

THIS IS THE MEASURE OF PROGRESS



MAULANA
ABDUL SATTAR *حفظ الله*



سلسلہ اصلاحی مجالس

THIS IS THE
MEASURE OF
PROGRESS



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ABDUL SATTAR حفظہ اللہ



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ

أَمَّا بَعْدُ! فَاغُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ ❁

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ❁

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ (سورة القلم آيت نمبر: 4)

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَبَارِكْ وَسَلِّمْ

Respected Muslim elders, dear brothers, and esteemed mothers and sisters of the Muslim Ummah:

Esteemed Muslim elders, dear brothers, and respected mothers and sisters of the Muslim Ummah: one map of life is based on the morals of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ of Allah, and the other map is based on materialism, profit and wealth. These two maps of life in the world have always existed. Behind one life is the morality of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and behind the other life is materialism.

Two maps of life

Dear readers, if the basis of the life in a place is on materialism and worldly gain, the minds of those who live there become businesslike. Where there is profit, there is attraction for them, where there is no profit, there is no attraction for them. For example, as long as a husband has money to provide for, there is attraction in





it for the wife, and when his pocket becomes empty, the attraction in the husband for the wife wanes. Similarly, as long as a father has wealth, a business empire, living with the father is appealing to the son. If the business runs to the ground, and profits vanish, the appeal for the son to care for his father dissipates.

Materialistic society

Dear readers, there is one kind of a society, where the mind works only a profit-loss equation; all associations, all relations, the loved ones and order of life, everything is based on materialism. In such a scenario, the minds of both husband and wife are also commercial. They see mutual benefit: if there is a mutual benefit to gain from, the relationship is maintained. Where the benefit is lost, they say goodbye to each other, and the environment of the home where the children live deteriorates.

The Western society is far ahead as a representation of such environments. In that society, for example, as soon as any profit seems to loom large for her, a woman leaves her husband. Similarly, if he finds a more beautiful woman than his wife, the husband leaves his wife for beauty. No wonder almost every third woman is divorced. One example is senior homes: when there is no profit left in the life of an old father, his children set him up a separate house and leave him there because he is no longer profitable.





Muslims as victims of materialism

Dear readers, it has to be said with great regret that today Muslims are also on this path. Divorce used to be occasional in families. Now the rates of divorce are also increasing in many respected families because the minds have become profit oriented. When the map of life is based on profit and loss, then in situations where there is a greater profit to achieve, the father will leave his son, the son will leave his father, the husband will leave his wife, the wife will leave her husband, a brother will leave his brother, business partners will leave each other, and those living together will say goodbye to each other.

Respected Muslims, this is the tragedy of a society based on profit and loss. Even the education of children is also calculated for profit. The idea becomes to educate the child in a way that is more lucrative in future. Children are taught in programs where they can bring in more money in their future. The same thinking applies to the choice of when establishing marriages. Only in families which have a great status, the idea of marrying one's son or daughter is given realistic thought.

Disadvantages of materialism

Dear readers, this map of life has always been present in the world: where the thought of profit exists, so does the thought of materialism, and then, everything can be sold. In such a society, justice is obtained at a price, authors and journalists are sold, talents can be sold, and





the values and morals are also sold. Humans are put up at prices, similar to sheep and goats in an open market. Where on one occasion the pen of an author will write words of praise in honor of a great *mujahid*, on another occasion, the same author will go on praising a traitor, or someone who has sold his religion; all because the author is a slave of money.

If someone gets a hundred rupees working at an Islamic institution, and he finds working in a Christian institution will give him five more rupees, he will work for them. And if a Jewish institution offers ten rupees more, he will start working for them. For such a person, values mean nothing, nor does morality. Profit is what carries meaning for him, everything else is worthless. He can be bought and sold by anyone at a price. He will sell his talents, his intelligence, his penmanship – everything.

Measuring progress on material profit

Dear readers, teaching the way to make profits is ingrained in the education of a materialistic society. The governments formed there are of the same standards, and in fact they are not governments, but merely organized and secure business entities, whose job is not to create profits, but to make profits. They do not care about the morals of their subjects, nor do they care about their characters. Rather, they focus on the sources of the wealth. Their eyes are fixed on where the money comes from. Cinemas and film-making industries, which are the





root of moral crimes, also flourish under this government. This is because the government is interested in minting money, it is concerned with maximizing resources of wealth, and these sources serve to get the government with wealth.

