

The rights & obligations of Muslims towards each other

BS Foad, MD

2013

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stated six rights for Muslims

1-When you see him, greet him

2-If he invites you, accept his invitation

3-If he seeks your advice and counsel give him sincere advice

4-If he sneezes and praises Allah, say: “May Allah have mercy on you”

5-If he gets sick, visit him in his sickness

6-If he dies, witness his funeral

(narrated by Muslim; Similar Hadeeth in Bokhari)

Other rights of Muslims

- 1-To love one another
- 2-To honor and respect and safeguard his life, family and possessions
- 3-Not to talk ill behind his back
- 4-To respect his privacy and not spy on him, or try to learn his secrets
- 5-Not to separate or stay away from him
- 6-Not to hold a grudge, hate or envy him
- 7-To be good to our neighbors
- 8-To develop friendship

The greetings

“When you are greeted, return the greetings with something better, or at least something similar; for Allah takes account of all things”

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 86

The greetings

One starts saying: “As-Salamo Alaykum Wa Rahmatu Allah” (God’s peace and greetings on you, and His mercy)

The other replies: “Wa Alaykum As-Salam Wa Rahmatu Allah Wa Barakatuh” (And to you God’s peace, greetings and mercy and God’s blessings)

Greetings is a character of God's prophets

“Our Messengers came to Abraham with the good news, they said: “Peace”. He said: “Peace”. Shortly thereafter he brought a roasted calf”

Hud (Prophet Hud) 11: 69

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (When Adam was created, he was told: “Go and greet those Angels sitting”. He said: “Peace to you”. They said: “Peace on to you and the mercy of Allah”

(Narrated by Bokhari & Muslim)

Greet Muslims and non-Muslims alike

The Qur'anic verse applies to all: Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was asked: What is good in Islam? He said: (To feed the food, and to greet those whom you know, and those that you do not know)
Bokhari & Muslim

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (O people, spread the greetings, and feed (the hungry), and stay close to your relations and be good to them, and pray at night, when others are asleep: then you will enter paradise in peace)
Termedhi

Greet those in your home

If you enter your home greet your household.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(When you enter greet your family, for it is a blessing for you and a blessing for them) Termedhi.

(When you enter your home say: “We enter in the name of Allah, and we go out in the name of Allah, then greet your family)
Abou Dawood

Mujahed said: When you enter the Masjid say: “As-Salamu Alayka Ya Rasoul Allah(Peace on you O messenger of Allah)”; and when you enter your home, greet your family; if you enter a home with no one in it say: “As-Salamu Alyna Wa Ala Ebada Allah As-Saliheen (Peace on us and on Allah’s righteous servants)

Should we shake hands or Kiss each other or embrace them?

We are allowed to do that, because Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did that when Ja'afar Bin Abi Talib, came to Madina, and did that when Zaid Bin Haretha came to Madina (Termedhi).

Who should start the greetings?

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Those riding greet those walking; and those walking greet those sitting; and the few greet those who are numerous; and the young greets the elder) Bokhari & Muslim

(When one comes to a group of people sitting, he should greet them; if he wants to get up and leave, he should also greet them)

Abou Dawood, Termedhi & Nesa'ee

Kissing the hand

What counts is the motive:

If we kiss the hand of a parent, out of respect and love, then it is allowed

If we kiss the hand of a scholar out of respect, then it is allowed

If we kiss the hand of a ruler or a powerful or rich person, hoping to gain advantage or to show humility, then it is hated or unlawful

We can kiss the forehead or the cheek of a brother or a friend

Visiting the sick

To visit a sick person during his sickness is recommended because of the Prophet's sayings:

(Feed the hungry, and visit the sick and release the prisoner)

Ahmad, Bokhari & Abou Dawood

(Five things are obligations for a Muslim towards his brother: Returning the greetings; saying: Allah's mercy on you" when he sneezes and praises Allah; Accepting the invitation; Visiting the sick; and witnessing the funeral)

Bokhari & Muslim

Allah is present when we visit the sick

**In Hadeeth Qudsi, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)
said:**

(Allah will say on the Day of Judgment: “ O son of Adam, I was sick but you did not visit me”. He will say: “ How can I visit you, and You are the Lord of the worlds?”). Allah will say: “Did you not know that my servant was sick, but you did not visit him during his sickness. Did you not know that if you visited him, you would have found me with him?”

