

# Companionship

# in

# Islam

**PodSeries - Vol 28**



**Achieve Noble Character**

# **Companionship in Islam**

**ShaykhPod Books**

**Published by ShaykhPod Books, 2023**

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Companionship in Islam

**First edition. May 4, 2023.**

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# Table of Contents

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Compiler's Notes](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Companionship in Islam](#)

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## **Acknowledgements**

All praises are for Allah, the Exalted, Lord of the worlds, who has given us the inspiration, opportunity and strength to complete this volume. Blessings and peace be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad whose path has been chosen by Allah, the Exalted, for the salvation of mankind.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the entire ShaykhPod family, especially our little star, Yusuf, whose continued support and advice has inspired the development of ShaykhPod Books.

We pray that Allah, the Exalted, completes His favour on us and accepts each letter of this book in His august court and allows it to testify on our behalf on the Last Day.

All praise to Allah, the Exalted, Lord of the worlds and endless blessings and peace be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad, on his blessed Household and Companions, may Allah be pleased with them all.

## **Compiler's Notes**

We have tried diligently to do justice in this volume however if there are any short falls found then the compiler is personally and solely responsible for them.

We accept the possibility of faults and shortcomings in an effort to complete such a difficult task. We might have unconsciously stumbled and committed errors for which we ask for indulgence and forgiveness of our readers and the drawing of our attention thereto will be appreciated. We earnestly invite constructive suggestions which can be made to [ShaykhPod.Books@gmail.com](mailto:ShaykhPod.Books@gmail.com).

## Introduction

This book will discuss an important aspect of Noble Character namely, Choosing Suitable Companions.

According to the Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 2003, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, has advised that the heaviest thing in the Scales of Judgment Day will be Noble Character. It is one of qualities of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, which Allah, the Exalted, complimented in Chapter 68 Al Qalam, Verse 4 of the Holy Quran:

*“And indeed, you are of a great moral character.”*

Therefore, it is a duty on all Muslims to gain and act on the teachings of the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, in order to Achieve Noble Character.

## Companionship in Islam

The company one keeps in this world is very important. The Holy Quran describes how on Judgement Day some will be biting their hands in regret over the evil companions they possessed during their lives on Earth. Chapter 25 Al Furqan, verses 27-28:

*“And the Day the wrongdoer will bite on his hands [in regret] he will say, “Oh, I wish I had taken with the Messenger a way. Oh, woe to me! I wish I had not taken that one as a friend.”*

These people chose to follow their misguided friends in the world which will result in a great regret on the Day of Judgement. One’s company will always affect them in both worlds. It is important to keep the company of those who possess and act on their Islamic knowledge. Those who possess no knowledge are unaware of the severity of the sins they commit such as backbiting. If they do not possess this vital knowledge how can they aid their friend in avoiding sins and performing righteous deeds?

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, once advised in a Hadith found in Sunan Abu Dawud, number 4833, that a person is on their friend’s religion. This means that the characteristics one possesses will always transfer to their companions whether good or bad. In this world Allah, the Exalted, has given one the opportunity to reassess their friends and relationships but on Judgment Day there will



not have this opportunity. This is closely related to another Hadith found in Sahih Bukhari, number 6168, where the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, advised that one will be with those they love on Judgment Day. If one dedicates their time and efforts to misguided friends and relations then that is where their love lies and therefore who they will rise with on the Day of Judgement.

In a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 6692, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, advised that keeping the company of the pious is like attending a perfume shop. One might not buy any perfumes but they will leave the shop with a pleasant fragrance. An evil companion is like visiting the blacksmiths. One might not purchase anything but the smoke from the place will dirty their clothes.

Muslims must understand that the biggest reason the youth become misguided is because of bad company. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure this does not happen. They cannot unload this responsibility onto others such as, school or religious teachers. The best ways to avoid this outcome is through correct Islamic education and encouraging children to accompany good people. Unfortunately, many muslims are heedless to whom their form relationships with let alone the company their children keep. This is a major reason why the crime rates involving the muslim youth across the entire globe has increased exponentially in recent years. Those who were heedless about their children allowed them to spend time with misguided people who led them towards violent crimes. Parents often dump their children in a Mosque and demand the teachers to make them into good muslims. But they do not realize that in order for a child to become a good muslim they need to be raised in the correct way and in the presence of good people. This is not the teacher's responsibility. For example, if the parents rarely perform their obligatory duties like the prayer then how can they expect their child to be a successful muslim who does? A key

aspect of an islamically good up bringing is being surrounded by good muslims. Those who were always concerned about their children and the company their kept were blessed with children who concerned themselves with benefiting their family and society in every aspect of their lives.

