



Proper Etiquette with Social Media

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, the Majestic, the Giver and Provider of all Provision. He is the One who has facilitated for us the means of societal connection and tasked us to embody the best of characters in our interactions. And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. O Allah, send Your peace and blessings upon him and upon whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day
To Continue: I advise you, O slaves of Allah and myself, with the Taqwa of Allah, for verily Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا

O you who believe! Have Taqwa of Allah, and speak words of appropriate fairness [Qur'an: ٣٣:٧٠]

O Believers: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said:

إِنَّ مِنْ أَحَبِّكُمْ إِلَيَّ وَأَقْرَبِكُمْ مِنِّي مَجْلِسًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَحْسَنُكُمْ أَخْلَاقًا

The dearest and nearest among you to me on the Day of Resurrection will be those who are the best in character.

[Tirmidhi]

So, whoever wants to ascend in degrees and attain unto the companionship of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in Paradise, let him be of good moral character. He should aim for such character at all times, and in all his circumstances; in accordance with the saying of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him):



اتَّقِ اللَّهَ حَيْثُمَا كُنْتَ، وَاتَّبِعِ السَّبِيلَ الْحَسَنَةَ تَمَحُّهَا، وَخَالِقِ النَّاسَ بِخُلُقٍ حَسَنٍ

Fear Allah wherever you are, do good deeds after having done bad ones, the former will wipe out the latter, and behave in the best of character towards people. [Tirmidhi]
From that which leads to the embodiment and manifestation of good character is our being conscious of Allah and being conscious of His observing us and His having complete knowledge of us whenever we deal with people, whether it be in the real world or the digital world using social media. As Allah says: **يَعْلَمُ خَائِنَةَ الْأَعْيُنِ وَمَا تُخْفِي الصُّدُورُ**

He knows that which deceives the eyes and what the breasts conceal. [Qur'an: ٤٠:١٩]

So a conscious person is one who adorns himself with chastity, so he guards his eyes from that which is not appropriate, and purifies his limbs from that which is not permissible. Hence, we find from the supplications of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), his saying:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الْهُدَى وَالتَّقَى، وَالْعَفَافَ وَالْغِنَى

O Allah, I ask You for guidance, piety, self-control and a freedom of need [through Allah]. [Muslim]

From the perfection of faith of such a person, from the perfecting of his intelligence and the nobility of his character; is to avoid interfering in that which does not concern him. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said: **مِنْ حُسْنِ إِسْلَامِ الْمَرْءِ تَرْكُهُ مَا لَا يَعْنِيهِ**

From the beauty of a person's good observance of Islam (his piety) is to keep away from that which does not concern him.
[Tirmidhi]



So such a person does not communicate with others, whether it be in writing or otherwise, except that he does so in a manner that ensures will ultimately bring him happiness when his record and register of deeds is taken into account on the Day of Judgment. For Allah says:

وَنَكْتُبُ مَا قَدَّمُوا وَآثَارَهُمْ وَكُلَّ شَيْءٍ أَحْصَيْنَاهُ فِي إِمَامٍ مُّبِينٍ

Indeed, it is We who bring the dead to life and record what they have put forth and what they left behind, and all things We have enumerated in a clear register.

In similar spirit, a poet is recorded to have said:

And there never was a writer except that his writing will remain, even when his hands will have failed and by his side lay.

So, do not write with your hands anything except that which you would be pleased to have displayed on Judgment Day

So, every word written that we send forth, especially in a medium as easy to access as social media, should be weighed up against what Allah says, when He alerts us:

مَا يَلْفِظُ مِنْ قَوْلٍ إِلَّا لَدَيْهِ رَقِيبٌ عَتِيدٌ

Man does not utter any word except that with him is an observer prepared [to record]. [Qur'an: ٥٠١٨]

So, the diligent person of Taqwa makes sure before he publishes or writes anything that it is something in accordance with what Allah has allowed. Hence, he pays attention to the accuracy in what he transmits, the honesty of what he quotes, and takes into account the truth of what he is conveying making sure that he avoids spreading false rumors, for the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) warned us:



كَفَى بِالْمَرْءِ كَذِبًا أَنْ يُحَدِّثَ بِكُلِّ مَا سَمِعَ

It is sufficient as a falsehood for a man to relate everything he hears. [Muslim]

O Allah make us from those whose character and deeds are noble such that You love them and are pleased with them. I say this and I seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness, indeed He is the most forgiving, most Merciful.

Second Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah the One. And may peace and blessings be upon our Sayyid, Sayyiduna Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and upon all of his companions. I advise you slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah.

O Believers: From intelligence of a person is that they engage with the digital world in a manner that benefits them. So, they use the modern means of communication to connect with other people in the best of ways such as communicating with their family, using it for education and the teaching and learning of beneficial knowledge. Such a person weighs up their responsibilities in both their private family lives and their public lives, between their worship and spiritual devotion and their work, this balancing and weighing of responsibility also pertains to their interaction with social media. They should ensure they do not waste their precious time in the frivolous or immoral. They should ensure that the digital world does not divert them from important roles and responsibilities they are tasked to perform in their lives. How many a person has been able to save themselves from potential calamities just by being conscious and awake to the potential pitfalls and dangers that may await them with the use of such means of communication. And how many a person has been able to ascend spiritually and rejoice when they use these means of communication in the best of ways – in a manner that is in accordance with the core of what it means to embody Islamic and Emirati character and behavior. When children are guided in this manner, being orientated by their parents who have demonstrated to them how to utilize such technology in the best

of ways, they come to know what is of benefit to them, and importantly they know what is of harm so they can abstain from it. This is a way of their acting on the Qur'an's exhortation:

وَلَا تَتَّبِعِ سَبِيلَ الْمُفْسِدِينَ

And do not follow the way of the corrupters. [Qur'an: ٧:١٤٦]
For this reason, let us be truly thankful and utilize these means in the best of ways, let us benefit from their good, but let us also save ourselves from their evil. Let us please our Lord through our use of such technology, but let us preserve the character of our future generations. Let us hold forth to our Islamic culture, our values, let us bring forth the best of behaviour for our homeland. O Allah, allow us to emulate the character of the best of creation, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), let us be of those who truly follow him, and those who send proficient salawat upon him.

And with this we ask You Allah that You send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, and especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad. O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon him, and upon his family, his companions, all of them. O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that is good and what pleases You. O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah have mercy on those martyred for Your sake, and grant them intercession for their people, and grant their families patience and a great reward. And have mercy, our Lord, upon our fathers and mothers, and upon whoever has a right upon us. Please continue sending Your blessings and bounties upon this



nation the UAE, and upon all the Muslims and the entire Ummah wheresoever they may be. O Allah, confer upon us Your blessings upon us and do not make us from those who despair. O Allah: aid us, help us, and bless us. O Allah: bless us in this life with that which is good and in the next life that which is good, and save us from the hellfire. Believers, remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Let us align ourselves towards Him sincerely, and align our hearts. So, stand up for prayer.

