikum - peace be on you), blessed and good." (24:61)

"When you are greeted with a greeting, greet in return with what is better than it, or (at least) return it equally." (4:86)

"Has the story reached you, of the honoured guests [three angels; Jibrîl (Gabriel) along with another two] of Ibrâhîm (Abraham)? When they came in to him, and said, 'Salâm (peace be upon you)!' He answered: 'Salâm (peace be upon you)." (51:24,25)

845. Abdullâh bin 'Amr bin Al-'As reported: A man asked the Messenger of Allâh : "Which act in Islâm is the best?" He a replied, "To give food, and to greet everyone,

٥ - كتابُ السلام

١٣١- بَابُ فضل السَّلام والأمر

قَالَ الله تَعَالَى: ﴿ يَكَأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَدْخُلُواْ بِبُوتًا غَيْرَ بِيُوتِكُمْ حَقَّى تَسْتَأْنِسُوا وَتُسَلِّمُوا عَلَىٰ أَهْلِهَأَ ﴾ [النور: ٢٧]. وَقَالَ تَعَالَى: ﴿ فَإِذَا دَخَلْتُ مِ أَيُوتَا فَسَلِّمُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُمْ تَعِيَّةً مِنْ عِندِ ٱللَّهِ مُبْدَرَكَةً طَيْسَبَةً﴾ [النور: ٦١]. وَقَالَ نَعَالَى: ﴿ وَإِذَا حُيِيتُم بِنَحِيَّةِ فَكَيُّوا بِأَحْسَنَ مِنْهَا ۚ أَوْ رُدُّوهَا ﴾ [النساء: ٨٦]. وَقَالَ تَعَالَى: ﴿ هَلْ أَنْكَ حَدِيثُ ضَيْفِ إِبْرُهِيمَ ٱلْمُكْرَمِينَ ٥ إِذْ دَخَلُواْ عَلَيْهِ فَقَالُواْ سَلَنَمَّا قَالَ سَلَنُّ ﴾ [الذاريات: ٢٤، ٢٥].

٨٤٥ وَعَنْ عَبدِ اللهِ بن عمرو بن الْعَاص رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا أَنَّ رَجُلًا سَأَلَ رَسُولَ الله ﷺ: أَيُّ الإسْلَامِ خَيْرٌ؟ قَال: «تُطْعِمُ الطَّعَامَ، وَتَقْرَأُ السَّلَامَ

whether you know or you do not." [Al-Bukhârî and Muslim]

عَلَى مَنْ عَرَفْتَ وَمَنْ لَمْ تَعْرِف» مَنفَّ عَلَيه.

Commentary: Feeding poor and destitute is an act of goodness, and so is fulfilling the needs of the indigent. Greeting everybody (saying 'As-Salāmu 'Alaikum'), whether an acquaintance or a stranger, is a good manner too. Both of these acts generate mutual love and remove hatred and ill will from hearts. All other forms of greetings do not no substitute for Islâmic greeting.

رضي الله عنه 846. Abû Hurairah reported: The Prophet said, "When Allah created Adam عليه السلام, He said to him: 'Go and greet that company of angels who are sitting there - and then listen to what they are going to say in reply to your greetings because that will be your greeting and your off-spring's.' Âdam said to the angels: 'As-Salâmu 'Alaikum (may you be safe from evil).' They replied: 'As-Salâmu 'Alaikum wa Rahmatullâh (may you be safe from evil. and Mercy of Allâh be upon you).' Thus adding in reply to him: 'wa Rahmatullâh (and Mercy of Allâh)' to his greeting." [Al-Bukhârî and Muslim]

مَنِ النَّبِيِّ عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيرةَ رَضِيَ الله عَنْهُ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ عَنْهُ قَال: "لَمَّا خَلَقَ الله تَعَالَى آدَمَ عَنْهُ قَال: اذْهَبْ فَسَلِّمْ عَلَى أُولَئِكَ - نَفَرٍ مِنَ الْمَلَاثِكَةِ عَلَى أُولَئِكَ - نَفَرٍ مِنَ الْمَلَاثِكَةِ عَلَى أُولِئِكَ - نَفَرٍ مِنَ الْمَلَاثِكَةِ عَلَى أُولِئِكَ - نَفَرٍ مِنَ الْمَلَاثِكَةِ عَلَى أُولِئِكَ - نَفَرٍ مِنَ الْمَلَاثِكَةِ فَلَوس - فَاسْتَمِعْ مَا يُحَيُّونَكَ، فَقَالَ: فَقَالَ: فَقَالَ: فَقَالَ: السَّلامُ السَّلامُ عَلَيْكُمْ، فَقَالُوا: السَّلامُ عَلَيْكُمْ، فَقَالُوا: السَّلامُ عَلَيْكُمْ، فَوَادُوهُ: وَرَحْمَةُ الله، فَزَادُوهُ: وَرَحْمَةُ الله، مَنْ عَلَيه.