Muslim

The rewards of Visiting the sick

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(When a Muslim visits his sick Muslim brother he will be in paradise until he returns)

Muslim

(When a Muslim visits his Muslim brother during his sickness during the day, seventy thousand Angel pray on his behalf till evening; and if he visits him in the evening, seventy thousand angels pray on his behalf till morning, and he has fruits in paradise)

Termedhi

Manners to be observed when visiting a sick person

- 1-Saying Dua'a (prayer) for him that he may recover
- 2-Urging him to be patient and persevere and not give up hope
- 3-Giving him hope of cure and of God's mercy
- 4-Not staying long
- 5-It is allowed to ask the sick person to say a prayer on behalf those visiting

Praying for recovery for the sick person

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) visited Sa'ad Bin Abi Waqas and prayed for him to recover saying: (O Allah cure Sa'ad, and complete for him his Hijra)

Abou Dawood, Baihaqi & Bokhari

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) visited his relations and put his right hand and said: (O Allah the Lord of mankind remove this sickness and cure it, for You are the cure, there is no cure except Your cure, a cure that leaves no sickness)

Bokhari & Muslim

Teaching the sick person Dua'a to say during his sickness

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught one of his companions to put his hand on the area in his body that hurts, and to say: “In the name of Allah” three times, then say seven times: “I seek protection in the grace of Allah and His might from the evil of what I find and what I fear”

Bokhari

Urging the sick person to be patient and not give up hope

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said when he
visited a sick person:

(My brother seek patience; my brother seek
patience: your sins will come out from you)

Abou Ad-Dunya

(May your sickness be cured, your sickness remove
your sins and purify you)

Bokhari

Giving the sick person hope

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(When you enter on a sick person, give him hope for life, for it does not change his fate, but it makes him feel better)

Ibn Majja & Termedhi

(Whomever Allah wants something good for him, He afflicts him with tests and trials)

Bokhari & Muslim

Prophet Ibrahim said: “And when I am sick, He cures me” Ash-Shura’a (The Poets) 26: 80

Giving the sick person hope

“And give glad tidings for those who patiently persevere: those when afflicted with a calamity say: “ We belong to Allah, and to Him is our return. On these will descend Allah’s blessings, mercy and they will be guided”

Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 155-157

It is allowed to visit non-Muslims who are sick

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) visited a sick Jewish boy, and invited him to Islam. He accepted. The Prophet (PBUH) said: “Praise be to Allah who saved him from Hell fire through me”

Bokhari, Abou Dawood & Nesa'ee

A sick person can complain but should praise Allah

Prophet Jacob (Israel) said:

**“I only complain my difficulty and my sorrow
to Allah”**

Yusuf (Joseph) 12: 86

Prophet Ayyoub (Job) said:

**“I have been afflicted with difficulty and You
are the Most merciful”**

Al-Anbia'a (The Prophets) 21: 83

Seek help in the Qur'an

The Qur'an is a cure:

“We send down of the Qur'an that which is a cure and a mercy for those who believe”

Al-Isra'a (The Night Journey) 17: 82

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The opening chapter of the Qur'an is a cure of every illness)

Daremy & Baihaqi

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to recite Al-Mua'wedhat, and blow on his hands and body during his sickness (Bokhari)

A sick person should not wish for death because of his suffering

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(No one should wish for death because of the suffering he is experiencing; If he has to wish for something let him say: “ O Allah let me live as long as life is better for me, and let me die if death is better for me”)

Ahmad, Bokhari & Muslim

We should seek medical help when we are sick

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was asked: Should we seek help when we get sick? He said: (Yes, seek medical help, because there is no illness that exists that Allah did not create its cure, except one illness: old age)

