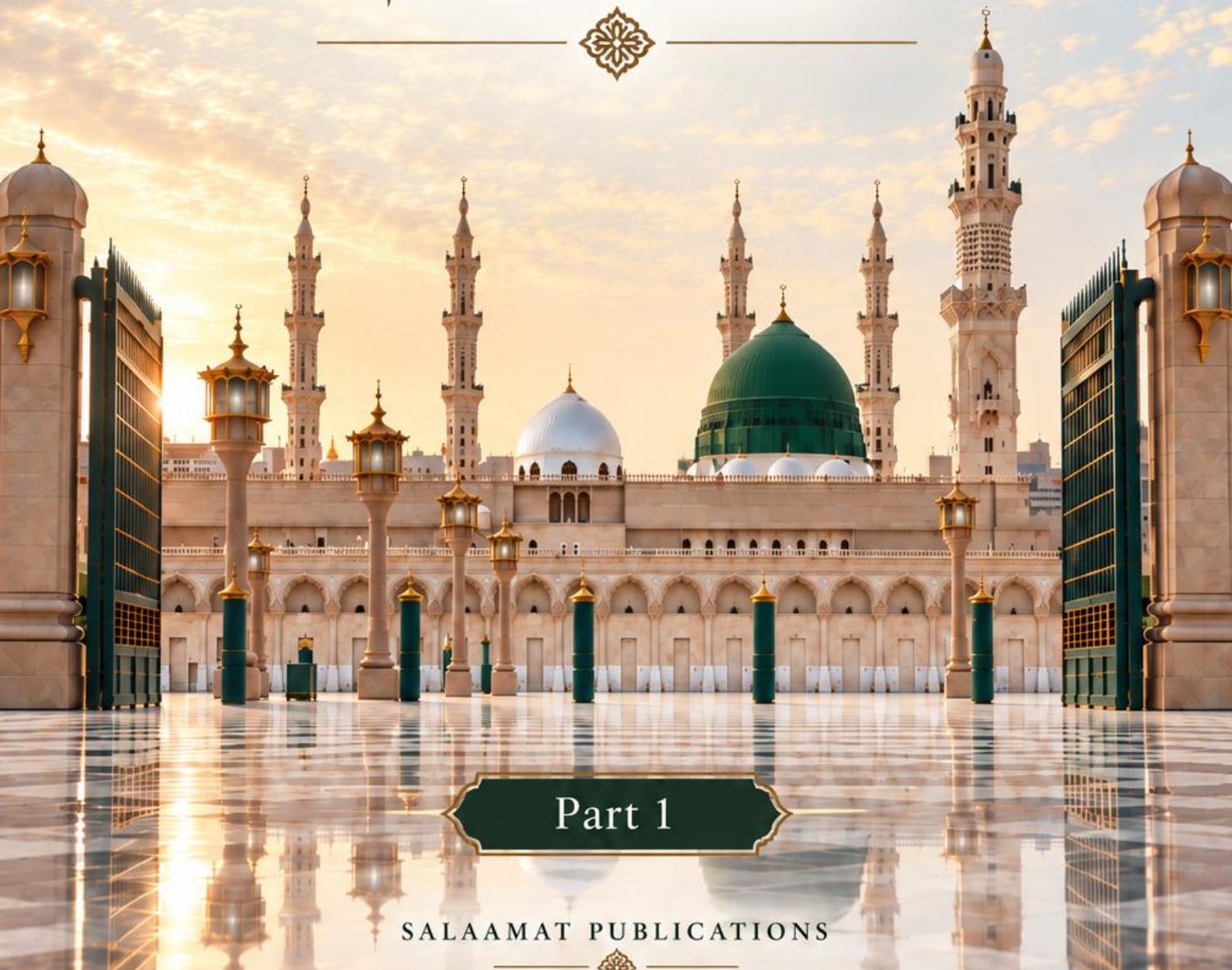




LESSONS TAKEN FROM  
THE  
**Sublime Conduct**  
OF OUR BELOVED  
**Nabi-e-Kareem**  
صلى الله عليه وسلم



Part 1

SALAAMAT PUBLICATIONS



## Introduction

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## Introduction

# Lessons taken from the Sublime Conduct of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ

نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُصَلِّي عَلَى رَسُولِهِ الْكَرِيمِ، أَمَّا بَعْدُ،  
فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ، بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ  
صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

Alhamdulillah, through the Fazl and Karam of Allah Ta'ala, we have started a short Tarbiyat series for our students and friends.

This series consists of a few short and simple Tarbiyat lessons, which, Insha Allah, if read or listened to with the correct frame of mind, will be easy for us to understand and, more importantly, to practise upon.

**The theme of this series is:**

**Lessons from the Sublime Conduct of Our Beloved Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ**

Our beloved Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ was the final Messenger of Allah Ta'ala and the most beloved to Allah Ta'ala. Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ possessed the best of akhlaq and the most beautiful character.

The Noble character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ is praised by none other than Allah Ta'ala Himself in the Quraan-e-Kareem.

Allah Ta'ala says:

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

“And indeed, you are surely upon an excellent standard of character.”

[Surah Al-Qalam, 68:4]

The status of our beloved Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ is extremely lofty.

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In another verse of the Quraan-e-Kareem, Allah Ta'ala mentions:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

“We have not sent you except as a mercy to the worlds.”

When we recite the Shahadah, we say:

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

“I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship besides Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allah.”

This clearly shows us the great and honoured status that our beloved Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ, the beloved of Allah Ta'ala, holds in the blessed sight of Allah Ta'ala.

The purpose of this kitaab and the series as a whole is to bring the love of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ into our hearts and to bring his Mubarak Sunnah into our lives.

Each kitaab in this series will, Insha Allah, contain approximately ten short Tarbiyat lessons, making the lessons easy to read, understand and practise upon.

