

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَدْخُلُوا بُيُوتَ النَّبِيِّ إِلَّا أَنْ يُؤْذَنَ لَكُمْ إِلَى
طَعَامٍ غَيْرٍ نَظِيرِينَ إِنَّهُ وَلَكِنَّ إِذَا دُعِيتُمْ فَادْخُلُوا فَإِذَا طَعِمْتُمْ
فَانْتَشِرُوا وَلَا مُسْتَأْنِسِينَ لِحَدِيثٍ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكُمْ كَانَ يُؤْذَى النَّبِيَّ
فَيَسْتَحْيِيهِ مِنَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَسْتَحْيِيهِ مِنَ الْحَقِّ وَإِذَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُنَّ مَتَاعًا
فَسَأَلُوهُنَّ مِنْ وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ ذَٰلِكُمْ أَطْهَرُ لِقُلُوبِكُمْ وَقُلُوبِهِنَّ وَمَا كَانَ
لَكُمْ أَنْ تُؤْذُوا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَنْ تَنْكِحُوا أَزْوَاجَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ أَبَدًا
إِنَّ ذَٰلِكُمْ كَانَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ عَظِيمًا ﴿٥٣﴾

Al-Ahzab (The Confederates) 33:53

O You Who Believe!

- Enter not the Prophet's houses until leave is given you,- for a meal (and then) not (so early as) to wait for its preparation.
- But when you are invited, enter.
- And when you have taken your meal, disperse, without seeking familiar talk.
- Such (behaviour) annoys the Prophet.
- He is ashamed to dismiss you, but Allah is not ashamed (to tell you) the truth.
- And when you ask (his ladies) for anything you want, ask them from behind a screen.
- That makes for greater purity for your hearts and for theirs.
- Nor is it right for you that you should annoy Allah's Messenger, or that you should marry his widows after him at any time.
- Truly such a thing is in Allah's sight an enormity.

Commentary

Allamah Tabatabai (AR)

God says, "O you who believe! Enter not the Prophet's houses, except when leave is given to you for a meal (and then) not (so early) to wait for its preparation. But when you are invited, enter, and when you have taken your meal, disperse without sitting for a talk. Verily such (behavior) annoys the prophet and he is shy of asking you but God is not shy of telling the truth."

This verse describes the rules of visiting the Messenger's house.

- Go there only when invited,
- for a meal,
- and do not go so early as to wait for the plates to come
- or the dishes to come for the meal to start.
- Enter when you are called
- and disperse after you have eaten.

Now there is a unique style of admonishment. Do not go so early and wait for the food to be served and do not stay to chat and leave late but leave immediately after the meal is over. "Your behavior is a source of torment for the Prophet", because the Messenger felt shy to tell them to come on time and leave early but God has no hesitation in telling you the truth so he tells you how to behave when invited to the Messenger's house.

" If you have to enquire about something with the wives of the messenger then do it from behind the curtain, this is purer for your hearts and their hearts."

The Arabic word "hunna" refers to the messenger's wives. So if there is any matter so important that you have to address the Messenger's wives then do so from behind a curtain or screen.

" It is not right for you to annoy God's Messenger nor that you shall ever marry his wives after (his death) him."

The verse tell the people not to act contrary to the instructions given for it will torment the Messenger and do not marry his wives after his death because this will be a great sin in the eyes of God. The verse hints that some people had expressed the idea that they would marry the widows of the Messenger after him. A detailed discussion will come shortly.

Mir Ahmed Ali (AR) and Aqa Mahdi Puya (AR)

Generally it is an essential principle of refined society to show deference to all women. To the "mothers of the believers" this respect was due in a higher degree due to their connection with the Holy Prophet.

From behind a curtain" implies hijab (veil).

Aqa Mahdi Puya says:

This verse shows that there was a noticeable dearth of good manners in the companions of the Holy Prophet. Their conduct was annoying and objectionable. Refer to the commentary of Nur: 27.