

Adab in Today's Digital World

Bringing Prophetic Manners to the Screen



with Ustazah' Alimatumnisa

Event Notes

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Assalamualaikum Champs,

We sat with Ustazah 'Alimatunnisa for a clear, practical night reflecting on this question: **does our online behaviour reflect our faith?**

Ustazah shared with us S.C.R.E.E.N. - a six-pillar diagnostic tool to bring the beautiful manners of Rasulullah ﷺ into digital life, so the screen also becomes a place for us to uphold beautiful character, not a place we are excused from it.

May these event notes be more than a recap of what was said. May they sit with us in the rooms we already live in: the group chat, the Zoom class, the work screen, and the quiet scroll before sleep.

fida

The Internet Is a Real Place

Ustazah mentioned that many of us focus on 'ibadah (and rightfully so), but forget about mu'amalah (فقه المعاملات).

While 'ibadat covers your relationship with Allah ﷻ (such as prayer and fasting), **mu'amalat covers your interactions with other people** - specifically how money, property, and services are traded fairly and legally.

The internet is not outside that.

Online space is another community, where interpersonal dealings still have to be taken care of. Every digital word, thought, and action can either be a reward for us or a sin against us.

If the Imams Were Alive Today...



If Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Malik, Imam ash-Shafi'i, and Imam Ahmad were alive today, there would be another volume written just for digital etiquette. Because that is where most of our days are spent: scrolling, working online, Zoom classes, and chat messages.

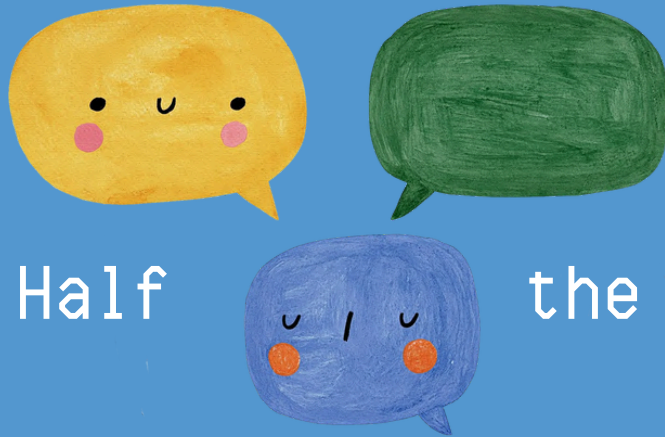
S.C.R.E.E.N.

Ustazah structured her class with
the S.C.R.E.E.N. Framework



- S - Speak kindly
- C - Check before sharing
- R - Respect privacy
- E - Engage with purpose
- E - Etiquette on Zoom
- N - Notice your intentions

S: Speak Kindly



Tone Is Half the Message

In person, tone helps clarify meaning. “*I did not say that Ahmad took your pen*” can mean five different things depending on our intonation. It can be accusation, confusion, comfort, correction, or defence.

Unfortunately, tone is sometimes unclear online. Some of us over-read colours, fonts, and emojis. Some of us under-think them. There is no way to guarantee if the other person will receive our message accurately.

Which makes it even more important to watch what we type, reply, and react. Kindness is not only what we meant in our chest as we typed. It is also what arrived on their screen: the short reply that sounded cold, the laughing emoji that landed as mockery, the delayed “k” that felt like dismissal.

If they cannot hear our voice, we owe them clearer words - and sometimes, the mercy of not sending it yet, until we are sure and certain.

C : Check Before Sharing

The Wildfire of Virality



Ustazah reminded us not to share mindlessly because even a touching reminder, or a clip that already has thousands of forwards, may not be accurate. A good intention does not make a post true, nor safe to send on. One public post can travel farther than we imagine. If it touches someone's dignity, fact-check first. Public policy and public news may be shared with caution; private rumour, private harm, or an unverified accusation should stop with us. If we have not checked it, we do not pass it - especially when it involves a person's awrah / عورة (their private dignity: anything that would embarrass them if exposed) or an ongoing investigation.



R: Respect Privacy

Screenshots Are Amanah

Rasulullah ﷺ said: “When a man tells something and then looks around, it is an amanah.” (Abu Dawud) Screenshotting a whole chat because it is “easier” can show a side of an individual that was never meant for the next person. The same adab applies to AI. Uploading someone’s face or private text without their permission is not ethically right. By doing so, we can hand their image to a platform’s terms: many tools treat what you upload as data they may store, train on, or reuse. Ustazah reminded us that awrah / عورة is not only confined to the physical body. It is anything that would embarrass someone if exposed.

Hence, a screenshot and an AI upload can expose that awrah / عورة the same way speaking a secret out loud would.

E: Engage with Purpose

The Currency of Screen Time



Every second we spend in the dunya will be questioned — including the hours we give a screen. Ustazah reminded us that time is finite spiritual currency. So before unlocking our phone, pause and ask what this hour is for - is it for work that was entrusted to you, study, kinship, or idle scrolling that leaves the heart emptier than it found it? If we cannot say why we unlocked the phone, then we have taken from our akhirah and given it to a feed.

*If we cannot
say why we
unlocked the
phone, then
we have
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it to a feed.*



E: Etiquette on Zoom

The Virtual Majlis

Attending a class of sacred knowledge on Zoom is still attending a class of Ilm. The "room" might have changed, but the Adab remains. Would we lie down in a masjid lecture? Walk into a class from sleep, unprepared? Then we should not treat a virtual majlis of 'ilm that lightly. Switching the camera on brings us closer to the old way of receiving knowledge - sitting present, face toward the teacher, as if we were knee to knee in one room.

