

# Teaching Good Character to Kids

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**Achieve Noble Character**

**Teaching Good Character to Kids**

**ShaykhPod Books**

**Published by ShaykhPod Books, 2023**

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Teaching Good Character to Kids

**First edition. September 1, 2023.**

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## **Acknowledgements**

All praises are for Allah, the Exalted, Lord of the worlds, who has given us the inspiration, opportunity and strength to complete this volume. Blessings and peace be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad whose path has been chosen by Allah, the Exalted, for the salvation of mankind.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the entire ShaykhPod family, especially our little star, Yusuf, whose continued support and advice has inspired the development of ShaykhPod Books.

We pray that Allah, the Exalted, completes His favour on us and accepts each letter of this book in His august court and allows it to testify on our behalf on the Last Day.

All praise to Allah, the Exalted, Lord of the worlds and endless blessings and peace be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad, on his blessed Household and Companions, may Allah be pleased with them all.

## **Compiler's Notes**

We have tried diligently to do justice in this volume however if there are any short falls found then the compiler is personally and solely responsible for them.

We accept the possibility of faults and shortcomings in an effort to complete such a difficult task. We might have unconsciously stumbled and committed errors for which we ask for indulgence and forgiveness of our readers and the drawing of our attention thereto will be appreciated. We earnestly invite constructive suggestions which can be made to [ShaykhPod.Books@gmail.com](mailto:ShaykhPod.Books@gmail.com).

## **Introduction**

The following short book discusses some aspects of Good Character in a simple way so that children can understand and act on them easily.

Implementing the lessons discussed will aid a Muslim to Achieve Noble Character. According to the Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 2003, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, has advised that the heaviest thing in the Scales of Judgment Day will be Noble Character. It is one of qualities of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, which Allah, the Exalted, complimented in chapter 68 Al Qalam, Verse 4 of the Holy Quran:

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

Therefore, it is a duty on all Muslims to gain and act on the teachings of the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, in order to Achieve Noble Character.



## **Teaching Good Character to Kids**

### **Anger**

In a Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 2020, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, repeatedly advised someone not to get angry.

It is important for Muslims to control their anger, as many sins and crimes occur when people become angry. Whenever a Muslim gets angry they should stop talking until they calm down, as words said in anger can lead to trouble and regrets. This has been advised in a Hadith found in Imam Bukhari's Adab Al Mufrad, number 245. An angry Muslim should change their body position so that they do not hurt anyone when they become angry. For example, if they are standing up, they should sit down until they calm down. This has been advised in a Hadith found in Sunan Abu Dawud, number 4782. It is important to walk away from a situation and person who makes a Muslim angry before they do something which leads to trouble. Whenever a person becomes angry, they get hot, so a Muslim should wash their face with cold water to calm themselves down or better than this is to do ablution. This has been advised in a Hadith found in Sunan Abu Dawud, number 4784.

It is important for Muslims to control their anger as acting or speaking when angry leads to trouble for everyone.

## **Difficulties**

The Holy Quran has guaranteed that Muslims will face difficulties throughout their lives. So, a Muslim should not worry about facing problems. Instead, they should concentrate on obeying Allah, the Exalted, in every situation by doing what He commanded and staying away from sins and the things which make Him angry. A Muslim should remember, that the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, has advised in a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 6561, that every difficulty a Muslim faces, even something as small as getting pricked by a thorn, Allah, the Exalted, will forgive some of their sins and raise them in ranks. So as long as a Muslim remains patient, does not complain and obeys Allah, the Exalted, during every difficulty, Allah, the Exalted, gives this reward to them. A Muslim should not worry about facing difficulties, they should concentrate on doing this instead.

## **Kindness to All Things**

In a Hadith found in Imam Bukhari's, Adab Al Mufrad, number 378, The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, told of a man who fed a thirsty dog and because of this good deed, Allah, the Exalted, forgave him. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, added that being kind to all creatures leads to reward.

It is important to understand that Islam does not only want Muslims to do big deeds like build a Mosque but Islam advises Muslims to do all good deeds, big and small. As long as a Muslim does a good deed in order to please Allah, the Exalted, they will be rewarded for it. Meaning, quality is better than quantity. Therefore, Muslims should always try to perform good deeds, big or small, as they never know which deed will cause Allah, the Exalted, to bless them in both worlds.

The other important thing is that if Islam teaches Muslims to be kind to animals, it would never advise them to harm people. Muslims should ignore those who say otherwise and follow the teachings of Islam by being kind to all people whether they are Muslim or not. This is the character of a true Muslim according to the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. This has been advised in a Hadith found in Sunan An Nasai, number 4998.

