

Islamic Way Of Self Development & Good Character

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Abstract:

It does not, through a false sense of originality and innovation, provide any novel moral virtues nor does it seek to minimize the importance of the well-known moral norms, nor does it give exaggerated importance to some and neglect others without cause. It takes up all the commonly known moral virtues and with a sense of balance and proportion it assigns a suitable place and function to each one of them in the total scheme of life. It widens the scope of man's individual and collective life - his domestic associations, his civic conduct, and his activities in the political, economic, legal, educational, and social realms. It covers his life from home to society, from the dining-table to the battlefield and peace conferences, literally from the cradle to the grave. In short, no sphere of life is exempt from the universal and comprehensive application of the moral principles of Islam. It makes morality reign supreme and ensures that the affairs of life, instead of dominated by selfish desires and petty interests, should be regulated by norms of morality. It stipulates for man a system of life which is based on all good and is free from all evil. It invokes the people, not only to practice virtue, but also to establish virtue and eradicate vice, to bid good and to forbid wrong. It wants that the verdict of conscience should prevail and virtue must not be subdued to play second fiddle to evil.

Keywords: Self Development, Islam, Manners. Society, Way

Introduction

Those who respond to this call are gathered together into a community and given the name "Muslim". And the singular object underlying the formation of this community ("Ummah") is that it should make an organized effort to establish and enforce goodness and suppress and eradicate evil. Here we furnish some basic moral teachings of Islam for various aspects of a Muslim's life. They cover the broad spectrum of personal moral

conduct of a Muslim as well as his social responsibilities.

GOD – CONSCIOUSNESS

The Quran mentions it as the highest quality of a Muslim as:

"The most honorable among you in the sight of God is the one who is most God-conscious."(49:13)

Humility, modesty, control of passions and desires, truthfulness, integrity, patience, steadfastness, and fulfilling one's promises are moral values which are emphasized again and again in the Quran. We read in the Quran:

"And God loves those who are firm and steadfast." (3:146)"

And with one another to attain to your Sustainer's forgiveness and to a Paradise as the heavens and the earth, which awaits the God-conscious, who spend for charity in time of plenty and in time of hardship, and restrain their anger, and pardon their fellowmen, for God loves those who do good. Establish regular prayer, enjoin what is just, and forbid what is wrong; and bear patiently whatever may befall you; for this is true constancy. And do not swell your cheek (with pride) at men, nor walk in insolence on the earth, for God does not love any man proud and boastful. And be moderate in your pace and lower your voice; for the harshest of sounds, indeed, is the braying of the ass. This summarizes the moral behavior of a Muslim, the Prophet (PBUH) said:

"My Sustainer has given me nine commands: to remain conscious of God, whether in private or in public; to speak justly, whether angry or pleased; to show moderation both when poor and when rich, to reunite friendship with those who have broken off with me; to give to him who refuses me; that my silence should be occupied with thought; that my looking should be an admonition; and that I should command what is right."

BASIC PRINCIPLES IN ISLAMIC Manners:

The Islamic moral system stems from its primary creed of belief in One God as the Creator and sustainer of the Universe. Islam considers the human race to be a part of God's creation, From an Islamic perspective, the purpose of human life is to worship God, by leading this worldly life in harmony with the Divine Will, and thereby achieve peace in this world, and everlasting success in the life of the hereafter. Muslims look to the Glorious Qur'an and the Traditions of the Prophet as their moral guides. The Glorious Qur'an says:

"It is not righteousness that ye turn your faces Towards east or West; but it is righteousness- to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfil the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the Allah-fearing." [Al-Qur'an 2:177]

This verse underscores the Islamic belief that righteousness and piety is based, before all else on a true and sincere faith. The key to virtue and good conduct is a strong relation with God, who sees all, at all times and everywhere. He knows the secrets of the hearts and the intentions behind all actions. Therefore, Islam enjoins moral behavior in all circumstances; God is aware of each one when no one else is. It may be possible to deceive the world, but it's not possible to deceive the Creator.

The love and continuous awareness of God and the Day of Judgment enables man to be moral in

conduct and sincere in intentions, with devotion and dedication. The Glorious Qur'an also says:

'The things that my Lord hath indeed forbidden are: shameful deeds, whether open or secret; sins and trespasses against truth or reason; assigning of partners to Allah, for which He hath given no authority; and saying things about Allah of which ye have no knowledge'. [Al-Qur'an 7:33]

It is interesting that the Qur'an refers to "sins and trespasses against truth or reason". It is an indication of God's blessing to every human being, of an innate moral sense. Such a moral sense, when uncorrupted by family or society, is what leads people to commendable acts of virtue. Islam aims to enhance and amplify the moral sense in every human being and adorn the individual's character with the noblest of virtues. The Islamic moral principles therefore, appeal naturally to the human intellect, while elevating the pursuit of morality to the level of worship. This is because Islam holds every action that is done with the goal of attaining of God's pleasure to be worship.

