

Etiquette of the Learner: Abridgment of Tadhkirat as-Sāmi' wa'l-Mutakallim fī Adab al-'Ālim wa'l-Muta'allim	
Author	Ibn Jamā'ah al-Kinānī (d. 1332 CE)
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	Etiquette comes before seeking knowledge الأدب قبل الطلب
What Allah and His Messenger said about knowledge	<p>"Say: Are those who know and those who do not know equal?"</p> <p>"Whomever Allah wishes good for, He gives them a deep understanding of the religion"</p> <p>"From knowledge results: nobility though its possessor may be lowly, honor though he may be insignificant, nearness though he may be far, wealth though he may be poor, and dignity though he may be humble"</p>
Reasons for the superiority of seeking knowledge over other acts of worship	<p>The benefit of knowledge reaches the scholar as well as the people, whereas optional physical worship is restricted to its subject only</p> <p>Knowledge authenticates other forms of worship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worship is in need of knowledge</li> </ul> <p>The effects of knowledge remain long after the death of a scholar, while other optional worship ceases to exist when a person passes away</p>
Sincerity	<p>"Anyone who studies knowledge which should be studied seeking Allah's Countenance for no other reason than to serve a worldly purpose, he will not smell the fragrance of Paradise on the Day of Resurrection"</p> <p>Allah will say, "You have lied! You studied knowledge so as to be called 'a scholar' and you recited the Quran so as to be called 'a reciter', and it has already been said." Then it will be ordered that he be dragged on his face until he is thrown into the Fire</p>
Etiquettes within the student	<p>Purification of the heart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When the heart has been purified, the blessings of knowledge will appear and grow, as crops and vegetation grow and increase when the earth is pure and fertile</li> <li>- I complained to Wakī' about the weakness of my memorization so he instructed me to abandon disobedience. He informed me that knowledge is a light, and the light of Allah is not given to a sinner</li> </ul>
Imam al-Shāfi'ī	

<p>Al-Khatīb</p> <p>Al-Khatīb</p> <p>Al-Shāfi‘ī Hadīth</p>	<p>Sincere intention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A sincere intention for seeking knowledge can be any of the following: to seek the Countenance of Allah, to act upon it, to preserve the Shariah, to enlighten the heart, to beautify one's inner qualities, to gain what Allah has prepared of His Pleasure and Bounty for His obedient servants</li> <li>- Knowledge is a type of worship; so if a person's intention in seeking knowledge is sincerely for Allah, only then will that effort be accepted and blessed</li> </ul> <p>Giving one's best effort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge will not give you even a portion of itself until you give yourself to it completely</li> <li>- Remove all obstacles that distract and prevent one from fully seeking knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One scholar said to his student: “Dye your clothes to a dark color so that you are not distracted by the thought of washing them”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Being content with little</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “It is recommended for a student to remain a bachelor for as long as he can, so that he does not become preoccupied with the responsibilities of marriage and earning a livelihood at the cost of full devotion to seeking knowledge”</li> </ul> <p>Valuing time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The most suitable time for memorization is the time of dawn, then midday and then the afternoon</li> </ul> <p>Minimal food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Excessive eating leads to lethargy, excessive sleep, short attention span and laziness</li> <li>- “I have not been satiated for sixteen years”</li> <li>- “A few morsels should suffice for the son of Adam to keep his back straight. If he must eat more, then a third of his stomach should be for food, a third for his drink and a third to breathe”</li> </ul> <p>Preferring taqwā over fatwā</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The pious predecessors remained cautious of many issues they declared permissible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Messenger ﷺ refused to eat a date that he found on the road fearing it was from charity</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The people follow and take from scholars and if the scholars do not exercise caution through piety then who will?</li> </ul> <p>Rest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A student should not sleep in excess of eight hours in a day and night <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If he is capable of sleeping less then he should do so</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Power walking and physical exercise has been established to</li> </ul>
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<p>Ibn ‘Abbās</p>	<p>behalf after he has passed away</p> <p>Patience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A student should exercise patience when he experiences harshness or bad manners from his teacher and not let that deter him from thinking positively of him and frequenting him <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ultimately this is what is most beneficial for the student</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Whoever cannot bear the humility required for studying will spend his life in ignorance, and whoever is patient thereupon shall eventually be led to honor in this life and the Hereafter</li> <li>- “I humbled myself as a student, then as a teacher I was honored”</li> </ul>
<p>‘Alī RA</p>	<p>Being mindful of the circumstances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A student should not enter upon the teacher in a private gathering without seeking his permission</li> <li>- If a group of students seek permission then the eldest and most learned will enter first and greet the teacher followed by the next most learned and then the next</li> <li>- If a student enters upon a teacher and someone is there with him speaking to him but they stop talking or he enters and the teacher is alone, praying, remembering Allah, writing or studying but then stops or does not start speaking he should say salaam and leave quickly unless the teacher stops him</li> <li>- It is reported from Ibn Abbas RA that in his quest for knowledge he would sit at the door of Zayd bin Thabit RA until he awoke</li> <li>- The teacher's rights over you are: that you offer salām to the people but greet him specifically; you sit in front of him; you do not wink at anyone in the lesson; you do not quote an opinion which contradicts his opinion; you do not speak negatively about anyone in his presence; you do not try to force a mistake from him; you vie with other students to serve him if he has a need; you do not whisper to anyone in his lesson</li> </ul> <p>Speaking politely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The student should not blurt out statements such as: “I don't accept that!”, “But what is the reference?”, “Such-and-such scholar opposed this!” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If he wishes to know the answer then doing so in another gathering outside of the lesson is more beneficial</li> </ul> </li> <li>- If the teacher has made a mistake inadvertently or out of forgetfulness or due to lack of consideration then a student should know that infallibility among humans is restricted to the prophets</li> </ul> <p>Listening attentively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If a student hears something he himself has memorized he should listen as though he had never heard it before</li> </ul>

