

ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SYLLABUS

Notes on Akhlaqiyyat

Topic: 'Tawadhu' - Humility

Age 16 years

From the Holy Qura'n & Ahadith

1. 'And the servants of most Gracious God are those who walk on the earth in humility'
(Furqan v.63)

'And lower your wings for the believers'
(Hujar v.88)

From these ayats, we learn the importance of behaving with humility which is the meaning of 'Tawadhu'. We are advised to lower our wings i.e. shoulders when walking and not raise our chest in such a way as to signal posture of pride and self-importance.

2. Benefit of 'Tawadhu'- humility

The Prophet (s.a.w) had said:

'If you become humble, Allah will raise your position'

'The best of people is he who is humble despite his high position'

One of the things which makes one popular and likeable among people is humility and modesty. What makes people hate a person is his pride and self-glorification.

A person lacking humility considers everything he does or says to be perfect.

He is an egoist who likes always to boast of his achievement. He likes formalities showoff and always to criticize others to prove his imaginary wisdom.

By 'Tawadhu'-humility, one is able to win friends and supporters who can become helpful to him in times of need. A humble person is also able to learn more and more as he is prepared to take lessons from others and from daily events as he does not consider himself perfect in his humility.

3. Lesson of 'Tawadhu'- humility from the life of the Prophet

One day the Holy Prophet(S.A.W) was sitting at a place surrounded by his companions. A penniless Muslim dressed in tattered clothes arrived. He sat at a vacant place in accordance with the Islamic tradition. By chance, at the place he happened to sit by side of a rich man who felt uneasy to see a poor man next to him. He gathered his clothes and pulled himself aside creating a distance between himself and the poor man.

The Holy Prophet(S.A.W) watching the behaviour, turned to him saying: "Did you fear that something out of his poverty might stick to you, or your wealth might be transferred to him. Did you fear your dress might be soiled by touching his dress?" "No" he replied. Upon this the Holy Prophet asked " Then why did you keep yourself off from him?".

The rich man replied " I admit I have committed a blunder and now in order to amend it, I am prepared to give half my wealth to this brother Muslim of mine."

The poor man on hearing his words said "Oh Prophet of Allah, I am not prepared to accept the offer. I am afraid that under the influence of wealth, I too may be involved in arrogance and egotism and may treat my brother Muslims in the same manner.

Thus we see what Islamic humility in practice means where wealth is not distinction. In the eyes of Allah are considered equal and every Muslim is wanted to behave humbly.

How to practice humility

Imam Jaffer Sadiq(A.S) had said:

'Humility is this that you should be willing to sit in any place of the gathering, you should salute to everyone you come into contact, not to quarrel on any matter even though you may be right and not to look forward to words of praise for your piety.'