

إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٣﴾

"The noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the best of you in conduct" (Quran 49:13).

ISLAMIC ETHICS

BY

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In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. Mercy and blessings be upon Muhammad, the Last Prophet, and his true followers.

1. SOURCES

The first fundamental source of the teachings of Islam is the Scripture *Al- Qur'an*. This paragon of marvellous eloquence in Arabic language is the pure Word of God. It was vouchsafed piecemeal in a period of twenty three years to the Last Prophet through Gabriel.

The second source and next to the Holy Qur'an, is the *Sunnah* i.e. what the Holy Prophet said, did or approved. This is also called *Hadees* (Pl. *Ahaadees*).

For living a true Islamic life one must be well grounded in the Holy Qur'an and the Hadees. This booklet may serve as a grounding in Islamic Ethics.

2. IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 1) **"Surely the best among you are those who have good morals."** (B:78:38: 1)
- 2) **"Certainly the best among you are those who are morally the best."** (B:78:39:3)

These two sayings of the Holy Prophet (PBH) are enough to prove the importance of ethical excellences in Islam.

3. TWO BOONS

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 3) **“There are two boons which many people are prone to lose (They are) “Health” and “Leisure”.”** (B:81:1:1)

Health and Leisure are two important blessings. Due to recklessness, most people do not care about their short-livedness and so do not make good use of them.

4. LAUGH LITTLE

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 4) **“If you come to know what I do know, you would surely laugh little and weep much.”** (B:81:27:2)

If a wrong-doer knows the result of his wrong deeds, he would surely weep much and laugh little.

5. PARADISE & HELL

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said :

- 5) **“To anyone of you ,the paradise is nearer than his shoe-laces. Hell is also so.”** (B:81:29:1)

Paradise and hell are the results of deeds. And deeds are close associated with doer. So the results of his deeds, Paradise and Hell, are not far away.

6. LOW DESIRES

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 6) **“Hell is covered by low desires and Paradise, by the one takes aversion to.”** (B:81:28)

One followings one's low desires blindly and falls in Hell. Good deeds are hard for most people so they take aversion to them. But they lead to Paradise.

7. GOOD ACTS

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

7) **“Every good act is charity.”** (B:78:33:1)

Concept of charity is very broad in Islam. Not only alms-giving, but also all good acts are included in it and every good act has its reward.

8. GOOD TO PARENTS

8) **“Abdulla bin Masood, a famous Companion, [a Companion is a Muslim who met the Holy Prophet (PBH) & died as a Muslim] asked the Holy Prophet (PBH): Which act is loved most by Allah.” The Prophet (PBH) said: “ To offer prayers at the time fixed for them.” The asker said, “Then what ?” The Holy Prophet (PBH) said, “To be obedient to one's parents.” The asker said again, “ What then ?” The Holy Prophet said “To strive hard for the cause of Allah.”** (B:78:1)

9) **“A man come to seek permission for participation in a war. The Holy Prophet (PBH) asked him “ Are your parents alive ?” The man replied in affirmative. The Holy Prophet (PBH) said. “Then you should strive hard in their service.”** (B:78:3)

This shows clearly that service to humans beings is also a form of “*Jihaad*” and one's parents have priority over all relatives. Service to parents is next in merit to service to Allah.

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 10) **“Surely Allah has prohibited you from disobeying your mothers.”** (B:78:6)

Before the Dawn of Islam, woman had no respectable place in society. Even a mother was brought very low in Arabia. It was the Holy Prophet (PBH) who raised the status of woman and gave mothers the most venerable position. He called her disobedience a major sin and forbade it for her sons and daughters.

9. KINDNESS TO RELATIVES

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 11) **“Whomsoever it pleases that his sustenance should be made ample to him or that his life should be lengthened, he should be kind to his relatives.”** (B:78:12:1)
- 12) **“The person who severs the ties of kinship, will not enter Paradise.”** (B:78:11)

10. KINDNESS TO NEIGHBOURS

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 13) **“Gabriel continued to enjoin me with good treatment towards the neighbour, until I thought that he would make him a heir to the property left by a deceased neighbour.”** (B:78:28:1)

The angel Gabriel could advise the Holy Prophet (PBH) only after receiving instructions to this effect from Almighty Allah. Thus it is actually a command from God.