Ahmad, Abou Dawood, Termedhi Nesa'ee & Ibn Majja

Seek help when you get sick

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(For every illness there is a cure, and the illness can be cured with Allah's leave)

Muslim

According to Aesha **Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)** used to seek medical help when he got sick

(Ahmad)

Do not use alcohol as a medication

One of the companions asked the Prophet (PBUH) about Alcohol, and he told him :No. He asked him again and he told him: No. Then he said: O Prophet of Allah, it is a remedy. The Prophet (PBUH) said: “It is not a remedy, it is an illness”

Muslim, Abou Dawood & Termedhi

* What is forbidden under ordinary circumstances is allowed when necessary.

Honey can be useful as a remedy

“Your Lord taught the bees to make dwellings in hills, on trees and in people’s habitations. Then to eat of all types of fruits, then follow the ways of your Lord smooth; out of its bellies come out a drink, of various colors, in it is a cure for mankind”

An-Nahl (The Bees) 16: 68 & 69

The sick person should safeguard his prayer

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Pray standing up; if you are unable to stand, then pray sitting; if you are unable to sit, then pray lying on your side)

Bokhari, Termedhi, Abou Dawood, Nesa'ee & Ibn Majja

“When you pray in fear, remember Allah, standing, sitting down or lying on your sides; but when you are free from danger, set up regular prayers, for such prayers are enjoined on the believers at stated times”

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 103

Witnessing the funerals

This is a collective obligation (Fard Kefaya) on the Muslims in any community. Whenever a Muslim dies it is necessary for a group of Muslims to witness his funeral. If this obligation is done, it removes the burden on all Muslims in that Community. If this obligation is not done then everyone in that community carries the sin of not doing this obligation

Great reward for witnessing the funerals

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(If a Muslim witnesses the burial and witnesses the prayer he gets two rewards, the least of it is like the mountain of Ohod)

Ahmad, Bokhari & Muslim

Do not delay burying the dead

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Hasten with burying the dead, because if he was good, then you are doing something good for the deceased; if it is otherwise, then it is an evil that you remove from yourselves)

Bokhari & Muslim

Walking in front or behind Al-Janaza (The funeral procession)

Some scholars said: It is better to walk in front of the funeral procession, like Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Abou Bakr & Omar

Other scholars said: It is better to walk behind the funeral procession, like Ali. Ali said: The front is for the Angels. Abou Bakr & Omar walked in front to make it easy for others.

We can walk in front, behind or along either side of the funeral procession

Saying Dua'a for the deceased

(O Allah this is Your servant, You know him better than we know, we only know him to be good. You have sat him down to be questioned. O Allah strengthen him with the right words in the Hereafter, as You strengthened him in the life of this world. O Allah have mercy on him, and let him join his prophet Muhammad (PBUH); let us not stray after he is gone, and do not deprive us from his reward, try us not after him; and forgive us and forgive all Muslims)

Seeking forgiveness for the deceased

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Seek forgiveness for your brother and ask Allah to strengthen him because now he is being questioned)

Abou Dawood, Hakim

What is forbidden in the funeral

- 1-To raise the voice or object to God's will, or cry excessively
- 2-To eat, or laugh, or discuss business
- 3-To sit at the grave site
- 4-To seek blessings from the dead person

Accepting the invitation

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Six rights for a Muslim over his Muslim brother, if he does not do any one of them, then he left out an obligation: To accept his invitation; and to greet him when you meet him; and to seek God's forgiveness for him when he sneezes; and to visit him during his sickness; and to give him advice if he seeks your advice; and to witness his funeral when he dies)

Ibn Hibban

Accepting the invitation

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(If one of you is invited to a meal, he should accept. He may eat if he wishes, or he may not eat if he does not want to eat)

Muslim

(If you refuse the invitation then you have disobeyed Allah and His messenger)

Bokhari & Muslim

Accepting the invitation of non-Muslims

We should accept the invitation of non-Muslims because it shows good manners, and a way of knowing our neighbors and having open lines of communication. We are allowed to eat the food of Jews & Christians

