

## Readings from the Muslim tradition

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“O humankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise (each other). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things). “

*The Qur'an , 049.013 (Yusuf Ali translation)*

### ***As-Salaamu-Alaikum***

Love grows between people when they greet each other with the best of greetings: “*As-Salaamu-Alaikum*”, “*Wa alaikum as-salaam*” – which means: “peace be with you”, “and on you be peace.”

The son of sayyedina Umar, Abdullah, radia'llahu anhum, knew this very well. He had noticed how the Prophet Muhammad, salla'llahu alayhi wa sallam, used to greet everyone with this greeting, whether they were young or old, rich or poor; and he knew how much all the Muslims loved their Messenger. Even when he came across little children playing in the streets, the Prophet would always be the first to say, “*As-salaamu-alaikum*”.

Accordingly Abdullah ibn Umar, radia'llahu anhu, tried to do the same. Wherever he went he would nearly always be the first to say, “*As-salaamu-alaikum*”. Sometimes he would go to the market place just to greet people. “*As-salaamu-alaikum*” he would say to everyone whom he met there, whether they were merchants, shoppers, beggars or even travellers who were just passing through.

One day a man stopped him and asked, “why do you keep on coming to the market when you hardly ever ask about the price of anything, or buy anything, or stop anywhere?”

“I just come here to say ‘*As-salaamu-alaikum*’ to everyone,” smiled Abdullah ibn Umar. “that is much more important than any of the things that you have just mentioned!”

Abdullah ibn Umar, radia'llahu anhu, loved the Prophet so much that he tried to copy everything that the Prophet did.

### ***As-Salaamu-Alaikum!***

*From ‘More True Stories for Children’*

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