

Blackburn Muslim Association

Serving The Community

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Dear Respected Moulana,

Nowadays there is a growing trend of choosing 'new names'. What is the preferable method of keeping names? Please can you answer in the light of the Quran and Sunnah of the Prophet Peace Be Upon Him.

In the name of Allah, The Most Beneficent The Most Merciful

The Prophet (saw) says, "Name by the names of the Prophets, and the most beloved names to Allāh are `Abdullāh (Servant of Allāh) and `Abdurrahmān (Servant of the Most Beneficent), and the most truthful names are Hārith and Hammam" (Abū Dāwood). Names affect a person's and his descendants' behaviour and life as explained by Sa`eed Ibnul-Musayyib, who relates that when his grandfather Hazn visited the Prophet, the Prophet said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "My name is Hazn." The Prophet (saw) said, "But you are Sahl." He said, "I will not change my name with which my father named me." Ibnul-Musayyib says, "So we have had roughness in character ever since." (al-Bukhārī, 6190). Many 'new names' have no relevant meaning and many have a negative meaning. For this reason, the Prophet (saw) changed the names of many of the companions. The mother of believers, Zaynab's original name was "Barrah," but it was said, "By that she is giving herself the prestige of piety." So the Prophet (saw) changed her name to Zaynab. (al-Bukhārī, 6192) Therefore, one should choose the name of a Prophet or a companion or a pious person or a name that has a meaning of servitude and avoid searching for new names.

If you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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