

How did the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon) treat his guests?

The prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was so kind and generous to his guests that he preferred them to himself. This was clearly shown when the Prophet, (May the blessing and peace of Allah be upon him), was visited by a delegation of Al-Nagashi (The king of Ethiopia at that time). He began to serve them by himself, his companions begged him to let them do that but he insisted to serve them by himself saying: "They were kind and generous to my companions and so I'd like to reward them" (1).

So the Prophet, (May the blessing and peace of Allah be upon him), usually encouraged his companions to do the same and he thanked and praised them for doing that. He reminded them that God praised Al-Ansaar (the people of Al-Madinah in KSA) in Qur'an for being generous to the Prophet and his companions.

59:9. "They (Ansaar) give them (emigrants) preference over themselves even though they were in bad need of that".

So the Prophet was keen to praise and mention generosity to his companions saying: "Allah is Generous, He loves good manners and hates bad manners"(2) . The Prophet also said: "A generous person is close to Allah, close to paradise, close to people and far away from Hellfire, but a greedy mean is far from Allah, far from paradise, far from people and near to Hellfire, an ignorant generous person is more beloved to Allah than a greedy mean scholar"(3) .

(1) This hadith was narrated by At'tabarany and Al-Baihaky after Katadah.

(2) This hadith was narrated in Al-Mustadrak by Sahl Ibn Sa'd.

(3) This Hadith was narrated by At'termezi and Al-Baihaki after Abu-Horayrah