Liquor trade is also expanded at the hands of such a government, the filth of obscenity and pornography, which spread the plague of immorality, are also protected under government law. Then there are organized gambling establishments, which are draped with beautiful, creative names. Large interest-bearing institutions thrive under the auspices of a materialistic government. All this is because this government has nothing to do with moral reform and training. Its job is only to make a profit, no matter how much the nation, the people and the society deteriorate morally, no matter how much it declines into the depths of depravity.

Life on the lips of humanity

Dear readers, the truth is that the material life is running this world at the moment, materialism has had impacts reaching far and wide. In societies and governments which are based on materialism, products like paper, iron, wood, glass, all develop, but humanity begins to rot, morality declines, and ethics become a disinterested facet of life.

In such a society, paper takes thousands of shapes, iron is molded in hundreds of ways, beautiful sculptures of





stone are made, new forms of wood are created, novel pictures of plastic are fashioned, and innovative glass formations are developed. While materialism thrives in this society, humanity is in a steep decline. Humanity does not remain as it used to, material things have value, yet a human does not. There is a value for money, there is a value for car, there is a value for a bungalow, but for humanity, there is no value.

Plight of the Western society

Dear readers, material government and material societies of the world have reached that height of progress where if we step, it seems to us that they are a century ahead of us and we are a century behind them. But if you look at their lives, you will know the underlying reality. Many of their families have disintegrated, the name and concept of social life has erased, father-son relationships have ended, and the concept of marital life has vanished. In that society, humanity is in such a state of turmoil that it is unimaginable. Who would want to take their life by their own hands? Perhaps no one, and yet twenty-one people attempt suicides every thirty-one seconds. One person succeeds, twenty fail. Such is the astonishing average number of suicides per second in the societies considered at the apex of materialism.

The unfortunate Muslims of the East

Dear readers, today when the societies in the East are





following the same direction as Western societies, you hear that a 17-year-old girl, living in a large house of two thousand yards, apparently leading a happy life at home, commits suicide. An 18-year-old boy, living in a beautiful bungalow, takes his own life. A highly paid officer slaughters the lives of his children with his own hands. What is this monstrosity? Someone put this in a beautiful verse:

Don't assess maps, meet people

You'll find out what is living, what is dying

Dear Muslims, if high-rise buildings, mansions and bungalows, fashionable cars and glamorous riders, glittering clothes, precious jewelry were the metrics of a progressive humanity, societies in the West would have been at the cusp of progress, but that is not the case: humanity in the West is disgusted with their dirty lives. Their society is in a complete disarray. The unfortunate Muslim living in an Eastern society, who is woefully unaware of his wealth, is being taught the lesson of the glorious Western society. He is being shown their living standards, and the glow of the West, but he is not made conscious of how many internal diseases the Western society is suffering from.

Horrible images of Western civilization

If a person becomes unnaturally fat and his body becomes heavy, an observer from afar can mistake him





to be very healthy. But they would not really know how many deadly diseases the fat person may be carrying. In the same way, a society based on materialism has a great radiance from afar, but it is like this unnatural spread of a human body. A closer look will give an idea of how many diseases that society is carrying, and how upset and miserable the humanity is in that society. Ask someone who their father is, and you will find thousands of children who do not even know their father's name. Ask someone their mother's name, and hundreds of children will not know who their mothers are. In these societies, women are discarded like tissue papers, and old fathers breathe their last breaths in loneliness, with great sadness.

Dear Muslims, although materialism is on the rise in their society, unfortunately, the Western society is basically based on profit and materialism. It is a society devoid of the morality of prophethood; humanity will eternally be disturbed there. Iron, paper and other material things will prosper, but humanity will never be able to live happily there.

What is a successful life?

Pause, and take a look at the life inside your home, which is your little universe. If the carpets are well adorned, the furniture is splendid, everyone drives their individual cars, the house is built on three thousand yards, but no one there is ethical, and all are devoid of morals. Think if life in this home will be called pleasant? Will this life be called a





successful life? Would this life be called advanced?

Someone may say, how is it that despite the fine carpets in your house, the exquisite furniture, hefty income, and glittery clothes of the lady of the house, why is the life so disturbing? The answer will be that the people of this house are not good.

Dear Muslims, even if a house is made of clay and tree fronds, no matter how devoid of material wealth they may be, if the people of this house have been trained by the morals of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and their house runs on the teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, indeed, the people in this house will lead happy and successful lives inside this house, and that house will become a home.

وائے ناکامی متاع کارواں جاتا رہا
کارواں کے دل سے احساس زیاں جاتا رہا

Dear Muslims, all of one's possessions were lost and so were their feelings. Is it not a spectacle that a Muslim is not aware of the direction he has taken?

