

IMPORTANCE OF APPEARANCE

Our master, the Messenger of Allah ((PBUH)) directed the blessed companions by saying: 'You are on your way to meet your brothers, put on a nice dress and fix your riding so you appear distinct among people as a fleck [on a beautiful face]. Allah does not like roughness nor rough manners.'

When the Prophet, peace be upon him, said: 'No one will enter Paradise if they have at heart a grain of arrogance.' A man asked: 'A man may like his dress to be nice and his shoes nice' The Prophet answered 'Allah is beautiful and likes beauty. Arrogance is to deny rights and look down at people.'

Shaikh Ibn Taimia said that the beauty that Allah likes include nice clothes. Hence it could be said that Allah likes all nice things. Therefore, a Muslim ought to be recognized by neat dress, cleanliness and graceful appearance.

1.2 CLEANLINESS AND WASHING

The Sunnah is to keep perfume and to use it regularly on oneself. Salman Al-Farsi (RA) said: the Prophet, peace be upon him, said 'Allah will forgive the sins of the past week for he who on Friday will take a bath, cleanse himself, put on his [regular] perfume or any perfume available in house. Then, he goes out [to Jumu'ah prayer] and does not try to separate two friends. Then he prays wherever he could and listens to the Imam.' If the body became odorous a day or two before Friday, one should not wait till Friday to cleanse the body. We should wash our bodies as soon as it require washing to keep ourselves clean and fresh.

1.3 ARRIVING FROM A JOURNEY

If you are traveling to visit someone or if you are about to receive guests, whether those in question are your parents, relatives, peers, or friends of a different age, make sure that your hands, feet, and socks are clean, and your appearance and clothing is neat. Never neglect or underestimate the importance of your look, for that would certainly mar the pleasure of the meeting, while dulling the enjoyment of those you meet. In this regard, the Prophet directed his companions upon returning from a journey: 'You are returning to your brethren, dress nicely, and sort out your rides so that you may become a beauty mark among people, for Allah does not like sloppiness or acting in a sloppy way.' Try to bring some gifts to those receiving you, and likewise present your guests with a present. Always be prepared to reciprocate with a suitable gift. The subtle joy of seeing your beloved ones will be vividly remembered for many years. A gift, however symbolic, will greatly enhance the pleasure of such a meeting. The Prophet (PBUH), said: 'Exchange gifts; exchange love.' Our Muslim predecessors used to leave their host with a present which could be as symbolic as an Arak stick.

1.4 DRESS PROPERLY WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Dress properly, even among friends and relatives. Dress properly when visiting your parents, a pious person, an elder, or even a relative or a friend. Your attire should be clean and elegant, not ugly or unsightly. We are attracted or repulsed by what we see. If you look good in clean clothes, smelling nice, you will be pleasant to look at and people will be attracted to you and enjoy your presence. If you were the opposite, people will look down on you even if you were a relative or friend. To look good while visiting or being visited is an instinctive trait in addition to being an Islamic manner. Do not ignore this aspect because you consider yourself to be close to your hosts or guests. The great follower Abi Al-'Alia Al-Riahi Al-Basri said, 'Muslims were at their best when visiting each other.' Thabet Al-Banani, the student of Imam Anas bin Malik said, 'When I used to visit Anas, he would call for a perfume and run it along his cheeks.' Accordingly, if you were visited at home while dressed very casually, as it sometimes happens, you should change for your visitor. This will increase his respect for you and will complement your hospitality. It is, after all, the manners of the early Muslims.

Answer the Questions....

1. The prophet (SAS) said: 'No one will enter Paradise if they have at heart a grain of -----'
2. A Muslim ought to be recognized by -----, -----, and -----
3. The Sunnah is to keep -----, and to use it regularly on oneself.
4. Try to bring some ----- to those receiving you, and likewise present your guests with a -----
5. Dress -----, even among ----- and -----.