
NOT EVERYONE IS SUITABLE FOR COMPANIONSHIP

Shaykh Muhammad Sa'eed Raslaan

Ibn Qudaamah, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said: *"Know that not everyone is suitable for companionship. It is a must that the one taken as a companion be distinguished by way of characteristics and qualities due to which his companionship is desirable. It is a must that he whom you want to take as a companion has five qualities;"*

If you want to choose a companion then look at these qualities. If he has them within him then take him as a companion; otherwise flee from him as you would flee from a lion. For he will ruin your life, waste your time, and preoccupy your thoughts and mind. (He went on to say): *"It is a must that he whom you want to take as a companion has five qualities:*

1. *He should be one who has intellect*
2. *Good character*
3. *Not a wicked person*
4. *Not an innovator*
5. *Not one who has a strong desire for the Dunyaa."*

As for the intellect, it is the most prized possession. There is no good in befriending the fool. For he will desire to benefit you but (instead) he will harm you. We intend by *"...the one who has intellect,"* he who understands affairs based upon their reality; either on his own or when he is made to understand he gets it. This is the first quality. That he is one who has intellect.

As for good character, this is a must. Perhaps the one who has intellect can be overtaken by anger or desires and he thus obeys his desires. Thus, there is no good in his companionship. Due to this, from that which frequently flows upon the tongues of the people of knowledge is that if you wish to choose a person (as a friend) make him angry. If he behaves justly when he is angry then take him as a companion; otherwise, avoid him.

As for the wicked person, he does not fear Allaah. He who does not fear Allaah, the Exalted, you will not be safe from his evil. Al-Ghaa'ilah الغائلة is corruption, evil, and conniving. Its plural is: Ghawaa'il غوائل

The wicked person does not fear Allaah, and he who does not fear Allaah, you will not be safe from him evil and he cannot be trusted.

As for the innovator, it is feared that one will be infiltrated by his Bid'ah.

If he has a strong desire for the Dunyaa, he will sell you out for a miserable price. You won't mean anything to him if he is offered a delight of the Dunyaa.

"It is a must that he whom you want to take as a companion has five qualities:

1. *He should be one who has intellect*
2. *Good character*
3. *Not a wicked person*
4. *Not an innovator*
5. *Not one who has a strong desire for the Dunyaa."*

Al-Faarooq 'Umar, may Allaah be pleased with him, said: *"Cling to truthful brothers, and live within their patronage. For they are an adornment in times of ease and assistance in times of calamity. Put the best construction on the affair of your brother until there comes to you that which will make you despise him. (This refers to hatred) Withdraw from your enemy and be cautious of your friend, except for the trustworthy; and none are trustworthy except for he who fears Allaah. Do not befriend the wicked person and thus pick up his wickedness. And do not reveal to him your secrets. And consult those who fear Allaah regarding your affairs."*

Yahyaa ibn Mu'aadh said: *"What an evil friend is he whom you have to say to him: 'Remember me in your Du'aa,' and (he whom) you live in caution of; or he to whom you need to make excuses."* What an evil friend he is!

Aboo Ja'far said to his companions: *"Is one of you able to put his hand into the sleeve of his brother and take what he wants from it?"* (They used to put their money in bundles within their sleeves) He said: *"Is one of you able to put his hand into the sleeve of his brother and take what he wants from it?"* They said: *"No."* He said: *"Then you are not brothers as you claim."*

Source: <http://www.sahab.net/forums/index.php?showtopic=161091>

Translated by Raha ibn Donald Batts