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**احياء علوم الدين  
للامام الغرالي**

**Revival Circle :: Ihya Ulum al-Din**  
The Book of Spiritual Routines

**Book 11.4 :: Lesson 37**  
The Etiquettes of Hospitality

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**The Etiquettes of Hospitality**

1. The Invitation
2. Accepting the Invitation
3. Attendance
4. Bringing Out the Food
5. Eating
6. Leaving the Host's House

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## The Merit of Feeding Food

﴿وَيُطْعَمُونَ الطَّعَامَ عَلَىٰ حُبِّهِ مِسْكِينًا وَيَتِيمًا وَأَسِيرًا \* إِنَّمَا نُطْعِمُكُمْ لِوَجْهِ اللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنْكُمْ جَزَاءً وَلَا شُكْرًا \* إِنَّا نَخَافُ مِنْ رَبِّنَا يَوْمًا  
عُتُوبًا قَمَطِرًا \* فَوَقَاهُمُ اللَّهُ شَرَّ ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ وَلَقَّاهُمْ نَضْرَةً  
وَسُرُورًا \* وَجَزَاهُمْ بِمَا صَنَعُوا جَنَّةً وَحَرِيرًا﴾

{And they give food—despite their love for it—to the poor, the orphan, and the captive/ saying to themselves, “We feed you only for the sake of Allah, we do not want any reward nor thanks from you.” We fear from our Lord a horribly distressful Day./ So Allah will deliver them from the horror of that Day, and grant them radiance and joy...}

(Qur'an, 76:8-11)

## The Merit of Hospitality

The Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him and give him peace) was asked,

“Which aspect of Islam is best?”

He replied,

“To feed others food, and to greet with Salam those whom you know, and those whom you do not know.”

(Bukhari and Muslim)

## The Merit of Hospitality

The Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him and give him peace) said, regarding in the expiation of sins (kaffarat) and ranks of people (darajat):

“Offering food and praying at night when people are sleeping.”

(Tirmidhi)

## Etiquettes of the Invitation

### **\*Accepting is an Emphasized Sunnah\***

1. To invite the pious and not the sinful
2. Aim for the poor, and not the rich
3. Do not neglect your relatives
4. Give equal turns to your friends
5. Never intend showing-off or boasting
6. Intend drawing hearts near and Sunnah and entering happiness into people's hearts

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## Etiquettes of the Invitation

You should NOT invite:

1. Those who will have difficulty attending
2. Those who won't like to attend
3. Those who will be harmed or upset by others attending
4. Those who are sinful or collaborate in wrongdoing

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## Etiquettes of Attendance

1. Do not sit in the prominent or best spot
2. Don't come too late nor too early
3. Don't obstruct the host by sitting
4. Move spots if requested, and move if a guest requests
5. Not face the room of the ladies
6. Not looking at where food is coming from
7. Greet and ask about people sitting close to you

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## Etiquettes of Bringing the Food

1. Hastening to bring out the food
2. If majority are present, don't wait for 1 or 2
3. Arrange the different courses: fruits, then meat & broth, then something sweet is ideal
4. Serve cool water to drink and lukewarm to wash hands
5. Put best light food first so don't over-eat after; if one type of food, say so
6. Don't remove a dish till guests finished
7. Offer sufficient food and reserve share for family 1st

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## Etiquettes of Leaving

1. Accompany the guest to the doorstep with smiles and kind words
2. The guest should leave with a good disposition even if were slighted at all
3. Leave only with host's permission, agreement and be conscious of time spent (3 days is maximum and after is charity)
4. Good to have extra bedding for a guest

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## Miscellaneous Etiquettes

1. Eating in the Marketplace
2. Taking food to a bereaved family
3. Not eating the food of a transgressor, and if must, then eating only a little and not the best kind.

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