

AKHLAQ SYLLABUS - CLASS 5

Lesson	Topic
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LESSON 1 - WHAT IS AKHLAQ? WHY SHOULD WE STUDY IT?

LESSON 2 - CONCEPT OF SIN

LESSON 3 - HURMAT OF A MOSQUE

LESSON 4 - RESPECT TO PARENTS

LESSON 5 - CLEANLINESS

CLASS 5 - LESSON 1

WHAT IS AKHLAQ? WHY SHOULD WE STUDY IT?

Akhlaq means BEHAVIOUR or CONDUCT.

To have good Akhlaq is very important but at the same time it is very difficult. Prophet Muhammad (S) has explained:

"I have been sent to complete the nobility of your character."

This means that out of all the tasks which Allah sent the Prophet (S) to us for, one of the most important was to teach us perfect Akhlaq.

To gain the best Akhlaq can be compared to climbing out of a deep, dark cave. Imagine trying to climb out from a cave as deep as the world. In the cave, our eyes are useless, we cannot see anything. We have to feel our way with our hands. As we climb higher, we begin to see the light, and our eyes start to open. In the same way, when we try to improve our character, we take one step at a time, higher and higher. The higher we get the closer we get to the light of Allah, and the better our Akhlaq becomes.

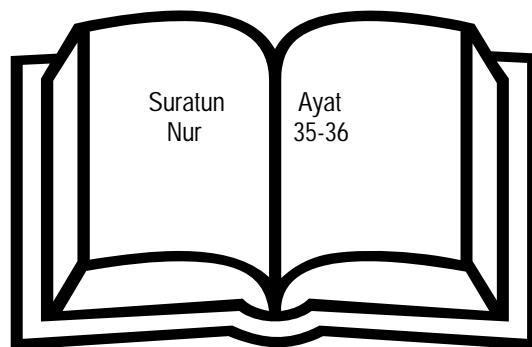
Once we get out of the cave, we are surrounded by light and we can see for miles and miles. We can see the sky and the sun. When we reach the top of our character, our soul is surrounded by Allah's light, and it can see through all the darkness that the world tries to attract us with.

It can see the path towards Allah.

It is hard work to reach that stage, but it is one of the tests in life, and the only way that we will become true followers of the Prophet (S).

In Suratun Nur Ayat 35 and 36, Allah explains:

I am the Light of Heaven and Earth and I shall guide those whom I wish. This light is found in those houses where Allah's praise is offered day and night. The people of these houses are such that nothing tears them away from the remembrance of Allah and it is these people whom Allah will guide onto the right path.



Light is there to guide us in the dark. What Allah is explaining to us is that He will guide us with His light, and will help us to climb out of the cave.

How can we improve our Akhlaq ?

We can improve our Akhlaq by trying to be good at all times, by helping others, whether this is at home, or in the Mosque, at school or with our friends.



AND ALSO

Whenever we do something wrong we should ask Allah for forgiveness. We must also try our best not to repeat it again.



CLASS 5 - LESSON 2

CONCEPT OF SIN

A sin is what a person gets for doing a BAD DEED. Think of everything you do as if it were being marked by Allah. If you do a good deed you get a blessing (Thawaab), and if you do a bad deed you get a sin (Gunah).

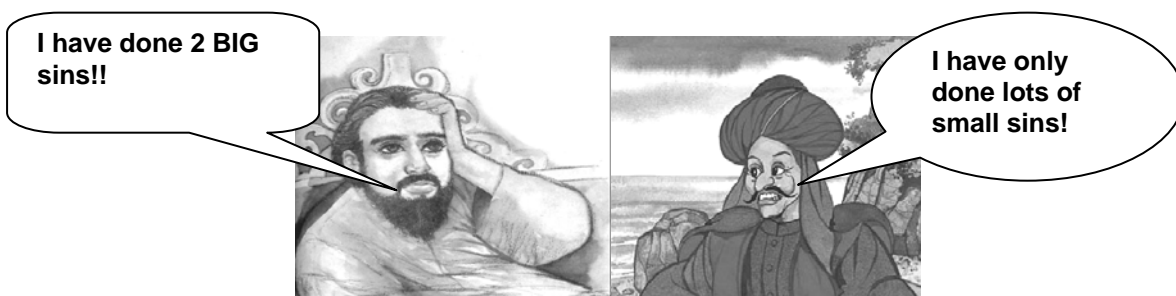
On the day of Judgement (Qiyamat), Allah will see how many "marks" you have. Whoever has committed Gunah will be punished for that sin except if Allah has forgiven it or if you get Shafa'at.