There is more harm in not accepting the invitation because we isolate ourselves and they become suspicious and form wrong impressions about us as Muslims

If there is liquor being served we do not drink

Manners to be observed when invited to a home

1-Do not refuse the invitation of a poor person and accept that of a rich person

2-It is good manners to eat something

3- To sit where you are told

4-To say a Dua'a (Prayer) on behalf the person who invited you. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(May those fasting break their fast in your home, and may the Angels pray for you; and may the righteous eat your food) Ibn Majja & Ibn Hibban

How to behave when invited

“O you who believe enter not the Prophet’s houses until leave is given you for a meal, and then not so early as to wait for its preparation. But when you are invited enter; and when you have taken your meal, disperse, without seeking familiar talk. Such behavior annoys the Prophet and he is shy to dismiss you, but Allah is not shy to tell the truth”

Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) 33: 53

Do not enter until permission is given for you to enter

“O you who believe enter not houses other than your own, until you have asked permission and saluted those in them. That is best for you in order that you may heed. If you find no one in the house, enter not until permission is given to you; if you are asked to go back, go back, that makes for greater purity for yourselves, and Allah knows well all that you do”

An-Nur (The Light) 24: 27 & 28

Do not gossip or talk about others behind their back

“O you who believe avoid suspicion as much as possible, for suspicion in some cases is a sin; do not spy on each other, nor speak ill of each other behind their backs”

Al-Jujerat (The Apartments) 49: 12

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Avoid talking about others behind their backs). He was asked: Suppose what I say is correct? He said: (If what you say is correct then you committed the sin of talking about others behind their backs; If what you say is incorrect, then you lied)

Bokhari

Tashmeet Al-Atis (To say: May Allah have mercy on you) when he sneezes

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(When one of you sneezes let him say: Al-Hamdu Lillah (Praise be to Allah). If he praises Allah then say: “May Allah have mercy on you”. If he does not praise Allah, do not seek mercy for him) Bokhari & Muslim

The proper words are: For the person who sneezed: Al-Hamdu Lillah (All praise is to Allah). The other person says: Yarhamukum Allah (May Allah have mercy on you). The person who sneezed say: Yahdeekum Allah wa Yuslih Balakum (May Allah guide you and improve your affair) Bokhari, Muslim & Abou Dawood

Giving advice (An-Nush)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(..and when he seeks your advice, give him sincere advice)

Bokhari & Muslim

(Religion is to give sincere advice). He was asked: To whom should this advice be given? He said: (To Allah, and to His book, and to His messenger, and to Muslim leaders, and to every common Muslim)

Muslim

Giving sincere advice

Jareer Bin Abdullah said:

(I gave my pledge to the Messenger of Allah to establish regular prayers, and to give charity, and to give sincere advice to every Muslim)

Bokhari & Muslim

Manners of giving advice

- 1-Advice should be given out of love and caring
- 2-Kind words, not severe or harsh
- 3-The motivation is to help and to seek Allah's pleasure, not to criticize, belittle or ridicule
- 4-To guide to what is right, proper and useful; rather than misguide or harm.
- 5-We too should be willing to listen to advice ourselves

To help those who are wronged

“Why do you not fight in the way of Allah, when the weak and oppressed among men, women and children are saying: “ Our Lord get us out of this village, whose people are wrong-doers, and grant us from You a guardian and a helper”

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 75

Helping those who are wronged

Al-Bara'a Bin Azib said:

(Allah's messenger (PBUH) ordered us to visit the sick; and witness the funerals; and send mercy on those who sneeze; and to fulfill the oath; and to help those wronged; and to accept the invitation; and to spread the greetings)

Bokhari & Muslim

Help your brother

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Help your brother, whether he is being wronged, or he is a wrong-doer). He was asked: We help him if he was wronged, but how can we help him if he is the wrong-doer? He said: (You prevent him from doing wrong)

Bokhari

Help your brother

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The Muslim is the brother of another Muslim: He does not wrong him, nor does he leave him alone unsupported. Whoever was helping his brother, Allah will continue to help him)

