

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ

O 'Uqbah, reconcile with whoever cuts you off, give to whoever deprives you, and forgive whoever wrongs you.” (Musnad Ahmad)

This hadith does not mean you put up with abuse but that you return evil with goodness. A great example of this is during the affair of *al ifk*. Abu Bakr ﷺ had a poor relative called Mistah who spread the gossip.

وَلَا يَأْتَلِ أُولُو الْفَضْلِ مِنْكُمْ وَالسَّعَةِ أَنْ يُؤْتُوا أُولِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينَ وَالْمُهَاجِرِينَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلْيَعْفُوا
وَلْيَصْفَحُوا أَلَا تُحِبُّونَ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

In essence Allah ﷻ said, Abu Bakr, you are not like ordinary people. You are better than that. Dealing with people is difficult, but our Deen and Messenger has shown us how to become the best amongst humanity. Imam Ghazali in his Ihyaa gives **20 RULES** of how to deal with others.

RULE 1. LOVE FOR OTHERS WHAT YOU LOVE FOR YOURSELF

Love for people what you love for yourself because you are not the centre of the universe. You live with others and you need to get along with them and accommodate them. *“None of you will believe until you love for your brother what you love for yourself.” (Bukhari & Muslim)*

Polish your heart and your intention, look to please Allah by doing treating people well. Don't assume or wish bad for others. If you wish bad things for others, it is a symptom of a disease in your heart.

وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَبِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَالْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْجَارِ الْجُنُبِ وَالصَّاحِبِ بِالْجَنبِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ مَنْ كَانَ مُخْتَلًا فَخُورًا

RULE 2. BE HUMBLE TO ALL

Do not **LOOK** or **TALK** down on others (**KIBR**). Do not **THINK** you are better than them. Allah does not like those who show off or judge others:

Verily, Allah does not like such as are proud and boastful. (4:36)

“No one who has the weight of a seed of arrogance in his heart will enter Paradise.” (Muslim)

RULE 3. RESPECT ELDERS AND SHOW MERCY TOWARDS CHILDREN

“Whoever does not show mercy to our young ones, or acknowledge the rights of our elders, is not one of us.” (Musnad Ahmed)

These days youngsters disrespect elders in society around us. We need to educate our children about the importance of showing respect. *Glorifying Allah involves showing honour to a grey-haired Muslim. (Abi Dawud)*

4. BE CHEERFUL - The Prophet ﷺ was always optimistic with a smile on his face. Don't be grumpy and say **'This is the way I am!'** Learn to be cheerful. No one wants to be in the company of the one who is always frowning. Moods are contagious. *"Smiling in your brother's face is an act of charity"* It is toxic to have a grumpy person around you. It poisons the atmosphere – whether it is in an office or in the home or in a shop.

RULE 5. BE EASY GOING - *فَقُلْ لَهُمْ قَوْلًا مَّيْسُورًا*

Do you know what hell is prevented from? 'It is prevented from the soft, gentle, easy-going approachable person.' (Ibn Hibban and Tirmidhi)

Allah loves the easy-going cheerful person. (Bayhaqi)

Talking with people, departments, family, make ease for them. *بَشِّرُوا وَلَا تُنْفَرُوا وَبَسِّرُوا وَلَا تُعَسِّرُوا..*

RULE 6. RECONCILE THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN OUT

Bringing together people who have fallen out is a huge service to them, society and humanity. *Sulhu khair* – reconciliation is better than having on-going conflicts, grudges and hatred which poisons families & societies

"Shall I not tell you of what is better in degree than extra fasting, prayer, and charity?" They said, "Of course!" The Prophet said, "Reconciliation between people. Verily, corrupted relations between people is the razor."

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