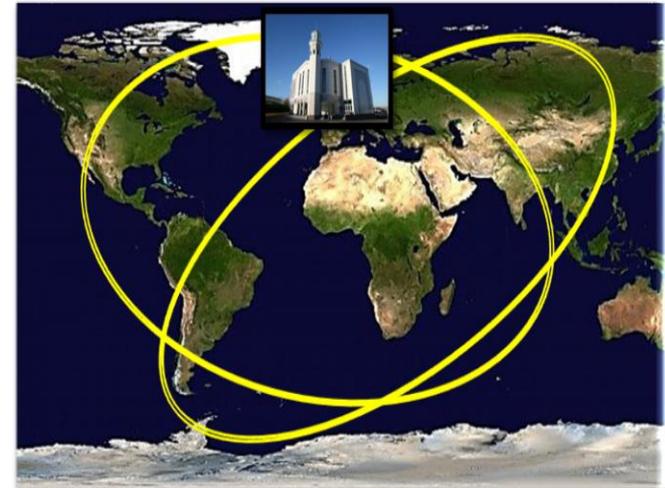


The Importance of Practicing Good Morals in Islam



**Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat
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Head of the Ahmadiyya
Muslim Community**



**relayed live all across the
globe**

Friday 2nd March 2018

SUMMARY

The Importance of Practicing Good Morals in Islam

Islamic teachings greatly emphasis **practicing good morals and excellent manners** at home, and in society. Ahmadis should try to adopt the highest morals, by utilizing all our faculties.

The Holy prophet (sa) has established before us examples of astonishing moral standards, including; **truthfulness, generosity, forbearance, patience and forgiveness**. The moral training of these virtues in children should be undertaken at an early age, so that they come to adopt these as they become adults.

The Promised Messiah (as) stated that moral standards can in fact only be labelled as true moral qualities when they are manifested under appropriate occasions and in accordance with a person's intention. Thus, **purity of heart** is required, and the best practice is to do justice, and say things as they are.

Good morals are the **key to good deeds and virtues**, and good deeds will generate further virtuous acts. **Your capacity to do more good will therefore perpetually increase with each virtuous act.**

Morals distinguish human beings from animals and to **abandon your morals is a sin**. Furthermore, forgetting your morals will lead you to sin and vice. We should constantly seek to raise the standards of our morals and for this, **we should seek help through prayers, and prostrate before God Almighty.**

Friday 2nd March 2018

Introduction

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) stated: Islamic teachings greatly emphasize practicing good morals and excellent manners at home and in society at every level. No other religion addresses this matter in such detail.

However, unfortunately it is Muslims who are generally considered to be at the lowest level in this regard. Many claim to love the Holy Prophet (sa), but do not follow the spirit of his teachings. The Promised Messiah (as) was sent by God Almighty to remind us of these.

Ahmadis should make an utmost effort to instill in themselves, the most excellent of morals. We must adopt the highest morals by utilizing all of our faculties and following the practical examples of the Holy Prophet (sa).

The
Importance
of
Practicing
Good
Morals in
Islam

Friday 2nd
March 2018

**The
Importance
of
Practicing
Good
Morals in
Islam**

Friday 2nd
March 2018

Examples of the Holy Prophet (sa)

If we look at the practical examples of the Holy Prophet (sa), we see astonishing moral standards.

The Holy Prophet (sa) admonished his wife for mocking the short height of another wife.



He (sa) advised: ***Do not show even the slightest displeasure at any others over anything they do***

The Holy Prophet (sa) told children to not damage fruit trees, by throwing stones at these in an effort to obtain the fruits.



These examples show how the Holy Prophet (sa) advised children at an early age to attain high moral standards.
By undertaking the moral training of children in this manner, they can adopt excellent morals as they become adults.

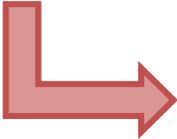
Once a child was eating quickly and moving his hand all over the plate. The Holy Prophet (sa) said,
“First, recite the prayer to start in the name of Allah, eat with your right hand and eat from what is right in front of you.”

