

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ
وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

Al-Ahzaab 33:56 Verily Allah and His angels send salutations (and blessings) on the Messenger; O You who believe (you also) send blessings on him and salute him with all respect

What more proof can anyone want after this Ayah where Allah ﷻ told us that He and His angels send salaam on Rasoolullah ﷺ and ordered us to do likewise. A slave can't hope to emulate or copy any action of His Rabb, except this one. How can we thank Allah ﷻ for the honor of being ordered to do what He does? This is the Baraka of Muhammad ﷺ in our lives and the honor of being his Ummatis. The Sahaba asked how they must send salaam on him. He taught them Durood Ibrahim which we recite in Salah.

Abu Muhammad Ka'b bin 'Ujrah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

Rasoolullah ﷺ came to us and we asked him, "Ya Rasoolullah ﷺ we already know how to greet you (i.e., say As-salamu 'alaikum), but how should we send Salatu-was-Salaam (make dua) for you?" He (ﷺ) said, "Say: 'Allahumma salli 'ala Muhammadin, wa 'ala 'ali Muhammadin, kama sallaita 'ala 'ali Ibrahima, innaka Hamidum Majid. Allahumma barik 'ala Muhammadin, wa 'ala 'ali Muhammadin, kama barakta 'ala 'ali Ibrahima, innaka Hamidum Majid [O Allah, exalt the mention of Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as you exalted the family of Ibrahim. You are Praised and Glorious. O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as You blessed the family of Ibrahim. You are Praised and Glorious.]" [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

It is the right of Rasoolullah ﷺ that every time we hear, see, write or read his name we must send salaam on him by saying Sal-allahu alaihi wa sallam.

Ubayy ibn Ka'b (may Allah be pleased with him) said: I said: Ya Rasoolullah ﷺ I send a great deal of blessings upon you; how much of my dua should be sending blessings upon you? He said: "Whatever you wish." I said: One quarter? He said: "Whatever you wish, and if you do more, that will be better for you." I said: One half? He said: "Whatever you wish and if you do more, that will be better for you." I said: Two thirds? He said: "Whatever you wish and if you do more, that will be better for you." I said: I will make all of my dua for you. He said: "Then your concerns will be taken care of and your sins will be forgiven." Tirmidhi [Saheeh]

Abdullah bin 'Amr bin Al-'As (May Allah be pleased with them) reported: I heard the Rasoolullah ﷺ saying: "Whoever makes dua to Allah ﷻ to exalt my mention (i.e., send salah), Allah ﷻ will exalt his mention (i.e., send salah) ten times and remove from him ten sins and raise him ten degrees." [Muslim]

Abdur Rahman ibn Awf (may Allah be pleased with him) said, I came to Rasoolullah ﷺ while he was in Sujood and he elongated his Sajda and then said, "Jibreel came to me and he said, 'Whoever sends blessings (salah) upon you, I will send blessings on him, and whoever sends greetings (salaam) upon you, I will send greetings upon him,' so I prostrated out of thankfulness to Allah ﷻ." [Haakim, Saheeh Al-Albani]

Ibn Mas'ud (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Rasoolullah ﷺ said: "The people who will be nearest to me on the Day of Resurrection will be those who make dua to Allah ﷻ more often for me." [At-Tirmidhi]. Imam Nawawi (Rahimahullah) states, "Nearest to me" signifies "those who are most entitled to my intercession".

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Rasoolullah ﷺ said, "May his nose soil with dust in whose presence mention is made of me and he does not make dua for me." [At-Tirmidhi]. Imam Nawawi (Rahimahullah) states the saying 'may his nose be rubbed in dust' means to suffer humiliation and disgrace. That is, it means, "may such person be humiliated and disgraced who hears my name and does not invoke Allah ﷻ's blessings upon me."

