

Good character when nobody owes us kindness

Good character is more than politeness among friends. Its real weight appears when we are tired, disappointed or dealing with someone difficult.

CENTREPIECE Surah al-Qalam 68:4, Sahih al-Bukhari 3559

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. The Prophet's character was part of the proof

Allah addresses the Prophet (peace be upon him) as being upon outstanding character (al-Qalam 68:4). His truth was carried not only in what he taught, but in the patience, mercy and steadiness with which people encountered him.

Source: Quran 68:4

2. Character is measured in repeated contact

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said that the best people are those with the best character (Bukhari 3559). Family, colleagues and neighbours often know our character more accurately than people who meet us only when we are composed.

Source: Bukhari 3559

3. Akhlaq is trained in small responses

Lower the voice before asking the other person to lower theirs. Keep the promise that has become inconvenient. Thank the person whose work is usually ignored. Character becomes reliable through small choices made often.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Remind people that good character does not mean accepting abuse or abandoning justice. It means pursuing what is right without becoming dishonest, cruel or arrogant in the process.

Suggested closing: O Allah, beautify our character as You have honoured our creation. Make us gentle without weakness, truthful without cruelty and patient without neglecting what is right.

ONE ACTION FOR THIS WEEK

Ask someone who lives or works closely with you to name one habit that makes dealing with you difficult. Listen without defending yourself.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

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