

Question And Answer

السؤال والجواب Question And Answer

1. Make your address polite and you will hear a polite reply.

.. أَجْمِلُوا فِي الْخِطَابِ تَسْمَعُوا جَمِيلَ الْجَوَابِ1

2. One who hastens to reply does not arrive at the right [answer].

.. مَنْ أَسْرَعَ فِي الْجَوَابِ لَمْ يُدْرِكِ الصَّوَابَ2

3. Giving correct reply is an evidence of merit.

.. مِنْ بُرْهَانِ الْفَضْلِ صَائِبُ الْجَوَابِ3

4. A discourteous reply stems from a discourteous address.

.. نَكِيرُ الْجَوَابِ مِنْ نَكِيرِ الْخِطَابِ4

5. When one is asked about that which he knows not, he should never feel ashamed to say: I do not know.

.. لَا يَسْتَحْيِيَنَّ أَحَدٌ إِذَا سُئِلَ عَمَّا لَا يَعْلَمُ أَنْ يَقُولَ: لَا أَعْلَمُ5

6. Do not use harsh words [or foul language] even if you are unable to reply.

.. لَا تُسْأَلُ اللَّفْظَ وَإِنْ ضَاقَ عَلَيْكَ الْجَوَابُ⁶

7. Never ask about that which has not [yet] happened, for in that which has already come about there is enough knowledge [that one can gain].

.. لَا تَسْأَلَنَّ عَمَّا لَمْ يَكُنْ فِيهِ الَّذِي قَدْ كَانَ عِلْمٌ كَافٌ⁷

8. Do not be offensive in your address thereby being offended by the rudeness of the reply.

.. لَا تُسَيِّئِ الْخِطَابَ فَيَسُوءَكَ نَكِيرُ الْجَوَابِ⁸

9. One who abandons the words “I don’t know” comes upon his [place of] destruction.

.. مَنْ تَرَكَ قَوْلَ «لَا أَدْرِي» أَصِيبَ مَقَاتِلُهُ⁹

10. The person most prepared to [give a] reply is one who does not get angry.

.. أَحْضَرُ النَّاسِ جَوَاباً مَنْ لَمْ يَغْضَبْ¹⁰

11. Ask and you will learn.

.. إِسْأَلٌ تَعْلَمُ¹¹

12. When you ask, ask in order to learn and do not ask in order to embarrass [the one whom you are asking]. Indeed the ignorant one who learns is similar to a learned person and verily the learned one who is oppressive is similar to an ignorant person.

.. إِذَا سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلْ تَفَقُّهَا، وَلَا تَسْأَلْ تَعَنُّتًا، فَإِنَّ الْجَاهِلَ الْمُتَعَلِّمَ شَبِيهُ بِالْعَالِمِ، وَإِنَّ الْعَالِمَ الْمُتَعَسِّفَ شَبِيهُ بِالْجَاهِلِ¹²

13. If you are ignorant then learn, and when you are asked about that which you do not know then say: Allah and His Prophet know better.

.. إِذَا كُنْتَ جَاهِلًا فَتَعَلَّمْ، وَإِذَا سُئِلْتَ عَمَّا لَا تَعْلَمُ فَقُلْ: اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَعْلَمُ¹³

14. Too much asking leads to restlessness.

.. كَثْرَةُ السُّؤَالِ تُورِثُ الْمَلَالَ14

15. One who asks, learns.

.. مَنْ سَأَلَ عَلِمَ15

16. One who asks, benefits.

.. مَنْ سَأَلَ اسْتَفَادَ16

17. One who asks properly, learns.

.. مَنْ أَحْسَنَ السُّؤَالَ عَلِمَ17

18. One who asks in his young age, answers in his old age.

.. مَنْ سَأَلَ فِي صِبْغِهِ أَجَابَ فِي كِبَرِهِ18

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