



## 14. Maintaining Sound Morals, Values, and Conduct

Delivered by His Eminence  
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Indeed, all praise is due to Allaah. We praise Him, seek His assistance, and ask His forgiveness. We praise Allaah, the Most Exalted, and we are grateful to Him. He is the One who guides to the best words, deeds, and conduct. He is perfect in every way. He deserves endless praise and He is the One entitled to all our worship. He is the only One who deserves those things. Praising Him abundantly is a means by which we seek further goodness and blessings from Him. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone, without any partner. He blessed us with teachings that contain the most pristine of directives and morals. I further bear witness that our Prophet and leader, Muhammad, is Allaah’s worshipping servant and Messenger whose conduct was the most complete. May Allaah grant His commendation, protection, and blessings to His Messenger, as well as to the Messenger’s virtuous family, esteemed Companions, and all who continue to steadfastly follow their path until the Day of Recompense.

Servants of Allaah, you must observe taqwaa of Allaah by fulfilling His commands and avoiding His prohibitions. Taqwaa is what enables an individual to achieve ranks of high honour, and leads our Ummah to the most praiseworthy of outcomes. A person’s noble ancestry cannot truly avail him if he lacks taqwaa, so beware of being deluded. Observe taqwaa of Allaah and seek nobility and honour with Him. The most honourable of people to Allaah are those who observe taqwaa most.

Dear people of Islaam, key elements of the awakening and nobility of any community or collective lie in a pivotal issue. It is an issue that is a cornerstone of any civilization, and one that directs social reform. It is the issue of maintaining sound values, proper conduct, and high moral standards. The nobility, happiness, strength, and prominence of any collective revolve around the values and conduct embodied by its individuals. Allaah, the Most Exalted, told His Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection),

﴿ وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ ﴾

“**You indeed have a very admirable standard of conduct.**”<sup>1</sup> A people remain so long as their sound conduct remains. If it comes to an end, so will they. The righteousness of individuals and communities lies in the soundness of their conduct and values. Therefore, each individual should strive to set himself right by steadfastly adhering to sound conduct. When people’s conduct becomes unsound, that indicates that there is weakness in the beliefs they are supposed to hold in their hearts; and if our Ummah contravenes the conduct it is to personify, that is a herald of its demise.

Dear people of Islaam, maintaining sound conduct and values is what emancipates a person from recklessness and arrogance. It leads him to the truth and its light. It takes him away from ignorance along with all its ills, and guides him to all that would assist him in refining his soul and attaining true happiness. Maintaining sound conduct and values is an issue that deserves much attention and care. You should never forget that Islaam in and of itself represents the pinnacle of virtues, values, praiseworthy traits, and sound conduct. Allaah stated,

<sup>1</sup> Soorah al-Qalam (68):4.



﴿ قُلْ إِنِّي هَدَيْتَنِي رَبِّيَ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ دِينًا قِيمًا مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ﴾

“Messenger of Allaah, say, ‘My Lord has certainly directed me to a straight path that contains no crookedness. Thus, I followed that path and it is the religion which is founded upon all that is best in this world and the hereafter. It is the same religion followed by the Prophet Ibraaheem who continued devoting all worship to Allaah alone and was not among those who directed any form of worship to other than Allaah’.”<sup>2</sup> Thus, it can be understood that dignified conduct and values are among the greatest matters that Islaam’s teachings advocate. Islaam is distinguished by a uniquely elevated code of morals and conduct which has not and will not be matched by anything that humans produce. The code of conduct prescribed by Islaam outdoes all other codes and systems devised by people. This is because the essence of morals taught by Islaam emanates from Islaam’s unwavering foundational beliefs. The conduct and morals taught by Islaam are at such an elevated standard that Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) epitomized his mission and call by saying, “I have only been sent in order to complete admirable conduct.” This was collected by Ahmad, and also by al-Bukhaaree in al-Adab al-Mufrad.<sup>3</sup>