Commentary: The Islâmic form of greeting - As-Salâmu 'Alaikum (may you be safe from evil) - has been in existence since the days of Prophet Âdam. According to some Ahâdîth, it is better to add in response: ورحمة الله وبركاته wa Rahmatullâhi wa Barakâtuhu (and the Mercy and Blessings of Allâh).

847. Al-Barâ' bin 'Âzib رضي الله عنهما reported: The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ commanded us to do seven things: to visit the sick, to follow the funeral (of a

٨٤٧- وَعَنْ أَبِي عُمَارة البَرَاءِ بن
 عَاذِبٍ رَضِيَ الله عَنْهُمَا قَال: أَمَرَنَا
 رسُولُ الله ﷺ بِسَبْع: بِعِيَادَةِ

dead believer), to invoke the Mercy of Allâh upon one who sneezes (i.e., by saying to him: Yarhamuk-Allâh), to support the weak, to help the oppressed, to promote the greeting of 'As-Salâmu 'Alaikum', and to help those who swear to do something to keep their oaths. [Al-Bukhârî and Muslim]

الْمَرِيضِ، وَاتَّبَاعِ الْجَنَائِزِ، وَتَشْمِيتِ الْعَاطِسِ، وَنَصْرِ الضَّعِيفِ، وَعَوْنِ الْمَظْلُومِ، وَإِشْمَاءِ السَّلَامِ، وَإِبْرَارِ المَقْسِمِ، مَتْفَقٌ عَلَيه. لهٰذَا لَفظ إِحْدَى رِوَايَاتِ الْبُخَارِي.

Commentary: Muslims have obligations towards one another. The fulfillment of this social responsibility creates among them mutual love, a sense of cohesion and feelings of respect for one another.

reported: The Messenger of Allâh عنه said, "By Him in Whose Hand is my life! You will not enter Jannah until you believe, and you will not believe until you love one another. Shall I inform you of something which, if you do, you will love one another? Promote greetings amongst yourselves." [Muslim]

٨٤٨- وَعَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ الله عَنْهُ قَال: قَالَ رَسُولُ الله ﷺ: «لَا تَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ حَتَّى تُؤْمِنُوا، وَلَا تُؤْمِنُوا، وَلَا تُؤْمِنُوا، وَلَا تُؤْمِنُوا، أَوْلَا أَدُلُّكُمْ تُخَابُوا، أَوْلَا أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَى شَيْءٍ إِذَا فَعَلْتُمُوهُ تَحَابَبُتُمْ؟ عَلَى شَيْءٍ إِذَا فَعَلْتُمُوهُ تَحَابَبُتُمْ؟ فَشُوا السَّلَامَ بَيْنَكُمْ وَوَاهُ مسلم.

Commentary: Imân is a prerequisite for entry to Jannah. Whereas mutual love among Muslims is complementary to it, and this quality can only be attained by giving a social character to the Islâmic form of greeting, that is to say, 'As-Salâmu 'Alaikum.'

reported: I heard the Messenger of Allâh saying, "O people, exchange greetings of peace (i.e., say: As-Salâmu 'Alaikum to one another), feed people, strengthen the ties of kinship, and be in prayer when others are asleep, you will enter Jannah in peace." [At-Tirmidhî]

• ٨٤٩ - وَعَنْ أَبِي بُوسف عَبْدِ الله بن سلام رَضِيَ الله عَنْهُ قَال: سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ الله يَئْهِ يَقُول: "يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ! أَفْشُوا السَّلَام، وَأَطْعِمُوا الطَّعَام، أَفْشُوا السَّلَام، وَأَطْعِمُوا الطَّعَام، وَصِلُوا والنَّاسُ وَصِلُوا والنَّاسُ نِيَامٌ، تَدْخُلُوا الجَنَّة بِسَلَام، رَوَاهُ التَّرْمِذِيُّ وَقَالَ: حَدِيثٌ حَسَنٌ صَحِيعٌ.

Commentary: All these habits and practices are indispensable to a believer because each one of them leads to Jannah with the first people to enter it without being punished in Hell first.

