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Good Manners

الأدَب Good Manners

Good Manners

فَضلُ الأدَب

1- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Good manners are the perfection of man.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 998]

2– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'O Believer! This knowledge and good manners are the value of your soul so strive to learn them, for however much your knowledge and good manners increase, so will your value and worth accordingly.'[Mishkat al–Anwar, p. 135]

3- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Good manners are the best disposition.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 967]

4- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The best inheritance parents bequeath their progeny are good manners.'[Ibid. no. 5036]

5- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'People need good manners more than gold and silver.' [Ibid. no. 3590]

6- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Good manners are the best lineage and the noblest means.' [Ibid. no. 4853]

7- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Acquire good manners, for they are the best personal merit.' [Ibid. no. 6096]

8- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Good manners may substitute for [noble] lineage.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 75, p. 68, no. 8]

9- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'There is no personal merit more useful than good manners.' [Ibid. v. 71, p. 428, no. 78]

10- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Spoiled is the noble descent of a man who has no good manners.'[Tuhaf al-'Uqul, no. 96]

11- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Good manners are your beauty.' [Nahj al-Sa'ada, v. 2, no. 50]

12- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'There is no adornment like good manners.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 10466]

Good Manners and the Mind

13- The Prophet (S) said, 'Good manners are the beauty of the mind.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 131, no. 41]

14- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Everything needs the mind, and the mind needs good manners.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 6911]

15- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Good manners in man resemble a tree whose root is the mind.' [Ibid. no. 2004]

16- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'He whose good manners surpass his reason is like a shepherd among numerous sheep.'[Ibid. no. 8886]

17- Imam al-Hasan (a.s.) said, 'A man devoid of reason cannot have good manners.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 111, no. 6]

Disciplining The Self

18- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Take charge of the discipline of your selves and shift them away from their rough habits.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 4522]

19– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'A man who teaches his own self and disciplines it deserves more reverence than a man who teaches others and disciplines them.' [Bihar al–Anwar, v. 2, p. 56, no. 33]

That Which Brings About Good Manners

20- It is narrated in Tuhaf al-Uqul: Allah, most High, told Jesus [Prophet Jesus (a.s.) is known in the Arabic tradition as 'Ïsa] (a.s.), 'Refine your heart with piety'.'[Tuhaf al-'Uqul, no. 500]

21– Jesus son of Mary (a.s.) was asked, 'Who gave you good manners?' He replied, 'No one disciplined me; when I saw the ugliness of ignorance I avoided it.'[Tanbih al-Khawatir, v. 1, p. 196]

22- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Sit with scholars to increase your knowledge, to improve your manners and to purify your soul.'[Ibid. no. 4786]

23- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'When man's knowledge increases his manners improve and his fear of his Lord increases.'[Ibid. no. 5932]

The Effects of Good Manner

24- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The means to purify one's moral virtues is good etiquette.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 5520]

25- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'A man who is preoccupied with good manners has fewer vices.' [Ibid. no. 8271]

26- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The intellect is sharpened by good manners.' [Ibid. no. 4333]

Explaining Good Manners

27- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'It suffices you in disciplining yourself to avoid all that you hold in contempt from others.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 70, p. 73, no. 27]

28– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'It suffices man in disciplining himself to not associate anyone with his Lord in his bounties and desires.'[Ibid. v. 94, p. 94, no. 12]

29- Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'My father (a.s.) refined my manners by three [statements]. He said to me: 'O son! A man who befriends a vile person cannot escape blame, and a man who does not restrain his words will live in regret, and a man who enters suspicious places will become subject to accusations.'[Tuhaf al-'Uqul, no. 376]

The Best Manners

30- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The best of manners is for man to stop at his limits and to not exceed his status.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 3241]

31- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The best of manners is that which prevents you from committing sins.' [Ibid. no. 3298]

32- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Self-restraint in times of desire and fear is one of the best manners.'[Ibid. no. 5932]