Dear people of eemaan, maintaining a high standard of morals and conduct was the outstanding feature that distinguished our Salaf: the foremost generations of Islaam. It was something which they strove to personify in words and deeds. In fact, the Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) even sought to refine the conduct of children if they happened to do anything that went against the sound morals and conduct taught by Islaam. In the Two Saheeh collections, there is a hadeeth narrated by ‘Umar ibn Abee Salamah (may Allaah be pleased with him) in which he said, “While I was a young boy in the care of Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection), my hand used to wander all over the dish when we would eat. Consequently, Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) told me, ‘My dear young one, begin eating in the name of Allaah, eat with your right hand, and eat from the portion nearest to you.’ After that, I always continued eating the way he instructed me to.”<sup>4</sup>

‘Abdullaah ibn ‘Abbaas (may Allaah be pleased with both of them) stated, “People used to learn and acquire sound conduct before learning and acquiring knowledge.” In addition, ‘Abdullaah ibn al-Mubaarak (may Allaah have mercy upon him) remarked, “The need we have for a small amount of sound conduct is greater than the need we have for an immense amount of knowledge.” That was the course followed by the foremost generations of Islaam, and that was why they maintained a high standard of conduct as well as a high standard of knowledge. Out of all people, they were the soundest in conduct, the best in morals, the most giving, and the farthest from harming. Al-Hasan al-Basree (may Allaah have mercy upon him) stated, “Sound conduct lies in the following: a pleasant face, giving to others, and not causing harm.”

My dear brothers, personifying certain aspects of sound conduct is that simple: bearing a pleasant face and speaking kind words. The exploits of the dignified provide light and remain mentioned in all languages. Allaah only shaped hearts for our bodies in order to elevate those who have sound conduct and understanding. What strength could remain for our Ummah if it is infiltrated with respect to matters of conduct and morality? Individuals who rush towards the direction of depravity are indeed the ones who undermine the strength of their own societies and lower the lofty standing of their Ummah.

If you observe certain happenings in the streets, you would see things that never cease to amaze.

<sup>2</sup> Soorah al-An‘aam (6):161.

<sup>3</sup> Musnad al-Imaam Ahmad (8952). See also al-Adab al-Mufrad (273). Graded saheeh by al-Albaanee.

<sup>4</sup> Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (5376), Saheeh Muslim (2022).



What sound conduct could there be in the foul language that some individuals shamelessly use in public? They shout out words whose striking obscenity reaches the ears of humans, and which even other creatures and inanimate objects would be ashamed to hear. This results from belittling the importance of sound conduct and overall decency. It also results from weak eemaan. Allaah, the Most Exalted, stated,

﴿لَا يُحِبُّ اللَّهُ الْجَهْرَ بِالسُّوءِ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ إِلَّا مَنْ ظَلَمَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ سَمِيعًا عَلِيمًا﴾

**“Allaah does not love for ill words to be spoken openly. However, it is permissible for someone who has been wronged to explain to others the wrong that was done to him in order to defend himself or seek their assistance. It is also permissible for him to voice his invocations to Allaah for assistance against those who oppressed him. And Allaah is All-Hearing, Completely Knowledgeable.”<sup>5</sup>**

There are also others who do not make any distinction between the masjid and their homes when it comes to things like their attire, as well as their mobile phones which distract other worshippers. They try to be the centre of attention, they say things they have no knowledge of, and they enter into prolonged discussions of issues in which they have no part. They display shameless audacity, and we seek refuge with Allaah from the corruption of values and from all unbefitting actions.

There are also people who do things that can lead to far worse damage. They do so by driving on the wrong side of the street, or driving aggressively as though they are a surging flood that charges through. Immense danger comes from individuals who break traffic laws, violate safety regulations, speed recklessly, and give no consideration to the consequences in the short or long term.

