



Some Important Point About Character

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Source: Shaykh Muhammad bin Ramzaan Al-Haajiree; posted on

<http://www.sahab.net/forums/showthread.php?t=384291> Sheikh Muhammad's lecture entitled 'The rights of the Ulama': Imam Malik conference, Agadir, Morocco 1432

Version 1.1

"Beware; beware O' student of knowledge of partaking in deception, lying, cheating, deceit"

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Beware; beware O' student of knowledge of partaking in deception, lying, cheating, deceit, and manipulation and as a result becoming a reason for turning the creation away from listening to the truth. This may happen as a result of your appalling interactions (with others), bad character, or your cheating in buying and selling. It may become known about you that you are deceitful, that you're misleading and delude, or that you have bad manners and are contemptible in your dealings (with others).

So beware, O' student of knowledge, of becoming a person of bad character in your treatment of others; (treatment of) your families (immediate) or your (extended) relatives, also with regards to your leaders and your dealings with people in the general sense. Beware of having the characteristic of duplicity (fraudulence), or other bad qualities and repulsive character.

Indeed, Muhammad (sallahu alaihi wa salam) used to command his companions to fulfill and honor their covenants/pledges along with carrying out their assurances to those that entrusted them with something, even if the entrusting individual was from the kuffar. Just like in Badr when he (sallahu alaihi wa salam) approached some groups from the kuffar in order to seek their assistance. They replied, "We have a covenant with Quraysh." The prophet then said, "We will honor their covenant and seek Allah's help against them." Therefore he didn't allow those who had a treaty with Quraysh to fight alongside the Muslims against Quraysh (since they had a covenant with them).

It is essential that the qualities of a student of knowledge are the most excellent and that he has the most superior temperament in relation to character, interactions, and his general disposition. Certainly, lying is one of the most despicable characteristics, so how much more despicable would it be if the person's outward appearance was that of uprightness and devotion (to the religion). Wouldn't it be that this individual is one who contradicts the religion and prevents people from the path of Allah and becomes a conduit for others to accuse the people of uprightness and goodness (of not being so)? Look at how the Imams dealt with the likes of these people. One of these examples is the example of Imam Malik –May Allah have Mercy on him- when he said, "Knowledge is not taken from one who lies in his speech to the people." The person who is known to lie, even if he possesses knowledge, is not the one from whom knowledge should be taken. He is not fit.