Sukon

Good Character in Islam

Adab and akhlaq — honesty, kindness, humility and good manners from the Quran and Sunnah

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1. Why character matters

> *"And indeed, you are of a great moral character."* — Quran, Surah Al-Qalam 68:4

> *"The best of you are those who have the best character."* — Sahih al-Bukhari 3559

> *"Nothing is heavier on the scale of a believer on the Day of Resurrection than good character."* — Sunan Abi Dawud 4799

Prayer, fasting and charity are pillars of faith, and good character is their fruit. A person who prays but hurts people has not yet understood the message of his prayer.

2. Honesty and trust

A Muslim tells the truth even when it is hard, keeps promises, returns what was borrowed and does not cheat in business.

> *"O you who believe, fear Allah and be with those who are truthful."* — Quran, Surah At-Tawbah 9:119

- Do not exaggerate or tell "small" lies for fun.
- Weigh and measure fairly (Quran 83:1–3).
- If you make a promise, write it down and keep it.

3. Kindness, mercy and gentleness

> *"Smiling in the face of your brother is charity."* — Jami at-Tirmidhi 1956

> *"Be merciful to those on earth, and the One in the heavens will be merciful to you."* — Jami at-Tirmidhi 1924

- Greet people with Salam — the Prophet ﷺ said spreading Salam spreads love (Sahih Muslim 54).
- Be gentle with children, the elderly and animals.
- Help without being asked; thank people for small things.

4. Controlling anger and the tongue

> *"Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him speak good or remain silent."* — Sahih al-Bukhari 6018

> *"O you who believe, avoid much suspicion… and do not backbite one another."* — Quran, Surah Al-Hujurat 49:12

- When angry, stay silent, say "A'udhu billahi minash-shaytanir-rajim", sit down or make wudu.
- Do not mock, give nicknames or spread gossip (Quran 49:11).
- Before you post or forward a message, ask: is it true, is it kind, is it needed?

5. Rights of the people around us

Who	Their right
Parents	Kindness, respect, service and dua — never even say "uff" to them (Quran 17:23).
Spouse	Love, mercy, fairness and good company (Quran 30:21).
Children	Love, good names, education in faith and life, fairness between siblings.
Neighbours	Safety from your harm, help in need, sharing food.
Guests	Warm welcome and generous hospitality.
Workers	Fair pay on time and respectful treatment.

Good character begins at home. The Prophet ﷺ said that the best of people are the best to their families (Jami at-Tirmidhi 3895).

6. A 30-day character plan

1. Week 1 — Tongue: no lies, no backbiting; say something kind to three people each day.
2. Week 2 — Anger: count to ten, make wudu when upset, apologise first.
3. Week 3 — Family: serve your parents daily, phone a relative you have not spoken to.

4. Week 4 — Community: help a neighbour, give charity, smile at everyone you meet.

Write your progress each night. Small daily steps, done consistently, are most beloved to Allah (Sahih al-Bukhari 6464).

A note on this book

This guide is general guidance written to be accepted by the major schools, with differences noted where they matter. For a question about your own situation, ask a verified scholar on Sukon — always free.

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