

## IMPORTANCE OF REPLYING TO SALAAM

Allaah says: **“When you are greeted with a greeting, greet in return with what is better than it, or (at least) return it equally. Certainly Allaah is Ever a Careful Account Taker of all things.”**

[An Nisaa’5:86]

*Abu Hurayrah reported Allaah's Messenger (saw) as saying:*

*“Six are the rights of a Muslim over another Muslim”. It was said to him: “Allaah's Messenger, what are these”? Thereupon he said:*

***“Responding to the salutation (greeting);***

*When he invites you to a feast accept it;*

*When he seeks your council give him;*

*When he sneezes and says: " All praise is due to Allah," you say Yarhamuk Allah (may Allah show mercy to you);*

*When he fails ill visit him; and*

*When he dies, (attend his funeral and) follow his bier”.*

[Saheeh Muslim and Bukhaaree]

Ibn Katheer commented on the verse, **“When you are greeted with a greeting, greet in return with what is better than it, or (at least) return it equally. Certainly Allaah is Ever a Careful Account Taker of all things.”**

[An Nisaa’5:86]

He said, this means if a Muslim greets you with salaam, then you must return the greeting with a better salaam or at least equal to the salaam that was given. Therefore the better salaam is recommended, while returning it equally is an obligation.

Imaam Ahmad (rh) recorded that Imraan bin Husayn said that a man came to the Messenger of Allaah (saw) and said, ‘Assalaamu ‘alaykum’. The Prophet (saw) returned the greeting and after the man sat down, he said, ‘Ten’. Another man came and said, ‘Assalaamu ‘alaykum wa Rahmatullaah’. The Prophet (saw) returned the greeting, and after the man sat down, he said, ‘Twenty’. Then another man came and said, ‘Assalaamu ‘alaykum wa Rahmatullaahi wa Barakaatuh’. The Prophet (saw) returned the greeting, and after the man sat down, he said, ‘Thirty’.

[Tirmidhee & Nasaa’i]

Responding to the salaam is a right of one Muslim upon another Muslim. The better the salaam is, the more reward you will receive, as we learn in the above Hadeeth. The simplest salaam, ‘Assalaamu ‘alaykum’, is worth ten rewards and the best salaam, ‘Assalaamu ‘alaykum wa Rahmatullaahi wa Barakaatuh’ is worth thirty rewards.

Furthermore, Abu Hurayrah (ra) reported that the Messenger of Allaah (saw) said,

*“By He is whose hand is my soul! You will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you will not believe until you love each other. Should I direct you to an action that would direct you to love each other? Spread the salaam among yourselves.”*

[Abu Daawood]