

Khutba

01.10.10

English

The good (or nice) word

Dear Muslims,

Islam aims to upraise those who join it and accept it as religion, and restore the moral and good values in them. For this purpose, Islam orders us to deal with people with honesty, kindness and love. Since the words have a very strong effect on people feelings and emotions, good and nice words are in of the best ways to create atmosphere of harmony and love among people. Thus Islam urges us to say good things and talk nicely to people even if they have offended us. **Salim ibn Jabir al-Hujaymi said, "I came up to the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, when he was wrapped up in a cloak whose edges were cover his feet. I said, 'Messenger of Allah, advice me.' He said, 'You must have fearful awareness of Allah. Do not scorn anything correct, even pouring water from your bucket into the bucket of someone else who asks you for water or talking to your brother with a happy face. Beware of dragging your waist-wrapper it is part of arrogance and Allah does not like it. If a man blames you for something he knows about you, do not blame him for anything you know of him. Leave him to his own evil. You will have your reward. Do not abuse anything.'"**

He said, "After that, I did not ever abuse anything, animal or man."

According to their behavior towards others, people can be divided in two categories. The first category is those who always say good and nice words and does not like to offend others; the best example for them is the Prophets. The second category is those who offend and harm people with their words; the best example of them is the devil himself. Allah says **"Seest thou not how God sets forth a parable? - A goodly Word like a goodly tree, whose root is firmly fixed, and its branches (reach) to the heavens * It brings forth its fruit at all times, by the leave of its Lord. So God sets forth parables for men, in order that they may receive admonition. * And the parable of an evil Word is that of an evil tree: It is torn up by the root from the surface of the earth: it has no stability"** Ibrahim 24-26

Indeed, good words benefit the person both in this life and the hereafter. Prophet Mohamed described the true Muslim as the person who manages his tongue and hold it from offending others; he said, in the *hadith* Narrated by Abū Hurayrah: **(Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak a good word or remain silent)** Narrated by **Al-Bukhari and Muslim**. The concept of good words can involve:

- Saying the greetings of Islam "Asalam Aleykom" to who you know and you don't know
- Replying to the greeting with a better greeting.
- Remembrance of Allah (Thikr),
- Giving advice to those who ask you, using your words to serve and restore the relationship between two persons.
- Guiding the lost person.
- Being truthful and honest as truthful leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Paradise.
- Indicateing good opinion when requested to do so.

Bad words, on the other hand, are as a rotten tree. It might sometimes seem bigger than the healthy tree, but the fact remain that it has no strong roots and it can be pulled up easily from the earth. Here are some examples of these bad words that are commonly used:

- Cursing, insulting and offending others
- Filling your time talking about others and saying profanity.
- Corrupting the relation between two persons, couples or neighbors by your words.
- Reminding one with the favors you have done to him in order to hurt him.
- Saying words that offend your parents.

Dear Muslims

Prophet Mohamed said: **((Each one) of you should save himself from the fire by giving even half of a date (in charity; and if you do not find a half date, then (by saying) a pleasant word (to your brethren))** Narrated by **Al-Bukhari**.

So, you have to try your best not to say bad words to other, even if they have offended you. Do not reply to insults with insults or bad act but rather ignore it as if it has not been said; that is if you cannot force yourself to do good for those who insults you. That is how we should act because that is how prophet Mohamed acted when he was hurt by his people, he prayed to Allah (*O my Lord, forgive my people as they don't know*)

O Allah, we ask you to give us the ability to manage our tongues from saying bad words and hurting or insulting others.

Amen