Allah explains to us that whatever sins we commit, whether **BIG** or **(SMALL)**, in public or in secret, He knows them all.

He also says that He will forgive those who do Tawbah (ask for forgiveness) and who do not keep on repeating the Gunah.

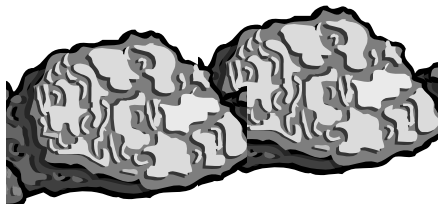
Once In the time of our 6th Imam, Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (a.s.), two men came and said that they wanted to ask Allah for forgiveness for their sins.

The first man said that he had done 2 very big sins, while the second man said that he had only done lots of small sins.

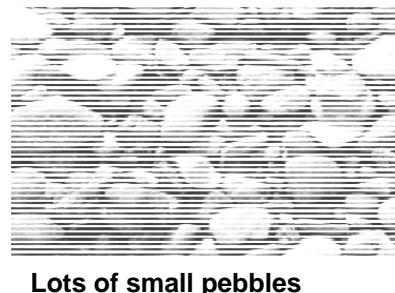


Imam Ja'far As-Sadiq (a.s.) told the men that they should bring to him stones, one for each sin they had committed. **BUT the man who had done the two big sins had to bring two enormous rocks, whilst the other had to bring pebbles.**

After a while the two men returned to Imam (a.s.). The man who had done the big sins was very tired from carrying the large rocks whereas the other one was fine.



2 BIG rocks



Lots of small pebbles

Imam (a.s.) then told them both to put the stones back in the exact place they had found them.

The man who had done the big sins found it very tiring and difficult, but finally managed to put the two rocks in their place.

The man who had done the small sins had picked up so many pebbles from everywhere that he had no idea where the exact place of each one was and so could not put them back.

Moral:

It is very difficult to ask Allah for forgiveness for the sins that we think are small because we forget about them.

It is important that we keep doing Taubah and praying that Allah forgives us for our sins, He is the Most Forgiving and the Most Merciful.



Discuss in class:

1. Which sins you think people commit often and find very difficult to stop.
2. Ways in which you can help them stop.

CLASS 5 - LESSON 3

HURMAT OF A MOSQUE

Hurmat means great RESPECT or REVERENCE. When we go to a Mosque or Imambara, we should realise that we have come to remember Allah.

There is a difference between a Mosque and an Imambara. A Mosque is where prayers are offered.

An Imambara can be used for many things, such as gatherings, food, prayers and lectures.

This means that you can do certain things in an Imambara that you cannot do in a Mosque.

When you are in a Mosque, you MUST be quiet. People will be praying and it would be VERY rude to talk. If you have to talk, it should NEVER be about things which are not important.

When you are in a Mosque or an Imambara, your mind should be thinking about your creator.

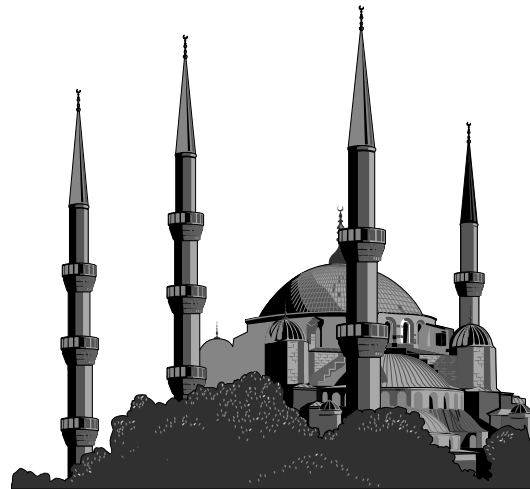
In an Imambara, it is all right to talk, BUT on certain occasions only. If there is dinner or tea being served, you may talk, but when there is a lecture or du'a being recited, you should keep quiet and remain in one place, without moving and causing disruption.

If you see someone making a Mosque Najis, it is WAJIB for you to tell him to stop. It is also WAJIB to clean it and make it Tahir.

You should NEVER run around in a Mosque/Imambara or use it to play games in.

You should behave in a Mosque AS IF it belonged to Allah.

Although we know that Allah does not need a house, we should pretend that Allah was watching us and that we are close to him.



THE MOSQUE IS WHERE WE GET CLOSEST TO ALLAH IN OUR HEARTS.

When entering the Mosque, we should say:

"In the name of Allah, I put my trust in Allah and there is no power except that of Allah."

