
Entering Or Leaving A House

HOW TO ENTER

Enter or leave your house with your right foot first, as it was the tradition of the Prophet. Imaam Ahmad al-Hamazani, a great scholar of Hadith of his time, was so keen on applying this Sunnah to the extent that if someone entered his house with their left foot first, he would ask them to go out and **re-enter** with their right foot first. He was so much respected that the **Sultan** of that time would visit him at his school and sit in front of him as a student. At one occasion, he told the Sultan to exit with his right foot first and walk on the right side of the road.

When entering or leaving a house, do not push the door **violently**, or slam it shut, or leave it to close by itself wildly. Such actions stand in contrast to the gracefulness of Islam to which you are honoured to belong. Close the door quietly with your hand. 'Aisha (RA) quotes the Prophet (saw) saying '**Gentleness beautifies every act. Its absence will stain it.**'

ENTERING WHILE OTHERS ARE ASLEEP

If you enter a place where people are sleeping, whether during day or night, be **quiet and gentle**. Be **considerate**. Do not cause any undue noise when entering or exiting. You have heard the saying of the Prophet (PBUH): '**Whoever is deprived of gentleness, is deprived of all sorts of goodness.**' Muslim and Tirmidhi reported that the honorable companion Al-Miqdad bin Al-Aswad (RA) said: 'We used to preserve the Prophet's share of the milk, when he came back at night he would greet us with a voice loud enough for those awake to hear, without disturbing those who were asleep.' In addition, whenever the Prophet used to pray at night, he would recite the Quran with a voice that pleased those that were awake, without disturbing those that were asleep.'

Princess **Qatru'l Nada (Dew point)** was famous for her intelligence, manners and beauty. She was the daughter of the King of Egypt. She once said: '**My father taught me an important manner - do not sleep among sitting people and do not sit among sleeping people.**'

GREETING

When entering or leaving your house, acknowledge those inside. Use the greeting of Muslims and the label of Islam: '**Assalam 'Alāikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakātuh** (peace and mercy of Allah be with you) Do not neglect this Islamic greeting by replacing it with something else, such as '**Good Morning**,' or '**Hello**.' Salaam is the sign of Islam and the phrase that the Messenger of Allah (saw) recommended and practiced.

The Prophet, peace be upon him, taught his faithful servant Anas bin Malik to greet his family when entering or leaving his house. Imam Tirmizi reported that Anas (RA) said: 'The Messenger of Allah said to me, 'My son, greet your family when you enter [your home], for that is a blessing for you and your family.'"

Qatada, a prominent follower (**Tabi'y**), said: 'Greet your family when you enter your house. They are the most worthy of your greeting.' Tirmidhi reported another Hadith whereby Abu Huraira (RA) stated that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said: 'If you join a gathering, greet them, and if you want to leave, dismiss yourself. The first is no less important than the second.'

Imam Al-Suyuti in his book 'praising the Abyssinians mentioned: 'Every nation has a way of greeting. Arabs will say salams. Persian Emperors require prostrating and kissing the floor. The Persians touch their hand on the floor in front of the king. The Abyssinians quietly, gather their hands at their chest. The Romans uncover their head and bow. Some would gesture as if kissing the guest and then putting both hands on their face.' All these greetings, except **Salam**, are forbidden.

Imam Nawawi said 'It is preferred to say **'Bismillahi Arrahman Arrahim'** when you enter your house or other houses. You have to say Salam if you enter it regardless whether it was empty or occupied. You say a prayer when you go out. The Prophet said: 'If you say in the name of Allah, I seek help from Allah, no strength or means but with Allah. Then you shall be protected and saved. The Satan will leave such a home.

The Prophet (saw), said: 'If you enter your house and pray to Allah when entering and before your meals, the Satan will say [to his group]: **No sleep and no food**. If you entered it without praying to Allah. Satan will say [to his group]: **You secured your sleep and dinner.**'

ANNOUNCING YOUR PRESENCE

When entering a house, make your presence known to those inside before you approach them. Avoid startling or frightening them. Do not descend upon them suddenly. 'Àmer said: 'My father 'Abdullah ibn Mas'wüd used to announce his arrival by addressing his family in a pleasant tone.

Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal said: 'When a person enters his house, it is recommended that he/she creates noise by coughing or tapping his/her shoes.' His son Abdullah said: 'When returning home from the mosque, my father used to announce his arrival before entering, by tapping with his shoes or coughing.'

Prophet (saw) condemned those who unexpectedly surprise their families at night, whether returning from travel or otherwise, because it makes them appear to be **suspicious**.

SEEKING PERMISSION TO ENTER

If family members are resting in their rooms, and you want to join them, it is appropriate to ask for permission and/or knock on the door. Otherwise, you may see them in a condition that you, or they for that matter, may not like. This applies to your entire household; your immediate family or otherwise. Imam Malik narrated that a man asked the Messenger of Allah (PBUH): 'Should I seek permission to enter my mother's room?' The Prophet answered, **'Yes.'** The man said, 'We live together in the same house.' The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, 'Ask permission to join her.' The man argued, 'But, I am her servant.' The Prophet said, 'Ask for permission. Would you like to see her in discomfort? The man replied, 'No!' The Prophet said, 'Then ask permission when entering.'

A man asked 'Abdullah bin Masood (RA): 'Should I ask permission to enter my mother's room?' He answered him, 'Yes. There are certain circumstances in which you would rather not see her. A man asked Huzaifa ibn Al-Yamān, 'Should I ask permission to enter my mother's?' Huzaifa replied, 'Yes, if you do not ask for her permission, you may encounter an embarrassing situation.'

'Abdullah bin Omar said: 'When any of his children came of age, Ibn Omar would assign him/her another room. He would not allow any of them to enter his room without permission.'

Quranic verse, 'And when the children among you come of age, let them ask for permission, as do those senior to them in age; thus does Allah make clear His signs. Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom.' Ibn Mas'ud said: 'A person should seek permission whenever entering the room of a father, mother, brother and sister.'

KNOCKING AND RINGING

Knock at the door, or ring the door's bell in a pleasant way and not louder than is necessary to make your presence known. Do not knock loudly and violently or ring the bell continuously. Remember that you are a visitor and not a gangster or an oppressor who is raiding the house and frightening its occupants. A woman came to Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal seeking his opinion on a religious matter. She banged at his door loudly. He came out saying, 'This is the banging of policemen.' Sahaba used to knock on the door of the Prophet with the tips of their nails. Prophet (saw) once said **'Whoever lacks kindness, lacks all good things.'**

Leave enough time between two knocks, or rings. This will enable those performing **ablution, praying, or eating**, to finish without rushing. Keep in mind that a person may have just started the prayers just before you rang the doorbell. Prophet (saw) said: **'If you asked permission 3 times, and were not granted permission, then you must leave.'** While waiting for permission, do not stand in front of the door. Instead, stand to the right or to the left. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH), upon coming to someone's door, avoided facing the door directly. Instead, he would stand to the right or to the left of the door.

ANSWERING 'WHO IS IT'

If you knock on the door you may be asked, 'Who is it?' Identify yourself, using your most common name but do not respond with, 'It is me,' 'Somebody,' or, 'Guess who?' These words are useless in identifying who is at the door. You should not assume that your voice is known to the person who lives there, because your voice may resemble another person's voice. And people differ in their ability to distinguish voices. The Prophet (saw) discouraged people from saying 'it's me' because it does not reveal your name

Answer the Questions...

When you are asked, "who is it? What should you NOT say?

Prophet (saw) once said **'Whoever lacks kindness, lacks _____**

What should you do if no one answers after 3 times knocking?

When you don't say Salam, what does Shaitan say?

How should you enter your home?

Do we need permission to enter our own parent's room?

How Did Sahaba knock on the Prophets door?

Prophet (saw) said..

' _____ beautifies every act. Its _____ will stain it.'