This first edition contains ten lessons concentrating mainly on the akhlaq and beautiful character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. The other kitaabs to follow, Insha Allah, will continue in more or less the same format, with ten short Tarbiyat lessons covering different aspects of his sublime conduct and Mubarak Sunnah.

There is so much that can be said and written regarding the noble character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ that we could never do justice to this great subject.

## Introduction

Many volumes have been written in the past, and people may continue writing until Qiyamah, yet the beautiful character and sublime conduct of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ can never be fully covered.

However, in our own small way, we are trying to make a humble contribution which will, Insha Allah, be beneficial to us first, to those assisting us in putting together the Ahadith and ayaat of the Quraan-e-Kareem, and to everyone who reads or listens to these advices.

Our intention should not merely be to read about the beautiful character and conduct of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Our aim should be to learn from these short lessons and make a sincere effort to bring these beautiful qualities into our own lives.

As our love for Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ increases, our desire to follow his Mubarak Sunnah should also increase.

We make dua that Allah Ta'ala grants us the ability to learn from the beautiful life and sublime conduct of our beloved Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ, to bring these teachings into our daily lives, and to become a means of goodness and benefit to those around us.

May Allah Ta'ala accept this humble effort and make it a means of great benefit for one and all. We also make dua that Allah Ta'ala grants us sincerity and steadfastness in all that we do, especially in matters relating to Deen, the khidmat of Deen and our ibadat.

May Allah Ta'ala bless us with Ikhlas, Istiqamat and Qubuliyat in all our efforts and accept them solely for His pleasure.

وَأَخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

## Lesson 1

### The Beautiful Character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ

Allah Ta'ala says in the Quraan-E-Majeed:

وَأَنَّكَ لَکَلِّ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

“And indeed, you are of a great moral character.”

[Surah Al-Qalam 68:4]

These few words tell us something very great about Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Allah Ta'ala Himself praises his ﷺ character and describes it as عَظِيم, great and magnificent.

Hazrat Abdullah bin Amr رضي الله عنه describes the character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. He says that Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ was neither a person who used bad language, nor was he one who deliberately spoke in an offensive manner.

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ would say:

إِنَّ مِنْ خَيْرِكُمْ أَحْسَنَكُمْ أَخْلَاقًا

“Indeed, among the best of you are those who have the best character.”

[Sahih al-Bukhari 3559]

This teaches us how important good character is in our Deen. When we speak about following Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ, we naturally think about his Sunnah. We think about his ibaadah, his ﷺ Salaah and the many beautiful Sunnahs that he ﷺ taught us.

However, there is another very important part of his ﷺ Sunnah which we sometimes overlook. It is the way Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ dealt with people in his everyday life.

## Lesson 1: The Beautiful Character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ

How did Nabi ﷺ speak to people?

How did Nabi ﷺ behave with his family?

How did Nabi ﷺ treat children and the elderly?

How did Nabi ﷺ deal with the poor and weak?

How did Nabi ﷺ respond when someone was rude to him?

How did Nabi ﷺ behave towards someone who had made a mistake?

What did Nabi ﷺ do when he became displeased with something?

All of this is also part of the beautiful Sunnah of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ.

This is why good character is not something separate from Deen. It is a very important part of our Deen and our everyday way of life.

Sometimes a person may be particular about his ibaadah, and this is something very valuable.

**However, we should also ask ourselves: What is my character like?**

A person may perform his Salaah, make tilaawat and engage in zikr, but what kind of character does he show when dealing with people? How does he speak when he becomes angry? How does he behave when someone makes a mistake? How does he treat his wife and children? How does he treat his parents? How does he speak to someone who works for him?

These are important questions which we should ask ourselves.

It is often easy to show good character when everything is going according to our wishes.

The real test comes when we are tired, when we are under pressure, when someone irritates us, or when somebody does something that we do not like.

**That is when our akhlaaq becomes visible.**

## Lesson 1: The Beautiful Character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ

Sometimes we are extremely polite to people outside our homes. We smile at them, speak softly, show great patience and are very careful not to hurt their feelings.

Yet when we return home, the people who are closest to us sometimes experience a completely different version of us or a different side of our character. This is something we need to seriously reflect upon.

The sublime conduct of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ teaches us that beautiful character should become part of who we are.

Our family should experience it.

Our neighbours should experience it.

The people who work with us should experience it.

The person who cannot do anything for us should also experience it.

Even when someone treats us badly, our response should still reflect the good character we have learnt from Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ.

This is the purpose of these short majalis.

We want to look at one quality at a time from the beautiful character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. We want to learn how Nabi ﷺ dealt with people, and then ask ourselves sincerely one very simple and important question:

**“How can I bring this Sunnah into my own life?”**

We are not learning these things merely to admire the beautiful character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. We are learning them so that we can try to bring these beautiful qualities into our own lives.

## Lesson 1: The Beautiful Character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ

We want that love and admiration to lead us towards following him ﷺ.

Perhaps we cannot change everything about ourselves at once. However, we can begin with one quality. Then another. Then another.

A little more patience.

A little more kindness.

A little more forgiveness.

A softer tongue.

A more humble heart.

Better treatment of our families.

In this way, slowly, we try to bring something of the beautiful akhlaaq taught to us by Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ into our own lives. Let us therefore begin this series with one simple intention:

“I want to learn about the beautiful character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ, and I want to make an effort to bring his ﷺ beautiful example into my own character.”

May Allah Ta'ala fill our hearts with true love for Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ and grant us the ability to follow his ﷺ beautiful Sunnah and sublime conduct. Aameen.

## Lesson 2

### Gentleness in Our Dealings

Allah Ta'ala says in the Quraan-E-Majeed:

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ ۚ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ

“It was through the mercy of Allah that you were gentle with them. Had you been harsh and hard-hearted, they would have scattered from around you.”

[Surah Aal-Imran 3:159]

In this beautiful ayah, Allah Ta'ala draws our attention to the gentleness of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. People were attracted to him ﷺ. They felt comfortable around him ﷺ. His manner was not harsh or hard-hearted.