It was narrated that Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: Rasoolullah ﷺ ascended the Minbar and said: "Ameen, ameen, ameen." It was said: "Ya Rasoolullah ﷺ, you ascended the Minbar and said, 'Ameen, ameen, ameen.'" He said: "Jibreel came to me and said: 'If Ramadan comes and a person is not forgiven, he will enter Jahannam and Allah ﷻ will cast him far away. Say Ameen.' So, I said Ameen. He said: 'O Muhammad ﷺ, if both or one of a person's parents are alive and he does not honor them, and he dies, he will enter Jahannam and Allah ﷻ will cast him far away. Say Ameen.' So, I said Ameen. He said: 'If you are mentioned in a person's presence and he does not send blessings upon you and he dies, he will enter Jahannam and Allah ﷻ will cast him far away. Say Ameen.' So, I said Ameen." [Ibn Hibbaan, Saheeh Al-Albani]

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Rasoolullah ﷺ said, "Do not make my grave a place of festivity (that you visit often), and make dua to Allah ﷻ for me, for your dua (Durood wa Salaam) reaches me wherever you are." [Abu Dawud].

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Rasoolullah ﷺ said, "Whenever someone greets me, Allah returns the soul to my body (in the grave) and I return his greeting." [Abu Dawud].

Ali bin Abi Talib (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Rasoolullah ﷺ said, "The miser is the one in whose presence I am mentioned but he does not supplicate for me." [At- Tirmidhi].

Fadalah bin 'Ubaid (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Rasoolullah ﷺ heard someone making dua after his prayer without praising Allah ﷻ and without making dua to Allah ﷻ for Rasoolullah ﷺ (Durood). With regard to him, Rasoolullah ﷺ said, "This man rushed." Then he called him and said, "When any one of you have finished Salah and wants to make dua, let him praise Allah ﷻ first then glorify Him in the beginning and then he should make dua to Allah ﷻ for me (send Durood). Then he may make dua for whatever he likes." [Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhi].

Abdullah bin 'Amr bin Al-'As (May Allah be pleased with them) reported: I heard Rasoolullah ﷺ saying, "When you hear the Adhan, repeat what the Mu'adhdhin says. Then ask Allah ﷻ to exalt my mention (send Durood) because everyone who does so will receive in return ten rewards from Allah ﷻ. Then beseech Allah ﷻ to grant me Al-Wasilah, which is a high rank in Jannah, fitting for only one of Allah ﷻ' s slaves; and I hope that I will be that man. If anyone asks Al-Wasilah for me, it becomes incumbent upon me to intercede for him." [Muslim]

In another hadeeth, Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Rasoolullah ﷺ said, "He who says after the Adhan: `Ash-hadu an la ilaha illallah Wah-dahu la sharika Lahu; wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan `abduhu wa Rasuluhu, Radhitu Billahi Rabban, wa bi Muhammadin Rasulan, wa bil Islami Deenan [I testify that there is no true god except Allah Alone; He has no partners and that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger; I am content with Allah as my Rabb, with Muhammad as my Messenger and with Islam as my Deen], his sins will be forgiven." [Muslim]

My brothers and sisters, we take pride in our associations with people and institutions who we believe add value and honor to us. We show off our association with them by wearing their colors, tags, logos, names and styles. We do that believing that the name and fame that is theirs will rub off on us, if we show how we love them and identify ourselves with them. A Gucci or Louis Vuitton handbag is not simply luggage. A Rolex is not worn to tell the time but to tell the world. A Montblanc pen is not a writing instrument but an article of jewelry. Armani is Armani. Nothing more need be said. An Emirates Gold tag on your luggage means something. Need I go on more?

Now, let us look in the mirror and ask which signs of Rasoolullah ﷺ are visible from our appearance, manners, dealings, attitudes, society and decisions? Let us ask ourselves how much we value our association with Rasoolullah ﷺ. Not simply in name but in action and the signs that we display of that association. And if you don't see his signs, ask yourself what really is the value of Muhammad ﷺ in your life? Ask yourself what you are losing as a result. Believe me, you are losing. And one day you will know. But that day you will not be able to make up for it. So, wake up and smell the coffee.