Encouraging The Teaching Of Good Manners To Children

33- The Prophet (S) said, 'Honour your children and refine their manners, and your sins will be forgiven.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 104, p. 95, no. 44]

34- Imam Ali (a.s.) said to Imam al-Hasan (a.s.), 'The heart of a youth resembles an empty land – it receives all that is thrown into it. This is why I have started to teach you good manners before your heart is hardened and your soul is preoccupied.'[Sharh Nahjul Balaghah II Ibn Abi al-Hadid, v. 16, p. 66]

الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): لمّا نَزَلتْ هذه الآية: «يا أَيُّها الّذينَ آمَنوا قُوا أنفسَكُم وأهليكُم ناراً» قالَ النّاسُ: يا -35 . رسول الله! كيفَ نَقِى أنفسَنا وَأهلينا؟ قالَ: اعمَلُوا الخيرَ وذَكِّروا بهِ أَهْلِيكُم فأدّبُوهُم على طاعةِ الله

35– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'When the verse: "O you who have faith! Protect yourselves and your kin from the Fire..." was revealed, people asked, 'O Messenger of Allah! How do we protect ourselves and our kin?' He replied, 'Do good deeds and remind your kin about them, and discipline them to obey Allah.'[Mustadrak al-Wasa'il, v. 12, p. 201, no. 13882]

36- Imam al-Ridha (a.s.) said, 'Instruct the child to give charity with his own hand, be it a piece of bread or a handful of [food] or any other small thing, for everything – no matter how little it is – if done for the sake of Allah and with an honest intention is very great.'[al-Kafi, v. 4, p. 4, no. 10]

How To Teach Good Manners

كَيفيَّةُ التَّأديب

37- The Prophet (S) said, 'Teach your children to pray when they reach the age of seven, and coerce them to perform it when they reach the age of ten. And make them sleep in separate beds.'[Kanz al-'Ummal, no. 4533]

38– The Prophet (S) said, 'A child is a master for seven years, a slave for the next seven years, and a minister for another seven years. By the age of twenty one, you must either approve of his manners or cut him loose, for [by then] you would have fulfilled your obligation toward Allah, most High.'[Makarim al-Akhlaq, v. 1, p. 478, no. 1649]

39- Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'A child should be trained to fast between the ages of fifteen and sixteen.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 103, p. 162, no. 6]

What Must Be Observed When Teaching Good Manners

40- Ali b. Asbat said, 'The Prophet (S) prohibited disciplining in times of anger.' [Ibid. v. 79, p. 102, no. 2]

41– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Punish the wrongdoer by rewarding the good-doer.' [Sharh Nahjul Balaghah li Ibn Abi al-Hadid, v. 18, p. 410]

42- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'You may improve the doers of good by honoring them, and rehabilitate the wrongdoers by disciplining them.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 82, no. 81]

43- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Reprimand your brother by being kind to him, and react to his wrongdoing by being generous to him.'[Ibid. v. 71, p. 427, no. 76]

44- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Rehabilitate the wrongdoer by your good deed [towards him], and indicate towards good through your good words.'[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 2304]

45- A man said, 'I complained to Abu al-Íasan Musa [al-KaÛim] (a.s.) about a son of mine. He said, 'Do

not beat him, but rather ignore him [i.e.depriving him of your company], but not for too long.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 104, p. 99, no. 74]

Disciplining Oneself By The Discipline Of Allah

46- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'A man who disciplines himself by following the etiquette of Allah, the Exalted, will have lasting prosperity.'[Ibid. v. 92, p. 214, no. 13]

47- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'A man who is not reformed through the etiquette of Allah will not be rehabilitated through his self-discipline.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 9001]

Allah's Discipline

48- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Misfortune is a form of discipline for the wrongdoer.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 81, p. 198, no. 55]

49- Imam Zayn al-Abidin (a.s.) said, 'O Lord! Discipline me not through Your punishment, and plot against me not by Your artfulness.' [Iqbal al-A'amal, v. 1, p. 157]

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