Hazrat Aishah رضي الله عنها narrates that Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ said:

إِنَّ الرِّفْقَ لَا يَكُونُ فِي شَيْءٍ إِلَّا زَانَهُ، وَلَا يُنْزَعُ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا شَانَهُ

“Gentleness is not found in anything except that it beautifies it, and it is not removed from anything except that it spoils it.”

[Sahih Muslim 2594]

This Hadith teaches us a very important lesson for our daily lives: *gentleness brings beauty into our words, actions and dealings with others.*

*A person may be saying the right thing, but if he says it harshly, the effect can be completely different.*

A parent may be correcting a child for the right reason, but the manner of correction may push the child away.

## Lesson 2: Gentleness in Our Dealings

A husband or wife may have a genuine complaint, but when it is expressed with anger and harsh words, a small matter can quickly turn into a major argument and lead to serious consequences.

Sometimes we may think that being gentle is a sign of weakness. This is not correct and is a serious misunderstanding. True gentleness is not weakness. It requires strength, patience and self-control.

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ was the greatest example of strength and courage, yet his ﷺ conduct was filled with gentleness, a quality which Allah Ta'ala Himself praises in the Quraan-E-Majeed.

Gentleness means that even when something needs to be corrected, we try to correct it in the best manner. We do not humiliate people. We do not unnecessarily raise our voices. We do not use hurtful words simply because we are angry.

This is especially important within our homes and in our private lives, where our true character is often seen.

Sometimes we show tremendous patience and understanding towards people outside our homes, yet struggle to show the same patience towards those closest to us.

A customer makes a mistake and we respond politely. A colleague irritates us and we remain calm. Someone important speaks harshly to us, and we still control our response.

Then we come home and become impatient over the smallest things. Our family deserves to experience our good character as well.

## Lesson 2: Gentleness in Our Dealings

Before correcting someone, we should first ask ourselves: “Can I say this in a better, kinder and more respectful way?”

Sometimes the problem is not what we are saying, but the problem is in manner and tone in which we are saying it. This also applies when we are trying to bring someone closer to Deen.

A person may already feel distant from Deen. If we approach him only with criticism and harshness, we may push him even further away.

**Look at what Allah Ta'ala says regarding Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ:**

Had Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ been harsh and hard-hearted in his dealings, people would have moved away from him ﷺ.

**What a lesson there is in this for us.**

Our character should make people comfortable around us. Our children should be able to approach us. Our family should be able to speak to us. A person who has made a mistake should feel that there is a way back.

**Let us make one small intention today.**

The next time we need to correct someone, especially someone in our own home, let us first control our tone and choose our words carefully.

Let us remember the beautiful teaching of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ:  
Gentleness beautifies whatever it enters.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us gentleness in our speech, gentleness in our homes and gentleness in all our dealings, and bless us with the sublime character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Aameen.

## Lesson 3

### Controlling Our Anger

Allah Ta'ala says in the Quraan-E-Majeed:

الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ فِي السَّرَّاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَالْكُظَيْبِ وَالْغِظِ وَالْعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

“Those who spend in times of ease and hardship, who control their anger, and who forgive people. And Allah loves those who do good.”

[Surah Aal-Imran 3:134]

Among the beautiful qualities mentioned in this ayah is controlling one's anger. Allah Ta'ala does not say that a good person will never become angry. Rather, He praises those who are able to control their anger.

Hazrat Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه narrates that Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ said:

لَيْسَ الشَّدِيدُ بِالصُّرْعَةِ، إِنَّمَا الشَّدِيدُ الَّذِي يَمْلِكُ نَفْسَهُ عِنْدَ الْغَضَبِ

“The strong person is not the one who overcomes others by his strength. The strong person is the one who controls himself when he is angry.”

[Sahih al-Bukhari 6114]

**This Hadith changes our understanding of strength.**

We sometimes think that a strong person is someone who can make others afraid of him. He can raise his voice, answer immediately and make sure that he has the last word.

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ teaches us something very different.

Real strength is to have the ability to react, but to control yourself for the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala.

### Lesson 3: Controlling Our Anger

Anger is something that every person will experience. The real danger begins when we allow our anger to take control of our words and actions.

A person becomes angry and suddenly the tongue changes. The voice becomes louder. Hurtful words are spoken. Sometimes things are said which cannot easily be taken back.

The anger may pass within a few minutes, but the hurt caused by our words or actions can remain in a person's heart for many years.

This is especially important within our homes.

Sometimes we control ourselves very well outside. If someone at work makes a mistake, we manage to remain calm. If a customer irritates us, we still speak respectfully.

Yet when our wife, husband, child, parent or sibling does something that displeases us, we sometimes react immediately without thinking about the effect of our response.

The people closest to us should not receive the worst of our character.

Controlling anger does not mean that we never correct anyone. Somethings may genuinely be wrong and will need to be addressed.

However, we do not have to correct everything while we are angry.

Sometimes the best thing we can do is remain silent for a short while and allow our anger to settle. We can then address the matter calmly, when we are able to choose our words carefully.

### Lesson 3: Controlling Our Anger

We should also learn not to make decisions when we are extremely angry. A few moments of uncontrolled anger can sometimes cause damage that takes a very long time to repair.

There is another beautiful lesson in this ayah. After mentioning those who control their anger, Allah Ta'ala immediately praises those who forgive others.

This teaches us that it is not enough to control our anger outwardly.

We should also work on removing the anger and resentment that may remain within our hearts.

#### **Let us ask ourselves:**

When I become angry, who is really in control? Am I controlling my anger, or am I allowing my anger to control my words and actions?

#### **Let us make one small intention today.**

The next time we become angry, we will not react immediately. Instead, we will give ourselves some time to calm down before we speak, respond or make any decision.

That moment of self-control may save us from a lifetime of regret.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us control over our anger, give us forgiving hearts and bless us with the sublime character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Aameen.

