



Know this about the Islamic greeting: Assalamu alaikum

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PEN ABDUL

From Abu Jabir Abdullah Penabdul

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Every nation has its unique way of greeting and as it is with every other thing, the Islamic nation has its own unique way of greeting, which is peculiar to it.

Human beings have the inherent need to socialize hence, it is odd to start conversing with people or to even meet them without preceding that with a form of greeting.

Islam has prescribed "Assalamu alaikum (peace be upon you)" as a way of greeting for the Muslims wherever they are, irrespective of color, tribe, social status and background.

A man asked the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him): What is the best thing in Islam? , He said: Feeding others and giving the greeting of salaam to those whom you know and those whom you do not know." Bukhari and Muslim

This form of greeting is so powerful that the Prophet SAW asked us to greet those we know and even those we do not know.

I once heard a scholar saying, "a proud person does not greet others first, he waits to be greeted". Always be eager to greet your fellow Muslims with the words of Salaam.

There is need for us to know what salaam means so that each time we say it to another person we should live up to its requirements.

Salaam linguistically means, peace which translates to harmlessness, safety and protection from evil and from faults. The name al-Salaam is a Name of Allaah, may He be Exalted.

Oh beloved Muslims! Each time you meet a fellow Muslim, advance by saying "as salaamu alaikum" and when you do so, it means your heart towards him is clean (no hidden hatred, no envy, no hypocrisy) and that he is free from any harm that might emanate from your tongue or limbs.

The Messenger of Allaah (SAW) said:

You will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you will not believe until you love one another. Shall I not tell you about something which, if you do it, you will love one another? Spread salaam amongst yourselves." Sahih Muslim

How many of us really meet others with a cheerful countenance saying "Salaamun alaikum" while we mean it. Or do we just say it to fulfill all righteousness while in reality we hate and wish harm upon the one we extend the greetings of peace to?

When we as Muslims start living by the standards of "As salaamu alaikum" we will change the world.

You say "as salaamu alaikum" while you intend evil towards the person to whom you say peace be upon you!

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This combination can only be found in the heart of a hypocrite. May Allaah protect us.

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullaahi wa barkatuh.

Peace and blessings of Allaah be upon you.

Say it while you mean it.

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