## **Respect Other Beliefs**

chapter 6 Al An'am, verse 108 of the Holy Quran teaches Muslims not to disrespect the teachings of other religions, as this might cause them to disrespect Allah, the Exalted.

*“And do not insult those they invoke other than Allāh, lest they insult Allāh in enmity without knowledge...”*

A Muslim should not disrespect the teachings of other religions as this might cause them to disrespect Islam. This will only lead to problems and hatred within the society. Islam teaches love within society not hate.

A Muslim should only speak to others in a way they want people to speak to them. Otherwise, if a Muslim says a bad thing to someone, they will only say a bad thing back.

If a Muslim disrespects other religions, they will only push people further away from Islam.

The best way to show people the true peaceful teachings of Islam is by treating others with respect, as this is what Islam teaches.

## Speaking About Others

In chapter 24 An Nur, verse 16 of the Holy Quran, Allah, the Exalted, teaches Muslims not to believe the bad things they hear about other people.

*“And why, when you heard it, did you not say, “It is not for us to speak of this. Exalted are You, [O Allāh]; this is a great slander?””*

It is best to always ignore the bad things a Muslim hears about others as most of time, it is not true. Even if it is true a Muslim should still not talk about it with others as this is backbiting, which is a major sin. A Muslim should tell the person who is gossiping not to do it, as it is a sin. They should not believe what the gossipier told them and they should not try to find out more information by asking other people. They should treat the person they heard the gossip about with respect, just like they want people to treat them with respect.

Allah, the Exalted, does not like gossiping. A Muslim should instead mind their own business and not talk about others in a bad way otherwise, Allah, the Exalted, will get angry with them.

## Mocking and Name Calling

In chapter 49 Al Hujurat, verse 11 of the Holy Quran, Allah, the Exalted, advises Muslims not to make fun of each other or disrespect each other or give each other bad nicknames.

*“O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name [i.e., mention] of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers.”*

Do not make fun of others, even if it is a joke, because jokes can become serious very quickly. This is how most fights start and most of the time when people make fun of each other they end up lying, which is a sin, even if it is a joke. A Hadith of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, cursed those who lie when joking three times. This Hadith is found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 2315. By making fun of each other good friends can end up hating each other.

Muslims should not disrespect each other, especially using bad language, as this is a sin. They should have fun and joke with each other while only speaking the truth. This is what true friends do. The same way a Muslim does not like someone disrespecting them, they should not disrespect others.

Do not give each other bad nicknames, as this can also lead to arguments and fights. It can break the friendships between people as well. Instead, give nice nicknames to each other or better than that is to say the person's name to them. A Muslim's name is beautiful and should be said.



## Arrogance

In chapter 31 Luqman, verse 18 of the Holy Quran, Allah, the Exalted, warns Muslims not to act arrogantly.

*“And do not turn your cheek [in contempt] toward people and do not walk through the earth exultantly. Indeed, Allāh does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful.”*

This is when someone thinks they are better than others because they have something that others do not have, such as more money or a nicer car. The arrogant person also rejects the truth when someone tells them it because they believe they themselves know better. A Muslim should never be arrogant over anything they have, as everything they have such as a nice car, was created and given to them by Allah, the Exalted. So the real owner is Allah, the Exalted. To be arrogant over something which belongs to Allah, the Exalted, is silly and will only make Allah, the Exalted, angry. If someone acts arrogantly, then Allah, the Exalted, might take away what they have and give it to someone else.

A Muslim should always remember this and instead of being arrogant they should thank Allah, the Exalted, for giving that thing to them. The best way to do this is by using the thing correctly, according to the commands of Allah, the Exalted.

## **Do Not Waste**

In chapter 17 Al Isra, verse 26 of the Holy Quran, Allah, the Exalted, tells Muslims not to waste their money.

*“...and do not spend wastefully.”*

Islam does not teach Muslims to be greedy or to spend all their money. Instead, they should strike a balance between the two. It is important to spend on anything a person needs, like food, clothes and other things. But when spending it is important to buy things which are reasonable. Meaning, the thing should not be too expensive nor should it be too cheap. But when it comes to things a person does not need, a Muslim should only buy those things on special occasions, like birthdays or when a student does well in school exams. But even then, it should be done once in a while, not all the time. If a Muslim does this, they will find a good balance between greed and wasting. This is what Islam teaches.

