

A Muslim's behaviour — Part I

The behaviour of a Muslim in his environment is one of love, mercy and compassion. Here are some relevant references from the sayings of the Prophet of Islam in this regard:

1. "You are helped and are provided for only because of the weak and poor ones among you." (*Bukhari*)

2. "I and the guardian of orphans (whether the orphan be of one's near or distant relation or of strangers) will be in one place in Paradise, like my two fingers," said the Prophet and his fingers were nearly touching each other at the time (*Muslim*).

3. On one occasion a man complained to the Prophet of having a hard heart. The prophet prescribed the following remedy "Touch an orphan's head and feed the poor" (*Ahmad*).

4. Someone said: 'O Prophet of God, teach me something'. "Abuse no one", replied the Prophet, "and despise not anything good and speak to your fellow-men with open countenance" (*Tirmidhi*).

5. "God has no mercy for him who has no mercy for his fellows" (*Bukhari & Muslim*).

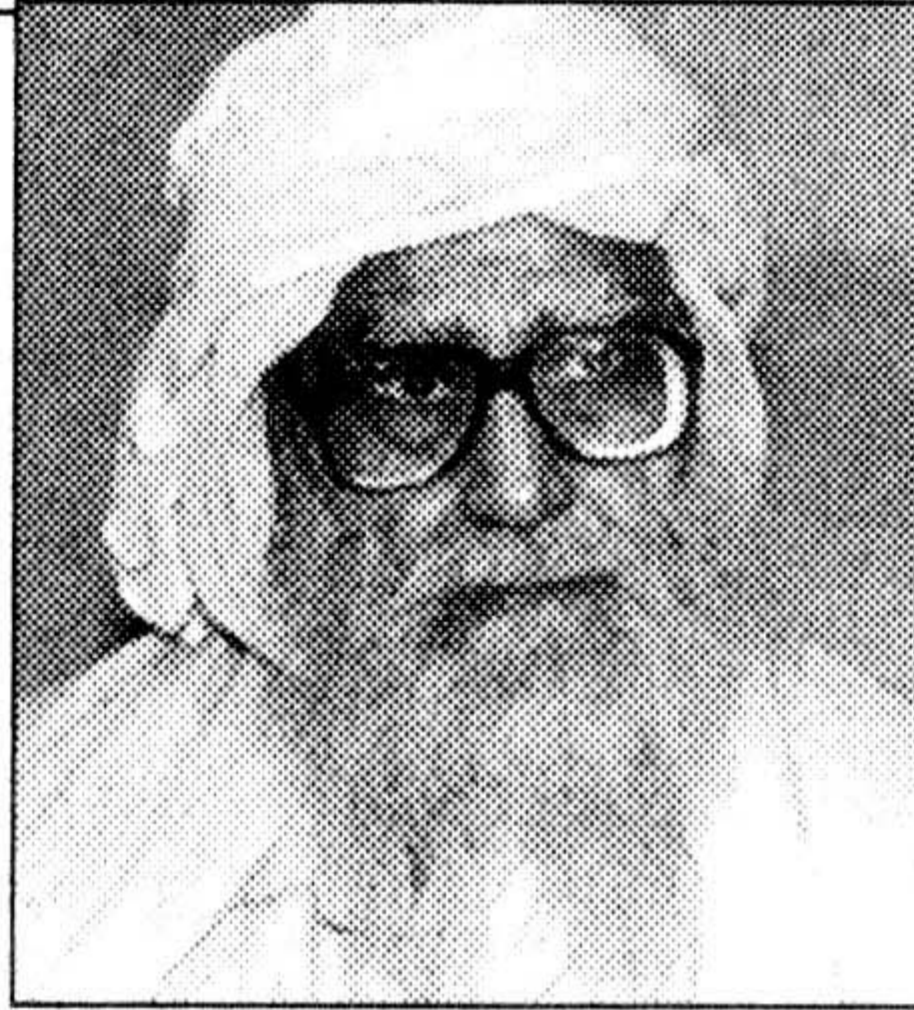
6. "A man came to the Prophet and said, 'How many times should I forgive a servant?' The Prophet kept silent. The man repeated the question thrice. "Forgive your servant seventy times everyday," said the Prophet (*Abu Dawud*).

7. "He who does not behave kindly towards younger people and does not show due respect to older ones is not of us". (*Tirmidhi*)

8. Someone asked: 'What is Islam?' The Prophet said: "Purity of speech and hospitality." (*Musnad Ahmad*)

9. The Prophet said: "On the Day of Judgement God will question: 'O Man, I was sick and you did not visit Me'. My Lord, the man will wonder, 'How could I visit you when You are the Lord of the universe?' God will remind! 'My so and so servant was sick and

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you did not visit him. Had you visited him, you would have found Me there, with him?" (*Muslim*).

10. "Visit the sick, feed the hungry, and help to relieve people's misery" (*Bukhari*).

11. 'Muslims who live in the midst of society and bear with patience the afflictions that come to them are better than those who shun society and cannot bear any wrong done to them' (*Abu Dawud*).

12. "Every good deed is a charity, and it is a good deed that you meet your fellowmen with a cheerful countenance and you pour water from your bucket into the vessel of your fellow. Answering a questioner with mildness is

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charity. Removing that which is inconvenience to wayfarers, such as thorns and stones is charity" (*Tirmidhi*)

13. "The leader of a people is truly their servant" (*As-Suyuti*)

14. "Faith (*iman*) is to restrain oneself against all violence, let no believer commit any violence" (*Abu Dawud*).

15. "God has forbidden you disobedience of parents, miserliness, false claims, and the burying alive of female infants." (*Bukhari & Muslim*)

16. "Give the worker his wages before his sweat dries" (*Ibn Majah*)

17. "The seller is under obligation to disclose any defect in the article offered for sale" (*Bukhari*)

18. "No one should be subjected to chastisement by fire" (*Bukhari*)

19. "Honest difference of opinion among my people should be accounted a blessing" (*As-Suyuti*)

20. Someone asked the Prophet, 'what fanaticism was?' and he replied: "That you help your people in wrongdoing". (*Abu Dawud*)

21. "That one will not enter Paradise whose neighbour is not secure against his mischief" (*Muslim*)

22. "He who believes in God and the Last Day must not put his neighbour to inconvenience" (*Bukhari & Muslim*)

23. "He is not a believer who eats to his fill while his neighbour goes without food" (*Ibn Abbas, Al-Baihiqi*)

24. The Prophet said: "A person passing through a street carrying anything pointed or with a sharp edge should cover it up, so that nobody is exposed to the risk of injury due to his carelessness" (*Muslim*)

25. "To remove anything from the street that causes inconvenience is charity" (*Bukhari*)

(To be concluded)