

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**ILM UL MUKARRAM**  
**“DARSUL HADITH”**

**LESSONS FROM AHÂDEETH SHAREEF**

commentary on

**40 ahâdeeth | arba'een | of Imaam Nawawi**

رحمة الله عليه

with emphasis on perfecting one's character

Notes by Maulana Naeem Motala

**Hadith 17**

**Striving for excellence**

*Delivered as Jummah Bayaan Baitul Mukarram.*

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## Hadith 17

### Striving for excellence

عَنْ أَبِي يَعْلى شَدَّادِ بْنِ أَوْسٍ رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ عَنْ رَسُولِ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ  
إِنَّ اللهَ كَتَبَ الْإِحْسَانَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ،  
فَإِذَا قَتَلْتُمْ فَأَحْسِنُوا الْقِتْلَةَ،  
وَإِذَا ذَبَحْتُمْ فَأَحْسِنُوا الذَّبْحَةَ،  
وَلْيُجِدْ أَحَدُكُمْ شَفْرَتَهُ، وَلْيُرِحْ ذَبِيحَتَهُ

Hazrat Abu Ya'la Shaddaad ibn Aws Radiyallahu Anhu narrates that Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam said:

“Verily Allah has ordained (enjoined) Ihsaan (excellence) in all things.

Thus, if you kill, kill in a good manner.

If you slaughter, slaughter in a good manner.

Let each one of you sharpen his blade and let him spare suffering to the animal he slaughters.”

[Saheeh Muslim]

#### | BRIEF EXPLANTION |

In this Hadith we have been advised to be kind, compassionate and pleasant to every creature of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta’ala. Be it a human or an animal, we should deal in an excellent manner towards every creation of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta’ala.

The word Ihsaan إحصان is derived from the word Husn حسن which means to treat someone in a kind, good manner.

The word Ihsaan appears in several places in the Holy Qur’aan.

In Hadith-u-Jibra’eel, the concept of Ihsaan إحصان in relation to worshipping Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta’ala, (which was discussed in detail in Hadith number 3)

Then he (the man) said, "Inform me about Ihsaan". Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam answered:

"It is that you should worship Allah as though you could see Him, for though you cannot see Him yet He sees you". [Saheeh Muslim]

In Hadith 17, importance are mentioned by Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam, of whom we should be showing Ihsaan [courtesy, kindness and goodness] towards i.e.: the animal which is to be slaughtered/sacrificed.

There are a number of times when slaughtering of an animal is done:

- 1- Qurbani – of the day of Eid ul Adha
- 2- Aqeeqah – 7 day after a child is born
- 3- Vow – when a person makes a vow that he will slaughter an animal if a work of his get done.
- 4- The normal day to day need of meat

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As for Ihsaan, in the act of slaughtering animals, then it means that one releases the soul in the fastest, easiest and shortest possible manner, without any increase to the pain to the animal, for which there is no need.

The animal should be lead in a very gentle manner towards the place of slaughter and the knife should be concealed from it.

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We have been taught in the Hadith of Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam that to minimize pain, the knife should be thoroughly sharpened before slaughtering an animal.

Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam passed by a man who had his foot on the neck of a sheep. Whilst he was sharpening his blade, the sheep was looking towards it.

Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam said:

“Why did you not sharpen your knife before you laid it on the ground? “Do you intend to give it two deaths?”

[Tabarani]

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Hazrat Umar Radiyallahu Anhu, once hit a man with a stick because he sharpened his blade in front of a sheep [Bayhaqi].

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The animal should not be slaughtered in the presence of another animal. Nor should it be dragged by its ear, but rather by its neck.

Hazrat Umar Radiyallahu Anhu saw a man dragging a sheep to slaughter it. Hazrat Umar Radiyallahu Anhu hit him with a stick and said: “Woe to you! Lead it to its death with grace.” [Bayhaqi]

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Regarding Qurbaani, even after slaughtering swiftly, skinning of the animal should only commence after the carcass has cooled down completely.

As far as kindness to other animals are concerned,

Rasulullah Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam said that a person should not burden an animal with heavy weight placed on it's back, lest he burdens the animal.

From this we understand, no animal must be burdened, therefore, if we have keeping an animal as pets, we must make sure that it be given sufficient food, water throughout day.

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