2 - Examples of the Holy Prophet (sa)

Dishonesty is a sin, and truthfulness is a virtue and good moral.

A companion of the Holy Prophet (sa), narrated:

“Once, the Holy Prophet (sa) came to our home. Due to my immaturity, whilst the Holy prophet (sa) was still present at home, I was about to leave to play outside. Hence, to stop me from leaving this blessed environment, my mother said, “Come here and stay here. I will give you something.” Upon this, the Holy Prophet (sa) said, “Do you wish to give him something?”. My mother replied, “Yes, I will give him a date.” The Holy Prophet (sa) said, “If this was not your intention, and you merely said this in order to call the child, ***you would have been guilty of committing a sin as you told a lie.***”



In this way, even the child became aware of the importance of truthfulness.

The Holy Prophet (sa) said:

“If you are unable to refrain from every vice, ***then you should refrain from telling lies.*** You should at least refrain from one vice.”

The Importance of Practicing Good Morals in Islam

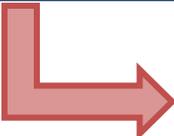
Friday 2nd
March 2018

3 - Examples of the Holy Prophet (sa)

Forbearance and patience

An example of forbearance and patience:

A Bedouin started to urinate in the mosque. People ran towards him to stop him. The Holy Prophet (sa), said “**Leave him alone and pour water over the area he urinated on. You have been created to provide ease for people, not to cause them hardships.**”



The Bedouin always mentioned this act of kindness. He (sa) elevated the standards of forbearance and patience.

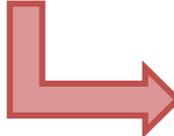
Forgiveness and leadership

The Holy Prophet (sa) said:

“Your high morals will manifest themselves when you will **consider yourselves to be the servants of the nation** and when you will serve the public with all your capabilities and capacities.”

After the conquest of Makkah, the Holy Prophet (sa):

He (sa) **forgave all his enemies**, even those who subjected to the bitterest of persecution.



Office bearers in our Jama'at should pay attention towards this matter.

The
Importance
of
Practicing
Good
Morals in
Islam

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) has said:

“Addressing the Holy Prophet (sa), Allah the Glorious says. **“Thou dost surely possess high moral excellences.”**”

This means that every form of moral excellence, such as **GENEROSITY, COURAGE, JUSTICE, MERCY, BENEVOLENCE, TRUTHFULNESS, FORBEARANCE**, etc.. Are found in your character. All of these moral qualities are natural conditions and feelings of a person. These moral qualities can only be labelled as moral qualities when they are manifested on their appropriate and proper occasion and in accordance with a person’s intention...”



The Promised Messiah (as) states:

“High morals can be gauged under **two circumstances**”

Trials and tribulations

“... A person who *demonstrates patience and endeavors to acquire the pleasure of Allah the Exalted at times of trials and tribulations*, possesses high moral qualities”

Success and Prosperity

“... A person who *demonstrates humility and establishes justice in times of success and governance*, can be considered as one who possesses high moral qualities.”

The importance of Practicing Good Morals in Islam

Friday 2nd
March 2018

Purity of Heart

God Almighty says, “VERILY, ALLAH ENJOINS JUSTICE, AND THE DOING OF GOOD TO OTHERS; AND GIVING LIKE KINDRED.”

The
Importance
of
Practicing
Good
Morals in
Islam

The Promised
Messiah (as) states:

Upon commenting on insincere flattery and deceitful politeness...

“This is NOT Islamic teaching, as these are not the true Islamic virtues. Instead, **high virtue is that whatever you say, it should be heartfelt.**”

If you are showing compassion, it should come from the heart.

To do justice, say things as they are.

Treat people like a mother treats her children, or a close relative treats his kith and kin. This is the best practice.



Friday 2nd
March 2018

Good Deeds

The Promised Messiah (as) states that ***“Good morals are the key to other deeds. Those who do not look after their morals, gradually become useless.”***

A man is only of use if he possesses high moral values.