The Holy Quran clearly warns that all worldly relationships will end when this world ends and the only relationship that will remain and pass onto the next world is the link of piety meaning, companionship with the pious. The link of faith is the sweetest relationship that is everlasting and will unite the believers in the gardens of Paradise. Chapter 80 Abasa, verses 34-37:

*“On the Day a man will flee from his brother. And his mother and his father. And his wife and his children. For every man, that Day, will be a matter adequate for him.”*

And chapter 43 Az Zukhruf, verse 67:

*“Close friends, that Day, will be enemies to each other, except for the righteous”*

Every relationship not based on piety will always have some form of jealousy and worldly competition. If one looks at their own life they will

realize that 90% of their worldly problems are associated with their own relatives. But the link of true faith is based on love, respect and mutual help.

Those who choose their companions very carefully always live in peace. The advice they receive will always be good and they will encourage each other towards good deeds. Countless people have committed crimes and ended up behind bars because of their bad friends. The one who maintains links with those that possess bad character will only realise their mistake when it is too late. A bad friend will only ever be concerned about themselves even if their friends are drowning whereas good companions will always concern themselves with helping others and ensuring everyone achieves success.

It is important to note, that one should not only assess their companions but ensure that their family members also possess good friends as this is their responsibility which they will be questioned about on the Day of Judgment. This is confirmed in a Hadith found in Sunan Abu Dawud, number 2928. Chapter 66 At Tahrim, verse 6:

*“O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire...”*

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, once advised in a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 6839, that when a muslim joins a gathering of the remembrance of Allah, the Exalted, Allah, Exalted, forgives that muslim because of their companionship with

the group. In this Hadith a muslim happens to join a group of muslims remembering Allah, the Exalted, which leads to their forgiveness then how can one not please Allah, the Exalted, if they permanently adopt the company of the pious?

During the prayer muslims ask Allah, the Exalted, to guide them on the straight path. But the specific word used is in the plural form even though a single person is reciting. This is because one combines their worship with the worship of all the righteous muslims and then offers it to Allah, the Exalted. When Allah, Exalted, observes the sincerity of the pious worshippers He accepts the worship of the normal muslim too. This is why scholars stress the companionship of the pious as this only brings about good.

In a Hadith found in Sahih Bukhari, number 3688, a Companion, may Allah be pleased with him, enquired when the Day of Judgment will occur. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, asked him what he had prepared for it. The Companion, may Allah be pleased with him, showed humility and replied that he did not possess many deeds but he truly loved Allah, the Exalted, and the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, informed him that one would be with those they love in the next world. The Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, were never more pleased then hearing these glad tidings as they desired nothing more than the companionship of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, in the hereafter.

One may not be able to reach a certain level of faith to join the pious but due to their true love which is proven by actions meaning, following in their footsteps Allah, the Exalted, will bless them with their companionship in the next world. Chapter 4 An Nisa, verse 69:

*“And whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger - those will be with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favor of the prophets, the steadfast affirmers of truth, the martyrs and the righteous. And excellent are those as companions.”*

Another way accompanying the pious benefits a muslim is that the majority of muslims do not understand the Arabic words they recite during their worship so it therefore will not affect them in a way that changes their character in a positive way. But a pious muslim can aid another in changing their character through advice and a practical example. Anyone can recite words they do not truly understand but to change one's character by adopting the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, is more praiseworthy.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, once advised in a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 7232, that a person will be raised on the Day of Judgment in the same way they died on Earth. From this one can conclude that the way one dies on Earth will be the way they lived on Earth.

Even though one does not know whether they will be raised with the pious on Judgment Day the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and

blessings be upon him, indicated an excellent way of assessing the chance of ending up with them. One can assess the way they are likely to die depending on their everyday environment and friends. One who is constantly surrounded by evil people will most likely die on evil and those blessed with the companions of the pious will most likely die on piety. But the most important characteristic that decides this is one's intention. If one possesses an evil intention e.g. showing off, they can be sitting in the house of Allah, the Exalted, but they will still be deprived of His mercy in both worlds until they sincerely repent and correct their intention. But the one with the correct intention who is busy in the market place will receive the mercy of Allah, the Exalted, in both worlds.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, once advised in a Hadith found in Imam Bayhaqi's, *Shu'ab Al Iman*, number 4833, that sitting alone is better than joining an evil gathering. But good company is better than sitting alone. The message behind this Hadith is that when one observes a gathering of evil where the participants are taking part in backbiting, slander and causing division within society they should avoid them at all costs. Remaining in solitude and reflecting on the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Hadiths of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, is much better than joining such a gathering even if they are one's own relatives and friends. But when one observes a gathering that is discussing good and useful issues pertaining to religion and the world then one should take part even if they consist of complete strangers.

