

The blessings of Salaam

What is the Salaam?

In Arabic, the phrase **'As-Salamu Alaykum'** means "Peace be upon you". In Islam, it is a **special way of greeting** each other. It is more than just saying "hello." When we say Salaam, we are making a **dua** (prayer) for the person, asking Allah to bless them with peace.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught us that saying Salaam spreads love and brings people closer to each other. He said:

"Shall I tell you something that will make you love each other? Spread Salaam among yourselves." (Muslim)

When we greet others with Salaam, it shows kindness, respect, and a love for peace. So we should always try to greet everybody with Salaam and reply with even better words: **'Wa Alaykum as-Salaam wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh'** (May Allah's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you)..

The Holy Qu'ran says,

وَإِذَا حُيِّتُمْ بِتَحِيَّةٍ فَحَيُّوا بِأَحْسَنَ مِنْهَا أَوْ رُدُّوهَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ

حَسِيبًا

"When you are greeted with a greeting, greet with one better than it or return it in a like manner.

Indeed, Allah takes account of all things." (4:86)

What does this verse mean?

This ayah teaches us that greetings are like gifts! When someone says **'As-Salaamu Alaykum'**, we should reply with something **even better**, like **'Wa Alaykum as-Salaam wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh'**. But if we can't say more, we should **at least say the same thing back**; **'Wa Alaykum As-Salaam'**. This spreads love and kindness, and it makes Allah happy.

STORY TIME – THE POWER OF SALAM

One day, little Ahmed was walking to Madrasah. On the way, he saw his friend Bilal. Ahmed smiled and said, **'As-Salaamu Alaykum!'** Bilal's face lit up, and he happily replied, **'Wa Alaykum as-Salaam wa Rahmatullah!'**

As they walked together, they greeted their teacher, who replied with a big smile. Their classroom felt happy and full of kindness because everyone was using beautiful greetings.

At home, Ahmed greeted his parents with **'As-Salaamu Alaykum!'** His mother hugged him and said, **'Wa Alaykum as-Salaam, my dear! May Allah bless you!'** Ahmed felt so happy.

That night, before sleeping, Ahmed thought about how a simple **'Salaam'** made everyone around him happy. He smiled and made du'a, asking Allah to let him always be kind and spread peace.

Exercise

1. What did Ahmed say to Bilal when he saw him?
2. How did Bilal feel when Ahmed greeted him?
3. Who else did Ahmed greet in the story?
4. What did Ahmed's mother say when he greeted her?
5. How did Ahmed feel at the end of the day?

Colour me in!

As-Salaamu Alaykum
Wa Rahmatullahi
Wa Barakatuhu!