

ISLAMIC MANNERS AND EXPRESSIONS

1. Bi-smi-llahi-r-Rahmain-r-Rahim

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

“In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.”

These are the words with which the Holy Qur’an opens. Every affair is begun with these words. The object is to make a man realize that he should seek the help of Allah in all affairs. (We say it before we eat).

2. Al-hamdu-li-llah

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

“All Praise is due to Allah.”

These words are generally spoken when any good comes to one, as a kind of thanksgiving to Allah. Even the sneezer is required to thank Allah in these words when he sneezes.

3. Allahu Akbar

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

“Allah is the greatest.”

It is known as takbir, and the words are spoken whenever a man has to give expression to his own insignificance or to the insignificance of all creation before Divine grandeur. These words are also frequently used during prayers and congregation prayers.

4. Subhana-llah

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ

“Glory to Allah.” Or “Allah is free from all imperfections.”

These words are used when a man has to give expression to the fact that he is not free from imperfections or that he has made an error. They are also used when a man sees another making a mistake (especially in prayer).

5. Astaghfiru-llah

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ

“I seek the forgiveness of Allah.”

This is a prayer to which a man should resort very often, and the words are also used when one sees a thing which he would avoid. It is known as istighfar which means the seeking of Divine protection from the commission of sin as well as from the punishment of sin when it has been committed and the more often a man resorts to it the farther away he is from the liability of falling in to sin.

6. La haula wa la quwwata illa billah

لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

“There is no strength nor power but in Allah”

These words indicate that a man has neither the strength to turn away from what is evil nor the power to adopt the course of good unless Allah gives him such strength of power, and they are used to give expression to reliance on Allah in all matters.

7. In sha'a-llah

إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ

“If Allah wills.”

When a man undertakes to do a thing, he uses these words to indicate that though he is fully determined to do it, yet, maybe, it is ordained by Allah otherwise.

8. Ma sha a-llah

مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ

“It is as Allah has pleased.”

When one feels admiration for a person or a thing, he uses these words as showing that all good comes from Allah.

9. Hasbiya-llah , Hasbu-na llah

حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ ، حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ

“May Allah suffice me.” “May Allah suffice us.”

The words are used to show that it is Allah alone who saves a man from stumbling and from all kinds of errors and afflictions.

10. Inna li-llahi wa inna ilai-hi raji-un

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

“Surely we are Allah’s and to him we shall return.”

These are words used when one receives the news of the death of a person or of loss of any kind to himself or to another. The words indicate that loss of life or property to man is only part of a Divine scheme and that he should not indulge too much in the pleasures of this life nor grieve too much when he meets with adversity.

11. As-salamu ‘alaikum

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

“Peace be on you!”

وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Wa ‘alai-kumu-s-salamu wa rahmatu-llahi wa barakatuh

“And on you be peace, and the mercy of Allah and his blessings.”

The first is spoken when one Muslim greets his brother, and the second is that in which the greeting is returned.

12. Jaza-kumu-llah khaira

جَزَاكُمْ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا

“May Allah give you a goodly reward.”

When a Muslim receives a gift from another or when he receives any good, he thanks the bestower of the gift or the doer of good in either of these forms.