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THE PROPRIETIES

Dear Mumins!

Our beloved Prophet (s.a.w.) states in one of his hadiths as follows: "I have been sent to complete the moral conduct." Certainly, among the most important components of the moral conduct are the proprieties. Today, I try to quote advice from our scholars regarding proprieties of speaking, sitting, walking and eating-drinking.

While speaking, one should be avoid too much talking because the other parties in conversations would get bored or feel uncomfortable. The shorter and pithier the talking is, the more suitable it would be for the proprieties. A well-mannered person should refrain from repeating what he or she said. Even s/he should not express a joke more than once so as not to lose the charm. While another talks, one should not interfere in the conversation before that person finishes. A person should not interrupt at the meeting of the masters or the great for the purpose of proving that s/he is different and superior. Questions should be asked only in absolutely necessary situations. When three individuals are together, two of them should not speak between themselves, lest the third one is offended. While speaking, the person should not be so low-voiced that the audience has to ask and should not talk so loudly that those addressed are hurt. Likewise, it has been ordained in the Qur'ân as follows: "... **Be moderate in your walking and lower your voice.**"¹ One should abstain from vulgar expressions and swearing. While talking, conducts of hand, head, eye, or eyebrow should not be made. As required by hadith of "Talk to people as they can comprehend," one should speak at the level of the partner. During the conversation,



scornful expressions like "Got it? Look at me! Listen to me!" should not be used.

Walking should be preferred a medium speed, neither too speedy nor too slowly. Also, adopting an arrogant manner during walking is a profound mistake. One should not extend the legs on the floor, and should not cross his/her legs on the sofa. If s/he is forced to yawn, s/he should cover the mouth with his/her hand, and furthermore should carry a handkerchief for cleaning of mouth and nose. During a gathering, s/he should sit in the most suitable place, knowing of his/her limits. When in the bathroom, part of the body between belly and kneecap should be covered as much as possible.

It is appropriate to wash the hands both before the meal and after it. Eating should be started with "basmalah" and the right hand should be used. When eating from one dish, the food should be taken from his/her respective side. When not using fork, spoon and knife, only three fingers should be used. The morsel should be as small as possible, and when a morsel is in the mouth, one should not speak. Additionally, the first person who finishes should wait for everybody to complete eating. The host should offer guest to eat or continue the meal three times at most. Mentioning a lack of something in the food is not pleasant.

Dear Mumins!

As it is known, Islam is a religion that surrounds all sides of life and implements recommendations and bans related to it. Thus, in our daily life, let us comply with the proprieties which have been obtained from the orders or prohibitions of our religion. Please do not forget that the Muslim is a model personality with politeness, cleanliness and good manners.

¹ Luqmân, 19.