

MIFTAAH SEMINAR

ETIQUETTES OF A SEEKER



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SESSION 4

Etiquette #5 - Remove obstacles when studying knowledge

- When obstacles are present, it is impossible to focus and be successful in learning.
 - They become a means of transportation
- Imam Shafi would say: If I had the duty to purchase onions, I know that I would not have understood a single issue of knowledge.
- How to remove distractions:
 - Leaving your house **البُعدُ عن الأهل و الأوطان**
 - Minimize your attachments
 - Devices and anything that we are attached to should be limited, especially during our times of growth
 - Limit shows, games, electronics, etc.
 - Choose the right friends and people around us
 - If they are not supportive of our knowledge, they will be obstacles
 - Students of knowledge should refrain from useless socializing.
 - This includes social media.

- Specifically, students of knowledge should stay away from immature and useless friends, because certain personalities are like thieves.
- Harms of useless socializing:
 - Wasting one's life without benefit
 - Wasting money
- Ali RA stated in a poem:

فلا تصحب أبا الجهل وإياك وإياه
فكم من جاهل أردى حليماً حين آخاه
يُقاسُ المرءُ بالمرءِ إذا ما هوَ ماشاهُ

Do not befriend and ignorant person, be wary of him and be wary of you
How many times has an ignorant person ruined the forbearing by befriending
him

For a person takes after his friend when he walks alongside him

- Ali RA also said:

إن أخاك الصدق من كان معك
ومن يضر نفسه لينفعك
ومن إذا ريب الزمان صدعك
شئت فيك شمله ليجمعك

Your true friend is one who is with you
And who benefits you even if he is being harmed
He speaks the truth when times are doubtful
And breaks himself to unite your resolve

- Attach to those who have the same goals as you.
 - Students of knowledge should befriend other students of knowledge.

Etiquette #6 - Being careful of what we consume

- What we eat affects who we are.
 - We must eat halal and pure food.

يَا أَيُّهَا الرُّسُلُ كُلُوا مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَاعْمَلُوا صَالِحًا إِنِّي بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ عَلِيمٌ

(23:51) Oh Messengers! Eat from that which is pure, and act righteously. I know well all that you do.

- We should have the quality of **ورع** or consciousness
 - This means we should think before we do things.
 - The Prophet SAW said:

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ أَرْبَعٌ إِذَا كُنَّ فِيكَ فَلَا عَلَيْكَ مَا فَاتَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا حِفْظُ أَمَانَةٍ وَصِدْقُ حَدِيثٍ وَحُسْنُ خَلِيقَةٍ وَعِفَّةٌ طُعْمَةٍ

Prophet SAW said: If you have these 4 qualities, then you have attained the treasures of this world: Trustworthiness, truthfulness when you speak, beautiful character, being careful in one's eating

- We should be conscious of what we eat and be careful not to overeat.
- The Prophet SAW said:

حَدَّثَنَا هِشَامُ بْنُ عَبْدِ الْمَلِكِ الْجَمِصِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ حَرْبٍ، حَدَّثَنِي أُمِّي، عَنْ أُمِّهَا، أَنَّهَا سَمِعَتْ الْمِقْدَامَ بْنَ مَعْدِيكَرِبَ، يَقُولُ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - يَقُولُ " مَا مَلَأَ آدَمِيَّ وَعَاءٌ شَرًّا مِنْ بَطْنٍ حَسِبُ الْآدَمِيَّ لِقِيمَاتٍ يُقْمَنُ صُلْبُهُ فَإِنْ غَلَبَتِ الْآدَمِيَّ نَفْسُهُ فَثَلُثُ لِلطَّعَامِ وَثَلُثُ لِلشَّرَابِ وَثَلُثُ لِلنَّفْسِ " .

"I heard the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) say: 'A human being fills no worse vessel than his stomach. It is sufficient for a human being to eat a few mouthfuls to keep his spine straight. But if he must (fill it), then one third of food, one third for drink and one third for air.'"