

## **Giving The Salaam And Spreading The Salaam**

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All praise is due to Allah, Him we praise and seek assistance from. We ask His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evils of ourselves, and our bad deeds. He whom Allah guides none can misguide, and he whom Allah misguides none can guide. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped besides Allah. And I bear witness that Mohammad is His slave and messenger.

I was inspired to open this session in a speech even though it's not connected to something that is unknown to the public people or many of them. This speech would have either knowledge that most people are in need of, or may be for the purpose of reminding people of what they already know

### **"And a reminder benefits the believers".**

Allah has made in His Wisdom a cause for everything. The reasons that Allah has made to their cause and results, which are divided into two parts. Universal reasons and religious reasons.

For the first part, good and bad people, believers and disbelievers share this knowledge, i.e. universal reasons, like food and drink, everybody knows that they are for the purpose of staying alive, the same as the air that we breathe. These universal reasons become more subtle, until only specialised people understand and recognise them.

The same thing applies to religious reasons. One of the reasons that are known to everybody is entering paradise, or the fire. Each has its religious reason which are **"He who does good, it is for the benefit of himself, and he who does bad, it is against himself"** and **"Enter the paradise for what you did"** and thus, nobody enters hell except disbelievers and wrongdoers. The difference between these two latter parties, is that the first party will stay in hell forever, and the second party escapes from staying in hell forever because of their belief and tawheed.

I don't want to prolong talking about this, so I would like to remind you of a narration in Sahih Imam Muslim, narrated by Abu Hurayrah (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhu). He said that the messenger of Allah, Mohammad (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said:

"I swear by the One in whose hand my soul is. You won't enter the paradise until you believe, and won't believe until you love one another. Wouldn't you like me to guide you to a thing that if you did would make you love one another? Spread the salaam among yourselves."

This is a point to show that there are religious reasons not many people know. "You won't enter the paradise until you believe, and you won't believe until you love one another? Wouldn't you like me to guide you to a thing that if you did would make you love one another? Spread the salaam among yourselves".

So spreading the salaam from one Muslim to other Muslims is a religious reason for the existence of love between Muslims, and destroying dislike and hatred.

Today you find many people in some Arab countries that are supposed to be the closest to the Book and the Sunnah, firstly in understanding and secondly in applying them. You find that they are not interested in spreading the salaam, but only in giving the salaam (e.g. to people that they know). I'm sure that you understand the difference between giving the salaam and spreading the salaam.

Here there are general and specific cases, every spreading of salaam is giving the salaam, but every giving of the salaam is not spreading it. Spreading the salaam means using it much, or giving the salaam much, but giving the salaam does not mean spreading salaam.

For example, from giving the salaam, which you must do religiously, and would be sinful, Allah forbid, if you did not give the salaam according to the more correct opinion of the Scholars. If you meet a Muslim, as he (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said, give him salaam. So if you meet a Muslim and don't give him the salaam, you have committed a sin. Because giving the salaam, as I mentioned previously, in the more correct opinion, is obligatory, the same as replying to it.

Many people when they meet one another they don't give the salaam as ordered in Islam. But rather they say, good morning, goodnight, hello, etc. What is worse than that, and this is done in this country, alas, when you enter into the presence of someone and you give the salaam, he replies by saying hello, welcome, and the like! Especially when you give the salaam before you leave, you would not hear him return the salaam! This is contrary to the Qur'an. This issue, even though it is not from the pillars of Islam, is actually one of the religious obligations. If Muslims don't do this, do you think they would do the biggest jihad?! They cant! There is no way for those emotional Muslims to even dream about the true jihad in the way of Allah, except in firstly knowledge and then in action that is based upon beneficial knowledge.

This is from the beneficial knowledge, if you meet a Muslim give him salaam "If you are greeted with a greeting, greet with a better one, or reply with the same".

Today the Muslims neglect this obligation which does not cost them anything. Instead of saying hello, say assalamu alaikum, this does not cost you anything. This is because they were not brought up Islamically. They have lived far from the sunnah of Mohammad (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam), except in its religious aspects. They don't live the way that Mohammad (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) and his noble companions (Radiya 'Llahu 'anhum) lived.

I don't want to prolong speaking about this, but I want to remind our prudent brothers, whom in my opinion didn't need such an introduction except concerning the idea that "*remind, indeed a reminder benefits the believers*". However, they might need to learn, or at least be reminded in the first instance of what is going to be explained in an authentic narration by Imam Ahmad and others,

"that the prophet peace be upon him was in a sitting when a man entered and said assalaamu alaikum, he (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said ten, then another entered and said Assalaamu alaikum wa rahmatullah, he (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said twenty, then a third person entered and said assalaamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu, he (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said thirty. Some of the people who were present noticed and said, someone entered and you said ten, then someone else entered and you said twenty, then another entered and you said thirty? He (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said yes, the first one said assalaamu alaikum, and ten good deeds were written for him, the second person added wa rahmatullah, the good deeds were increased for him, so I said twenty.

The third person said more than the other two when he said wa barakatuhu, so he was increased by ten more, so I said thirty”.

I want you to be prudent in gaining good deeds in the easiest ways. Any one of us sits and talks with words. We can say we will not be questioned about these innocent words on the day of judgement, but, at the same time we are not gaining any rewards for them. So our life is a loss.

Therefore, if you enter a sitting consider this an opportunity before you sit to have thirty good deeds counted for you. Don't enter and only say "assalamu alaikum" and be one of those who are contented with the least reward. Be greedy for rewards! Say assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu to get thirty good deeds! And consequently, you will be a reason, and a guide for those who answer you to get the same reward if they answer in the same way, or if they say more than you to exceed you by ten deeds.

When you give the complete salaam up to its final sentence which is "wa barakatuhu", thirty good deeds will be counted for you. If someone gives the same reply, the person who is replying will also get thirty good deeds. Then you will get thirty good deeds by acting, and thirty for guiding!

The Prophet (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said: "he who guides people to good is the same as the one who does it".

Maybe the one who replies will answer with - which is the point I am trying to make, because this house is uninhabited so to speak (referring to an aspect of the salaam), because people have left it - If someone greets you with "assalaamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu." Allah tells you Muslims **"give a better greeting, or return the same."** So what is better than "assalaamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu"? Many scholars say that there is nothing better than this and prevent people from replying with what is better. While it is from the completeness of adhering to the Qur'an to exceed in replying to the complete salaam by saying "wa maghfiratu." <sup>1</sup> So in this way you will receive forty rewards for causing people to reply in this way "the one who guides people to do good is the same as the one who does it".

This is what I wanted to draw your attention to, and remind you of it. So in summary of this, then I will open the doors for questions insha'Allah, let anyone of you enter with the complete salaam in order to get thirty good deeds, and get the reward of thirty good deeds for guiding others. The one who answers cannot merely say "wa alaikum assalaam". If someone says "assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu", it is an obligation to say "wa alaikum assalaam wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu" and what is better by adding "wa maghfiratu"

This is what I intended, and we ask Allah to benefit us with what He has taught us, and to make us of those who hear the speech and follow the best of it.

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<sup>1</sup> **Editors Note:** Abu Saifillah Abdul-Qadir mentioned on 23rd September 2004 that Shaykh Alee Hasan Al-Halabee (Hafidhahu `Llah) was asked and he confirmed that Shaykh Al-Albaanee (Rahimahu `Llah) after constant research concluded that to make the increasement upon the noble salaam with "wa maghfiratu" was not from the Sunnah. So be aware!