'Atā	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Sometimes a youngster tells me of a narration and I listen to it as if I had never heard it before even though I heard it before he was born"</li> <li>- He should never interrupt the teacher in his speech to compete with or precede him</li> <li>- He should never speak with others while the teacher addresses him or the rest of the class</li> </ul>
Etiquettes in studies	<p>Prioritizing the Qur'an</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A student must begin his journey in knowledge with the Book of Allah for it is the mother of all other sciences and the most important of them</li> <li>- He should consistently recite a portion of it every day, every other day or at least every Friday</li> </ul> <p>Studying the principles of every science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He should memorize a concise treatise in every discipline</li> <li>- A student must never rely on books alone and should depend on someone in every discipline who is an expert on the book he teaches</li> </ul> <p>Avoiding differences of opinion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initially, a student should refrain from delving in to differences among scholars because they confuse the mind</li> <li>- He should master a single book in one science or, if possible, a book in each science according to one methodology</li> <li>- If his teacher's method is to relate all schools of thought with their differences and not settle on a single opinion then he should refrain from studying with him</li> </ul> <p>Understanding narrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The student should analyze each hadith's chain, its narrators, its meanings, its rulings, its benefits, its usage of language</li> <li>- He should give precedence to the Sahīhayn and then the other relied upon sources such as <i>al-Muwatta</i>, the <i>Sunan</i> works, and the <i>Musnad</i> works</li> <li>- Understanding the narrations is the purpose behind relating and conveying them</li> </ul> <p>Taking notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A student should always note down what he reads or hears and not be content with merely listening to a useful lesson</li> <li>- He should have the highest aspirations in seeking knowledge and not suffice with a little when he can do so much more</li> <li>- A student should value the times when he is not preoccupied, when he is healthy and able, when he has less responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Study before you are charged with leadership"</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Reviewing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A student must discuss the lessons, topics and principles</li> </ul>

