

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

*Rabee' al-Awwal 25, 1443 A.H./ October 21, 2022 C.E*

## **Stages and Characteristics of Personality Building in the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH)**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“The Messenger of Allah is an excellent model for those of you who put hope in Allah and the Last Day.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment

Our Prophet (peace be upon him) paid much attention to building the good personality that constructs, repairs and builds, in accordance with the noble message promoted by Islam. The Almighty Allah said, **“It was He who brought you into being from the earth and assigned you to develop it.”**

When contemplating the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH), one realizes that it has identified the stages of building a good personality. The first one of these stages is: fostering firm faith, because belief in Allah implants peace and tranquility in one’s soul, and puts man in the company and under the protection of Allah, the Almighty. Jundab Ibn Abd Allah (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “We were with the Prophet (PBUH) when

we were youths, so we learned faith before we learned Qur'an. Then we learned Qur'an and our faith increased thereby." Abd Allah Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) said: One day, I was riding behind the Prophet (PBUH) when he said, 'O boy! I will instruct you in some matters: Be mindful of Alla, He will preserve you. Safeguard His Rights, He will be ever with you. If you ask, ask from Him alone; and if you need assistance, supplicate to Allah alone for help. And remember that if all the people gather to benefit you, they will not be able to benefit you except that which Allah had foreordained (for you); and if all of them gather to do harm to you, they will not be able to afflict you with anything other than that which Allah had pre-destined against you. The pens had been lifted and the ink had dried up." The Prophet (PBUH) also said that, "Seven are (the persons) whom Allah would give protection with His Shade on the Day when there would be no shade but that of Him (i. e. on the Day of Judgment, and they are): 1) a just ruler; 2) a youth who grew up with the worship of Allah; 3) a person whose heart is attached to the mosques; 4) two persons who love and meet each other and depart from each other for the sake of Allah; 5) a man whom a beautiful woman of high rank seduces (for illicit relation), but he (rejects this offer by saying): I fear Allah"; 6) a person who gives charity and conceals it (to such an extent) that the right hand does not know what the left has given; and 7) a person who remembered Allah in privacy and his eyes shed tears."

Our Prophet (PBUH) used to build personality on the balance between the needs of the soul and the needs of the body. No one side should overwhelm the other. The Almighty Allah said, **“Seek the life to come by means of what Allah has granted you, but do not neglect your rightful share in this world.”** This is the moderation advocated by our pure faith as Allah (Most High) said, **“We have made you [believers] into a justly balanced nation.”** Allah (Glory be to him) also said, **“They are those who are neither wasteful nor niggardly when they spend, but keep to a just balance.”** Our Prophet (PBUH) instructed Abd Allah Ibn Amr Ibn al-As saying, “Offer prayer at night and also sleep; Fast for a few days and give up fasting for a few days because your body has a right on you, and your eye has a right on you, and your guest has a right on you, and your wife has a right on you.”

Among the most important features of good character promoted by Islam is: adhering to noble values and sublime morals. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, “The most perfect man in his faith among the believers is the one whose behaviour is most excellent.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “Have *taqwa* (fear) of Allah wherever you may be, and follow up a bad deed with a good deed which will wipe it out, and behave well towards the people.” It is this good personality that leads to having a good and coherent society in which love and cooperation prevail among all of its members. This is why the Prophet (PBUH) said, “The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When

one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever.” Therefore, Our Prophet (PBUH) has always been interested in instilling morals, ethics, and good values in souls of believers from their childhood. Umar Ibn Abu Salamah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: “I was a young boy under the protection of the Messenger of Allah, and once [while eating] my hand used to roam every place in the dish. He (PBUH) said to me, “Mention Allah’s Name, eat with your right hand, and eat from the side next you.”

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All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

Also, among the most important features of personality building are: responsibility, positiveness, loving work, having diligence in it. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, “Adhere to that which is beneficial for you. Keep asking Allah for help and do not refrain from it.” Once a man asked the Prophet (PBUH) for money, but the Prophet (PBUH) answered him saying, “Go, gather firewood and sell it, and do not let me see you for a fortnight. The man went away and gathered firewood and sold it. When he earned ten dirhams, he came to the Prophet (PBUH) and bought a garment with some of them and food with the others. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH)

then said: This is better for you than that begging should come as a spot on your face on the Day of Judgment.” The Prophet’s care for positivity was so great to the extent that he said, “If the Final Hour comes while you have a shoot of a plant in your hands and it is possible to plant it before the Hour comes, you should plant it.” He (PBUH) also said, “Allah loves that when one of you performs an action that he perfects it.”

May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon our Master Muhammad and all his family and companions.

We ask Allah to protect our country Egypt, and all other countries of the world!