## Lesson 4

### Forgiving and Overlooking

Allah Ta'ala says in the Quraan-E-Majeed:

وَلْيَعْفُوا وَلْيَصْفَحُوا أَلَا تُحِبُّونَ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ ۚ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

“Let them pardon and overlook. Do you not love that Allah should forgive you? And Allah is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.”

[Surah An-Noor 24:22]

This ayah teaches us a very beautiful lesson. Just as we hope and desire that Allah Ta'ala will forgive our mistakes and shortcomings, we should also learn to forgive others and overlook their mistakes.

We all make mistakes and sometimes hurt others without intending to do so. When we learn to forgive and overlook, we bring peace into our hearts and strengthen our relationships with those around us.

Hazrat Aishah رضي الله عنها describes the character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ:

وَمَا اتَّخَذَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ لِنَفْسِهِ فِي شَيْءٍ قَطُّ

“Rasulullah ﷺ never took revenge for himself in any matter.”

[Sahih al-Bukhari 3560/ 6786]

This was the sublime character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ.

Nabi ﷺ was hurt by people. People spoke badly to him. Nabi ﷺ experienced opposition and many personal difficulties. Yet when the matter concerned himself, Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ was not a person who was looking for revenge.

**There is a great lesson in this for us.**

Living with others means that, at times, we may be hurt or disappointed. Someone may say something that upsets us, a family member may make a mistake, or a friend may let us down.

We cannot go through life expecting everyone to always behave according to our wishes. People have different personalities and weaknesses, and mistakes are a natural part of human relationships.

**Now the question is: what do we do when someone hurts us?**

Sometimes an incident may last only a few minutes, yet we continue to carry the hurt in our hearts for months, or even for many years.

We remember exactly what the person said and how it hurt us. We may tell others about what happened and keep thinking about it.

When another disagreement happens, we bring up the past again and allow the old hurt to return.

**In this way, one mistake is never allowed to die.**

Holding onto past hurts and repeatedly bringing up old mistakes can be especially harmful within families.

Between husband and wife, parents and children, and brothers and sisters, mistakes will naturally happen.

When every mistake is remembered and brought up repeatedly, it can slowly weaken the love and closeness within the family.

**Forgiving does not mean that wrong becomes right.**

There may be serious matters that need to be addressed. There may also be situations where a person needs to protect himself from being harmed repeatedly.

However, many of the things that trouble us in our daily lives are not so serious. They are often small mistakes, careless words or simple misunderstandings which we should learn to forgive and overlook. Sometimes we need to ask ourselves:

**“Is this matter really worth carrying in my heart?”**

We also make mistakes. We also say things that we later regret. We also need people to overlook our shortcomings.

Above all, we should remember how much we ourselves are in need of the forgiveness and mercy of Allah Ta'ala.

**This is why the words of the ayah are so powerful:**

“Do you not love that Allah should forgive you?”

**Let us make one small intention today.**

When someone makes a small mistake or says something that hurts us, before reacting or allowing it to remain in our hearts, **let us ask ourselves:**

“Can I overlook this for the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala?”

May Allah Ta'ala grant us forgiving hearts, help us to overlook the faults and mistakes of others, and bless us with the sublime character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Aameen.

## Lesson 5

### The Best of you are Those Who are Best to Their Families

Allah Ta'ala says in the Quraan-E-Majeed:

وَعَاشِرُهُنَّ بِالْغَيْرِ

“And live with them in kindness.”

[Surah An-Nisaa 4:19]

Our good character should be seen everywhere, but one of the most important places it should be seen is within our own homes.

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ said:

خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ وَأَنَا خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِي

“The best of you is the one who is best to his family,  
and I am the best of you to my family.”

[Sunan Ibn Majah 1977]

This Hadith gives us a very important measure of good character. Sometimes we judge ourselves by how people outside the home see us. People may know us as friendly, patient and helpful. They may enjoy our company and speak highly of us.

**However, there is another question we should ask:**

“What does my family experience from me?”

The people at home see us when we are tired, under pressure, or when things do not go according to our wishes. It is during these moments that our true character is often revealed and tested.

## Lesson 5: The Best of you are Those Who are Best to their Families

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ did not only teach us to be good to our families. Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ was himself the best example of this.

Hazrat Aishah رضي الله عنها was once asked what Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ used to do in his home. She replied that he ﷺ would serve and assist his family, and when the time for Salaah came, he ﷺ would go for Salaah.

This teaches us that helping at home does not reduce a person's dignity.

At times, we are prepared to do a great deal for people outside the home, yet within our own homes we may expect everything to be done for us.

In reality, even a small act of help can bring great comfort and make a meaningful difference.

### **Good character at home is also reflected in the way we speak.**

Every home will naturally have moments of difference and difficulty. There may be tiredness, pressure, mistakes and misunderstandings.

The real test is whether we are able to respond with patience, respect, kindness and self-control.

This is why the home is such an important place to practice the sublime conduct of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ.

The people closest to us should not only hear about our good character; they should experience it from us.

## Lesson 5: The Best of you are Those Who are Best to their Families

A husband and wife may not always see matters in the same way. Children will make mistakes as they learn and grow.

Parents, elders, siblings and other family members may sometimes say or do things that are difficult for us to accept.

Every family will experience moments of tiredness, pressure and misunderstanding. There will be times when patience is tested and emotions become difficult to control. This is a normal part of family life, regardless of a person's age, role or stage in life.

The important thing is not that these moments never happen.

The important thing is how we conduct ourselves when they do happen. A person should pause, choose his words carefully, lower his tone where possible, and try to respond with patience, respect and kindness.

In this way, good character does not remain only as something we speak about. It becomes something we practice in the very moments when it is most needed.

The aim is not to create a home where no one ever slips or makes mistakes, because that is not realistic.

Every home will have moments where mistakes are made, words are misunderstood, and patience is tested.

The real aim is to create a home where mistakes are handled with maturity, patience and good character.