Keeping the company of the pious will ensure that one is never taken to a stage of regret e.g. crime, and instead they are taken closer to Allah, the Exalted, with every passing moment. One will always remain steadfast and will never become heedless of the commands of Allah, the Exalted, when they keep the company of the pious as their very characteristic is to remind others of sincerely obeying Allah, the Exalted.

This involves fulfilling the commands of Allah, the Exalted, refraining from His prohibitions and facing destiny with patience. A muslim will never feel a threat from them in respect of their self, honour or property. This is the very definition of a true believer according to Hadith found in Sunan An Nasai, number 4998.

Those that desire to be raised with the pious must live every step of their life according to the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and take Allah, the Exalted, as their Protector. These are those who journey from the darkness towards the light through the sincere obedience of Allah, the Exalted. A good beginning to this journey is to associate with the pious in order to learn and adopt good qualities. Chapter 2 Al Baqarah, verse 257:

*“Allah is the Ally of those who believe. He brings them out from darkneses into the light. And those who disbelieve - their allies are ṭāghūt. They take them out of the light into darkneses.”*

But those that choose the path of the Devil and take him as their friend will only die on evil and be resurrected on evil which leads only to the gates of Hell. Chapter 35 Fatir, verse 6:

*“Indeed, Satan is an enemy to you; so take him as an enemy. He only invites his party to be among the companions of the Blaze. “*

A hypocrite verbally claims to follow the pious but dedicates their time and energy to the misguided. A successful muslim will always support their verbal claim through actions. Muslims must support their words if they desire to be blessed with the pious servants of Allah, the Exalted, on Judgement Day. But if they continue to behave like the misguided then they will be destined to be with them in the next world also.

Some foolish people believe that if they keep the company of evil people it will keep them safe from the evil of others. But they fail to realise that one day sooner or later the evil characteristics of their friends will one day affect them just like it affects others. Just like an untrained dog who barks and bites others will eventually turn on its owner too.

It is important to note that there is a big difference between a pious muslim spending time with an evil person for the sake of reforming the latter and a muslim adopting the companionship of an evil person for the sake of friendship. Good relations will please one in this world and in the next and evil relations will cause one to suffer in both worlds.

In the following verses the Holy Quran discusses the status of faith and how it should overcome all other relationships and bonds. It orders the muslims not to befriend those relations that have rejected Islam. The warning of the wrath of Allah, the Exalted, is also mentioned where He reiterates that if muslims choose to love their families, friends and wealth more than Allah, the Exalted, and the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, they will undoubtedly be punished in both worlds. One of these punishments is that these very relations that muslims love so much will become a punishment and burden for them. For example, the son that the muslim sacrificed his faith for will end up



turning against him and the result will be nothing but suffering for the entire family. It is important to note that the Holy Quran does not state that muslims should hate these people but instead should show them respect and guide them onto the right path and always place sincere obedience to Allah, the Exalted, and the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, above all else. Chapter 9 At Tawbah, verses 23-24:

*“O you who have believed, do not take your fathers or your brothers as allies if they have preferred disbelief over belief. And whoever does so among you - then it is those who are the wrongdoers. Say, [O Muhammad], “If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your relatives, wealth which you have obtained, commerce wherein you fear decline, and dwellings with which you are pleased are more beloved to you than Allah and His Messenger and jihād [i.e., striving] in His cause, then wait until Allah executes His command. And Allah does not guide the defiantly disobedient people.”*

Chapter 9 At Tawbah, verse 119, states a very concise but important message to all muslims. That a muslim will only become successful if they fear Allah, the Exalted, by fulfilling His commands, refraining from His prohibitions, face destiny with patience and if they remain in the company of the honest. Unfortunately the actions of many muslims are the opposite of these commands. Especially, in respect to the last command as muslims believe as long as they are honest their companions can be liars and cheats. But this verse and Hadiths proves that a person is judged by the company they keep. If a muslim desires to share their Judgement Day with the honest then they must refrain from the company of the dishonest in this world. Chapter 9 At Tawbah, verse 119:

*“O you who have believed, fear Allah and be with those who are true.”*

The following verse of the Holy Quran discusses the Day of Judgement and how people will be called forward with their leaders. So those people who choose to follow good role models will be blessed with their presence but those who choose to follow the bad will be cursed to stand beside them on the Day of Judgement. Chapter 17 Al Isra, verse 71:

*“Beware of` the Day We will summon every people with their leader...”*

So muslims need to decide now who they desire to be resurrected with on the Day of Judgement. This is the reason why Islam stresses that muslims should always be aware of the company they keep in this world as they will stand beside the same people on the Day of Judgement.

To conclude, muslims must remember and base their relationships on a Hadith found in Sunan Abu Dawud, number 4833. It advises that a person is on the religion of their friend. If they do this correctly and encourage their families to follow suit then not only will they be set on the path of piety but their families and society as a whole will achieve the pleasure of Allah, the Exalted, in this world and in the next.

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