

Saying "hello" when answering the phone

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Article taken and slightly adapted from: mtws.posthaven.com

(Source: <http://www.binbaz.org.sa/mat/17207>)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: Is it permissible to say the statement: "Hello" on the phone? For they say that this statement is not (a statement of) the Muslims. Rather, it is a statement of the Christians. Direct us and direct the listeners as well, may Allaah reward you with good.

Shaykh ibn Baaz (May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him): In the Name of Allaah, the Most Merciful; the Bestower of Mercy. All the praise is for Allaah. May prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of Allaah; his family, his companions, and upon those who are guided by his guidance. As to what follows:

I do not know that there is any harm in the statement: "Hello," since the people are accustomed to it and they have gotten used to it, and there is not harm in that. There are many foreign phrases which the people have become accustomed to and have come to be (spread) amongst them, and there is not harm in that. If a person says: "Na'am," instead of saying: "Hello," both are okay. The point is that there is no harm in (saying): "Hello," and Allaah knows best.