

MIFTAAH SEMINAR

ETIQUETTES OF A SEEKER



Mufti Abdul Rahman Waheed

SESSION 2

Etiquette #2 - Correcting your Intention

- The Prophet SAW said: How many times is there an action that externally looks like it is an act of dunya, but because of the person's good intention, it becomes an act of akhira. And how many times is it that the act externally looks like it is an act of akhira, but the intention is flawed, so it becomes an act of dunya.
- The result of our actions is based on our intentions.
- On the Day of Judgement, the ones that will have the greatest regret will be those who influenced others to change their lives for the better, but they did not change themselves.
- Our intention for gaining knowledge has to be crystal clear with no imperfections.
 - Showing off is a hidden form of shirk.
 - We should not have any part of our intention be that we are gaining knowledge to show off to others or to appear knowledgeable to others.
- Students of knowledge constantly have to be checking their intentions.
- Many times we might start with a good intention, but it changes as time goes on.

- We know our intentions are pure when getting criticism and getting compliments are equal to us.
 - We are not overly happy about a compliment and overly angry/sad about a criticism.
- Abdullah bin Omar RA says: The one who has learnt knowledge for anyone other than Allah is preparing their abode in Jahannam.
- Sufyaan bin 'Uyaynah RA says: To learn knowledge, make sure that your intention is crystal clear and your desires are less. I swear by Allah that if your intention is not crystal clear, I fear that you will not be able to benefit from your knowledge in this world and you are preparing for yourself destruction in the akhira.
- Abdullah bin Mubarak says that the sequence of knowledge is:
 - Make sure your intention is pure
 - Understand the knowledge
 - Act upon the knowledge
 - Repeat it/make sure you don't forget it
 - Teach/spread it
- The one whose intentions in pursuing knowledge are not free of riya (showing off), then their actions will not be pure. If their actions are not pure, then their bodies will become impure. If their bodies become impure, then their hearts will be impure.
- Abdullah bin Abbas RA says: If the people of knowledge are learning for the sake of Allah and for the sake of practicing upon the knowledge, then Allah SWT loves them, the angels love them, the pious souls love them, and all other creation will respect them. But the problem is that people have started learning knowledge for other purposes.
 - One of the first crises of this ummah was when people started learning for other than Allah SWT.

- When people have impure intentions when gaining knowledge, we start to see that the people lose respect for scholars.
- Our intention **should not** be:
 - Fame
 - Respect/to have a high status
 - Wealth
 - People's thanks/acknowledgement
 - To learn something so that we can discuss it or argue with people
- We should not be more interested in conveying the knowledge to others than we are in acting upon the knowledge ourselves.
- If you get these things (fame, wealth, etc.) it should not affect you.
- Our intention **should** be:
 - For the sake of Allah SWT
 - To preserve the deen of Allah
 - It's fine to have the intention of teaching and spreading the knowledge.
 - To represent the sunnah
 - To enjoin good and forbid evil
 - To be considered among the students of knowledge on the Day of Judgement
 - To be with the scholars on the Day of Judgement
 - To make parents happy and to be a means of charity for them
- Gaining knowledge is very hard work so why would you do it for something as insignificant as the dunya?