'Umar RA

<p>Al-Khatīb</p>	<p>mentioned in the lecture with the other attendees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If a student cannot find someone to review with, he should review with himself</li> <li>- The best time for reviewing is the night</li> </ul> <p>Attending the class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When a student arrives at the lecture he should greet the attendees and greet the teacher specifically</li> <li>- He should refrain from jumping over the attendees' necks in order to sit closer to the teacher</li> <li>- No one should be given preference in sitting close to the teacher unless he is more deserving because of his age, knowledge or piety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Each should strive to sit close to the teacher</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Respecting classmates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He should respect the senior students as well as his peers</li> <li>- When someone approaches the gathering, the students should welcome him, be generous to him, make room for him</li> <li>- If a student insults the teacher it is the attendees' duty to scold him, and defend the teacher as much as possible</li> </ul>
<p>‘Umar RA ‘Āishah RA</p>	<p>Asking questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A student should not shy away from asking for clarification and explanation of what he does not understand</li> <li>- Whoever is shy, his knowledge will be weak</li> <li>- “How exceptional are the Ansari women. Modesty did not prevent them from seeking deep understanding of the religion”</li> <li>- It is the etiquette of a teacher that he does not ask the shy student, “Do you understand?” Rather, he should test his understanding by posing different scenarios</li> </ul> <p>Taking turns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If a student comes first to the teacher but then has to tend to a need such as answering the call of nature then his right of the first turn will not be forfeited</li> </ul>
<p>Al-Khatīb</p>	<p>Asking permission to read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is not permitted for a student to read until the teacher gives him permission</li> <li>- If he notices that the teacher prefers to stop, then he should be brief</li> </ul> <p>Supplication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When he reads to the teacher he should specifically mention him in his opening supplication by saying “May Allah be pleased with our teacher” and he should invoke Allah's Mercy upon the author of the book</li> <li>- The teacher should supplicate for the student whenever he supplicates for him</li> </ul>

	<p>Encouraging others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A student should encourage others to study by sharing with them the benefits</li> <li>- A student should not be proudly impressed with his own understanding. Instead, he should praise Allah for that and ask Him for more by constantly thanking Him</li> </ul>
<p>Etiquettes with books</p> <p>Al-Jāhiz</p>	<p>Acquiring books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He should not let his share of knowledge and effort be based on merely collecting many books</li> </ul> <p>Borrowing books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He should not prolong in keeping the book needlessly and return it as soon as he has fulfilled his need</li> <li>- "O you who would borrow my book, Prefer for me what you would prefer for yourself"</li> </ul> <p>Placing books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A student should consider the subject and rank of books and the authors and place the highest ranking above the rest</li> <li>- Books should not be used as a pillow, a fan, a cushion or something to swat insects with</li> </ul> <p>Writing the name of Allah and His Messenger ﷺ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whenever he writes the name of Allah he should follow it with تعالى , سبحانه , عزّ وجلّ , تقدّس</li> <li>- Whenever he writes the name of the Prophet he should write after it ﷺ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He should accompany this by verbally saying the words</li> <li>- Never abbreviate even if it appears many times by writing: صلّ , صلّم , صلّسلم</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Finishing books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moving around from book to book without need is a sign of discontent, foolery and failure</li> </ul>
<p>Etiquettes in the institute</p>	<p>A student should choose an institute that has been established by someone who is pious and who keeps himself far from innovations</p> <p>It is preferred to decline financial aid from an institute unless earning a livelihood wastes a student's time and deters him from dedicating himself to study</p> <p>If the institute's founder has restricted staying at the institute to enrolled students, then if someone else stays he will be sinful and unjust</p> <p>The wise student sees the institute as a place to achieve his aims,</p>

	<p>after which he travels on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He should go about his studies and dedicate himself to what the institute was made for</li> <li>- A student should not spend much of his time socializing with friends but there is no harm in befriending someone who helps him to achieve his goals</li> <li>- He should make it binding upon himself to learn something new every day</li> </ul> <p>He should be mindful of the rights of other students and staff as neighbors, companions and brothers in religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He should overlook their shortcomings, forgive their mistakes, conceal their faults, thank them for their favors, and pardon their misdeeds</li> </ul> <p>He should keep his voice as low as possible in the company of those praying and studying</p>
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