Correction should take place, but it should not come with humiliation. Differences may arise, but they should not lead to disrespect.

## Lesson 5: The Best of you are Those Who are Best to their Families

A person may be tired, regardless of whether they are male or female, but that tiredness should not become a reason to make others suffer through harsh words, coldness or an unpleasant mood.

A home should be a place where family members feel safe, respected and valued. Those closest to us should feel comfortable in our presence, not anxious about our reactions.

This is part of bringing the sublime conduct of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ into our family life. His blessed example teaches us that true character is shown not only in public, but also in the way we speak, correct, forgive and live with those closest to us.

### **Let us ask ourselves honestly:**

Do the people closest to us experience the best of our character, or do we reserve our best manners for people outside the home?

Sometimes, the greatest improvement in our akhlaaq is not something the general public or wider community may ever see.

It is seen quietly within our own homes, by becoming a kinder husband or wife, a more patient parent, a more respectful child, or a more helpful member of the family.

**Let us make one small intention today.** When we enter our homes, we will make a conscious effort to bring kindness with us.

A pleasant word, a smile, a small act of help, or simply giving our time and attention can bring warmth, happiness and comfort into the home.

May Allah Ta'ala fill our homes with love, kindness and mercy, and grant us the beautiful family conduct of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Aameen.

## Lesson 6

### Respect and Kindness Towards Our Elders

Allah Ta'ala says in the Quraan-E-Majeed:

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا ۖ إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا آفٌ وَلَا تُنْهَرُهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا

“Your Rabb has commanded that you worship none but Him,  
and that you show kindness to your parents.

If one or both of them reach old age in your care, do not even say ‘uff’ to them, nor speak harshly to them, but speak to them with honour.”

[Surah Al-Israa 17:23]

This beautiful ayah teaches us how carefully we should deal with our parents, especially when they become old.

At this stage of their lives, they may need more of our time, patience and assistance. We should consider it a privilege to serve them and make every effort to treat them with kindness and respect.

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ said:

لَيْسَ مِنَّا مَنْ لَمْ يَرْحَمْ صَغِيرَنَا وَيَعْرِفْ شَرَفَ كَبِيرَنَا

“He is not from us who does not show mercy to our young and recognise the honour of our elders.”

[Jami at-Tirmidhi 1920]

Showing respect and honour to our elders was an important part of the beautiful conduct taught to us by Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ.

As people grow older, many things begin to change.

## Lesson 6: Respect and Kindness Towards Our Elders

Their strength may decrease, they may walk more slowly, or take longer to understand certain things.

At times, they may repeat themselves or require help with things they were once able to do on their own. This is where our akhlāq is tested.

It is easy to respect an elderly person when he is strong, independent and able to help us. The greater test is when that person begins to need our time, our patience and our assistance.

**This is especially true with our parents.**

There was perhaps a time when we were small and asked the same question again and again. Our parents answered us. We needed help eating, dressing and doing the simplest things. They cared for us.

Years later, the situation may change. Now they may need us. At such a time, we should be very careful that our tone does not make them feel that they have become a burden.

Allah Ta'ala does not only command us to care and provide for our parents. He also teaches us the manner in which we should speak to them: "Speak to them with honour." This is tarbiyyah for us.

Sometimes we may do what an elderly person asks of us, yet our facial expression shows irritation. We may assist them, but the manner in which we respond may make them feel uncomfortable or hesitant to ask us again.

Good character is not only in what we do. It is also in how we do it.

## Lesson 6: Respect and Kindness Towards Our Elders

The same respect and kindness should also be shown to other elders around us. It may be an elderly relative, a neighbour, or someone in the Masjid who needs a little assistance.

Perhaps they need a chair to sit on for salaah, help carrying something, or simply someone who will give them time and listen patiently.

These may seem like small things, but they reflect the beautiful akhlaaq taught to us by Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ.

We should also remember that if Allah Ta'ala grants us a long life, a time may come when we too become weak, walk slowly, repeat ourselves, or we might need the help and assistance of others.

The patience, kindness and understanding that we would hope to receive at that stage of our lives is what we should learn to show our elders today.

### **Let us make one small intention:**

we will give a little more time and patience to our parents and elders, and we will be especially careful about the tone in which we speak to them.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us the ability to honour our parents, respect our elders, show mercy to our young, and follow the sublime conduct of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Aameen.

## Lesson 7

### Mercy and Kindness Towards Children

Allah Ta'ala says in the Quraan-E-Majeed:

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ ۖ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ

“It was through the mercy of Allah that you were gentle with them.  
Had you been harsh and hard-hearted, they would have scattered  
from around you.”

[Surah Aal-Imran 3:159]

Mercy and gentleness and kindness were outstanding qualities in the character and life of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ.

This most beautiful character was also clearly seen in the way our beloved Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ treated children.

Hazrat Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه narrates that Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ kissed Hazrat Hasan bin Ali رضي الله عنه while Hazrat Aqra bin Habis رضي الله عنه was sitting with him.

Hazrat Aqra رضي الله عنه then said, “I have ten children, but I have never kissed any one of them.”

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ then said:

مَنْ لَا يَرْحَمُ لَا يُرْحَمُ

“Whoever does not show mercy will not be shown mercy.”

[Sahih al-Bukhari 5997]

This small incident teaches us a very great lesson.

## Lesson 7: Mercy and Kindness Towards Children

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ did not regard showing love and affection to a child as something that made a person weak. He ﷺ openly showed affection to children. Children need this love and affection from us.

They need discipline and guidance, but they also need to feel loved. They need our smiles, our attention, our kind words and sometimes simply our affection.

At times, we may become impatient with children because we expect them to behave like adults.

A child spills something. A child makes a noise. A child asks the same question repeatedly. A child makes a mistake after being told not to do something. Immediately we become irritated.

**We should remind ourselves: this is a child.**

Children are still learning. Their mistakes are often part of their learning and growing. This does not mean that we should never correct them.

