

4-Year Course

Akhlaq – 4-Year Course

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Lesson 1: Assalāmu ‘Alaikum

We are Muslims, and whatever we do, we do it for the sake of Allah. Allah tells us that all Muslims are brothers and sisters, and we should take care of one another.

When we say “**Assalāmu ‘Alaikum**”, we are not just greeting the other person. We are also telling them:

- *We care about your safety.*
- *We will not harm you in any way.*

Because “**Assalāmu ‘Alaikum**” means “**May peace be upon you.**”

So, before talking to any Muslim, you should first say “**Assalāmu ‘Alaikum.**”

Along with this, shaking hands (**musāfah**) is also a good practice. Boys should shake hands with boys, and girls should shake hands with girls.

When you wake up in the morning, the first thing you should do is offer **salām** to your parents.

When someone says “**Assalāmu ‘Alaikum**” to you, you should reply with:

- “**Wa ‘Alaikumus Salām**”, or
- “**Wa ‘Alaikumus Salām wa Raḥmatullāh**”, or
- “**Wa ‘Alaikumus Salām wa Raḥmatullāhi wa Barakātuh.**”

Allah does not like it when someone does not reply to a salām.

Lesson 2: Fī Amānillāh

We are Muslims, and therefore we do every action for the sake of Allah. Allah says that all Muslims are brothers and sisters, so we must take care of one another.

When we say “**Fī Amānillāh**” or “**Khudā Hāfiz**,” we are not simply saying “Goodbye.” We are telling the other person that:

- *We care about you, and*
- *We pray that Allah protects you.*

“**Fī Amānillāh**” means “**I place you in the protection of Allah.**”

“**Khudā Hāfiz**” means “**May Allah keep you safe.**”

Whenever you take leave from your parents, you should say “**Fī Amānillāh**” or “**Khudā Hāfiz**,” so that Allah keeps them protected.

At bedtime, you should say “**Fī Amānillāh**” or “**Khudā Hāfiz**” to everyone at home.

Lesson 3: Etiquettes of Using the Toilet

If you feel the need to go to the toilet, you should go immediately. You should not wait until it becomes too urgent.

You should always **wear slippers** when going to the toilet, because the floor of the toilet or urinal may be wet or impure (*najis*).

You should clean yourself using **water from a lota** or **a water pipe**.

If you are in a place where there is no lota or pipe available, you may clean using **tissue paper**.

When you return home, you must inform your mother that you did not use water, so that she can **clean you again properly (paak/purify you)** and **change your clothes** if necessary.

You should urinate **while sitting**, not standing.

Afterwards, you should wash with water **twice**, and then wipe dry with **tissue paper**.

After getting up from the toilet, you should **properly wear and adjust your clothes**.

You should **clean the toilet with water**.

Then you should **wash your hands with water** and dry them with a towel.

Remember: when you sit in the toilet, you should **not face the Qiblah** and **not turn your back directly toward the Qiblah**.

If the toilet is built in such a way that you must face or turn your back toward it, then you should sit **slightly at an angle**.

Lesson 4: Manners of Eating

When Zahid returned home from the madrasa, his mother asked him,
“**What did you learn today?**”

He then shared with his mother the etiquettes of eating at the Dastarkhwan:

- Before eating, always **wash your hands**.
- Begin your meal with “**Bismillāhir Raḥmānir Raḥīm.**”
- Before eating, you should place a **pinch of salt** in your mouth.
- Always eat with your **right hand**.
- Take **small bites** (small mouthfuls) and chew them well.
- Do not talk while your mouth is full, and when people are eating, do not stare at their faces or their plates.
- Do not eat food that is too hot, and do not blow on it. Whatever you take in your plate, you should finish all of it.
- Do not eat more than you need.
- Take only a **little** on your plate first; if you finish it and still feel hungry, then take a little more.
- At the end, since Allah has blessed you with good food and many bounties, you should express gratitude by saying “**Alḥamdulillāh.**”

Lesson 6: Respect for Parents

Your parents are the **most important people** in your life.

Your parents love you and take care of you.

When you were small and would fall sick, your parents would stay awake the entire night to look after you.

They gave you good and healthy food, and when you felt sad, they comforted you with love. They always wanted to see you happy.

In the Holy Qur’an, Allah Ta‘āla commands us to **show respect to our parents**, therefore we must:

- Never speak to them in a **loud voice**.
- Never behave with them in a **rude or disrespectful** manner.
- Just as they keep us happy, we must also try our best to **keep them happy**.