

TOPIC 12: THE KEY OF CHARACTER

Allah says, "Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for whoever has hope in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah often." (33:21). The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "I have only been sent to perfect good moral character." (Ahmad). In the Prophet (peace be upon him), we have a perfect example of how character and the way you interact with others, is a means of awakening the fitrah within them.

The Prophet was known as "truthful" and "trustworthy" before he was known as "Messenger of Allah" and "Prophet", which shows us Allah chose someone of good moral standing and this would be a means of people accepting the message.

Character is extremely important as we should show genuine love and care for others (as previously discussed). Thus, we should engage with people positively, with wisdom, mercy, justice, good character, while they see you observe Islam and be righteous (as discussed previously, ensuring our dawah is holistic: "And who is better in speech than one who invites to Allah and does righteousness and says, "Indeed, I am of the Muslims." (41:33)

This key can also be linked to other keys. For instance, if we look at the Key of Spirituality (i.e. unlocking a person's fitrah by making them understand why Allah is worthy of worship), one of the reasons for this was due to the characteristic of gratitude and being grateful. If we look to the example of the Prophet (peace be upon him), we can find such traits. *Al-Mughirah ibn Shu'bah reported: The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) would pray until his feet were swollen. It was said to him, "Why do you do this when Allah has forgiven your past and future sins?" The Prophet said, "Shall I not be a grateful servant?" (Bukhari and Muslim)*

Further reading

Words of Mercy (iERA publication): <https://iera.org/shop/words-of-mercy-book/>

DISCUSSION

Discuss with your partner (if any) examples in your personal life where good character has significantly impacted or influenced others in a positive way.

REFLECTION

Think of other important character traits of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and how we can adopt them as a means of awakening someone's fitrah.