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ taught and corrected people. Children also need to learn what is right and wrong.

However, correction should come together with mercy. There is a difference between correcting a child and humiliating a child.

There is a difference between teaching a child and constantly shouting at a child.

## Lesson 7: Mercy and Kindness Towards Children

Sometimes a child may forget the exact words we said, but he will remember how we made him feel.

This is important not only for parents, but also for grandparents, teachers, older siblings, and anyone who has a role in a child's life.

Tarbiyah is not only about teaching children what is right. It is also about how we make them feel through our kindness, patience, and presence.

Let us give our children our time, listen to them, be gentle with them, and make them feel valued and loved. These small moments can leave a lasting impression in their hearts, by the permission of Allah.

Today, it is very easy to be physically present with our children while our attention is somewhere else. We may be looking at our phones while a child is trying to tell us something that feels very important to them.

To us, it may seem like a small story, a simple question, or something that could wait. But to that child, it may be his whole world in that moment.

When we stop what we are doing, look at them, and listen with patience, we are teaching them that they matter and that their words have value.

This is part of the gentleness we learn from the Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ.

## Lesson 7: Mercy and Kindness Towards Children

He gave people his attention, listened to them, and treated them with kindness and mercy.

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ gentleness was not only in what he said, but in the way he made people feel seen, heard, and valued.

Tarbiyah is not only about correcting behaviour or teaching children what is right. It is also about nurturing their hearts through mercy, patience, and presence.

Sometimes, the most meaningful lesson we can give a child is simply to put the phone down, turn towards them, and listen.

We are learning that children are not only shaped by what we tell them. They are also shaped by what they feel from us.

When a child experiences mercy, patience and gentle attention, something settles in the heart.

By the permission of Allah Ta'ala, those small moments can become part of that child's character, and one day, the same mercy may be shown by them to others.

The example of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ teaches us to be kind-hearted, merciful, caring and compassionate towards others.

### **Let us gently ask ourselves:**

“When the children around me think of me, do they remember my warmth, kindness and affection, or do they mostly remember me correcting them?”

## Lesson 7: Mercy and Kindness Towards Children

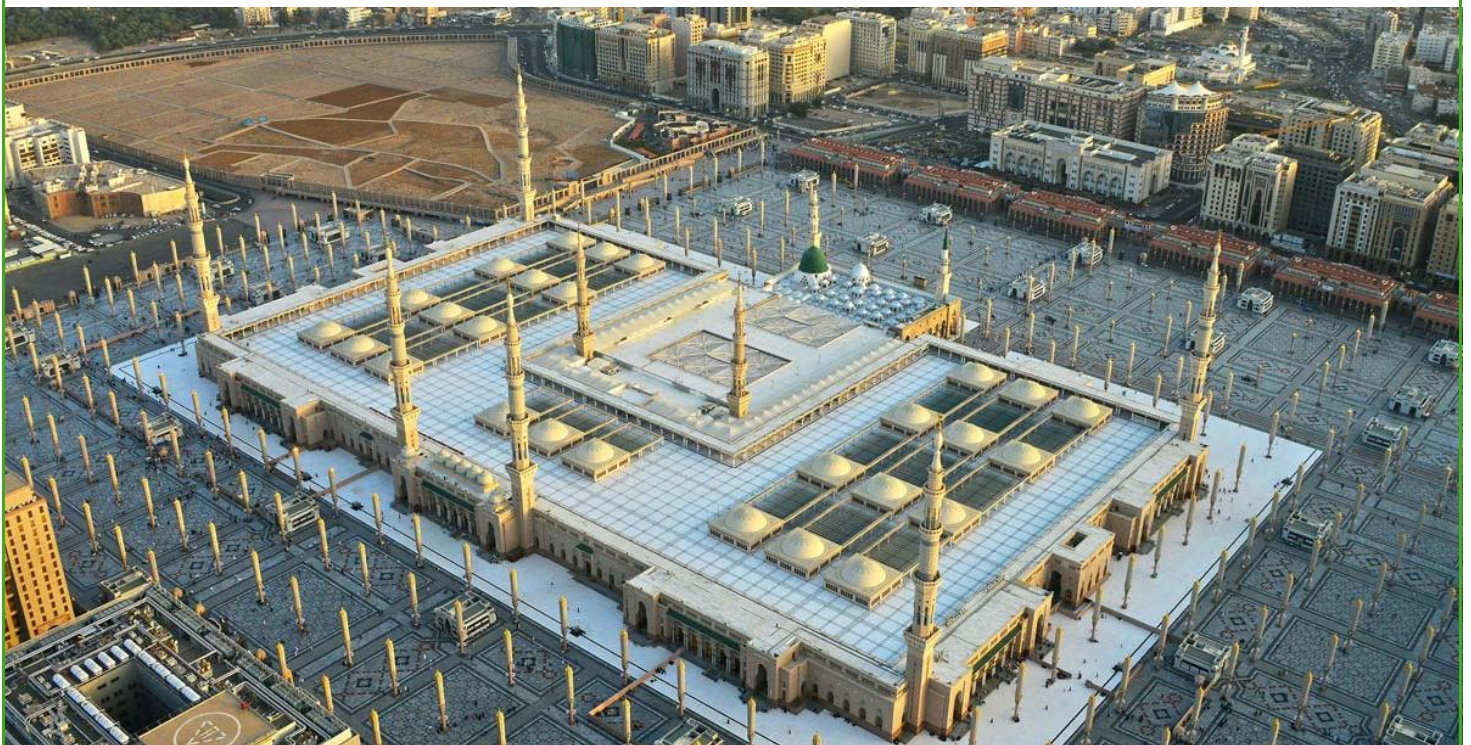
### **Let us make one small intention today**

We will be more present with the children in our lives, to show them a little more affection, patience and attention, and to make them feel loved, valued and safe in our company.