If you must nurse or step away, turn the camera off briefly, tell the teacher privately, then return. Do not announce every exit in public chat. Follow the teacher's chat rule: some want engagement, some want silence. And watch your own attention — typing while she teaches IS talking in class.

*The interface
changed.*

*The adab of
seeking 'ilm
did not.*



N: Notice Your Intentions

What is this hour for?



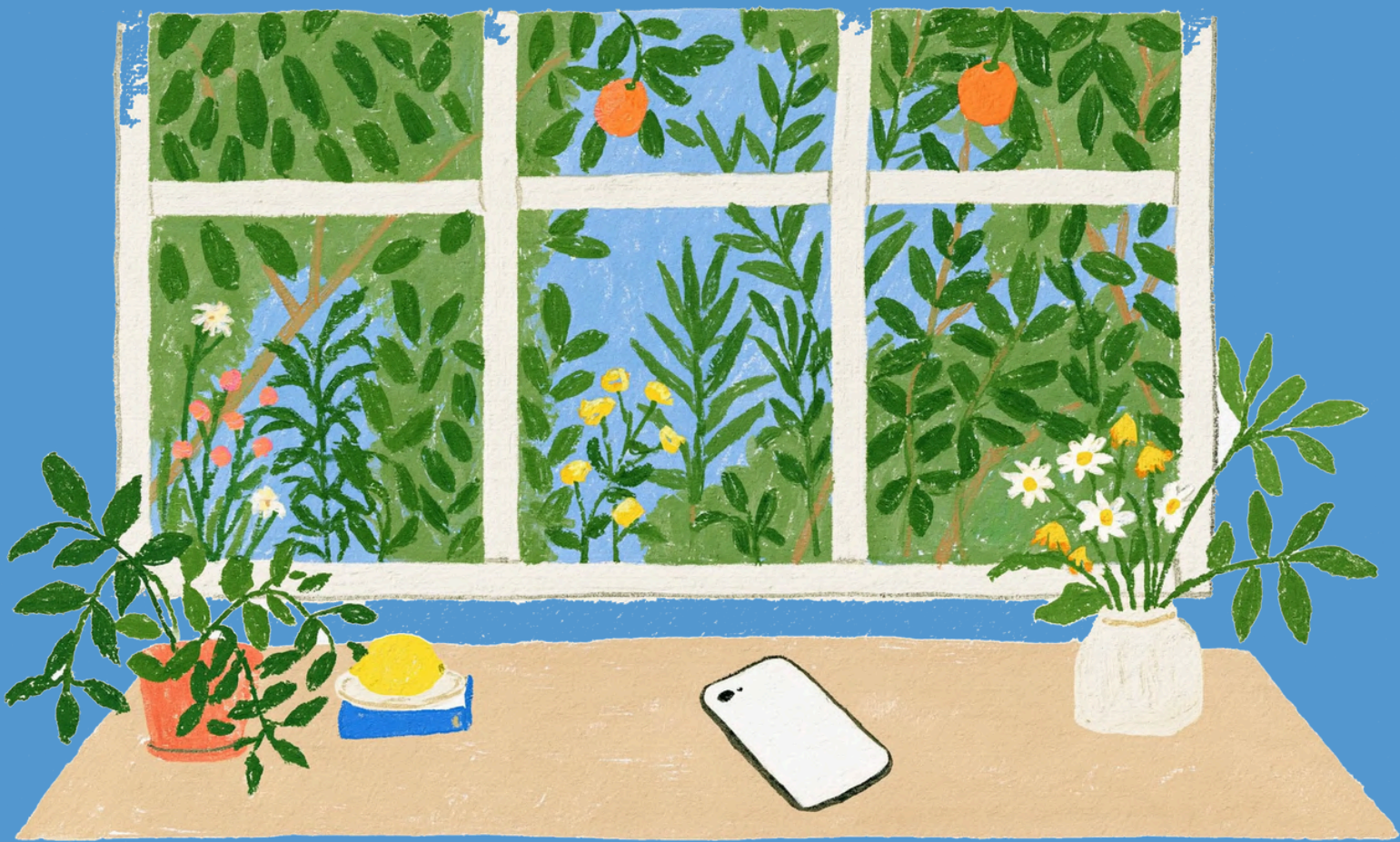
Notice your intentions before you unlock your phone or start your devices. Each click can become 'ibadah when the niyyah is set. One of our Champs, Sifa, asked whether S.C.R.E.E.N. applies at work. Yes - with hikmah: **the wisdom of knowing what the moment actually requires.**

Clock the hours you owe, and do the tasks you were trusted with. If childcare or the reality of home makes you fall behind, tell your employer the truth. Ustazah reminded us that flexibility is a gift, not a loophole.



Live work needs focus. A meeting, a deadline, a class happening now asks for one mind. Imam al-Ghazali said a student must leave distractions so watching a recorded lesson or listening to a podcast can sit beside mindless chores - folding laundry, walking a treadmill - only if the mind can stay with the recording.

Our intentions should set the rule for the hour. If the niyyah is work, work. If the niyyah is 'ilm, then give 'ilm a still body and an undivided mind.



Final Words

Ustazah gently reminded us that behind every glowing screen lies mu'amalah – every single word typed, message shared, fleeting hour, and hidden intention matters to Allah. So take S.C.R.E.E.N. with you whenever you enter the online realm. Speak so that what arrives is kind. Check before you pass anything on. Respect and guard what was trusted to you. Give the hour a purpose. Sit in the virtual majlis as you would sit for 'ilm. And always decide what this moment is for, before the phone decides it for you.