## **Do Not Count Favors**

In chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 264 of the Holy Quran, Allah, the Exalted, warns Muslims not to count the favors they do for people, as this causes the reward to be cancelled.

*“O you who have believed, do not invalidate your charities with reminders [of it] or injury...”*

It is important for Muslims to help others, Muslims and Non-Muslims, in good things. But after helping others, a Muslim should not remind other people they have helped them. This causes the reward to be cancelled. Muslims must do good things in order to please Allah, the Exalted. If a Muslim does good things, like helping others, they should expect and hope Allah, the Exalted, rewards them for it. But if they count the favors they do for others, it proves they did not do it to please Allah, the Exalted, so they will get no reward.

Remember, help others in what is good but hope for reward from Allah, the Exalted, not people, otherwise a person will have only wasted their time and efforts.

## Forgive Others

In chapter 24 An Nur, verse 22 of the Holy Quran, Allah, the Exalted, teaches Muslims a very important lesson.

*“...and let them pardon and overlook. Would you not like that Allāh should forgive you? And Allāh is Forgiving and Merciful.”*

If people make a mistake, it is important for Muslims to forgive them in order to please Allah, the Exalted, whether they ask for forgiveness or not. This will cause Allah, the Exalted, to forgive the Muslim.

No one is perfect, the same way a person makes mistakes, so do others. The same way a Muslim wants Allah, the Exalted, and people to forgive them, they should learn to forgive others in order to please Allah, the Exalted.

Muslims should treat people how they want to be treated by others. It is simple, if a Muslim wants the mercy of Allah, the Exalted, then they should be merciful and kind to others. This has been advised in a Hadith found in Sahih Bukhari, number 6655. And if they want to be forgiven by Allah, the Exalted, they should learn to forgive others.

## **Honour Elders**

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, once advised that those who do not show mercy to young people and do not respect the elders are not from the Muslims. This Hadith is found in Sunan Abu Dawud, number 4943.

It is important to be kind towards those who are younger. Muslims must set a good example for them by always behaving in a kind way to others.

It is important to always show respect to everyone, especially those who are older. It does not matter if they are Muslim or not. A Muslim must listen and learn from them as long as the thing they teach is good.

This Hadith shows a good Muslim does not only pray and fast but they treat all people kindly and with respect. This is a complete Muslim.

## **If Allah (SWT) is Happy**

Imam Bukhari's, Adab Al Mufrad, Hadith number 2, teaches Muslims a good way to know if what they are doing is good or bad. In this Hadith, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, advised that the happiness of Allah, the Exalted, is with the happiness of one's parent and the anger of Allah, the Exalted, lies with the anger of one's parent. So if a Muslim is unsure whether what they are doing will make Allah, the Exalted, angry or happy, they should imagine if their parent would be happy or angry with their behaviour and in most cases Allah, the Exalted, will feel the same way. If a Muslim thinks their parent will become angry with their action, they should stop doing it. If they honestly think their parent would be happy with their behaviour, then they can continue doing it.

## Meeting People

In chapter 58 Al Mujadila, verse 9 of the Holy Quran, Allah, the Exalted, tells Muslims that when they meet with people, like their family and friends, they should only say and do good things which please Allah, the Exalted.

*“O you who have believed, when you converse privately, do not converse about sin and aggression and disobedience to the Messenger but converse about righteousness and piety...”*

They should not meet in order to say or do bad things which makes Allah, the Exalted, angry. All Muslims must remember, that even if they meet people in secret so their family does not know or see them, Allah, the Exalted, always sees and hears them. So whenever they meet up with others they should only say or do those things which are good.

Speaking and doing bad things only leads to trouble in this world, such as trouble with the police. A person's friends will not support them if they get in trouble with the police. They will run away and leave them to face the punishment alone. Speaking and doing bad things also leads to trouble in the next world. If a Muslim wants to be happy in this world and in the next, they should make sure they only speak and do good things when they meet other people, like their family and friends.

## **Power of Words**

In chapter 23 Al Mu'minun, verses 1-3 of the Holy Quran, Allah, the Exalted, mentions the importance of not using bad or useless words.

*“Certainly will the believers have succeeded...And they who turn away from ill speech.”*

Most of the sins of a person are caused by words. It is a duty of a Muslim to stick to the advice of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, which is recorded in a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 176, which is to either say good words or remain silent. A Muslim should not copy other people when they say bad words or even reply to them with bad words, as this only makes them as bad as the one who spoke to them.

