

ISTABA Student Conferences Series: Young Muslim Women  
Conference on Islamic Etiquette  
Essay Awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Essay Competition  
Topic: Islamic Adab

“Nothing will be heavier on a believing servant’s scale on Judgment Day than good manners.” – Al-Termethy

According to this hadith, the Prophet Mohammed (SAW) tells us that the highest deed that a believer can have on his scale is not fasting, praying, or reading Quran; it is actually the practice of good manners.

The importance of proper *adaab* is clearly stated throughout the Quran and Ahadith. Many scholars have noted that more than 90% of the Quran contains verses regarding this subject. Throughout the Quran, many Ayat describe those who are kind, patient, and forgiving. The best example of this is found in Ayah 40 of Surat Al-Qalam, which says, “And verily you [Mohammed SAW] have great manners.” The fact that ALLAH (SWT), the creator of the heavens, the earth, and everything in between would mention such a characteristic proves depth of its importance.

There are some whom Allah (SWT) has greatly blessed by allowing good manners to be an innate part of their character. Others, however, must work hard to acquire these characteristics. The most important aspect of this journey is in one’s intention. Only with complete sincerity is the goal possible. The best way to work on perfecting one’s Islamic manners is to first realize which weaknesses must be addressed. They must be minimized and the proper *adaab* must be established by interacting with brothers and sisters according to the *sunnah* of the Prophet (SAW). Good manners can be seen in the simplest to the most difficult forms; from offering *salaam* to one’s brother, to walking away from an argument even if you know that you are right. Humbleness, patience, and truthfulness are all important characteristics possessed by the Prophet Mohammed (SAW), which we should attempt to incorporate into all facets of life.

Of all of the good qualities that an individual may have, why would this subject carry so much weight? It is *adaab* that creates love between a group of people. By caring for one another, we are given strength and are able to work as a unit. Rasool-Allah (SAW) tells us that,

“Muslims together, with their love and mercy, are like one body: if one part suffers, then the rest of the body suffers.” –Ibn Taymiyah

*Adaab* eliminates feelings of hatred or ill-will towards other Muslims. We are *one* ummah; brothers and sisters of the closest kind. The suffering and dying of our people in Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan, whether these lands are known to us or not, cause us to groan in pain. We should not be able to sleep well until justice is established. Today, we are not in dire need of scholars. We are in need of the *adaab* which was ordered by ALLAH (SWT) and carried out by the Prophet (SAW). For such manners will be the cause of uniting this ummah.

Written by Dalia Elbannan and Diyanah Elyaman

Dalia Elbannan will be receiving her Bachelor of Science from USF in Biomedical Science. InshaAllah, she will then pursue a career in Pharmacy.

Diyanah Elyaman received her Associate of Arts degree in Microbiology and is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders. InshaAllah, she will then pursue her Doctorate in Medicine.