A neighbour may be a Muslim or a Non-Muslim. He deserves a good treatment without any discrimination based on caste or creed.

- 14) **Once the Merciful Prophet (PBH) remarked: “By Allah, he is not a believer”. On hearing this, the companions present there said: “And O Messenger of Allah! who is it ?” The Holy Messenger (PBH) said, “The person whose neighbour is not safe from his mischiefs.” (B:78:29)**

Thus a person who does not conduct himself well with his neighbours is not a true believer. A true and a perfect believer is one who does not harm the neighbours with his tongue and hand.

- 15) **“Muslim ladies! a neighbouress should never despise a present of her neighbouress even if it were a goat’s hoof.” (B:78:30)**

Giving presents to each other creates cordial relations and makes them strong and gets people into the habit of doing good to others.

By mentioning “a goat’s hoof” the Holy Prophet (PBH) impresses upon us the fact that we should never scorn giving or accepting a present even if it is an ordinary thing of very low value.

The Holy Prophet (PBH) here addresses women in particular. This is so because development of good relations among women cements the relations among men and the young.

A neighbour can be a Muslim as well as a non-Muslim; & in both the cases he deserves our amiability and good treatment.

11. RELATIONS WITH MUSLIMS IN GENERAL

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 16) **“Believers are in relation to one another as parts of a structure, one part of which strengthens the other”. The Holy Prophet (PBH) inserted the fingers of one hand amid those of the other to demonstrate the close relationship and its strengthening. This process is called *Tashbeek*. (B:78:36)**

- 17) **“You will find the faithful in their having mercy for one another and in their love for one another, and in their**

kindness towards one another like the (human) body. When one part of it ails the entire body ails, one part calling out the other with sleeplessness and fever.”

(B:78:27)

Thus pain of one Muslim should pain all Muslims.

- 18) **“To abuse a Muslim is Transgression and to fight him is unbelief.”** (B:78:44)

Thus offending a Muslim with tongue is transgression or disobedience to Allah and His Messenger (PBH); and offending him with hand is unbelief. However it does not mean that the offender becomes a disbeliever or is thrown out of the pale of Islam, because the Holy Qur'an calls both the two parties “believers”. (49:9)

It simply means that these acts are unbecoming of a true believer.

- 19) **“A perfect Muslim is he from whose tongue and hand Muslims are safe.”** (B:2:4)

A perfect Muslim does not offend Muslims by backbiting, by slander, by calling their names and finding faults with them or by abusing them. He does not offend them in any way.

- 20) **“A perfect Muslim is he who does not offend people with his tongue and hand. A perfect believer is one whom people consider trustworthy regarding their lives and properties.”** (N:47:5:1)

- 21) **“A Muslim is brother of a Muslim; he does him no injustice nor does he leave him alone to be a victim of another's injustice and whoever does the needful for his brother, Allah does the needful for him and whoever removes the distress of a Muslim Allah removes from him a distress of the day of resurrection and whoever covers the fault of a Muslim Allah will cover his sins on the day of resurrection.”** (B:46:3)

- 22) **“Whoever accuses a believer of being a *Kafir* i.e. a non-believer, (commits) an act that is equal to killing him.”**
(B:78:73:3)
- 23) **“Any person saying to his brother ‘O-Kafir’ then the epithel applies to one of them.”**
(B:78:73:2)

This shows that by calling a Muslim, Non-Muslim one becomes a Non Muslim.

12. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE IN GENERAL

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 24) **“Beware of suspicion for it is the worst falsehood. Do not spy (into other peoples affairs) do not find faults (with others) and do not hate one another and live like brothers.”**
(B:67:46:2/78:57:1)

13. HATE AND JEALOUSY

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 25) **“Do not detest one another; do not be jealous of one another; do not turn your backs on one another. O servants of Allah! live like brethren.”**
(B:78:57:2)

14. THE MOST WICKED

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said to his wife, Aaisha:

- 26) **“Aaisha! the most wicked is the person whom people desert for fear of his foul tongue.”**
(B:78:48)

15. GOOD COMPANY

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 27) **“A good companion and a bad one are like a musk seller and a blacksmith’s furnace respectively. In the company of a musk seller you will not be a loser. You may either buy some musk or at least enjoy its fragrance as long you are with him.**

But a blacksmith’s furnace will either burn down your house or will set fire to your clothes or at least you will be much annoyed at the nasty smell coming from it.”

