

Don't chase the people away...learn manners

Advice from Shaykh Abdullah Bukhari

The following is a summary translation

Shaykh Abdullah Bukhari: The questioner says we were in Masjid Haram when some people from Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh admonished us from sleeping with our feet facing the Qibla and because we had placed our text books on the floor due to our need to do so. They disapproved of this, so what is your advice?

My brother if you must go to sleep, then do not sleep with your feet facing the Qibla, because the layman will come to you and view you as having bad etiquette.

Question, sleeping with your feet facing the Qibla; is it permissible or not? Yes it is permissible. Is sleeping with your feet facing the opposite direction of the Qibla permissible? Yes it's permissible. Then why do you entered into this disagreement with the people? Especially with the common people, this affair is major to them. True?! They disapprove of it and deem it repulsive. This is either because they don't have anyone to teach them or due to those who have taught them incorrectly.

Some people – this especially applies to you O students of knowledge, students of the Sunnah; the people of desires are extremely diligent in attempting to distort your image. They say: 'Look at them, they don't have any manners. They do such and such.' They take something which is nothing and turn it into something.

Accordingly the student of knowledge must also be impeccable with regards to his manners. He should avoid choosing to do things which are better left alone. Be diligent in this, may Allah bless you. Is it mandatory for you to sleep with your feet facing the front? No, sleep with your feet facing the rear. What's the problem? And why are you placing your books on the ground? Preserve them and elevate them. If you have a quick need to place the books on the ground then okay. But what is the need to place your books on the ground while you are sleeping? Why do you need the books while you are sleeping? Will you turn the pages in your sleep? This is not correct, may Allah bless you.

Don't give the people an avenue to come at you; especially the commoners. Good interaction with them is the main reason to pull them to the Sunnah, and the cause from them to exalt it; may Allah bless you.

Don't be the reason that people flee from the Sunnah and flee from the people of the Sunnah due to your evil actions and dealings. Therefore they were correct to criticize you because they saw you did not have good manners. They view your action as bad manners.

What will you say to them 'bring your proof'? They will respond to you by saying 'you have bad etiquette; that's the proof'. You want to debate with them but you don't understand the meaning of 'proof' to begin with. If you knew the meaning of proof, then you would know it is better to leave off this matter. And you would implement that which is permissible and more acceptable to the people.

One of them was here in the Prophet's Masjid and he entered to pray with his shoes on. (He says) 'That's it, it is mandatory that we pray in our shoes, and it is legislated for us to pray in our shoes'. So he enters the Prophet's Masjid, and he prays in the first row with his shoes on causing problems with the commoners. They say to him 'take off your shoes, your shoes are in my face, etc.; etc.!' Problems! He disturbed the people, the commoners; he disturbed the entire Masjid with problems. Here in the Masjid of the Prophet. This was due to those with their shoes on.

Shaykh Abdul Aziz ibn Salih the former Imam of the Prophet's Masjid may Allah have mercy upon him came. He said to them: "O my son, what is the ruling on praying in your shoes, did the Prophet peace be upon him pray in his shoes?" He responded "Yes."

The Shaykh asked: "Did the Prophet peace be upon him pray barefoot?" He responded: "Yes." The Shaykh said: "**Therefore praying with shoes is Sunnah and praying barefoot is Sunnah.**" "So why do you make it mandatory to pray here with your shoes on? Go pray somewhere else other than here with your shoes on."

Is it not the Sunnah to pray the supererogatory prayers in the home? **Then go pray your supererogatory prayers in your home with your shoes on;** be my guest. This is the case because both of these are the Sunnah.

It is known that Shaykh Muqbil may Allah have mercy upon him was strict in this area of prayer with the shoes on. He authored a treatise concerning the legislation of prayer with shoes. A brother mentioned; that in his center of learning in Damaj he would encourage the students to pray with their shoes on; except on Jumah. He would alert them to not pray in their shoes on Jumah as to not chase away the common people that attended Jumah prayer.