...” In such an instance, once becomes worse than the dead animal. At least the skin and bones of a dead animal can be used, but a man’s skin is useless. This is the point when he becomes as becoming the most inferior creature. ***So, remember, improvement of your morals is extremely important as morals are the mother of good deeds.”***

The
Importance
of
Practicing
Good
Morals in
Islam

Friday 2nd
March 2018

The Importance of Practicing Good Morals in Islam



ONE GOOD DEED
LEADS TO THE OTHER
AND ONE'S CAPACITY
TO DO MORE GOOD
WILL PERPETUALLY
INCREASE.

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) has said
'Reflect on the fact that a virtuous deed generates another virtue and similarly an evil deed is the source of causing another evil. Just as something absorbs another, similarly God Almighty has established this system of assimilation in every action. The system of learning and mastering."

Friday 2nd
March 2018

Treatment of Parents

The Importance of Practicing Good Morals in Islam

The Promised Messiah (as) advised Sheikh 'Abdur Rahman Sahib Qadiani (whose parents were Sikh):

“ You should pray for him... **One should demonstrate their good manners and pure example more than ever before to prove the truthfulness of Islam to them.** The standard of true Islam is such that its follower is able to achieve high morals through it and as a result, they become distinguished individuals...

“... Through you, perhaps God will inculcate the love of Islam in their hearts. Islam does not prohibit one from serving their parents. **You should show utmost obedience to them in any way possible, in wordly affairs that do not damage faith...**”

“... Serve them with your heart and soul.”

1- Vices

The Promised Messiah (as) states:

... **“Morals distinguish human beings from animals”...**

1. Animals cannot differentiate between a condition and quantity, and takes whatever is in front of it.
2. Animals do not understand the difference between what is lawful and unlawful.

If someone takes something unlawfully, their home becomes a hell.

“If they do not...”

1. Fulfil the rights of Allah

***2. Do not accept His
magnificence***

3. Do not worship Him

***4. Do not pay attention to His
commandments***

***5. Do not strive to obtain His
pleasure***

**“... Then
these are
not good
morals...”**

The
Importance
of
Practicing
Good
Morals in
Islam

Friday 2nd
March 2018

The
Importance
of
Practicing
Good
Morals in
Islam

Friday 2nd
March 2018

2- Vices

Arrogance

- Arrogance deprives one from performing good deeds
 - It causes God Almighty's displeasure.
 - The Promised Messiah (as) said that sometimes wealth develops arrogance, and occasionally can be due to family lineage and tribes.
 - ***Arrogance exists in many forms.***
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Abandoning morals

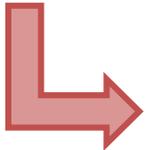
- The Promised Messiah (as) states: ***"...To abandon ones morals is vice and sin."***
 - If you forget your morals, you will be lead to sin.
 - The opportunities for you to perform good deeds will also reduce.
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Providing an example to your neighbours

The Promised Messiah (as) says:

“I advise my community that whoever ***shows a change in their moral behaviour*** to their neighbour, i.e of what they were before and how they are now, then it is as if he has displayed a miracle and through this they can be a ***positive influence on their neighbour...***”

“... If an individual enters this fold (joins the Jamaat), and does not uphold the honour and respect of this ***community by committing an act that is contrary to its values***, then in the eyes of God Almighty, he is culpable because he not only ruins himself, rather he has a ***negative impact on others and becomes the reason for them to remain bereft of the good fortune of guidance.***”

- 
- Changing your moral behavior for the better, will have a **positive influence** on your neighbours through your example
 - If you commit acts that are against the values of the Jamaat, you will have a **negative impact on others.**

The
Importance
of
Practicing
Good
Morals in
Islam

Friday 2nd
March 2018

**The
Importance
of
Practicing
Good
Morals in
Islam**

May God Almighty enable us to follow the noble example of the Holy Prophet (sa) and better our morals in every aspect and in all situations and circumstances. We have accepted the Imam of this age, therefore we should always be cognisant of the fact that no action of ours should be such that dishonours the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as. Moreover, we should constantly seek to raise the standards of our morals and for this we should prostrate and supplicate before God Almighty and seek His help to achieve this.