(B:34:38)

16. REAL BANKRUPT

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 28) **“The bankrupt, in reality, is the person who becomes insolvent on the day of resurrection.”** (B:78:12 Title)

In the next life only the good deeds not riches are taken into account. So a wealthy person, if lacking in good deeds, is the real bankrupt.

- 29) **“The real bankrupt in my followers is the person who comes with prayers fasts and *Zakat* (the poor rate) on the resurrection day but the reward of their deeds will go to the people he has offended in the world by abusing them, by slandering them, by taking away their things by unlawful ways and even killing. If his good deeds are not enough to liquidate his offences then the sins of the offended will be put into his account and finally he will go to Hell.”** (B:47:14:5)

17. SAVE YOURSELF FROM HELL

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 30) **“People! save yourself from the Fire (of Hell) even by giving away half a date. If you cannot get it then by telling people a good word.”** (B:24:9:3/78:34)

18. CHASTITY

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said :

- 31) **“Whosoever guarantees me chastity of what lies between his two jaws and of what lies between his two legs, I guarantee him the Paradise.”** (B:81:23:1)

A person who does not misuse his tongue by soiling it with blasphemy, lie, backbiting, slander and abuse etc, is guaranteed his admission into the Paradise.

Similarly a person, who does not debase himself by sins of the flesh, is guaranteed entry into the Paradise.

19. EXALTATION

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said :

- 32) **“A man may utter a word that pleases Allah but the man may not attach any importance to it. Allah will exalt him to higher grades on this account. Similarly man may utter a word that displeases Allah but the man may not attach any importance to it. He will go down into Hell on this very account.”** (B:81:23:5)

This shows that one should be very careful about his tongue. Most of the disputes and wranglings originate in careless use of tongues and suspicion.

20. CARE OF THE DESTITUTE

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 33) **“One who manages the affairs of the widow and the poor is like the one who exerts himself hard in the way of Allah**

or the one who stands up for prayer in the night and fasts in the day.” (B:69:1:3/78:25:2)

The purpose of *Jihaad* i.e. striving hard in the way of Allah, is to give a new lease of life to the nation. Looking after the destitute like the widow and the orphan also serves the same purpose. Worship is meant for purification of soul. This purification can be attained by spending money for the welfare of the poor.

21. SUPPORTING THE ORPHAN

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said :

- 34) **“I and the man who brings up an orphan, will be in paradise like this.” And he pointed with his two fingers - the fore finger and the middle finger.** (B:78:24)

A person who looks after an orphan will be very close to the Holy Prophet (PBH) in paradise.

22. TRUTH LEADS TO PARADISE

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 35) **“Surely truth leads to virtue and virtue leads to paradise; and a man continues to speak the truth until he becomes thoroughly truthful and surely falsehood leads to vice and vice leads to the Fire and the man continues to tell lies until he is written down a great liar with Allah.”** (B:78:69:1)

Truth is the root-cause of all good deeds. Similarly falsehood is that of all evils. By veracity one becomes a Siddiq i.e. reaches a stage where one cannot tell a lie. Falsehood degrades man in the sight of Allah.

23. A GOOD WORD

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

36) **“A good word is equal to charity in reward.”**

(B:78:34 Title)

The Holy Qur'an says, **“Speak good words to all people.”**

(2:83)

37) **“A believer in Allah and the last day should not harm his neighbour and a believer in Allah and the last day should honour his guest; a believer in Allah and the last day should either speak good or keep quiet.”**

(B:78:31:1)

24. BACK BITING

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

38) **“A back biter will not enter paradise.”**

(B:78:50)

25. MODESTY

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

39) **“Surely modesty is a part of faith.”**

(B:78:77:2)

According to the sayings of the Holy Prophet (PBH) modesty is a branch of Islamic faith. So immodesty is against Islam.

26. INDECENT MUSIC

The Most Modest Prophet (PBH) said:

40) **“If any one of you gets his belly filled with purulent discharges it will be better for him than getting his mind filled with (Sensuous) poetry.”**

(B:78:92:2)

Those boys and girls who take pride in calling themselves Muslims and fill their minds with indecent music of dirty films, should ponder over this advice of their Holy Prophet (PBH) very seriously.

