

Morals improving

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In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

Dearly beloved, on a previous Friday we talked about noble morals and ethics, and the question now is: is there a way to improve our morals? And what are the methods of improving good morals? The simple answer to the two questions is: Yes.

Morals and good behaviour are of two types, one is natural or instinctive. The other is acquired or learnt.

The first type is the instinctive one. Allah created humans with this type of moral. The evidence is in what the messenger ppbu one day said to Al-Ashaj (الأشج عبدالقيس): {There are two characteristics in you which Allah loves} and in other narration the messenger ppbu said: {There are two characteristics which Allah loves; patience, insight and endurance, timely cautious}. Al-Ashaj asked the messenger ppbu: Did I teach my self those or have I acquired them, or Allah has granted me them instinctively. The messenger ppbu said: {Allah has naturally given them to you}. This is an evidence that some of the noble characters are natural or instinctive granted by Allah to the individual. So, you may see one who has politeness and civility, and another who only speaks the truth. Another who when dealing with you; only treats you with honour and, leniency, tolerance and politeness. That is a grace from God which He grants to whom He wishes; He has the greatest blessings of all.

The other type of morals and behaviour is the acquired type. This is the type that the individual will learn or is trained and the individual adopts. As you know a person can learn noble characteristics and morals if he or she is placed in a good environment; an environment that adopts the morals of the Quran and the morals of the master of all messengers ppbu. Similarly; a person can learn bad and evil characteristics and morals if placed in an evil environment.

Allah says: **{He is successful who purifies himself, (14) And remembers the name of his Lord, so prays, (15)}** 87:14-15. Allah also says: **{He is indeed successful who purifies his soul, (9) And he is indeed a failure who filled it with evil. (10)}** 91:9-10. So this who purifies himself from faults, and elevated it by staying away from sins, elevated it by obeying the Lord; then this is the one who is taking the noble morals, and the one who tries to acquire the good and noble morals. The improvement of your affairs all returns to the morals standard you take. And straighten your soul with good morals it will be straight. Look at and reflect at the conduct of the companions. How they were and where that led them to. Omar one day said to the prophet ppbu: O' messenger of Allah, you are more loved to me from everything else except from myself. The messenger ppbu said: {No, Omar; not until I become more loved to you than you}. Omar said: By Allah, you are more loved to me than myself. The messenger ppbu said: {Now Omar, now}.

Imam Khuttabi said: it is natural for one to love himself (/herself); while for one to love someone else is a choice based on some causes. The messenger ppbu did not from ask Omar the instinctive or natural love. There is no control over the heart to change what it instinctively has. But; he

asked him for love by choice for many reasons. When Omar considered the reasons he found that the prophet ppbu was the main reason for saving him from doom in this life and eternal torture in the life after. He knew that he has no value what so ever without the messenger ppbu. He then acknowledged and said: {By the Almighty who sent you with the truth; indeed; you are more loved to me than myself}. For if not for the messenger of Allah then Omar would have been doomed. This is what a person may gain when considering the causes.

What are the reasons or causes which help fulfil the acquiring of noble morals?

- 1) Truthfully seeking Allah's help through continuous appealing in humility to bless you with noble morals. Listen to the messenger who had the morals of the Quran, he was reported appealing to Allah by saying: {O Allah, as you have perfected my creating; do perfect my morals}. He was also reported making this Duaa {O' Allah guide me to the best of morals, for no one guides to the best of morals except you. And keep away from me the evil morals; No one else will keep it away but you. O' Allah, I seek your support against the bad morals and bad deeds, and bad temptations and bad diseases or illnesses}
- 2) Earnestly and continuously keeping at it. This is a great cause in changing and improving morals. Do not give in to a twisted moral, and do not give in to evil talk; or evil acts. Allah says: **{As for those who strive in Us, We surely guide them to Our paths, and lo! Allah is with those who are kind that do perfect deeds. (69)}** 29:69

- 3) Bring your self to an account; and examine each and every word you say. Remember that a faithful person will bring himself to account day and night. For each and every word or behaviour.
- 4) Be a person with a great eagerness and activeness. Remember that a slave only goes through distances getting closed to Allah with his heart and activeness and not by his body. In fact God fearing is the heart God fearing and not the other senses.
- 5) Keeping good company of those with noble morals. There is a saying which says: an individual is as devout as his friend or buddy. The messenger ppbu said: **{the example of the good and evil mates one hangs round with are just like the Misk carrier (one who deals with perfumes) and the furnace blower (this who blows air into a furnace (to keep it going) or blacksmith. This who carries misk; may give you a gift; or you may buy from him; or the least is that you would get to smell some good fragrant. While the blacksmith will either burns your cloths; or you may get to smell bad odour}**.
- 6) Then look into the conduct of the early Muslims. Whoever reads about the conduct and morals of our early Muslims feels how little and insignificant he is when compared with them. Then one tends to start pushing himself to improve, and bringing himself to account.

Slaves of Allah, those were the causes which would make Allah support us to acquire the good and noble morals. Finally let me finish with this verse from the Quran; Allah

says: { ... **though if they did what they are exhorted or preached to do it would be better for them, and more affirming;** } 4:66.