

## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

### **Moral lesson and Etiquette of gathering in Islam**

Our entire life is in submission to the way of Islam, Quran and Sunnah tell us how to behave in interactions with others, and inform us how to conduct our gatherings, so it is essential for us to know the manners and etiquette for gatherings.

**Asking for permission:** Before entering any place or any gathering one should ask for permission

Allah (SWT) says: "O you, who have believed, do not enter houses other than your own houses until you ascertain welcome." (An-Nur 24:27)

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Permission should ask for three times; if you were given permission (then enter). Otherwise, go back." (Musnad Ahamad)

**Salam while entering and leaving from gathering:** Salam should be said both when joining and leaving a gathering or meeting, both are important and essential.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "When one of you comes to a gathering, let him say Salam, and when he wants to leave let him say Salam, for the former is not more of a duty than the latter." (Abu Dawud)

**Making room for one another:** If some people are sitting in an assembly, and more people arrive, accommodate the new-comers with an open heart.

Allah (SWT) tells us that we should make room for others: O you who have believed, when you are told, "Space yourselves" in assemblies, then make space; Allah will make space for you. And when you are told, "Arise," then arise; Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. And Allah is well aware of whatever you do

(Al-Mujadilah 58:11)

**Asking someone to give up their place:** It is not right to ask someone to give up their space for you or for anyone else

The Prophet (PBUH) said: “If one of you gets up from his spot and then comes back to it, he has more right to it.” (Muslim)

Don't hold the space for someone who is coming late

**Newcomers to sit at the first place available:** newcomer should sit to the first place available for them.

Jabir bin Samurah (RA) said: “When we came to the Prophet (PBUH), one of us would sit wherever there was room.” (Abu Dawud)

It is not permissible for anyone to sit between two people who are sitting side by side without their permission, except if they allow and make room for the newcomer.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: “It is not permissible for a man to come between two others, except with their permission.” (Abu Dawud)

**Don't sit in the middle of a circle:** Hudhaifah (RA) said that: “Allah's Messenger (PBUH) cursed the one who sits in the middle of the circle.” (Abu Dawud)

**Don't talk secretly in the gatherings:** When two individuals talk to each other while ignoring the third person in their company, it causes uneasiness and grief to the third person, so it's not appropriate to talk secretly in the gatherings.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: “When there are three of you, then let two not converse in exclusion of their companion or the third, for indeed that will worry him.” (At-Tirmidhi)

The true believers, when they talk secretly together, do not talk of sin and transgression, if they have to talk secretly together they should talk of goodness and piety.

**Remembrance of Allah:** A Gathering in which there is neither remembrance of Allah nor sending of peace and blessings upon the Prophet (PBUH), remains without the mercy of Allah.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: “No group gathers in a sitting in which they do not remember Allah, nor send peace and blessings upon their Prophet (PBUH), except it will be a source of sorrow for them. If He Wills, He will punish them, and if He Wills, He will forgive them.” (At-Tirmidhi)

**Supplication when the gathering is over:** The Prophet (PBUH) said: “Whoever sits in a sitting and engages in much empty, meaningless speech and then says before getting up from that sitting of his: ‘Glory is to You, O Allah, and praise, I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except You, I seek Your forgiveness, and I repent to You,’ whatever occurred in that sitting would be forgiven to him.” (At-Tirmidhi)

**Attend gatherings as clean as possible:** The Prophet (PBUH) said: “Whoever eats garlic, onions let him not come near our Masjid, for the Angels are offended by the same things that offend the sons of Adam.” (Muslim)

**Forbidding evil:** One must forbid every evil that he witnesses in front of him. This is because stopping evil, like ordering what is good, is a responsibility upon every Muslim.

Allah’s Messenger (PBUH) said: “Whoever among you sees an evil action, let him change it with his hand (by taking action); if he cannot, then with his tongue (by speaking out); and if he cannot, then with his heart (by hating it and feeling it is wrong), and that is the weakest of faith.” (Muslim)

**Refrain from sitting in the pathways:** The Prophet (PBUH) said: “Beware! Avoid sitting on the roads (ways).” (Al-Bukhari)

**Always try to be in a good company:** One of the most important things we must do is that we should avoid bad company.

The Prophet (saws) said, “The case of the good companion and the bad companion is like that of the seller of musk and the blower of the bellows (iron-smith). As for the seller of musk, he will either give you some of the musk, or you will purchase some from him, or at least you will come away having experienced its good smell. Whereas the blower of the bellows will either burn your clothing, or at least you will come away having experienced its repugnant smell.” (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

**Conversation:** always hold a decent conversation, with back-and-forth dialogue. Never control a discussion and don’t be rude.

**Be on time:** No one likes to wait for others who are habitually late.