It is best to speak kind words as this causes Allah, the Exalted, to become happy and people will respect them too. This leads to good in this world and the next.

Also, it is important to always think before speaking, as a person may say something bad, which causes them trouble and regret. So always think before speaking and only speak if the words are good and helpful.



## **Repay Favors**

In a Hadith found in Imam Bukhari's, Adab al Mufrad, number 215, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, tells Muslims to repay any favors done to them by others. The minimum they should do is thank them.

It is important to repay favors as this shows others that a person appreciates what the other person has done. Allah, the Exalted, is the Lord of the worlds, and He still shows appreciation to His servants when they obey Him. So Muslims should show others appreciation too. If a Muslim cannot give anything back they should at least thank them, as this is a part of good manners. If a person treats a Muslim nicely, they should always treat them nicely as well. This is a part of thanking them. Even if someone acts badly towards a Muslim, they should still treat them with respect, as this good reply shows appreciation to Allah, the Exalted, who protected them from behaving badly.

## **What You Give**

In a Hadith found in Sahih Bukhari, number 5973, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, warned of a great sin. This is when one insults their own parents. This happens when a Muslim insults the parents of someone else and as a response the other person insults their parents. Because they were the cause of their parents being insulted, they will be blamed.

It is important for Muslims never to insult other people or their loved ones because this will only cause them to insult them and their loved ones back. A Muslim should always treat others how they want to be treated. If a Muslim does not want people insulting their loved ones, such as their parents, then they should not insult other people and their loved ones. If a Muslim speaks kindly and shows respect to others and their loved ones, then people will speak kindly and show respect to them and their loved ones. What one gives is what they get. It is that simple.

## **Socializing Outside**

In a Hadith found in Imam Bukhari's, Adab Al Mufrad, number 1149, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, warned against meeting and spending time with friends on a public road. But he added, if people have no other place to go, then they should fulfil the rights of the road. This includes guiding people who are lost to the correct way. This means that people should help the public in any way they can and never cause any problem or harm to the them.

They should return the Islamic greeting of peace to others. This means that they should fulfil the full condition of the Islamic greeting of peace by showing peace to others through their words and actions.

The people should lower their eyes from looking at bad things. This includes controlling every part of their body so they do not commit sins through their tongues, eyes and ears.

The last thing advised in the Hadith is that people should advise others to do good things and stay away from sins. It is important for Muslims to act on this advice whenever they meet up with their friends especially, when they spend time together outside.

## **Supplication**

In a Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 3604, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, told Muslims that Allah, the Exalted, accepts everyone's supplication by either giving them what they want or keeping it safe for them in the hereafter or removing their sins, as long as what they are asking for is not a sin and as long as they do not give up supplicating.

It is important for Muslims to always ask Allah, the Exalted, for all good things, as this is a tradition of all the Holy Prophets, peace be upon them. A Muslim should never ask for anything which is bad, as this is a sin. They should never give up if they do not see a response as the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, has guaranteed a response. Allah, the Exalted, will give each person what is best for them, so a Muslim should trust in the choice of Allah, the Exalted.

## **Treating Others**

In a Hadith found in Imam Bukhari's, Adab Al Mufrad, number 375, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, advised that Allah, the Exalted, does not show mercy to the people who do not show mercy to others.

It is important to understand a vital lesson in Islam. What one gives, is what they will get. If a person treats others with mercy and kindness, they will be treated with mercy and kindness by Allah, the Exalted, and people. Without this mercy from Allah, the Exalted, they can never gain the good things they desire in this world or in the hereafter. If a Muslim treats other in a bad way, Allah, the Exalted, and people will treat them badly too.

A Muslim must remember that Islam teaches people to treat all people kindly, Muslims, non-Muslims and even animals. The best way to do this is by treating people the same way as they want to be treated by others.

## **Two-Faced**

A sign of bad character is to be two-faced. Being two-faced is when a person says one thing to someone in order to make them happy and then says the opposite thing to another person in order to make them happy as well. They behave like this because they want something from other people, such as their friendship, and because of this they lie in order to please everyone. A Muslim should never act like this. It does not mean a Muslim should upset people but it means a Muslim should speak the truth and what is good or they should be silent. They should not change their words or behaviour in order to please different types of people. The two-faced person will end up with no friends when people find out the truth about them, which they always do. And this person will suffer in the next world also. So it is best to always be honest or remain silent.

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds and may peace and blessings be upon His final Messenger, Muhammad, his noble Family and Companions.

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