

Beginning with the right

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The Noble Scholar of al-Madeenah

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Translated by Abbas Abu Yahya

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

From Aboo Hurairah –Radi Allaahu anhu– that the Prophet -sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– said:

ليأكل أحدكم بيمينه وليشرب بيمينه وليأخذ بيمينه وليعط بيمينه فإن الشيطان يأكل بشماله ويشرب بشماله ويعطي بشماله ويأخذ بشماله

‘You should eat with your right hand and drink with your right hand, take with your right hand and give with your right hand, because Shaytaan eats with his left hand and drinks with his left hand and gives with his left hand and takes with his left hand.’¹

From Anas bin Maalik that the Messenger of Allaah -sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– was brought some milk that was blended with water and on his right was a Bedouin and on his left was Aboo Bakr, so he drank from it then he gave it to the Bedouin and said:

‘On the right on the right.’

And in another narration:

‘those on the right, those on the right, you should give it on the right-hand side.’²

Shaykh Abdur-Razzaq al-Abbaad said:

‘He would begin with his right-hand side in all his matters due to being generous to the right-hand side. Like entering the Masjid, eating and drinking, shaking hands, giving and taking and in dressing. As for doing the opposite he would begin with the left-hand side, like entering the toilet, exiting the Masjid and blowing one’s nose, etc.’³

¹ [Taken from: ‘Silsilah Ahadeeth Saheehah’ No.1236]

² [Collected by Bukhaaree, Muslim, Aboo Dawood & ‘Silsilah Ahadeeth Saheehah’ No. 1771]

³ [Sharh Shamial an-Nabee p.62]

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