

Being A Good Person – What I Learned From My Moslem Client

Since I was a child I have always been spiritual, early teachings were of the Evangelist persuasion but exploration of the many religions was a past time in my teens. Being raised in eastern Canada { Toronto } in the sixties, this limited me to the mainstream religions. Once I moved to British Columbia I was exposed to a vast range of alternative spiritual choices, not only that which has become known as new age {old age metaphysics with a twist}, paganism, Wicca, et al but also the different ethnic teachings; Buddhism, Hinduism, Bahi, Moslem etc. I settled into a very comfortable astrological practice, taught, lectured and grew in my soul through a spiritualist-healing circle. These were some of the best years of my life.

I respect very much what my life in Maple Creek , Saskatchewan taught me. There I learned about the beliefs and practices of the Plymouth Brethren and the Hutterites, mingled with the stronghold of indigenous first nations on their sacred land, as well as observed and absorbed the “prairie” consciousness. But it wasn't until I lived in Fort McMurray , Alberta that I came into contact with what I have come to know as good people.

Fort McMurray , Alberta is a melting pot of global intellectuals, as well as, well deserved of the title “Little Newfoundland”. My mate thankfully has travelled many places and he was able to identify all the costumes, countries, or foods, sometimes beliefs and this helped me to learn more about the world without leaving what was for the time our home. We were involved with apartments and townhouses and lived in each, one year after the other {my partner is a builder}. This was a mostly Lebanese community where my Moslem neighbours made me feel safe, secure, comforted and cared for. It is like they watched over me and were there for me without my knowing they were even aware I existed.

During my time in Fort McMurray and long after I had moved to Victoria I have worked with a female Moslem from Lebanon . She has been my main catalyst for understanding The Koran and the true devout Moslem way. My grandfather talked about “being a good woman” and I think my Lebanese friend has expanded on what his 100 years of experience meant.

I have taken great pains to train myself and educate myself in my chosen field of astrology so that I can trust my psychic ability, and spontaneous intuition with its' accuracy. But when I first was counselling my friend, I didn't know the details of the Koran {the Moslem Holy Book}, nor their cultural teachings, but without knowing any of this the information coming to my friend was accurate. I was describing her situation as one would in her belief system. I became so impressed with my friend and the beliefs she practiced we have stayed in touch and I have learned that as good as I thought I was trying to be, I have a long way to go.

To a Moslem, being a good person means tempering your behaviour in every way. This means envy, hatred, suspicion, jealousy and anger are not acceptable behaviour for a

practicing Moslem. The Moslem way is to help, to be the best you can be, and to use not only your reason but also your dreams and intuitions to understand a situation. The only reason a Moslem woman will wear her robes is because she wants to be a good woman and not tempt other men because she is married. Some Moslem women have adapted their clothing to Western style, but they still keep in mind that they are not dressing to attract a man. A single Moslem woman is not left alone in the company of men. It is a part of their teachings that the man is the weakling and the woman must be the good one. Being known as a good person is a place of honour for these people and they protect it within their families.

The greatest ah-ha insight I remember is concluding that the fundamentalists, what we now have come to know as terrorists, would find it like herding sheep to dominate these good people. The second most insightful information was this reference to the male. In their holy book men are referred to as weak, and women are encouraged to provide for their men like a Queen to a King to overcome all problems. Yes it is correct that men are allowed multiple wives, but most good Moslems have only one. In the Koran it is stated that if a man chooses to take more than one wife, he must treat each wife equally and provide for them equally.

Further to the subject of marriage, the Moslems have a very common-sense approach if divorce is inevitable. The guidelines are well laid out and are applied to everyone. The essence of these guidelines is equanimity. Most Moslem women are not encouraged to work, their focus being what we all know is full enough taking care of the house, children, husband, meals and the many populated celebrations. But if they can do a job as well as what they take up as their duties at home, they are allowed to keep all the money. The Moslem man is obligated to provide for his wife and family. Most Moslem men that I came to know are highly intelligent men who have many properties and businesses going as well as a career. It is not unusual for them to have a full time engineering job let's say as well as a couple of other companies and real estate holdings.

A Moslem woman is respected very highly for her skill in being good within the community as well as being the mother, wife and family member. If she were able to have a respectable job as well, any contribution she makes to her husband's enterprises would be due back to her should he make another choice about whom he wants as a wife. The wife is free to leave an abusive husband; they make application at the Mosque and then need only not to sleep with him for three months. This takes me back to my grandfather's mother who he said, "tried to be" a good woman but his father wouldn't let her.

It is really difficult to be a good person. It takes curbing those frustrations and expanding on patience. Understanding another person's position as you would your own helps to become good. Giving up something you might really want, to someone who could really use it or needs it, is a bigger step. Start first with your thoughts and catch how many times your thoughts treat another person unkindly. No one needs to know you are doing this but it will probably become obvious as you find yourself altering your consciousness through thought awareness. If you have ever spent time around a psychic person, you

have already started to learn how to groom your thoughts. Psychic people can pick things up from the air without knowing it, not a happy trait at substance-altering parties!

When attempting to be a good person, it does not matter at all whether or not another person is good; the responsibility lies with each individual to deal with “what is” to the best of their ability. One must intend to avoid the “temptation” to give into retaliation and instead would be best to offer the person unable to discipline him or her self an alternative. It is not unkind to help another become mindful in a gracious and generous manner. Being a good person helps others be good in the moment. This is a difficult world to live in, and if we did not need to learn how to live together we would not be here.

There are many religions, disciplines, cultures, belief systems, governments and monarchies that have offered such examples to the world. But we are looking for more than appearances, contradictions and hypocrisies when we are being a good person. With so many challenges, obligations and responsibilities in today's world it is very difficult to be “on” all the time unless we are the real things. There is talk of doing the “right” thing and of speaking “politically correct” but does it actually incorporate itself in our consciousness, in our thoughts, words and actions?