A warm smile, a kind and gentle word, a few moments of patient listening, or a simple expression of love and affection may seem small to us. Yet, to a child, these precious moments can become beautiful memories that remain in the heart for many years to come.

May Allah Ta'ala place mercy in our hearts, soften our words and grant us patience, kindness and tenderness towards the children in our lives.

May He make our character a means of comfort and guidance for them, and bless us with a share of the sublime character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Aameen.



## Lesson 8

### Responding to Harshness with Good Character

Allah Ta'ala says in the Quraan-E-Majeed:

وَلَا تَسْتَوِي الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ۚ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ

“The good deed and the evil deed are not equal. Repel evil with that (deed) which is better, and then the one between whom and you there was enmity may become as though he were a close friend.”

[Surah Fussilat 41:34]

It is easy to show good character when people treat us well. The real test of our akhlaaq comes when someone behaves badly towards us.

Hazrat Anas bin Malik رضى الله عنه narrates that he was once walking with Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ, who was wearing a Najrani shawl with a thick border.

A Bedouin came and pulled the shawl of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ so forcefully that the edge of the shawl left a mark on his ﷺ blessed shoulder.

The Bedouin then demanded that Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ give him from the wealth of Allah Ta'ala. How did Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ respond? Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ turned towards the man, smiled, and instructed that something be given to him. [Sahih al-Bukhari 3149]

**Let us pause and reflect on this incident.**

This man did not approach Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ with honour, respect, or gentleness. He pulled the blessed shawl of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ with such force that its edge left a mark on his ﷺ blessed shoulder.

## Lesson 8: Responding to Harshness with Good Character

Even after behaving in this rough manner, he did not pause to apologise. He did not show regret for what he had done. Instead, he simply placed his demand before Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ.

Yet look at the beautiful conduct of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. His response was not anger, harshness, or retaliation. Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ turned towards the man, smiled, and showed him kindness.

This is one of the beautiful lessons we learn from the sublime conduct of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Even when someone behaves badly towards us, we should still try to keep our own character good.

In our own lives, the test may not always come in big moments. Very often, it comes in small everyday situations.

Someone speaks to us in a harsh way. Someone pushes in front of us. A driver irritates us on the road. A customer is difficult to deal with. Someone sends us a message that hurts us. A family member says something in a tone we do not like.

In that moment, our nafs may quickly say, “I will show him.” We may feel that because the other person has behaved badly, we now have the right to answer with bad character as well.

The beautiful akhlaaq of our beloved Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ teaches us an important lesson: the bad character of others should not change our good character. No matter how someone treats us, we should try to respond with patience, kindness and dignity.

If someone raises his voice, we do not have to raise ours.

If someone is rude, we do not have to become rude.

If someone behaves without respect, we do not have to lose our dignity.

## Lesson 8: Responding to Harshness with Good Character

This does not mean that we allow people to continuously harm or take advantage of us. There are situations where we need to be firm, correct something, or protect ourselves.

However, firmness and bad character are not the same thing. A person can be firm without being insulting. We can disagree without becoming disrespectful. We can protect our rights without losing control of ourselves.

This is the tarbiyyah we learn from the conduct of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Our character should not depend on how other people behave.

**Let us pause and ask ourselves sincerely:**

When faced with the bad behaviour of others, do I choose the akhlaaq that Allah Ta'ala loves, or do I allow their conduct to pull me away from the noble character I am striving to develop?

**Let us make one small intention today.**

The next time someone behaves badly towards us, let us take a moment before we speak.

Let us remember how Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ answered harshness with kindness and a smile and let that beautiful Sunnah guide our response.

May Allah Ta'ala bless us with patience, forbearance and beautiful conduct in our dealings with others, especially when we are treated unfairly, and grant us a share of the sublime character of our beloved Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Aameen.

## Lesson 9

### Humility in Our Daily Lives

Allah Ta'ala says in the Quraan-E-Majeed:

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا

“And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth with humility, and when the ignorant address them, they respond with words of peace.”

[Surah Al-Furqaan 25:63]

One of the most beautiful qualities seen in the blessed life of our beloved Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ was his deep humility.

Allah Ta'ala had raised Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ to the highest position. No one was greater than him. Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ was the Messenger of Allah, the leader of the Ummah, and the most honoured of mankind.

Yet in his own home, he ﷺ did not live with pride or demand to be served. He ﷺ lived with humility, simplicity and kindness.

Hazrat Aishah رضي الله عنها was asked:

مَا كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَصْنَعُ فِي الْبَيْتِ؟

“What did Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ used to do at home?”

She replied:

كَانَ يَكُونُ فِي مَهْنَةِ أَهْلِهِ فَإِذَا حَضَرَتِ الصَّلَاةُ خَرَجَ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ

“Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ would assist his family, and when the time for Salaah came, Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ would go out for Salaah.”

[Sahih al-Bukhari 676]

**This is a very beautiful example of humility.**

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ had the highest position and the greatest honour, yet he ﷺ did not feel that helping his family was beneath him.

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ did not think, “This work is too small for me,” or “Someone else should do it.” Rather, Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ helped in the home with simplicity and kindness.

**There is a deep lesson in this for us.**

Sometimes, when Allah Ta‘ala gives a person position, wealth, knowledge, respect, or authority, a quiet feeling can slowly enter the heart. A person may begin to feel that certain tasks are now too low for him.

He may think, “Why should I do this? Someone else can do it.” At work, he may expect others to serve him. At home, he may expect everything to be done for him. Because of his age, position, wealth, or status, he may feel that others should always attend to his needs. But then we should look at Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ.

There was nobody greater than him ﷺ, yet he ﷺ assisted his family. This teaches us that humility does not reduce a person’s honour. Rather, humility makes a person more beautiful.

We should also look carefully at how we treat those whom people may regard as lower than us.

## Lesson 9: Humility in Our Daily Lives

How do we speak to a cleaner?

How do we speak to a worker?

How do we speak to someone serving us in a shop or restaurant?

How do we treat someone who has less wealth, less education, or a lower position than ourselves?

