

Thirteenth Rule

OBSERVING SILENCE

Silence is part of wisdom. It is a sign of every virtue. It is the way of the lovers of Allah (SWT) because Allah likes it. It is the style of The Prophets (AS), and the habit of the chosen people.
Imam al-Sadiq (AS)

We need to learn to refrain from talking in excess to what is required. Imam al-Sadiq (AS) referred to this kind of silence when he said,

Our partisans (followers, i.e. Shia) are dumb.

Authentic reports state that the tongue will be the one largely responsible for forcing people into eternal suffering. Most certainly, it is the tongue that can devour people without even touching them, or even tearing them in their absence. It is within human nature to capture attention by employing his or her tongue.

Therefore, the suggestion is to use our tongue effectively and do not let Shaytan take control over us through our tongue. Undoubtedly, all the organs of one's body are safeguarded when the tongue is safe and taking care of itself. In many cases, silence is strenuous to practice but very fruitful in the end. By maintaining silence, we will never criticize ourselves for speculating, backbiting, or even announcing our pride, because we will have never committed these acts in the first place.

The Prophet (S) said to Abu Dhar,

I recommend you to practice silence, because it would keep Satan away from you. It helps a lot for the protection of your religion.

Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 71, page 279

Allamah Tabataba'i (AR) says, I have witnessed the most precious effects of silence. *Practice silence for forty days and nights, speaking only when it is required, remaining engaged in meditations and invocations until attaining purity and enlightenment.*

The Prophet (S) further said,

When you see a person not engaging in a purposeless chatter, then that is the sign of his excellent (understanding of) Islam.

The Aimmah (AS) and The Prophet (S) have beautifully summarized the responsibilities one has over his or her tongue, and that

Silence is golden but talking is like silver.

Watch your tongue, since this is like giving charity to yourself. You will not experience true faith unless you watch your tongue.

O' seekers of knowledge! Know that the tongue is the key to goodness and wickedness. Therefore, lock up your tongue as you lock up your gold and silver.

Silence is one of the gates of wisdom and it brings affection, and it is the guide to any good affair.

Fear God and be quiet.

How beautiful is silence in the absence of weakness. Talkative people make many slips.

In fact, we the Shiites talk a little.

All good is summarized in looking, silence, and talking. Any looking without learning is an error. Any silence without pondering is out of ignorance, and any talking, which does not remind you of God, is in vain.