

Is it Permissible to Talk While Eating?

Darulifta Ahlesunnat (Dawateislami)

Question

What do the noble scholars and jurists of Islamic law say about the following:
Should one remain silent while eating, or not?

Answer

Eating silently is a practice of fire worshipers. Therefore, to avoid imitating them, one should engage in good conversations instead of eating silently, such as mentioning accounts from the lives of pious predecessors or mentioning Sunnahs and etiquette. However, if one eats quietly without the intention of imitating the non-Muslims, but because they simply do not feel like speaking, then there is no harm in doing so.

‘Allāmah Ibn ‘Abidīn, Sayyid Muḥammad Amīn Bin ‘Umar Shāmī رحمه الله تعالى عليه (d. 1252AH / 1836 CE) writes:

ويكره السكوت حالة الأكل لأنه تشبه بالمجوس ويتكلم بالمعروف

(Radd al-Muḥtar ‘Alā al-Durr al-Mukhtār, Book of prohibition and permission, Vol. 06, p. 340, Publ. Dār al-Fikr, Beirut)

It is stated in *al-Fatāwā al-‘Alamgīrī*.

ولايسكت على الطعام ولكن يتكلم بالمعروف وحكايات الصالحين، كذا في الغرائب

(Al-Fatāwā al-Hindiyah, Book of disliked matters, Chapter two, Topic gifts and hospitality, Vol. 05, p. 345, Publ. Dār al-Fikr, Beirut)

Shaykh al-Tarīqah, the Amīr of Ahl al-Sunnah, Maulānā Muḥammad Ilyas ‘Attar Qādri دامت برکاتہم العالیہ writes:

کھانا کھاتے ہوئے اچھا سمجھ کر چپ رہنا آتش پرستوں کا طریقہ ہے، ہاں بولنے کو جی نہیں چاہ رہا تو حرج نہیں، یوں ہی فضول گوئی ہر حال میں نامناسب ہی ہے، لہذا کھانے کے دوران اچھی اچھی باتیں کرتے جائیے، مثلاً جب بھی گھر میں مل جل کر یا مہمانوں وغیرہ کے ساتھ کھا رہے ہوں تو کھانے پینے کی سنتیں بیان کیجئے۔

Translation: Remaining silent while eating and considering this to be virtuous is the practice of fire-worshippers. But, if one does not feel like speaking, then there is no issue. Furthermore, idle talk is unappreciated at all times. Therefore, engage in good conversations while eating. For example, when eating together at home or with guests, mention the Sunnahs of eating and drinking. (Khaney Ka Islamī Tarīqah, p. 13, Publ. Maktaba-Tul-Madīnah, Karachi)

وَاللّٰهُ اَعْلَمُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَرَسُوْلُهُ اَعْلَمُ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ تَعَالٰى عَلَيْهِ وَاٰلِهٖ وَسَلَّمَ

(Allah Almighty knows best and His Messenger صَلَّى اللّٰهُ تَعَالٰى عَلَيْهِ وَاٰلِهٖ وَسَلَّمَ knows best.)

Answered By: Mufti Muhammad Qasim Attari

Ref No: FAM-958

Date: 2nd Jumād al- 'Ulā' 1447 AH/ 25th October 2025



Dar-ul-Ifta Ahlesunnat (Dawat-e-Islami)



www.fatwaqa.com



[daruliftaahlesunnat](https://www.facebook.com/daruliftaahlesunnat)



[DaruliftaAhlesunnat](https://www.youtube.com/DaruliftaAhlesunnat)



[Dar-ul-ifta AhleSunnat](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.daruliftaahlesunnat)



feedback@daruliftaahlesunnat.net