

Fruits for the Week

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RESPECT OUR NEIGHBOURS

Allah (SWT) says: *“Serve Allah, and join not any partners with Him; and do good to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, those in need, neighbours who are near, neighbours who are strangers, the companion by your side, the way-farer (you meet), and what your right hands possess, for Allah loveth not the arrogant, the vainglorious.”*

The above verse tells us that our neighbours, Muslim or non-Muslims, should be very important people to us. We should therefore be good to them and treat them well and with respect. Our Prophet (SAW) said: *“The best neighbour in Allah’s sight is he who behaves best to his neighbour.”*

Our neighbours must feel that they are safe to have us as their neighbour. Destruction of properties, vandalism, rowdiness and other misbehaviour are all condemned by Islam. Our Prophet (SAW) has reminded us about this aspect of neighbourliness: *“He is not truly a believer if his neighbour is not safe from his actions.”* He also said: *“A Muslim is he who avoids harming people with his tongue and hands.”*

Therefore, we should help our neighbours, irrespective of whether they are Muslims or not, when necessary and in whatever way we can. Our Prophet (SAW) said: *“He is not a Muslim who takes his fill while his neighbour starves.”* He also said: *“Allah is not merciful*

to him who is not merciful to people.”

We should also take the initiative in establishing friendship and good neighbourliness with our non-Muslim neighbours. For instance, for the Eid-al-Fitr celebration, it is good to invite our non-Muslim neighbours to our house and serve them our festive goodies. In turn, they might invite us for their festive celebration, and we must respond to their invitation. And, of course, if they know that we are Muslims, they would serve us *halal* food like soft drinks and fruits. If they are not sure about the Muslim dietary style, here we have the opportunity to let them know about it in a nice and friendly way. We must be friendly and establish rapport and goodwill with them.

Let us extend the spirit of neighbourliness by approaching our new neighbours first. Let us visit them as soon as possible, bringing with us some small gift, like fruits and biscuits, for them. Let us not be disappointed or feel depressed when acceptance by our neighbour is negative. Insha Allah, if we are good neighbours, they will open up to us sooner or later. May Allah (SWT) give us strength in establishing a harmonious environment in this country. Wallahu A’lam.

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