Bokhari & Muslim

Forgive and overlook the mistakes of others

“Let them overlook the mistakes and forgive others; Do you not wish that Allah forgive you? For Allah is often-forgiving, most merciful”

An-Nur (The Light) 24: 22

Forgive others and be patient and tolerant

“And Hasten to a paradise as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for the righteous. Those who spend when times are difficult and when it is easy; and who control their anger; and who forgive others; For Allah loves those who do good”

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 133 & 134

Love your brother

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(You will not enter paradise till you believe; and you will not believe until you love one another. Shall I tell something that will help! Spread the greeting among yourselves)

Muslim

(None of you will believe until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself)

Bokhari & Muslim

Do not have bad feelings in your heart towards your brother

“And We will remove from their hearts any lurking sense of injury; they will be brothers facing each other on raised couches”

Al-Hijr (Rocky tracts) 15: 47

Be good to your neighbor

“Serve Allah, and join not any partner with Him; and do good to parents; kinsfolk; orphans; those in need; neighbors who are of kin; neighbors who are strangers; the companion by your side; the way farer; and what your right hand possess; for Allah loves not the arrogant, the vain glorious”

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 36

Be good to your neighbor

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Jebreel (The Angel Gabriel) kept on telling me to be good to my neighbor till I thought that he will make him one of my heirs)

Bokhari & Muslim

Be good to your neighbor

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(By Allah he has no faith; By Allah he has no faith, by Allah he has no faith). He was asked: Who O messenger of Allah? He said: (The person whom his neighbor does not feel safe from his harm)

Bokhari

Be good to your neighbor

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day let him be good to his neighbor (and not harm him); and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day let him honor his guest; and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day let him say something good, or he should keep quiet)

Bokhari & Muslim

Being good to your neighbor is a sign of faith

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Avoid what is forbidden, you become the best of worshippers; and be content with what Allah provided for you, you become the most rich among mankind; and be good to your neighbor, you become a believer; and love for others what you love for yourself, you become a Muslim; and avoid excessive laughter, for it makes your heart dead)

Ahmad, Termedhi & Baihaqi

Be good to your neighbor

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(A believer is not the person who can eat and have a full stomach while his neighbor is hungry)

Tabarani & Hakim

Who are our neighbors?

- 1-Those living with us are intimate neighbors
- 2-Those living close to our homes: up to 40 houses on either side
- 3-Those we see and work with in our place of work
- 4-Those we pray with, socialize and collaborate with

Who are the best friends?

Those who do not leave you when you become poor, or facing difficulty, or when you are not in a position to help them

Those who are righteous and remind you of Allah and your responsibility & accountability

Those who give you sincere advice not expecting anything in return

Those who are not afraid of telling you have done something wrong and help you correct your mistake

A good friend helps and does not harm you

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The example of the good companion and the bad companion is that of the person carrying musk and the person blowing on fire; As for the person carrying musk: either he will give you a gift, or you may buy from him, or you will have a nice smell. As for the person blowing on fire: either he will burn your clothes, or you will find from him a bad smell)

Bokhari & Muslim

A good friend and a bad friend

In the saying of the Prophet (PBUH) a good friend can help in several ways:

- He will help, support and advise to what is right
- You will work with him and get things done
- You will follow his good example

A bad friend can harm in several ways:

- He will misguide and only lead to evil
- His bad influence will rub on you, as you follow your desires and forget your accountability to Allah

Be careful who you associate with

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(A person traits and behavior are similar to what his intimate friend's are; therefore be careful who is your intimate friend!)

Abou Dawood & Termedhi

Be careful whom you take as an intimate friend

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(People are different like different grades of gold and silver, the best among them in the state of ignorance are also the best in Islam, if they properly understand; and the souls are like enlisted soldiers: Those that are similar become closer, and those that are different separate)

Muslim

Be careful whom you allow to be your friend

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Do not accompany or have a friend except
someone of faith; and let no one eat your food
except the righteous)

Abou Dawood & Termedhi