

**English translation:**

A Muslim family, wherever they live, be it in a Muslim country or a non-Muslim country ... umm.... They have to have good interactions with the neighbors surrounding them, even with the furthest one, the ones around them. This is one of the greatest essentials of Islam. I mean, our prophet, *Sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam*,<sup>1</sup> claims in one of his *hadiths*, umm.... if a neighbor does not give another neighbor his/her consent, that person cannot be admitted to heaven. I mean, his neighbor, regardless of which nation or which religion s/he belongs to, it does not matter. I mean, here our religion, umm... is not choosing over other religions. You see, there is no distinction, as if you can be a good neighbor to them if they are Muslim, and cannot if they are Christian, umm.... What else ... there is no difference if they are Jewish. I mean, people, people have rights. Umm.... Our prophet, *Sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam*, says neighbors have rights. I mean, if the neighbor is Muslim, they have Islamic rights and they also have neighbor rights. If the neighbors are not Muslim -- maybe they are non-Muslims, Christians -- okay, then they do not have Islamic rights, because one is Christian the other is Muslim, umm.... There are no Islamic rights there, but there are neighbor rights. I mean that if a Christian neighbor, or a Jewish neighbor that is a follower of Moses, *alayhi wa sallam*, does not give his/her consent to that Muslim neighbor, that person's situation is bad. I mean that person cannot win heaven. Our prophet, *Sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam*, says in one of his *hadiths*, Gabriel, *alayhi wa sallam*, came -- who is Gabriel? He is the teacher of our prophet, his master. I mean, there is God and the prophet, and he [Gabriel] is the mediator between God and the prophet. Gabriel, *alayhi wa sallam*, brought this Holy Qur'an in twenty-three years. Gabriel, *alayhi wa sallam*, ... Gabriel, *alayhi wa sallam*, to our prophet, umm... he is the teacher that brings down everything from Allah the Almighty to our prophet -- a master, an angel. I mean he is an angel. But when he appeared to our prophet, he appeared in various forms: in the form of a human, in the form of an angel. I mean our prophet was seeing him when he came. After all, we cannot see angels, but prophets can. You see, our prophet, umm... says in one of his *hadith-i sharifs* that Gabriel, *alayhi wa sallam*, umm... came and gave so much advice on neighbors that, that you should be good with your neighbors, you should be good with your neighbors .... I thought if he comes again, I thought he was going to say your neighbor has, I mean will inherit from you. What is an heir? Umm... I mean... after one neighbor passes away, his neighbor will be his heir. I mean, he says, he thought that for all the properties that one distributes among one's kids, one should include his/her neighbor, too. He gave that much recommendation to being good with neighbors. He brought that much of the *hadiths* on being good to neighbors; he brought Allah the Almighty's will. You see, in our *sharia*, in Islamic religion, the rights that neighbors have, I mean neighbor, umm... I mean there are many *hadiths* on doing [showing] goodwill towards your neighbors. For one, one should be good towards their neighbor.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Peace be upon him* is a phrase that practicing Muslims often say after saying (or hearing) the name of a prophet of Islam. (*S.A.W. or SAAW*: May Allah bless him and grant him peace.)

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2003-2009 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated