



اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ الَّذِيْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ تَتِمُّ الصّٰلِحٰتُ

# THE ISLAMIC ETIQUETTES OF CELEBRATION

ePamphlet

Happiness is a divine blessing bestowed upon man by Allah ﷻ. It is a healthy emotion which embodies peace, contentment, and joyfulness of the heart. To rejoice in times of happiness and wish to express it is a natural impulse, that is recognized as the permissible right of every human being in Islam.

It is a great favor of Allah ﷻ that He has provided us with numerous occasions to experience this natural emotion in our lives, and guided us to the best ways to express it. Not only that, but to follow the Islamic guidelines while enjoying our moments of happiness, in fact becomes an act of worship that is rewarded, and an expression of true gratitude to Allah for His blessings.

### **Happiness and Praise of Allah**

Allah ﷻ is pleased when we remember to praise Him for the blessings He has bestowed upon us at the moment we are enjoying them and our thoughts remain focused upon Him. This ability can only be achieved by a person whose heart is always yearning towards His Lord and overwhelmed with gratitude no matter what his circumstances. We learn this from the hadith:

It was narrated from Mu'adh bin 'Abdullah bin Khubaib, from his father, that his paternal uncle said: We were sitting in a gathering, and the Prophet ﷺ came with traces of water on his head. One of us said to him: We see that you are of good cheer today. He ﷺ said: Yes, praise is to Allah (I am happy). There is nothing wrong with being wealthy for one who is mindful of Allah, yet good health for one who is mindful is better than wealth. And cheerfulness is among the blessings." [Sunan Ibn Majah: 2141]

Happiness can be classified as extrinsic and intrinsic. Intrinsic happiness is borne naturally from firm faith, pious and charitable actions, competing in acts of goodness, helping others, and holding steadfastly to the rope of Allah and

Qur'an. For the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions, the source of true happiness used to be the successes achieved in the path of Allah and the glory of Islam.

Narrated Ibn Mas'ud رضي الله عنه: I witnessed al-Miqdad bin al-Aswad in a scene which would have been dearer to me than anything had I been the hero of that scene. He (i.e. al-Miqdad) came to the Prophet ﷺ while the Prophet ﷺ was urging the Muslims to fight with the pagans.

Al-Miqdad said: We will not say as the People of Moses said: *Go you and your Lord and fight you two*. [5:27]. But we shall fight on your right and on your left and in front of you and behind you. I saw the face of the Prophet ﷺ getting bright with happiness, for that saying delighted him. [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 3952]

Extrinsic happiness comes from external events like birth of a child, weddings, convalescence or good news regarding a loved one, academic success, promotion at work etc.

### **The Importance of Making a Believer Happy**

It is reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

...وَأَحَبُّ الْأَعْمَالِ إِلَى اللَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ سُرُورٌ تَدْخُلُهُ عَلَى مُسْلِمٍ...

“....The most beloved of deeds according to Allah the Mighty, the Magnificent, is that you bring happiness to a fellow Muslim...” [*Ṣaḥīḥ Jami al-Sagḥīr*: 176]

The Prophet ﷺ not only guided us regarding our religious duties but also taught us the social etiquettes through which communities can draw closer together and believers can become a source of happiness for each other. The easiest of which is for a Muslim to meet his brother with a cheerful countenance.

Jabir bin 'Abdullah رضي الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

كُلُّ مَعْرُوفٍ صَدَقَةٌ، وَإِنَّ مِنَ الْمَعْرُوفِ أَنْ تَلْقَى أَخَاكَ بِوَجْهِ طَلِقٍ، وَأَنْ تَقْرِعَ مِنْ دَلُوكَ فِي إِنْاءٍ أَخِيكَ.

"Every good is charity. Indeed among the good is to meet your brother with a smiling face, and to pour

what is left in your bucket into the vessel of your brother” (as this would make him happy). [*Sunan al-Tirmidhī*: 1970]

## Special Occasions of Happiness

As a favor upon believers, Allah ﷻ has bestowed them with some special occasions of joy which are uniquely blessed. To celebrate them and rejoice in them within permissible limits and societal norms is encouraged.

### 1. The Greatest Joy

The greatest joy for a believer lies in the supreme blessing of the Qur'an and to attain its understanding. Allah tells us in the Qur'an:

قُلْ بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَبِرَحْمَتِهِ فَبِذَلِكَ فَلْيَفْرَحُوا هُوَ خَيْرٌ مِمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ

“Say: In the bounty of Allah. And in His Mercy - in that let them rejoice: that is better than the (wealth) they hoard.” [*Yunus*: 58]

The Prophet ﷺ used to emphasize the importance of this blessing to his companions and give them this good news:

Abu Shurayh al Khuza'i رضي الله عنه says: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ once came out to us and said: “Glad tidings, do you not testify that there is none worthy of worship but Allah and I am the Messenger of Allah?” The Sahabah replied, most definitely. The Prophet ﷺ then said: “Indeed this Qur'an is [a means of attaining something], one end is in Allah's [control] and one end in your control, so hold fast onto the Quran, for [if you do so] you will never go astray nor will you be destroyed.” [*Ṣaḥīḥ Ibn Hibban, Al Ihsan*: 122]

### 2. Two Joys for the Fasting Person

Fasting is an act uniquely devoted to Allah, which will be exclusively rewarded by Him. About the joy on receiving this promised reward, we learn from a Hadith Qudsi, that Allah ﷻ says: “There are two pleasures for the fasting person, one at the time of breaking his fast, and the other at the time when he will meet his Lord; then he will be pleased because of his fasting.” [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1904]

### 3. Celebrating Eid

Every nation has a festival or day of celebration; and for Muslims these are the two Eids - religious festivals that are celebrated with customary dignity and ceremony. These Eids bring together many reasons to celebrate: the joy of completing the month of fasting; the gratification of being able to help the poor with our sadaqāt ul fiṭr; the sublime happiness of exalting our Lord aloud with *Takbīrāt* on our way to the prayer grounds; the contentment of performing the Eid prayer; the charm of meeting friends and family; of exchanging gifts and feasting together; the excitement of sacrifice at Eid ul Aḍḥa and distributing the meat; the merriment, fun times and travels during the Eid holidays etc. It is encouraged to celebrate the days of Eid by wearing our best clothes, playing games or engaging in any fun or amusement activities that are within permissible limits.