Sometimes we show great respect to an important person because we know who he is. Yet we hardly notice someone from whom we expect no benefit. This is where our akhlāq is tested.

Our good character should not depend on a person's status. A person does not become worthy of respect only when he is wealthy, educated, powerful, or useful to us. Every person is a servant of Allah Ta'ala, and our treatment of people should be guided by humility, mercy, and good character.

Whatever Allah Ta'ala has given us is a gift from Him. Our wealth is from Allah Ta'ala. Our knowledge is from Allah Ta'ala. Our position is from Allah Ta'ala. Even the ability to do something that another person cannot do is from Allah Ta'ala.

### **So what do we really have to be proud about?**

Humility is also seen when we are able to admit that we are wrong. Sometimes two simple words, "I'm sorry," become very difficult to say because pride stands in the way. A person may know in his heart that he made a mistake, but his tongue does not want to accept it.

A humble person does not feel that admitting a mistake lowers him. In fact, saying sorry with sincerity can raise a person in the sight of Allah Ta'ala and soften the hearts of people.

## Lesson 9: Humility in Our Daily Lives

### **Let us ask ourselves today:**

“When I look at the gifts Allah Ta’ala has given me, do they make me feel grateful and humble, or do they make me look down on others?”

### **Let us make one small intention today.**

We will try to do something for another person which we may normally expect them to do for us.

Perhaps it is something small at home. Perhaps it is helping someone at work. Perhaps it is simply giving proper respect and attention to someone whom people generally overlook.

When we do so, let us remember the beautiful example of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ, who despite his ﷺ great position, would assist his family at home.

May Allah Ta’ala remove pride from our hearts, bless us with true humility, and grant us a share of the sublime character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Aameen.

## Lesson 10

### Truthfulness and Trustworthiness

Allah Ta'ala says in the Quraan-E-Majeed:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ

“O you who believe, fear Allah and be with those who are truthful.”

[Surah At-Tawbah 9:119]

Among the many beautiful qualities in the blessed life of our beloved Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ were truthfulness and trustworthiness.

Even before Nubuwwat, his people knew Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ as a man of truth and trust. His words were honest, his dealings were clean, and people felt safe placing their trust in Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ.

Hazrat Abdullah bin Masood رضي الله عنه narrates that Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ said:

إِنَّ الصِّدْقَ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْبِرِّ، وَإِنَّ الْبِرَّ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ

“Indeed, truthfulness leads to righteousness,  
and righteousness leads to Jannah.”

[Sahih al-Bukhari 6094]

Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ then explained that a person continues speaking the truth until he is recorded by Allah Ta'ala as a truthful person.

This teaches us that truthfulness is not only about avoiding a major lie but truthfulness or being truthful is a way of life.

## Lesson 10: Truthfulness and Trustworthiness

Sometimes we may not tell a direct lie, but we change the story slightly to make ourselves look better. We leave out an important detail. We make an excuse which is not completely true. We promise something knowing that we probably will not fulfil it.

A person of good character tries to keep his words clean and honest. This is especially important because trust takes a long time to build, but it can be lost very quickly.

In business, people should be able to trust what we tell them. We should not hide a fault in something we are selling. We should not make promises simply to secure a deal and then forget about them afterwards.

At work, if we have been given a responsibility, we should fulfil it properly. Within our homes, our family should also be able to trust our word.

Sometimes we make small promises very easily: "I'll do it later." "I'll phone you." "I'll take you tomorrow." "I'll sort it out." Then we forget about it. To us it may seem like something small, but when this happens repeatedly, people slowly stop trusting our word.

This is especially important with children. When we promise a child something, that child remembers. We are teaching them the value of a person's word through our own example.

There may be times when we genuinely cannot fulfil what we said. Circumstances change and things happen beyond our control. Good character at such a time is to explain. We should not simply disappear or pretend that we never made the promise.

## Lesson 10: Truthfulness and Trustworthiness

We should inform the person, apologise where necessary, and try to put the matter right.

There is another side to trustworthiness. People sometimes trust us with their private matters.

Someone may share a personal difficulty with us because they believe that we will keep it to ourselves. This is also an amaanah. We should not take another person's private matter and turn it into a conversation for others.

### **Let us ask ourselves:**

“When I say something, can people rely upon my word?”

The character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ teaches us to become people whose words carry value, whose promises can be trusted, and in whose hands the rights of others are safe.

### **Let us make one small intention today.**

We will not give our word carelessly. Before we promise something, we will think carefully; and once we have promised, we will try our best to fulfil it.

May Allah Ta'ala make us truthful and trustworthy, protect our tongues from falsehood, and bless us with the sublime character of Nabi-e-Kareem ﷺ. Aameen.

## NB:

This is a work by Hazrat Maulana Mohammed Patel Saheb (دامت برکاتہم), every effort has been made to sincerely convey his message with the accuracy and reverence it deserves.

Any errors, omissions, or shortcomings found in this publication are solely due to our own limitations and deficiencies.

We seek the forgiveness of Allah Ta'ala for any mistakes that may have occurred and ask Him to accept this humble effort, overlook its shortcomings, and make it beneficial for all who read it.

We humbly request your du'aas for all those who contributed towards the research, preparation, publication, and distribution of this book.

We also ask Allah Ta'ala to grant us sincerity (ikhlaas), steadfastness (istiqamah), beneficial knowledge, and acceptance (qubool) in all our efforts.

May Allah Ta'ala make this publication a means of guidance, benefit, and ongoing reward (sadaqah jaariyah) for all those who contributed towards its preparation and publication, as well as for our parents, teachers, and all its readers.

May He accept this humble effort, forgive our shortcomings, shower His mercy upon us, our parents, our teachers, and the entire Ummah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. آمِينَ يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ

For any queries, corrections, or suggestions, please contact:

[salaamatpublications@gmail.com](mailto:salaamatpublications@gmail.com)

Salaamat Publications Team



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