

**In the Name of Allah, the All Merciful, the Very Merciful**

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of all the worlds, we praise Him and thank Him, peace and blessing be upon His final and beloved Messenger Muhammad (s), his family, his companions and those who follow him.

**The Quest for Knowledge**

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### Deeds depend upon intentions

On the authority of Umar bin Al-Khattab (ra), who said: I heard the Messenger of Allah *salla Allah u alihi wa sallam* say:

**"Actions are but by intention and every man shall have but that which he intended. Thus he whose migration was for Allah and His Messenger, his migration was for Allah and His Messenger, and he whose migration was to achieve some worldly benefit or to take some woman in marriage, his migration was for that for which he migrated."**

*Related by Bukhari and Muslim*

### Quran and Hadith on Seeking Knowledge

**Quran:** Read! In the name of your Rabb (Cherisher and Sustainer) who created. Created man, out of a leech-like clot: Read! And your Rabb is Most Bountiful Who has taught (the use of) pen. He has taught man that which he knew not.

**Hadith:** Anas Bin Malik (Radhiallahu anhu: meaning: May Allah be pleased with him) reported that Allah's Messenger (Sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam, meaning: May the peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said, "Seeking of knowledge is incumbent upon every Muslim..." (Ibn Majah 1/224 and Tirmidhi 218)



### The etiquettes of students with scholars

The Messenger of Allah (ص) said:

**"A loving glance at the face of a learned [alim] is an act of worship [ibada]"**

If you are a student, then you should observe the of a student's dealing with a learned man. The rules are:

praiseworthy rules

1. to greet the learned man first
2. to speak little in his presence
3. not to speak much so long as his teacher does not ask him anything
4. not to ask him questions before receiving permission
5. not to say, by way of objection to his words, 'so and so said contrary to what you have said',
6. not to argue against his opinions in such as way as to show that you know the truth more than your teacher
7. not to argue against companions in meetings
8. not to look around but to sit with downcast eyes, quietly and courteously as if you were engaged in ritual prayer
9. not to speak to him much when he is tired

10. to stand up in order to show respect for him when he stands (however the Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) didn't like it when people stood up for him so it is optional)
11. not to follow him speaking and questioning and asking him questions along streets until he reaches home
12. Not to imagine evil of him in regard to those of his actions that may appear abominable. The teacher knows better concerning his secret affairs.
13. when some actions of the teacher appear abominable, the student should recollect the complaint made by the Prophet Musa (as) and Al-Khidr **Taken from Imam Ghazali's *Bidayah wal Hidaya* [The Beginning of Guidance]**

### 🌟Stories of motivation🌟

**Ali ibn Abi Talib (ra)** - It was a dark night and in a candle lit room Amirul Mu'minin Ali ibn Abi Talib sat going through some work related to the administration of the Khilafah. Two companions came to meet him and talk to him about something away from the issue of the Muslim state. At that point Ali ibn Abi Talib blew the candle and lit up another one. His companions asked as to why he had done such an act. The reply was that the first candle lit was from the Muslim Treasury and was used for work related to the Muslim state however when the companions came to speak about personal issues he took out another candle as it wasn't related to the Muslim state.

**Mufti Rafi Usmani** (Hafizahullah) - Once Mufti Rafi Usmani asked for a pen to be bought as he had something personal to write. When the person got the pen, Mufti asked him who the pen belonged to. When told that it belonged to the Madrasah, Mufti Rafi was upset having said "I asked for a pen so I can write something on a personal note. This pen belongs to the Madrasah therefore I cannot use this"

**Imam Bukhari (ra)**- Hafiz ibn Hajar writes, after returning from Makkah, Imam Bukhari traveled to all the scholars of Hadeeth of the cities it was possible for him to journey to. Imam Dhahabi has mentioned Balkh (a city in Khurassan and today in Afghanistan), Naisapur (a city of Khurassan today in Iran), Rai (situated in Iran), and Baghdad, Basra, Koofoa, Madinah, Wasit (a city between Koofoa and Basra), Damascus, Askalan (situated in Palestine), Hims and others.

