

Accountability

Constant pondering over death and meeting one's Creator develops a balance between secular desires and heavenly ambitions.

Anger

Islam teaches control of anger to minimise clashes among individuals of the society.

Kindness to all

Islam demands that a Muslim displays kindness to all, even animals. Smiling is a mark of outstanding and exemplary character. Handshaking and embracing is encouraged when meeting to create warmth and friendliness. The rule is that if you cannot do good to anyone, then do not harm anyone. Everyone is urged to think, move and plan positively for the betterment of all.

Clean Earning and Honest Trade

Just as Islam has condemned all unclean and unlawful means of making money as sinful, in the same way, it has proclaimed great virtue in seeking one's livelihood honestly and in engaging oneself cleanly in trade or profession. The Messenger (Peace be upon him) has said: "To earn a clean living is also a duty next only to the prescribed duties of the faith."

Kindness and Compassion in Monetary Dealings

Islam has laid great stress on honesty and truthfulness in trade and other monetary dealings. Islam, likewise, enjoins on Muslims to be kind and avoid harshness and severity in their monetary transactions and has promised great spiritual advantage in it also. "The Almighty will protect him from the agonies of the Day of judgment who allows respite to a poor servant of His in the payment of his debt or writes off the debt (altogether or a part of it)." The lender of money should be lenient, while the borrower should make every attempt to pay his debt in full.

Social Conduct and Mutual Relations

Social conduct, good manners and respect for the rights of each other, again, form an important part of Islamic teachings. One can become a good and true Muslim only when one also observes faithfully the social code of Islam by which we mean the rules and regulations governing the manners of behaviour between man and man, and man and society as laid down by it. For instance, what should the attitude of parents be towards their children and of children towards their parents? What sort of conduct should prevail between brothers and between brothers and sisters? How should husband and wife live together? How are Muslims to treat those who are older than themselves and those that are younger? What are the rights of neighbours? How should the rich behave towards the poor and the poor towards the rich? What mode of relationship should there be between master and servant? And, so forth. Islam has provided man with a most precise and complete guidance on how to fulfil his social responsibilities, in the different walks of daily life.

The Rights of Women

Before Islam, women were considered shameful, female children were buried alive, prostitution was rampant, divorce was only in the hands of the husband, inheritance was only for the strong, and oppression was widespread. Islam came and abolished these practices. Even now, in "developed countries", women are not granted respect, dignity and honour, let alone equal pay for equal work. Islam, however, regards women as precious and valuable, not to be disrespected or disgraced.

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QUALITIES OF A MUSLIM

**These are the
qualities that Islam
teaches Muslims to
adopt**



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Muslims are encouraged to develop within them characteristics that were embodied by the example of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). This pamphlet will explain some of these qualities.

Morality

Islam fosters all aspects of good character and beautiful patterns of behaviour, balanced mannerism and etiquette sanctioned and approved by the Almighty. The basic rule is: what the sacred law of Islam has sanctioned as good is beneficial and what it has declared forbidden is evil. Good manners are rewarded in Paradise in the next world and in this world one is blessed with peace, prosperity and psychological security. Volumes have been written on the minute details of good character and etiquette.

Islam has forbidden alcohol and other forms of intoxicants. The marked decrease in violence from teetotalers is so obvious as to be self-explanatory.

Knocking 3 separate times on a person's door before entering. If a reply is received, one may enter. If no reply is given, one has to leave. It is not Islamic etiquette to continue knocking after the third time.

Not visiting people during times when intimacy is likely to be enjoyed.

A male not entering the home of a female in the absence of her husband. This may seem harsh to some, but when we look at the causes of adultery, which leads to even further social evils such as murder, suicide and divorce; leniency in this regard has borne many evil fruits.

Justice

Any human living on the planet desires safety and security. Man wants his chastity, property, honour, dignity, life and faith protected. Islam provides this security in various ways:

The belief that life is continuous and in the existence of the Hereafter.

The belief that one will be rewarded for good behaviour, sacrifice, patience and good actions.

The belief in Allah's infinite mercy which extends to all, whether male, female, Muslim, non-Muslim, relatives or strangers, kith and kin, man or animal. Man is bound to err and sin and Islam leaves the door of sincere repentance open to rectify this.

Equality

Everyone is equal in the eyes of the Almighty. The basic tenets like Salah (prayer), fasting and Haj (pilgrimage) display and deepen the concept and feeling of equality. Islam is for all. Islam is free from any racial, social and political discrimination.

Everyone is accountable to the Almighty regarding His divinely protected sacred law, irrespective of being rich or poor; white or black; beautiful or ugly; the employer or the employee; the judge or the judged and the law abiding citizen or a criminal.

Honesty

Islam advocates that a Muslim must be honest in speech and work, whether in private or public, even if it be against oneself or one's friends or relatives.

Islam promotes truthfulness in speech, sincerity in labour and work, and objectivity in procedures. It disapproves of lying, cheating, hypocrisy, favouritism, stealing, forgery and corruption.

The belief that the Almighty is All-Seeing prevents a believer against the evil temptations of the devil (Satan).

Honesty develops confidence in oneself and of being trusted by others. This creates a socially secure environment. Honesty in behaviour prevents conflicts and con-

traditions.

Islam encourages ethical qualities by the direct instructions conveyed through the medium of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) through:

the promises of reward from the Almighty;

learning the punishments of misdeeds and

the emulation of the lifestyle of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Moderation

The best way is the well-balanced middle course. This applies to practically every aspect of one's life: sleeping, eating, walking, talking, charity and dressing.

Contentment

To be satisfied with what you have is in itself a favour from the Almighty, otherwise life will be a torture and full of unhappiness.

A Muslim is content with the Almighty as his creator, sustainer and provider; the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as his messenger and Islam as his religion.

Islam strongly discourages greed and lust for power.

Contentment provides inner satisfaction whereas outward facades and deception only lead to envy and other evils.

Reliance on the Almighty

Islam motivates a harmonious balance between striving for livelihood and simultaneously relying on the Almighty for enriching one's earnings with His special blessings. In this way, obstacles in the path of earning a livelihood will not breed despondence and helplessness. Instead one finds a Companion in distress and turns to Him in all hours of need.