27. PUBLIC PLACES

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

- 42) **“You should never sit on thoroughfares.”** The Companions said, **“Messenger of Allah! we sit there just for a chat.”** The Messenger of Allah (PBH) said, **“if it is the necessary for one to sit on a road, one should render to the road what is due to it. The Companions said, “And what is due to the road.” The Holy Prophet (PBH) said: “It is to ---**
- 1. Keep the gaze lowered;**
 - 2. Return the greetings;**
 - 3. Enjoin doing the good;**
 - 4. Forbid the evil; and**
 - 5. Refrain from teasing the people.**
- 43) **“The removal of a harmful thing from a thoroughfare is equal to charity in reward.”** (B:46:24:Title)
- 44) **“Faith (is like a big tree and) has more than seventy or sixty branches. The most excellent branch is to bear witness to the unity of Allah. The lowest branch is to remove harmful things from thoroughfares. And modesty is also an important branch of faith.”** (B:2:/M:1:11:2)

28. PELTING STONES

- 45) **The Holy Prophet (PBH) forbade pelting of stones and said, “It does not kill a game (for you) and does not hurt an enemy (of yours) but it gouges out an eye or it breaks a tooth (of same one).** (B:78:122)

Younger cricketers of Srinagar use thoroughfares as playground. When some shopkeepers and wayfarers got their heads, faces, noses and eyes hurt, the authorities rose from their slumber to prohibit these vulgarities.

29. INJUSTICE

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

46) **“Injustice becomes many layers of darkness on the day of resurrection .”** (B:46:7:1)

For an unjust cruel person injustice will turn into thick layers of darkness on that day.

47) **“Be on your guard against committing cruelty, for cruelty will turn into many layers of darkness on the day of resurrection. And be on your guard against covetousness for covetousness destroyed those who were before you. It induced them to shed blood and prompted them to make lawful what was unlawful.”** (M:47:14:2)

48) **“The Exalted and Glorious Lord, Allah, says: My servants! surely I have made injustice unlawful for Myself and made it forbidden for you also. Thus never be unjust to one another.”**

(M:47:14:2)

30. SEIZURE BY ALLAH

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

49) **“Surely Allah gives respite to an the oppressor and when He seizes him He does not left him go.”** (M:47:14:8)

Allah does not seize an oppressor, He gives him a long rope to commit atrocities on people so the oppressor himself becomes fit for chastisement.

The Holy Prophet (PBH) after saying this Hadees read the Quranic verse (that reads in English) **“and such is the punishment of thy Lord when He punishes the towns while they are iniquitous surely His punishment is painful, severe.”** (11:102)

The events that took place in some Muslim countries in the recent past bear out the truth of what is said in this holy verse and the hadees.

Personal capabilities, supreme position in government, loyal armed forces, priest-ridden society, priest craft and sycophants could not save the oppressors from the wrath of Allah.

31. HUMANITY

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

50) **“The (real) wrestler is not the man who throws a man down; in fact, the (real) wrestler is the man who restrains himself in rage.”** (B:78:76:1)

51) **A man came to the Holy Prophet (PBH) to seek an advice. The Holy Prophet (PBH) said to him: “Do not fly into a rage.” The man repeated his request again and again. The Holy Prophet (PBH) accordingly repeated the advice do not fly into a rage.”** (B:78:76:3)

The Holy Prophet (PBH) said:

52) **“The most detestable person in the sight of Allah is the one who is vehement in attraction.”** (B:46:15)

32. FORBEARANCE

53) **Once a group of Jews came to the Holy Prophet (PBH). Instead of saying “As-salamu Alekum” (Peace be on you) these mischievous people said to him maliciously “Asamu-Aliekum” (Death be to you). The Holy Prophet (PBH) forbore it patiently. But it was quietly unbearable to his wife, lady Aisha. She retorted to them “Death be to you”.**

The noble Prophet (PBH) said to her “Aisha! be gentle. Surely God likes clemency in all matters.” (B:78:35:1)

- 54) **“Once a bedouin made water in the Holy Prophet’s Mosque, in his presence. People rose to stop him and teach him a lesson. But the noble Prophet (PBH) said: “Do not stop him (Let him make water).” When the bedouin was free, the Holy Prophet (PBH) asked people to wash it off with a bucket of water.” (B:78:35:2)**

33. MAKE THINGS EASY

The Holy Prophet (PBH) advised Muslims:

- 55) **“Make things easy (for people) and do not make (them)difficult; give (them) confidence and do not frighten (them).” (B:78:80:2)**

This is the best principle for rulers and teachers.

