22812 - Adding the word “ta’aala” to the greeting of salam

the question

I am accustomed to greeting people by saying “Al-salamu ‘alaykum wa rahmat-Allah ta’aala wa barakaatuhu (Peace be upon you, and the mercy of Allah, may He be exalted, and His blessings).” Sometimes when I climb the minbar to deliver the Friday khutbah I greet the people in the same manner. One of them asked me whether I have any evidence for adding the word ta’aala (may He be exalted). I cannot find any evidence but I think I heard it from some of the virtuous scholars. Is it permissible to add this word to the greeting or not?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The word ta’aala is not narrated in the hadeeth. As this is the case, the Muslim should not say it, and he should limit himself to what was narrated in the Sunnah, which is to say “Al-salamu ‘alaykum wa rahmat-Allah wa barakaatuhu (Peace be upon you, and the mercy of Allah and His blessings).” The word ta’aala is not part of the phrase that was narrated, and if a person keeps saying it then it becomes a habit or a “sunnah”, but it was not narrated from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

But if a person does it sometimes, then there is nothing wrong with that.