

# Greetings in the Islamic Way

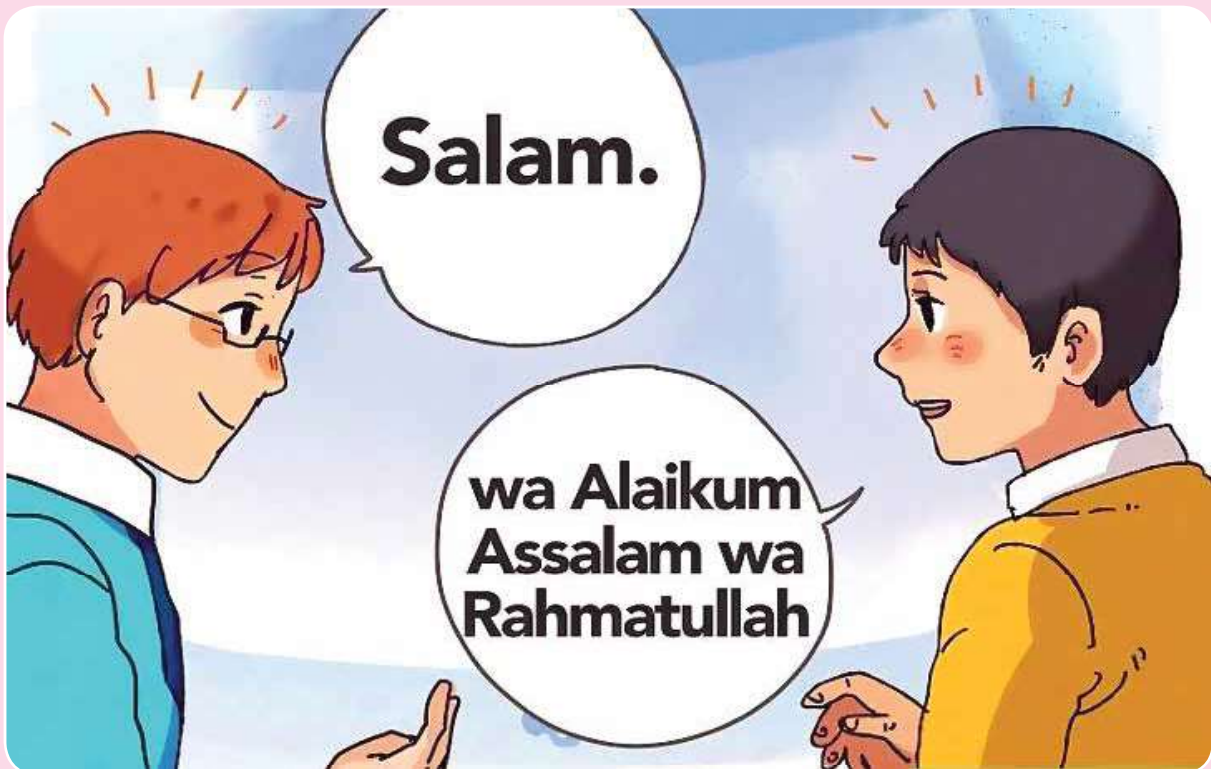
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The Holy Qur'an: "... whenever you enter houses, greet one another with a blessed, wholesome greeting by invoking God. Thus God explains [His] signs to you so that you may reason things out".  
24: 61

Salaam (peace) is the desirable word to be uttered upon each meeting. We first say salaam to each other whenever we meet

and in this way express our respect and beneficence towards each other.

Have you ever thought about the concept of salaam? And did you know that it is one of the names of Allah - the One and the Only God? It means peace, health, and being a well-wisher towards others and so, this expression should be regarded as the starting word





for constructive, human communication.

The Islamic expression 'Asalaamu Alaikum' (peace be upon you) is, in fact, connected to the Islamic expression - 'Salaamullah Alaikum' (Allah's greetings and blessings be upon you). This expression means that we are praying to Allah to grant peace, safety, and blessings to the person(s) we are saying salaam to.

As we see, the Islamic way of saluting others is, in fact, praying for them and expressing our friendship and sincerity towards them and so this expression is the best one to be used when starting a conversation or meeting other people, and as inferred from the above verse of the Holy

Qur'an, (24: 61) by so doing, we are expressing our good-will to the others, telling that we wish them fruitful, prolonged life. (The word Tahiyat in Arabic conveys wishing good, long life for the others).

In Islamic ethics, it has been emphasized that Muslims should start their words (addressed to the others) with salaam. In fact, in a hadith (Islamic narration) we read that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) of Islam has stated that it is advisable not to reply to the one who has started talking without first saying salaam. The Holy Prophet of Islam (pbuh) and Infallible Imams (as) have repeatedly expressed the significance of uttering salaam and taught



the value of this worthy and yet easy way of conveying good intentions. In 'Mizanul-Hikmah' we read that the Holy Prophet of Islam (pbuh) has advised us to start our conversation(s) with salaam and to end that with asking Allah to bless the other(s). Also, elsewhere in this book, we read this Hadith: "Saying salaam and speaking in a nice manner leads to the forgiveness of one's sin."

Likewise, Imam Ali (as) has been quoted: "There are 70 Hasanah (Divine rewards) for salaam, of which one will be for the one who returns it and the remaining 69 (Hasanah) will be for the one who starts it (who says first).

It is to be mentioned here that as per Islamic teachings, salaam should be said in a clear audible voice. Certainly, we should not say

salaam to the others in a too low voice, be it out of shyness or for any other reasons, because the others may not hear our salaam and then resent us and regard us impolite and without manners. Also, we should take care not to return a salaam in a low voice, because the person (whose salaam we are returning) may not hear our salaam and, thus, imagine that for some reasons, we are angry with him/her. If this happens, undesirable feelings may arise which of course we do not want. In fact, the aim and purpose of salaam is, among other things, removing any ill feelings and bringing about good ones among the people and so should be uttered and returned audibly and in the proper manner.