When leaving the Mosque we should say:

"In the name of Allah, I seek the protection of Allah from Shaitan."

Why should we remain silent in a Mosque?

The reason why we should be silent in a Mosque is so that we can learn and understand more about Islam.



This means that when someone asks us any questions, we can help them by answering and so please Allah.

We can also set an example to others and so gain Thawaab (reward) from Allah. Ayatullah Khomeini has said that

"The one who shows the path of virtue is as worthy as the doer of it"

This means that if you show someone how to be good, and do something generous, you get as much Thawaab as the person who does the deed.

When a lecture/du'a is in a language we cannot understand, we should remain silent so as not to disturb others who are listening.

In conclusion, we should remain silent ANYWHERE where Allah is being praised or remembered. This is to respect the One Who created us.

CLASS 5 - LESSON 4

RESPECT TO PARENTS

Respect means to listen someone, and have regard for them. It also means to think that someone is important, and pay attention to them without making faces or feeling bad.

Allah explains in Qur'an (2:83) to Obey Him and respect our parents. This shows how important it is to listen and obey the wishes of your parents.

There is a hadith that

"Heaven lies under the feet of your mother."

This means that a person who pleases his mother, and makes her satisfied with him, will find heaven much easier to get to.

Our Holy Prophet (S) explains that



Whomsoever displeases their parents, their Ibadaat (prayers) are not accepted.

This hadith tells us that Allah will not accept a person's prayers, if that same person displeases his parents. Since one of Allah's greatest commands is to obey our parents, how can we go against that?

Children brought up in a western society do not see respect shown to parents around them. After marriage, it is normal to leave parents alone and send them to old peoples' homes.

Islam tells us that this is not the right thing to do. One should always help their parents, and never leave them alone in hardship or trouble.



When you wake up in the morning, one of the first things you should do is to go and say "Salamun Alaykum" to your parents.

Duties to Parents

1. Never raise your voice to them.
2. When they first enter a room, stand up if you are sitting.
3. Do not interrupt them when they are speaking.
4. Do not correct their mistakes in front of others.

Allah loves the person who respects his parents so much, that he is blessed with Thawaab.

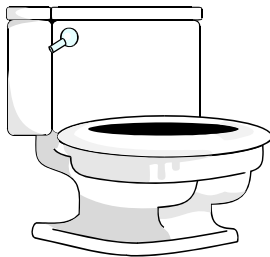
CLASS 5 - LESSON 5

CLEANLINESS

It is very important to keep yourself clean. If you do not look after your body, you will end up catching germs more easily, and this will make you unwell. You will leave a bad impression on others, who will remain away from you. You will not feel fresh and active, but will feel depressed and lazy. When you make yourself clean, neat and tidy, you feel fresh and healthier. Try to keep clean at all times, but special attention should be given when in the toilet, when eating food, and when getting ready to offer prayers.

How should you keep yourself clean?

When you go to the toilet, you MUST ALWAYS use water to clean yourself. If you use tissue paper only then you will be Najis. This means that you will not be able to touch the writing of Qur'an or pray Namaaz.



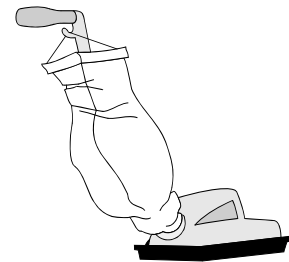
On leaving the toilet, it is your responsibility to leave it as clean as, or cleaner than it was when you entered. You should also wash your hands properly. This makes sure that all the germs, which you can catch, are killed, and do not spread to food, or other areas.

At home you should keep yourself clean by brushing your teeth in the mornings and evenings, by washing your face when you get up, and by taking a shower regularly.

Our Eighth Imam (a.s.) explained that:

To be pure and clean is amongst the habits of the Prophets.

When you are ready to eat, you should wash your hands so that there is no dirt on them when you eat. It is also recommended that your hands should be slightly wet when eating. If your hands are dirty, you may swallow some dirt with your food. This could be bad for you because you don't know what you have touched during the day.



Allah says in the Holy Qur'an in Surah al-Baqarah (2:222)

... For God loves those who turn to Him constantly and He loves those who keep themselves pure and clean.

You should clean your own room and try to wash your own dishes. If you see a mess somewhere and you know that you did not do it, you should still try and clean it up. This is important for public places like the Mosque or school. If everyone picks up a bit of rubbish, or clears some mess, the place will be spotless and tidy and everyone will benefit.

Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.w.) has said:

CLEANLINESS AND PURITY ARE PART OF FAITH