850. At-Tufail bin Ubayy bin Ka'b reported: I used to visit 'Abdullah bin 'Umar رضى الله عنهما in the morning and accompany him to the market. 'Abdullâh offered greetings of peace to every one he met on the way, be they sellers of petty goods, traders or poor people. One day when I came to him, he asked me to accompany him to the market. I said to him: "What is the point of your going to the market when you do not sell, nor ask about articles, nor offer a price for them, nor sit down with any company of people. Let us sit down here and talk." He replied: "O Abû Batn (belly)! (Tufail had a large belly), we go to the market to greet everyone we meet." [Mâlik]

• ٨٥- وَعَنِ الطُّفَيْلِ بِنِ أُبِيِّ بِنِ كَعْبِ أَنَّهُ كَانَ يَأْتِي عَبْدِ الله بن غُمَرَ، فَيَغْدُو مَعَهُ إِلَى السُّوقِ، قَال: فَإِذَا غَدَوْنَا إلى السُّوق، لَمْ يَمُرَّ عَبْدُ الله عَلَى سَقَّاطٍ وَلَا صَاحِب بَيْعَةٍ، وَلَا مِسْكِين، وَلَا أَحَدِ إِلَّا سَلَّمَ عَلَيْهِ، قَالَ الطُّفَيْلُ: فَجِئْتُ عَبْدَ اللهِ بْنَ عُمَرَ يَوْمًا، فَاسْتَثْبَعَنِي إِلَى السُّوقِ، فَقُلْتُ لَهُ: مَا تَصْنَعُ بِالسُّوقِ، وَأَنْتَ لَا تَقِفُ عَلَى الْبَيْعِ، وَلَا تَسْأَلُ عَن السُّلَع، وَلَا تَسُومُ بِهَا، وَلَا تَجْلِسُ فِي مَجَالِس السُّوق؟ وَأَقُولُ: اجْلِسْ بِنَا هَاهُنَا نَتَحَدَّثْ، فَقَالَ: يَا أَيَا بَطْن! - وَكَانَ الطُّفَيْلُ ذَا بَطْن -إِنَّمَا نَغْدُو مِنْ أَجْلِ السَّلَام، فَنُسَلِّمُ عَلَى مَنْ لَقِينَاهُ. رَوَاهُ مَالِكُ في الموطأ بإشنّادٍ صحيح.

Commentary: This Hadith highlights 'Abdullâh bin 'Umar's passion for promoting Salâm which is a practice of Sunnah. Secondly, we can call a person by his epithetic name provided he is not offended by it.

CHAPTER 132 WORDS TO BE USED FOR **OFFERING GREETINGS**

It is recommended for the one offering greetings to say: 'As-Salâmu Alaikum wa Rahmatullâhi wa Barakâtuhu.' The reply is 'Wa 'Alaikum us-Salâmu wa Rahmatullâhi wa Barakâtuhu.

وضى الله عنهما Imrân bin Husain رضى الله عنهما reported: A man came to the Prophet & and said: "As-Salâmu 'Alaikum (may you be safe from evil). Messenger of Allâh aresponded to his greeting and the man sat down. The Prophet as said, "Ten (meaning the man had earned the merit of ten good acts)." Another one came and said: "As-Salâmu 'Alaikum wa Rahmatullâh (may you be safe from evil, and Mercy of Allâh be upon you).' Messenger of Allâh & responded to his greeting and the man sat down. Messenger of Allâh as said, "Twenty." A third one came and said: "As-Salâmu 'Alaikum wa Rahmatullâhi wa Barakatuhu (may you be safe from evil, and the Mercy of Allâh and His Blessings be upon you)." Messenger of Allâh 25 responded to his greeting and the man sat down. Messenger of Allâh a said, "Thirty." [Abû Dâwûd and At-Tirmidhî] ١٣٢ - بَابُ كيفية السلام

يُسْتَحَبُّ أَنْ يَقُولَ الْمُبْتَدِيء بالسَّلام: «السَّلامُ عَلَيُكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ الله وَبَرَكَاتُهُ» فَيَأْتِي بضَمِير الْجَمْع، وَإِنْ كَانَ المُسلَّمُ عَلَيْهِ وَاحِدًا، وَيَقُولُ الْمُجِيبُ: "وَعَلَيْكُمُ السَّلَامُ وَرَحْمَةُ الله وَبَرَكَاتُهُ فَيَأْتِي بواو العَطفِ في قوله:

٨٥١- عَنْ عِمْرَانَ بن الْحُصَيْن رَضِيَ الله عَنْهُمَا قَال: جَاءَ رَجُلٌ إِلَى النَّبِيِّ عَلَيْهِ فَقَالَ: السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ، فَرَدَّ عَلَيْهِ ثُمَّ جَلَسَ، فَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: «عَشْرٌ» ثم جَاءَ آخَرُ، فَقَالَ: السَّلَامُ عَلَيكُم وَرَحْمَةُ الله، فَرَدَّ عَلَيْهِ فَجَلَسَ، فَقَالَ: «عِشْرُون» ثُمَّ جَاءَ آخَرُ، فَقَالَ: السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُم وَرَحْمَةُ الله وَبَرَكَاتُهُ، فَرَدَّ عَلَيْهِ فَجَلَسَ، فَقَالَ: «ثَلاثُونَ» رَوَاهُ أَبُو داود والتَّرْمِذِيُّ وَقَال: حَدِيثُ حَسَنٌ.