
DEALING WITH NON-MUSLIMS

If your neighbors happen to be non-Muslim you must not forget Islamic manners in dealing with neighbors. The recommendation of Islam for good relationship with neighbors is for **'Muslims and non-Muslims alike.'**

You as a Muslim should demonstrate to all people the goodness of Islam with your gentle manners and kind behavior.

Hadith

Bukhari and Muslim reported the Hadith of Anas (RA) 'No one is a believer if he does not like for his brother what he likes for himself.' The report of Muslim said 'till he loves for his brother, or neighbor, as he likes for himself'. In another Hadith It is mentioned "that you will never be a true believer if your neighbor is not safe from your evils"

The scholars said that the word 'brother' here is said in the most common context and thus the means brothers in humanity including Muslims and non-Muslims. A Muslim would love for his non-Muslim neighbor too, as he loves for himself, to become a Muslim to enjoy the benefits of Islam and the rewards of Allah.

A Muslim would do very well when he prays for the guidance of his non-Muslim brothers, as he likes for his Muslim brothers to remain Muslim and to continue their devotion and adherence to Islam.

Attitude Non-Muslim Neighbors...

*Greet them daily.....*Smile at them when you see them...*send gifts often....*Help them if needed.....*Make Dua for their guidance!

Ayah of Quran

In Sura Al-Mumtahina, Allah says 'Allah forbids you not (from dealing), with regards to those who do not fight you for your faith nor drive you out of your homes, to deal kindly and justly with them: For Allah loves those who are just. Allah only forbids you with regard to those who fought you for your faith and drove you out of your homes and support others in driving you out, for turning to them for friendship and alliance. Those of you who do that are doing wrong.'

Nothing prevents us from being kind, generous and helpful to non-Muslims as long as they do not demonstrate verbal or physical animosity towards Islam. Hopefully, this will remove barriers to introduce Islam to them. This positive attitude does not mean going along with non-Muslims and abandoning our distinct personality. It means we must be fair, kind and moderate with ourselves and our neighbors in all matters. Imam Qurtubi said: 'This is a permission given by Allah to maintain friendly

relationship with those who did not upset Muslims or attack them. Imam Qurtubi cited the opinion of Abdul Rahman bin Zayed who said that this rule was in the beginning of Islam when fighting was not required.

Asma' bint Abi Bakr (RA) asked the Prophet (saw) if could entertain and be kind to her non-Muslim mother who visited her in Madina and the Prophet said '**Yes.**'

Before Islam, Abu Bakr (RA) divorced his wife Qutaila who was the mother of his daughter Asma. When her mother visited her daughter in Madina and brought her an ear-ring and other gifts. Asma was reluctant to accept the gifts before asking the Prophet (saw). In answer to her question Allah revealed this verse... 'To deal kindly and justly with them' means to be kind and faithful to them as per agreement between Muslims and non Muslims..

Maintain Justice...

It was the habit of Prophet Muhammed (saw) to maintain justice between Non-Muslims too. For justice is a duty toward all whether they were **friends** or **enemy**. Imam Bukhari and Imam Ahmad reported that Anas bin Malik said that a **Jewish Boy** used to serve the Prophet, preparing his ablution (wudhu water) and to hand him his shoes. The boy became ill one day. The Prophet (saw) went to visit the boy and he was very ill with his father sitting at his head. The Prophet invited him to Islam by telling him to say: **There is no God but Allah.** The boy looked at his father who kept silent. The Prophet repeated his request and the boy looked at his father again who told him '**Obey Abul-Qasim.**' The boy, just before dying, said 'I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and that you are His Messenger.' The Prophet said 'I Thank Allah for enabling me to save him.'

Points we learn from the Hadith...

Hafiz Ibn Hajar (RA) said that this Hadith indicates many rules *that Muslims are allowed to employ non-Muslims, *to visit them while sick. *It also directs us to maintain cordiality and friendliness. *It allows the employment of the youth, *to offer them Islam if they were mature to make a choice, *and to accept their conversion if they embraced Islam.

Hafiz Al-Aini (RA) said that this Hadith indicted the permission to visit ill non-Muslims especially if they were neighbors since it demonstrated the **kindness** of Islam and may encourage them to embrace it. We are allowed to do dealings with non believers, and always demonstrate truthfulness and justice. In the time of Muhammed (saw) if people had any disputes among each other, they would come to him to solve their problems. This is because they had seen the honesty of Muslims.

How to console...

...“To cause comfort and relief to a saddened person...”

You may console non-Muslims on **mourning** using appropriate expressions. Imam Al-Kadi Abu Yusuf (RA) said, in the end of his book, that he asked Abo Hanifa (RA) about how to console a Jew or a Christian who lost a child or relative. Abo Hanifa (RA) said to say 'Allah (God) decreed death for all His creations. We ask Allah to make death the best fate to wait for. We all belong to Allah and to Him we all shall return. Be patient and **bear** this calamity.

Abu Yusuf (RA) said we learned that a Christian who used to attend the lectures of Al-Hasan Al-Basri died. Al-Hasan went to console his brother. He said: May Allah reward you for this calamity as He rewarded your fellows. May Allah bless our death and make it the best fate to wait for. Be patient against the misfortunes. You may say these kind words and remind them of death as the in-escapable fate with which we can do nothing but accept and be patience.

Imam Ibn A'bideen (RA) in his book Rad Al-Mukhtar said: “You may console Muslims when at the death of a non-Muslim relative. On such occasion you may say: May Allah increase your rewards and patience. You may console non-Muslims on the loss of a Muslim relative. On such occasions you may say: May Allah forgive your deceased and give best reward to them.”

Answer the following Questions...

What attitude should we have with non-Muslim Neighbors?

Who was serving Muhammed (saw) in preparing ablution water for him?

Explain the visitation of Nabi (saw) and what had happened there?

Mention some important points we learned from the Hadith....
(Or the story of the Jewish boy)

What does console mean?

How do we console a sad person?