34. LOVE TO TINY TOTS

- 56) **A companion, viz., Aqra bin Habis, saw the Holy Prophet (PBH) giving a caress and kissing his small grand son, Hasan Bin Ali. Aqra said, “I have ten sons, but never kiss anyone of them”.The merciful Prophet (PBH) said, “the man who does not show mercy (to others) is not shown mercy by Merciful God.” (B:78:18:4)**

Loving children is as good a part of islamic ethics as doing good to parents.

35. KINDNESS TO ANIMALS

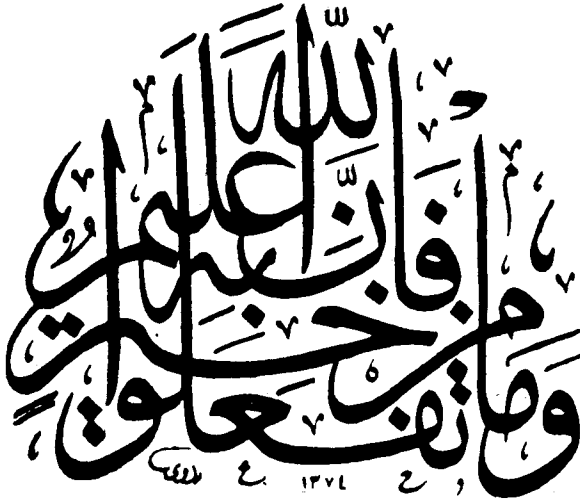
The Holy Prophet said:

- 57) “A woman with corrupted morals, once passed by a well. She found there a dog panting with thirst. It was at death’s door. So she took pity on it and drew water out of the well with the help of her leather socks. By watering the dog, she saved its life. God was pleased with this kind act and so He forgave her.” (B:60:17:2)

- 58) A similar incident took place with a man who drew water out of a well and saved the life of a poor dog dying of scorching thirst. Almighty Allah was pleased with this act of the man. He thanked him and forgave him his sins.

When the Holy Prophet (PBH) reported the incident the Companions said: “Messenger of Allah! Is there a reward for kindness shown to dumb animals?” The merciful Prophet (PBH) said: “Definitely there is a reward for serving everything having a wet liver i.e. everything animate.” (B:78:27:27)

These *ahaadees* {sayings of the Holy Prophet (PBH)} teach us the moral that we should serve even the poor animals; we should not be cruel to them.



About ourselves

The Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam Lahore has its main branches in the following countries (given alphabetically):

| | | |
|------------|------------|---------------|
| Australia. | Germany. | South Africa. |
| Canada. | Guyana. | Suriname. |
| England. | India. | Trinidad. |
| Fiji. | Indonesia. | U.S.A. |
| Holland. | Pakistan. | |

The Movement also has members and supporters in many other countries as well.

Achievements:

The Anjuman has produced extensive literature on Islam, originally in English and Urdu, including translations of the Holy Quran with commentaries. These books are being translated into other languages, such as French, German, Spanish, Russian, Polish, Dutch, Indonesian, Chinese and Japanese.

The Anjuman has run several Muslim missions around the world, including the first Islamic missions in Western Europe.

History:

- 1889:** Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad founded the Ahmadiyya Movement.
- 1901:** Movement given name Ahmadiyya after Holy Prophet Muhammad's other famous name Ahmad.
- 1905:** Hazrat Mirza appoints a central body (Anjuman) to manage the Movement, and calls it his "successor".
- 1908:** Death of Hazrat Mirza. After him, Maulana Nur-ud-Din is elected as Head of the Movement.
- 1914:** Death of Maulana Nur-ud-Din. Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam founded at Lahore, as continuation of the original Anjuman, in order to preserve Hazrat Mirza's real beliefs and mission. Maulana Muhammad Ali elected as Head of the Anjuman.