

Muhammad SAW was sent as a mercy to mankind, and as a mercy to him, Allah SWT made him kind in speech and soft at heart. Allah says in the holy Qur'an,

فِيمَا رَحِمَهُ مِنَ اللَّهِ لَئِن لَّهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَأَنْفَضُوا  
مِنْ حَوْلِكَ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ  
فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ ﴿١٥٩﴾

*So by mercy from Allah , [O Muhammad], you were lenient with them. And if you had been rude [in speech] and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from about you. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them and consult them in the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah . Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him].(Surat Al 'Imran, 3:159)*

Two qualities, rudeness and harsh heartedness, which, had our Prophet possessed, he would not have been able to change the world the way he did. Instead, he possessed an enormous amount of compassion with which he was able to deal with the challenges around him.

As Muslims, we strive to live in his example; we strive to do the things he did. From young we are taught the ritual prayers and du'as, we memorise what we are taught and apply them daily. How often do we look deeper than the rituals and focus on the meanings and significance of what we pray, and how often do we learn or teach the human qualities possessed by our Prophet?

This is what the Al Kauthar course, The Muslim DNA, aimed to teach. And based on the reviews of the 150 people who attended the course in Brisbane last weekend, that is what it did!

Sheikh Yahya Ibrahim led the attendees on journey of discovery of the character of our beloved Prophet Muhammad SAW, and how we could apply those characteristics in our daily lives.

Beginning with the individual, he spoke about the compassion of the Prophet SAW, a quality placed in him, with great purpose, by Allah. He spoke about the bravery of the Prophet SAW and how Ali RA, a man known for his strength, would say, "When the battle intensified and we met and faced the enemy, we shielded ourselves behind the Messenger SAW of Allah; there was no one who was closer to the enemy than he was" (Ahmad).

He spoke about the importance of being open-minded, as well as the importance of seeking knowledge, being optimistic and engaging in self-control.

Drawing on lessons from the life of Ibrahim AS, the life of Muhammad SAW and the lives of his companions, he covered issues such as attaining Taqwa, resisting Shaytan and the importance and methods of Dhikr, remembrance of Allah.

The following sections dealt with the family; the importance of parents and the high status that Islam gives our mothers. He gave practical advice on how to deal with spouses, children and extended family and he spoke about roles in the community, and how success in communities largely relies on individual characteristics such as honesty, integrity, contentment, generosity and many more.

Through amusing case studies and witty anecdotes, Sheikh Yahya kept his audience entertained, while imparting useful information, which I'm sure, will benefit each and every one who attended.

In most circumstances, two full days of lectures would be rather tiresome, however, for most people who attended, the time did not drag on, and their attention span seldom waned. Sheikh Yahya kept his audience engaged and interested and the content of the lecture was so stimulating that many questions remained unanswered by the end of the two days. He has promised to answer the questions and upload the answers with the audio of the lecture, which will be available online soon, to all who attended.

Al Kauthar Institute is an academic education provider of Islamic Studies, operating in 9 countries worldwide. In Brisbane, we offer weekend, university-level courses roughly every 3 months. Disciplines include Islamic theology, jurisprudence, Qur'anic studies, history and personal development.

Attending an Al Kauthar course will give you access to the course audio recordings (easily downloadable from your profile) to brush up after the course, or if you couldn't attend the entire weekend, as well as student forums, if you have any further questions. You will also get the course notes and Q&A sessions with the instructor during the weekend. We provide free refreshments during the breaks and lunch is available to order on the day. For more information go to [www.alkauthar.org](http://www.alkauthar.org), and mark your calendar for 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September for our next course, Prayer make Perfect. InshaAllah more details to follow soon.