

Hospitality

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.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): مَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَلْيُكْرِمْ ضَيْفَهُ¹

1— The Prophet (S) said, 'He who has faith in Allah and the Last Day must honour his guest.' [Jami'a al-Akhbar, p. 377, no. 1053]

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): الضَّيْفُ يَنْزِلُ بِرِزْقِهِ، وَيَرْتَحِلُ بِذُنُوبِ أَهْلِ الْبَيْتِ²

2— The Prophet (S) said, 'The guest arrives bringing his own sustenance and leaves taking away the sins of his hosts.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 75, p. 461, no. 14]

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): الرِّزْقُ أَسْرَعُ إِلَى مَنْ يُطْعِمُ الطَّعَامَ مِنَ السَّيِّئِينَ فِي السَّنَامِ³

3— The Prophet (S) said, 'Sustenance comes to those who feed others faster than a knife can cut through flesh.' [al-Mahasin, v. 2, p. 147, no. 1388]

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): كُلُّ بَيْتٍ لَا يَدْخُلُ فِيهِ الضَّيْفُ لَا تَدْخُلُهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ⁴

4— The Prophet (S) said, 'Any house which is not visited by guests is not visited by angels either.'

.. الإمام عليّ (عليه السلام): مَنْ آتَاهُ اللَّهُ مَالًا فَلْيَصِلْ بِهِ الْقَرَابَةَ، وَلْيُحْسِنْ مِنْهُ الضِّيَافَةَ⁵

5— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘He who has been granted wealth by Allah must use it to maintain relations with his kin and to entertain guests.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 142]

.. الإمام عليّ (عليه السلام) - لَمَّا رُئِيَ حَزِينًا فَسُئِلَ عَنْ عِلَّتِهِ :- لِسَبْعِ أَتَتْ لَمْ يَضِفْ إِلَيْنَا ضَيْفٌ⁶

6— Imam Ali (a.s.) was once seen sad and asked the reason for it, so he replied, ‘Because it has been seven days since we have had no guests.’[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 41, p. 28, no. 1]

People Who One Should Invite as Guests

مَنْ يَنْبَغِي ضِيَافَتُهُ

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): أَضِفْ بِطَعَامِكَ مَنْ تُحِبُّ فِي اللَّهِ⁷

7— The Prophet (S) said, ‘Invite one whom you love in the way of Allah to partake of your food as a guest.’[Kanz al-’Ummal, no. 25881]

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): يُكْرَهُ إِجَابَةُ مَنْ يَشْهَدُ وَلَيْمَتُهُ الْأَغْنِيَاءُ دُونَ الْفُقَرَاءِ⁸

8— The Prophet (S) said, ‘It is an abominable act to accept the invitation of someone whose banquet is only attended by the rich and not the poor.’[al-Da’aawat, p. 141, no. 358]

Enjoinment of Accepting the Invitation of a Fellow Believer

الْحَثُّ عَلَى إِجَابَةِ دَعْوَةِ الْمُؤْمِنِ

- رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): أُوصِي الشَّاهِدَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي وَالْغَائِبَ أَنْ يُجِيبَ دَعْوَةَ الْمُسْلِمِ - وَلَوْ عَلَى خَمْسَةِ⁹ أَمْيَالٍ - ؛ فَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ مِنَ الدِّينِ

9— The Prophet (S) said, ‘I advise both the present and the absent ones from my community to accept the invitation of a fellow Muslim, even if it be five miles away, for verily that is a part of religion.’[al-Mahasin, v. 2, p. 180, no. 1510]

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): مِنَ الْجَفَاءِ ... أَنْ يُدْعَى الرَّجُلُ إِلَى طَعَامٍ فَلَا يُجِيبُ أَوْ يُجِيبُ فَلَا يَأْكُلُ¹⁰

10– The Prophet (S) said, ‘It is loathsome that a man be invited to a meal and does not accept, or accepts but does not eat.’[Qurb al-Isnad, p. 160, no. 583]

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ) - لِأَبِي ذَرٍّ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُ -: لَا تَأْكُلْ طَعَامَ الْفَاسِقِينَ¹¹

11– The Prophet (S) said to Abu Dharr, exhorting him, ‘Do not partake of the food of corrupt people.’[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 84, no. 3]

التَّكْلُفُ لِلضَّيْفِ

Making a Special Effort for One's Guest

- رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): كَفَى بِالْمَرْءِ إِثْمًا أَنْ يَسْتَقِيلَ مَا يُقَرِّبُ إِلَى إِخْوَانِهِ، وَكَفَى بِالْقَوْمِ إِثْمًا أَنْ يَسْتَقِيلُوا مَا يُقَرِّبُهُ إِلَيْهِمْ أَخُوهُمْ.

12– The Prophet (S) said, ‘It is enough of a sin for a man to deem that which brings him close to his fellow brothers as burdensome, and it is enough of a sin for a people to deem burdensome that which draws a fellow brother close to them.’[al-Mahasin, v. 2, p. 186, no. 1533]

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): لَا يَتَكَلَّفَنَّ أَحَدٌ لِضَيْفِهِ مَا لَا يَقْدِرُ¹³

13– The Prophet (S) said, ‘No one should go to troubles that they cannot afford for a guest.’[Kanz al-Ummal, no. 25876]

.. الإمامُ الصَّادِقُ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): إِذَا أَتَاكَ أَخُوكَ فَآتِهِ بِمَا عِنْدَكَ، وَإِذَا دَعَوْتَهُ فَتَكَلَّفْ لَهُ¹⁴

14– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘If your brother comes to your house [uninvited] then offer him whatever you have in the house, and if you invite him, then make a special effort for him.’[al-Mahasin, v. 2, p. 179, no. 1506]

- الإمامُ الرِّضَا (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): دَعَا رَجُلٌ أَمِيرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) فَقَالَ لَهُ: قَدْ أَجَبْتُكَ عَلَى أَنْ تَضْمَنَ لِي ثَلَاثَ خِصَالٍ . قَالَ: وَمَا هِيَ يَا أَمِيرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ؟ قَالَ: لَا تُدْخِلُ عَلَيَّ شَيْئًا مِنْ خَارِجٍ، وَلَا تَدْخُرْ عَنِّي شَيْئًا فِي الْبَيْتِ، وَلَا (تُجْحِفَ بِالْعِيَالِ) . قَالَ: ذَاكَ لَكَ يَا أَمِيرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ، فَأَجَابَهُ عَلِيُّ بْنُ أَبِي طَالِبٍ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ)

15– Imam Ar-Ridha' (a.s.) narrated, 'A man once invited the Commander of the Faithful, Ali (a.s.) for a meal, so Imam said to him, 'I will accept your invitation provided you fulfil three conditions.' The man asked, 'And what are they, O Commander of the Faithful?' to which he replied, 'Do not bring any special food from outside for me, do not preserve anything in the house especially for me, and do not impose any difficulty on your family.' The man replied, 'You shall have that O Commander of the Faithful' and Ali b. Abi Talib accepted his invitation.' [Uyun Akhbar ar-Ridha, v. 2, p. 42, no. 138]

The Etiquette of Hospitality

أَدَبُ الضَّيَافَةِ

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): مَنْ أَحَبَّ أَنْ يُحِبَّهُ اللهُ وَرَسُولُهُ فَلْيَأْكُلْ مَعَ ضَيْفِهِ¹⁶

16– The Prophet (S) said, 'Whoever wants to be loved by Allah and His Prophet should eat with his guest.' [Tanbih al-Khawatir, v. 2, p. 116]

- رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): إِذَا دُعِيَ أَحَدُكُمْ إِلَى طَعَامٍ فَلَا يَسْتَتِيعَنَّ وَلَدَهُ؛ فَإِنَّهُ إِنْ فَعَلَ ذَلِكَ كَانَ حَرَامًا¹⁷ وَدَخَلَ عَاصِيًا.

17– The Prophet (S) said, 'When one of you is invited for a meal, he must not bring along his son with him too, for verily it is prohibited for him to do so and he enters the house unlawfully.' [al-Mahasin, v. 2, p. 181, no. 1515]

- رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): الضَّيْفُ يُلَطَّفُ لَيْلَتَيْنِ، فَإِذَا كَانَتِ اللَّيْلَةُ الثَّالِثَةُ فَهُوَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْبَيْتِ يَأْكُلُ مَا¹⁸ أَدْرَكَ.

18– The Prophet (S) said, 'A guest may expect to be honoured for two nights, then from the third night onwards he is considered to be one of the family and must eat whatever he gets.' [al-Kafi, v. 6, p. 183, no. 6]

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): الضَّيَافَةُ أَوَّلُ يَوْمٍ وَالثَّانِي وَالثَّالِثُ، وَمَا بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَإِنَّهَا صَدَقَةٌ تَصَدَّقُ بِهَا عَلَيْهِ¹⁹

19– The Prophet (S) said, 'Hospitality towards a guest is incumbent for the first day, the second day and the third day. After that, anything you give him is considered as charity towards him on your behalf.' [al-Kafi, v. 6, p. 183, no. 2]

.. رسول الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): الْوَلِيمَةُ أَوَّلُ يَوْمٍ حَقٌّ، وَالثَّانِي مَعْرُوفٌ، وَمَا زَادَ رِيَاءً وَسُمْعَةً²⁰

20– The Prophet (S) said, ‘Hosting a banquet the first day is reasonable, the second day is an act of courtesy, and any more than that is showing-off and seeking repute.’[al-Kafi, v. 5, p. 368, no. 4]

- الإمام الباقر (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): إِذَا دَخَلَ أَحَدُكُمْ عَلَى أَخِيهِ فِي رَحْلِهِ فَلْيَقْعُدْ حَيْثُ يَأْمُرُ صَاحِبُ الرَّحْلِ؛ فَإِنَّ صَاحِبَ الرَّحْلِ أَعْرِفُ بِعَوْرَةِ بَيْتِهِ مِنَ الدَّخْلِ عَلَيْهِ.

21– Imam al-Baqir (a.s.) said, ‘When someone enters the house of his fellow brother, he must sit wherever the host tells him to sit for the owner of the house knows the flaws of his own house better than the guest.’[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 75, p. 451, no. 2]

- ابن أبي يعفور: رَأَيْتُ عِنْدَ أَبِي عَبْدِ اللَّهِ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) ضَيْفًا، فَقَامَ يَوْمًا فِي بَعْضِ الْحَوَائِجِ، فَنَهَاهُ عَنْ ذَلِكَ، وَقَامَ²² بِنَفْسِهِ إِلَى تِلْكَ الْحَاجَةِ، وَقَالَ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): نَهَى رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ) عَنْ أَنْ يُسْتَخْدَمَ الضَّيْفُ.

22– Ibn Abi Ya'afur narrated, ‘I saw a guest once at Abi ‘Aabdillah’s [i.e. Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.)] house, who stood up to get something he needed, so Imam refused for him to do so, and stood up to get it himself, saying, ‘The Prophet of Allah (S) prohibited that a guest be allowed to do work.’[al-Kafi, v. 6, p. 283, no. 1]

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