Others throw garbage in pathways or shopping areas without feeling any inhibition, and this contravenes the authentic hadeeth that states, “Eemaan has seventy-something branches. The most virtuous of them is the statement laa ilaaha illallaah (none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah), and the lowest of them is removing harm from the path that people use...” This was collected by Muslim.<sup>6</sup> Hence, keeping public places clean is a branch of eemaan as well as a manifestation of kindness to others. Not only that, it is fulfilment of an instruction from Allaah. He said,

﴿وَلَا تَعْتَوُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ مُفْسِدِينَ﴾

**“You must not go about spreading corruption upon the earth.”<sup>7</sup>** Allaah, who is perfect in every way, also said,

﴿وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا﴾

**“You must not spread any form of disobedience to Allaah upon the earth after He Himself has put the earth in order.”<sup>8</sup>** Al-Imaam al-Qurtubee (may Allaah have mercy upon him) remarked that Allaah forbade all forms of corruption, however major or minor, after matters have been set right in any way, however major or minor.

In addition, another manifestation of a lack of decency and sound values comes in the form of certain rumours and lies are circulated on the internet and via social media. People attack the integrity, intellect, and even property or respectable individual who are known for their righteousness and their dignity.

<sup>5</sup> Soorah an-Nisaa’ (4):148.

<sup>6</sup> Saheeh Muslim (35).

<sup>7</sup> Soorah al-Baqarah (2):60.

<sup>8</sup> Soorah al-A’raaf (7):56.



Dear people of Islaam, having a strong social fabric requires efforts of reform that focus on refining people's values, raising awareness, and nurturing sound insight. Doing those would allow our senses to perceive an environment that is dignified, clean, healthy, flourishing, and free of impediments. Furthermore, that would prompt people to have due reverence for Allaah, our Creator, and enable them to ascend to great heights by Allaah's permission. Additionally, it would lead to prominence for our Ummah in all realms of knowledge, and none of that is too much for Allaah to bring about.

May Allaah bless all of us by way of the Qur'aan and Sunnah, and may He enable us to glean direction from the guidance of the best individual among mankind. I say this much and I implore Allaah, the Most Magnificent and Majestic, to forgive the sins committed by myself, you, and all who submit to Him in Islaam. Thus, you should also seek Allaah's forgiveness and repent to Him. My Lord is truly the continually forgiving and the bestower of mercy.



All praise is due to Allaah. He purified people's hearts and deeds by way of sound values. Allaah is perfect in every way, and I am grateful to Him for His continuous favours. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone, without any partner, and I bear witness that our Prophet Muhammad is Allaah's worshipping servant and Messenger. I implore my Lord to grant an abundance of commendation and protection to His Messenger, as well as to the Messenger's family, Companions, and followers.

Servants of Allaah, you must continue to observe taqwaa of Allaah, and adhere to praiseworthy traits and values. True integrity and success lie in doing that.

My dear brothers who have eemaan, it is absolutely necessary for emphasis to be placed on instilling sound morals and values within the individuals of our Ummah, both young and grown. These matters must be given attention and not neglected. Advocating decency and proper values uplifts our Ummah. This is why it is prescribed by Islaam for the leader in authority to put decisive regulations in place for the purpose of preserving sound values overall. This can be understood from a principle which states that the rulings passed by a leader in authority are to be ones that bring about the greatest good for the public at large. Furthermore, it is necessary for the public to cooperate with the authorities in bringing about the greatest overall good. We pray that Allaah grants our leader continued guidance and success in all matters. Among the important resolutions he has approved is that of having a code for overall public values and decency. That was done in order to protect our society's morals and norms, and to give due consideration to people's rights. It was also done in order to inhibit those who say or do things that cause harm to others, especially in public places. We beseech Allaah to grant our nation – the land of the Two Holy Mosques – continued protection. It has made sound conduct and morals part of the regulations it strives to uphold, so as to take a leading role in refining people's values and preserving their integrity. Whenever a person's environment changes, so will the way he conducts himself. It is dignified conduct that enables people to attain high standing and be respected by others.