Imam Bukhari himself says, "I journeyed to Shaam, Egypt and Jazeerah twice, to Basra four times and resided in Hijaz Makkah and Madinah for six years and I do not know how many time I visited Koofoa and Baghdad to visit the people of Hadeeth". (Muqaddima Fathul Bari) **(Taken From the book *Imam Bukhari His life & Works by Shaykh Ahmad Ali*)**

**Imam Nawawi (ra)**- Imam Muhyi al-Din Abu Zakariya Yahya bin Sharaf al-Nawawi, for short Imam Nawawi, was born in the village of Nawa in the vicinity of Damascus in 631 A.H. (1233 A.D.). He grew up in Nawa and at the age of nineteen went to study in Damascus which was considered the center of learning and scholarship.

Imam Nawawi had endless thirst for knowledge. He used to read twelve lessons daily and wrote commentaries on every lesson. Whatever books he read, he would write marginal notes and explanations on each book. His intelligence, hard work, love, devotion and absorption in his studies amazed his teachers and they became fond of him and began to praise and admire him. Allah had also conferred upon him the gift

of fast memorisation and depth of thought. Imam Nawawi made full benefit of his God given qualities and potentialities and earned the highest degree of honor.

### **The Story of a Student of Knowledge**

The following incident quoted by Maulana Siddique Ahmed Saheb Mudda Zilluhu illustrates how a student of Deen rectified his evil thoughts:

A divine narrates that a student was studying in the city of Delhi. This student lived in a Masjid. In that locality, a young lady was on her way to visit some of her relatives, when incidentally, a riot broke out. The young lady could not find any place of refuge except this Masjid. The night had already set in. When the student saw this young lady he excused himself and ordered her to leave the Masjid. He told her: "It is not appropriate for you to remain here because if the local people see you here then this will be a cause for my disgrace. They will remove me from the Masjid and this will cause harm to my studies." The young lady explaining her condition said: "A riot has broken out in the locality and if I leave the Masjid I fear that I would be dishonoured." The student kept quiet and asked her to sit in one corner. Thereafter the student returned to his room and engaged himself in studying the whole night. While studying he continuously placed his finger tip on the flame of his lamp. The young lady carefully observed this. At the break of dawn the student told the young lady: "The riot has subsided and the road is safe. Let me take you to your home." The young lady said: "I will not return home until you reveal to me the secret for repeatedly placing your finger tip on the flame of your lamp." The student said: "You should not concern yourself with that." Nevertheless, the young lady persisted with her request. The student finally said: "Shaytaan repeatedly whispered into my heart and encouraged me to do evil with you. Hence I placed my finger tip on the flame and addressed myself thus: When you cannot bear the heat of the fire of this world then how will you ever bear the painful fire of Jahannam. Allah, through His Grace, protected me." Hearing this, the young lady returned to her home. She was the daughter of a wealthy person and she was about to be engaged to the son of another wealthy person. After this incident she refused the proposal and said: "I desire to marry a certain student who lives in such and such a Masjid." Her parents and relatives tried to convince her and many began entertaining bad thoughts about her. When she observed this she explained to them the whole incident and said: "I will only marry him because he has the fear of Allah in his heart and whoever fears Allah cannot cause harm to anyone." Finally, she was married to that student and he became very wealthy. **[Aadaabul Muta'allimeen: pg.23]**

### **Allah is all-forgiving**

On the authority of Anas (ra), who said: I heard the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) say:

**Allah the Almighty has said: "O son of Adam, so long as you call upon Me and ask of Me, I shall forgive you for what you have done, and I shall not mind. O son of Adam, were your sins to reach the clouds of the sky and were you then to ask forgiveness of Me, I would forgive you. O son of Adam, were you to come to Me with sins nearly as great as the earth and were you then to face Me, ascribing no partner to Me, I would bring you forgiveness nearly as great as its." Related by Al-Tirmidhi, who said that it was a good and sound Hadith**