

Who should initiate the salaams, the caller or the one who answers the phone?

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Translated by Raha ibn Donald Batts (from: www.sahab.net/forums/index.php?showtopic=142100)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

One day, he (Shaykh Al-Albaanee, (رَجْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹) called me² and I was not present, so my small daughter answered; saying, when she picked up the receiver of the phone: “(السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته)³.” So the Shaykh asked for me, then said to her: “Inform your father that Muhammad Naasir Ad-Deen Al-Albaanee called.” (He didn’t say: ‘Shaykh.’ This was from his humility, may Allaah elevate his level in Paradise.)

So when I returned home my small daughter informed me (saying): “A man called you named Muhammad Naasir Ad-Deen Al-Albaanee.” So I called him immediately. After he had sought from me that which he wanted, he said to me: “O Aboo Islaam, when I called you, your small daughter answered saying: ‘(السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته).’ Is this action based upon knowledge or is it a personal action from a child? We hope to benefit, O Aboo Islaam.” This was also from his humility and his wisdom in Da’wah, (رَجْمَةُ اللَّهِ).

I said to him: “This is the action of a child, and the first time (she has done so). That which we know regarding this matter is that the person is to pick up the receiver of the phone saying: Na’am; and one who is calling him is to give Salaams, and he returns the Salaams to him, not that he (the one who is called) initiates the Salaam.” So he, (رَجْمَةُ اللَّهِ) said: “This is that which is correct, as far as we know. This is because the caller is similar to the one who is knocking at the door. There is no difference between them.”

¹ (رَجْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² Transmitted by Saalih ibn Taha Aboo Islaam from the book: Al-‘Aqeedah Awwalan Law Kaanoo Ya’lamoon 1/16-17

³ (السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته) (as-Salaamu `alaikum wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuhu) May the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allaah be upon you

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