Aims of Character Building in Islam

Moral values in Islam aim to determine human activity in a Muslim society, and to promote and control their behavior to the benefit of the whole society and its individuals, and to bring for all individuals a good conclusion in the other life. It aims to integrate Islam described them and clarified the path of goodness for them. Moral values in Islam then, whether they are individual such as sincerity, patience, charity love, soul combating, or common such as self-feeling, obligation, and call for Islam, are meant to bring individual and society benefit and protect human benefit. From this point, we determine the main foundations of Islamic value theory as to the following objective: the most common foundations of Muslim life are that human should

seek to attainment of the Oneness of God, which is a strict respond to all that human thinking about the continent, life, and life, life before and the after him, and that is what humans should use to seek true worship of the Lord. This is the system revealed by the Quran and Hadith. The system of value in Islam seeks to prepare the individual for a strong building, who seek to achieve the Say of Allah, Praise the Lord, this is a portrays that differs from the portrayal of the good citizen in other contemporary systems. The good person in human systems could seek to build his self-society on the other societies be balancing as Islamic value system is built on balance as the principle of everything. For all this, Islam seeks to integrate all life aspects materialistic or spiritual, and seek to build individual objective along with the society aims and call for all to integrate words with deeds, and to balance between human needs in this life and his wishes in the other life. According to Alavi Islam makes the moral side a measure for good deeds, and the main side in values are the main objectives for the message of Islam. The Noble Prophet came to complete good morals, and Islam cares for the development of moral feeling in human nature, and makes correctness the guide to human behavior both publicly and privately, as Islam assures the moral side in all worships. The source of values in Islam differs as to another source of moral. Islamic moral values would be Holy Quran and Prophetic Hadith, and this means that values should be absolute and stable. From the individual side, it assists them to feel security, stability, and safety, to determine their identity, and group belongingness and their acceptance of values and beliefs that religion regulates. From the side of society, it helps in regulating emotions and their sustain ability, and this is one of the pillars of community continuity and sustainability. In short, a Muslim has to work upon his moral character. Thus, the better values a Muslim incorporates into his character, a better and practicing Muslim he becomes and it is on the

basis of this moralist practice of Islam that he will be among the blessed ones, both in this world and in the world hereafter. (Dinamika Ilmu, Volume 17(2), 2017)

EMPHASIS ON GOOD CHARACTER

Character primarily refers to the assemblage of qualities that distinguish one individual from another. Character can be good or bad. A good character is the one that has good moral qualities. There was a debate among the early Islamic **moralists** as to whether character could be changed. They recognized the dual aspect of character – innate and acquired – and thus noted that with conscious practice it could be changed to a certain degree. As a **religion**, Islam promotes the idea of good character as is evident from its canonical texts. The Quran describes Muhammad as being 'on exalted quality of character' (68:4) and refers to him as 'an excellent example' (33:21) which ultimately means that the religious and moral examples, set by Muhammad, are to be followed and cultivated by the Muslims in order to construct a morally good character. Muslim moralists have discussed the **ethics-religious** importance of having a good character as well as the ways of acquiring it. **Imam Baghivi**, a 16th-century Muslim scholar and moralist, says that 'To cure yourself of a bad feature of character is an obligation'. Continuous practice of moral virtues and a conscious effort to internalize those qualities can lead to the formation of a morally good character. **Al-Isfahani** says that purification of soul means the control, not the elimination, of desires. According to Birgivi, changing of character depends on such things as 'a person's wish' and 'the strength of one's understanding', and the preservation of a good character requires the avoidance of the company of evil-chartered people who indulge into indecent activities, drunkenness, and meaningless gossip. There are numerous sayings of Muhammad that highlight

the importance of good character. Some of them are:

- Anas ibn Malik reported that the Prophet said:

“The one with good morals and character already owns the best of this world and the Hereafter” (Tabarani and **Abu Dawud**).

- Abu Hurayrah reported that the Prophet said:

“I have been sent for the perfection of character.” (Imam **Ahmad** and Bayhaqi).

- Anas ibn Malik reported that the Messenger of Allah said:

“A person reaches the best and most honored levels in the Hereafter as a result of good character. And bad character condemns a person to the lowest depths of Hell.” (Tabarani).

SELF DEVELOPMENT

The word “morality” comes from the Latin word *moralitas* meaning “manner, character, and proper behavior”. Morality generally refers to a code of conduct, that an individual, group or society hold as authoritative, in distinguishing right from wrong. Such an ideal code of conduct is often espoused in preference to other alternatives.

Islam as a comprehensive way of life encompasses a complete moral system that is an important aspect of its world-view. We live in an age where good and evil are often looked at as relative concepts. Islam however, holds that moral positions are not relative, and instead, defines a universal standard by which actions may be deemed moral or immoral. Islam’s moral system is striking in that it not only defines morality, but also guides the human race in how to achieve it, at both an individual as well as a collective level.

MORALITY AND THE INDIVIDUAL

The guiding principle for the behavior of a Muslim is what the Qur'an refers to as Al `Amal Assalih or virtuous deeds. This term covers all deeds, not just the outward acts of worship. Some of the most primary character traits expected of a Muslim are piety, humility and a profound

Sense of accountability to God. A Muslim is expected to be humble before God and with other people. Islam also enjoins upon every Muslim to exercise control of their passions and desires. Islam warns against vanity and excessive attachment to the ephemeral pleasures of this world. While it is easy to allow the material world to fill our hearts, Islam calls upon human beings to keep God in their hearts and to use the material world in moderation and in accordance with God's guidance. The Glorious Qur'an says:

“The Day whereon neither wealth nor sons will avail, but only he (will prosper) that brings to Allah a sound heart” [Al-Quran: 26:88-89]

Charity is one of the most commendable acts in Islam. In fact, Zakah, the annual charity that is obligatory on every Muslim who has accrued wealth above a certain level, is one of the pillars of Islam. Gratitude in prosperity, patience in adversity, and the courage to uphold the truth, even when inconvenient to oneself, are just some of the qualities that every Muslim is encouraged to cultivate.

Conclusion

For an individual as well as a society, morality is one of the fundamental sources of strength, just as immorality is one of the main causes of decline. While respecting the rights of the individual within a broad Islamic framework, Islam is also concerned with the moral health of the society. Thus, everything that leads to the

welfare of the individual and the society is morally good in Islam, and whatever is harmful is morally bad. The relationship between the moral values of Islam and the society has a very strong bonding because without moralities a society can never be successful or strong. So as a member of a society in which we are living it's have to be our that we follow the moralities which are provided by Islam to us by saying different generous words acts.

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