

Pashtunwali

Pashtuns embrace an ancient traditional, [spiritual](#), and [communal](#) identity tied to a set of moral codes and rules of behavior, Pashtunwali promotes [self-respect](#), [independence](#), [justice](#), [hospitality](#), [love](#), [forgiveness](#), [revenge](#) and [tolerance](#) toward all (especially to strangers or guests) It is considered a personal responsibility of every Pashtun to discover and rediscover Pashtunwali's essence and meaning.

The following nine principles form the major components of Pashtunwali.

1. **Melmastia (hospitality)** - Showing hospitality and profound respect to all visitors, regardless of distinctions of race, religion, national affiliation as well as economic status and doing so without any hope of remuneration or favour. Pashtuns are widely considered to be the most hospitable people in the world and a Pashtun will go to great extents to show his hospitality.
2. **Nanawatai (asylum)**- This is used for protection given to a person who requests protection against his/her enemies. The people are protected at all costs, in many cases even people running from the law must be given refuge until the situation is clarified. It can also be used when the vanquished party is prepared to go in to the house of the victors and ask for their forgiveness. (Is a peculiar form of "chivalrous" surrender, in which an enemy seeks "sanctuary" at his enemy's house).
3. **Badal (justice)** - To seek justice or take revenge against the wrongdoer. This applies to injustices committed yesterday or 1000 years ago if the wrongdoer still exists. Justice in Pashtun lore needs elaborating: even a mere taunt is regarded as an insult - which can only usually be redressed by shedding of the taunter's blood (and if he isn't available, then his next closest male relation). This in turn leads to a blood feud that can last generations and involve whole tribes with the loss of hundreds of lives. Normally blood feuds in this all male dominated setup are then settled in a number of ways.
4. **Tureh (bravery)** - A Pashtun must defend his land/property, family and women from incursions wherever he or she might reside. A Pashtun should always stand brave against tyranny and he should always be able to defend his property, family, women and the honour of his name. Death can follow if anyone mistreats these traits.
5. **Sabat (loyalty)** - Loyalty must be paid to one's family, friends, and tribe members. Loyalty is a must and a Pashtun can never become disloyal as this would be utterly shameful towards themselves and their families.
6. **Imandari (righteousness)** - A Pashtun must always strive towards thinking good thoughts, speaking good words and doing other good deeds. Pashtuns must behave respectfully towards all creations including people, animals and the environment around them. Pollution of the environment or its destruction is against the Pashtunwali.
7. **Isteqamat** - Trust in [God](#). The notion of trusting in the one creator generally comports to [Islamic](#) idea of belief in only one god ([tawheed](#)).
8. **Ghayrat (self honour or dignity)** - Pashtuns must maintain their dignity. Honour has great importance in Pashtun society and most other codes of life are aimed towards the preservation of one's honour or pride. They must respect themselves and others to be able to do so, especially those they do not know. Respect begins at home, among family members and relatives.
9. **Namus (Honour of women)** - A Pashtun must defend the honour of Pashtun women at all costs and must protect them from vocal and physical harm.