Anas ibn Malik رضي الله عنه reported: When the Messenger of Allah ﷺ arrived in Medina, the people had two days on which they engaged in games (celebration). The Prophet ﷺ asked: “What [is the significance] of these two days?”

They said: We would celebrate these two days in the time of Ignorance. The Prophet ﷺ said: “Verily, Allah has substituted these two days with two better days: Eid al-Aḍḥa and Eid al-Fiṭr.” [*Sunan Abī Dāwūd: 1134*]

### 4. Pleasure at doing good deeds is a sign of faith

Good deeds that are free from ostentation are a source of true happiness and contentment of the heart.

Ibn ‘Umar رضي الله عنهما narrated: ‘Umar delivered a Khutbah to us at Al-Jabiyah. He said: O you people! Indeed I have stood among you as the Messenger of Allah ﷺ stood among us, and he ﷺ said: “... Whoever rejoices with his good deeds and grieves over his evil deeds, then that is the believer among you”. [*Sunan al-Tirmidhī: 2165*]

## 5. Rejoicing at Weddings

Wearing good clothes to a wedding, creating a joyous atmosphere, arranging for food and drink at a valima are recommended acts. Giving gifts at weddings, supplicating for blessings for the bride and groom whether attending the wedding festivities or not, is from the practice of our Prophet ﷺ.

### \*\*Supplication for the Bride and Groom

Narrated Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه: When the Prophet ﷺ congratulated a man on his marriage, he said:

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لَكَ وَبَارَكَ عَلَيْكَ وَجَمَعَ بَيْنَكُمَا فِي خَيْرٍ .

“May Allah bless for you, and may He bless on you, and combine both of you in good (works)”

## 6. Happiness when Blessed with an Offspring

It is natural to be grateful to Allah and be happy when blessed with a child. Parents express this happiness by sharing the good news with their relatives and friends, and supplicating for their child. When a new-born was brought to the Prophet ﷺ, he would supplicate for blessing for him:

Narrated Abu Musa رضي الله عنه: A son was born to me and I took him to the Prophet ﷺ who named him Ibrahim, did *tahnik* for him with a date, invoked Allah to bless him and returned him to me. [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī* 5467]

### Some Instances of Joy for the Companions رضي الله عنه

- The greatest occasion of happiness for the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ was when the Prophet ﷺ would express his love for them.
- They were overjoyed at the glad tidings of being in the company of the Prophet ﷺ on the Day of Judgment.

Narrated Anas رضي الله عنه: We had never been so glad as we were on hearing that saying of the Prophet ﷺ

أَنْتَ مَعَ مَنْ أَحَبَبْتَ . (You will be with those whom you love)

Therefore, I love the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr and ‘Umar, and I hope that I will be with them because



of my love for them though my deeds are not similar to theirs. [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 3688]

- They would become happy to learn of another Muslim brother being bestowed with a blessing.

When Ka'b bin Malik رضي الله عنه's repentance was accepted, the Companions were so thrilled by the news that they rushed to be the first to break the news to him and congratulated him wholeheartedly.

He said: The people started receiving me in batches, congratulating me on Allah's acceptance of my repentance, saying, We congratulate you on Allah's Acceptance of your repentance.

[ref: *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 4418]

- They would be delighted by the achievements and conquests of the Muslims.
- They were happy on the occasion of meeting the Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم.

## How to Express Happiness?

### On Receiving any Good News

- Be grateful to Allah with the tongue, heart and actions. It is the Sunnah of the Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم to do the prostration of gratitude on any such occasion.

Narrated Abu Bakrah رضي الله عنه: When anything came to the Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم which caused pleasure (or, by which he was made glad), he prostrated himself in gratitude to Allah. [*Sunan Abī Dāwūd*: 2774]

- Share your happiness with others.
- Remember the poor and include them in your enjoyments.
- Be moderate in celebrations.
- Do not transgress any limits in your celebrations.
- Be cautious of any act that may displease Allah.

- Do not become so distracted as to neglect your prayers and become heedless of the remembrance of Allah.
- Always remain content with Allah's decree in all circumstances, not just on joyful occasions.
- Supplicate to Allah in the recommended way, as what came to pass was by the decree, help and grace of Allah ﷻ.

## Recommended (Masnūn) Supplication

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي بِنِعْمَتِهِ تَتِمُّ الصَّالِحَاتُ.

*Alḥamdu lillāhil ladhi bi ni'matihi tatimmuṣ ṣālihāt.*

Praise is to Allah by Whose grace good deeds are completed. [Sunan Ibn Mājah: 3803]

Translated by:

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*Suhaib reported that Allah's Messenger ﷺ said:*

*Strange are the ways of a believer for there is good in every affair of his and this is not the case with anyone else except in the case of a believer for if he has an occasion to feel delight, he thanks (God), thus there is a good for him in it, and if he gets into trouble and shows resignation (and endures it patiently), there is a good for him in it.*



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