The thorns of material life

Remember, in a materialistic world, the whole mind revolves around profit, then one should not expect that the husband will remain faithful to the wife, or if the respect of the husband will remain so in the heart of the wife; do not expect the children in this society to respect or care for the aging parents; do not expect your brother to be your helper in life. Like everyone else, he serves





profit, he has an eye for business; wherever he will get a good profit, he will maintain friendships there, and soon, disloyalty will cloud his eyes.

In such a society, all the threads of trust are broken. There is no atmosphere of good faith. Everyone feels in some form of threat from someone else, a husband constantly remains on the lookout for faithlessness in his wife, a father keeps questioning if their son will care for him in old age, a brother feels he can be left high and dry any time by his own brother.

Dear Muslims, these are the thorns of materialism that are hurting humanity today. These are the hot embers of which humanity is feeling the singe from, which have taken away the peace of human life, and have destroyed the comfort of a domestic life, which has thrown away the confidence of life from them. These thorns and embers keep reminding these people that they have nothing, in spite of everything.

How does change originate?

Dear Muslims, it is a pity that even after suffering from so much looting at their hands, we are still hoping that something will change at our country's national leadership, and that my nation wants change. If Muslims think that, clearly, they are not conscious, if today they are considering their leaders as people with bad characters, people who are immoral, whose language is disgusting and so is their character. Do we honestly expect these





leaders to change our nation, the leaders who are accompanied by musicians, the leaders whose language is filthy? Dear Muslims, change in the *ummah* can come from only one aspect, and that is the praiseworthy attributes of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the greatest man in the universe. Until we draw the light from the life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, to shed on our lives, our lives will never turn for good in this nation.

Quality of change and development

Dear Muslims, not every development and every change is good. Common sense should also be used when assessing which measures of development are actually worthwhile. Swelling of the feet is apparent progressing of the feet; they used to be thin, now they have blossomed. Six fingers instead of five should be seemingly a progress. But are these signs of progress or abnormality? Would anyone really consider it an improvement? Only that progress is good which is achieved by the light of Allah's beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Only that change is good which has been drawn from the light of Allah's beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

The high character of a believer

Dear readers, materialism has also shown the color that despite being raised in a Muslim household, the child grows up to serve Jews and Christians. The child was





nursed by a Muslim mother, and he was raised by a Muslim father, and he was bred on Muslim soil. And yet, when he grew up, he became a part of the machinery of the disbelievers. How unfortunate!

One of the incidents of Maulana Abdul Rahim Rai Puri رحمۃ اللہ علیہ provokes faith quite a bit. When the British won the War of Independence in India in 1857, a college was built inside Bareilly.

Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ had a monthly salary of ten rupees in a religious institution at that time. A British officer tried to recruit him, saying, "Maulana, come to our institution, you will get two hundred rupees a month." Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ said, "I have a berry tree in my house in Rampur. I like its berries very much. If I come to Bareilly, the berries will get away from my hands." The British began to explain to him, saying, "We will also get berries from Rampur." Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ replied, "The problem is that I get ten rupees there. If I come to you, that will get out of my hands." The British said, "We are giving you two hundred rupees a month, do you not understand that? You are talking about ten rupees!" That is, the British still did not understand the truth.

Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ said, "I have some students there, I fear that their education will be lost if I relocate." The British said, "We will fix a stipend from them as well, and we will call them here to be taught by you." At last, Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ fired the last arrow from his quiver, at which the British, who was part of the conquerors in India, was defeated and





there was no response from him. Hazrat ﷺ said, “Look, the thing is, if Allah ﷻ asks me in His court on the Day of Resurrection if I sold my skills in the market of what He gave me, how will I dare reply?” This is an example of the high character of Muslims.

The tragedy of today's Muslims

Dear Muslims, let us see our own situation, and take a look at our environment. Today's Muslim has become a product that can be bought or sold. He sells all his abilities. No wonder the disbelievers say that his mother can also be bought. What a mockery for Muslims! Why do the disbelievers think like that about the Muslims? That is because they have seen that for a long time Muslims have been living a life of materialism, and they only consider profit or loss as a measure for success, so now whether he is a bigshot or a small timer, a rich or a poor person, an urban dweller or a resident of rural areas, a ruler or a subject, anyone can easily be purchased.

Morals of the Prophet ﷺ

Hazrat Sa'd bin Hisham رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ asked Umm al-Mu'minin Hazrat Ayesha رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا :

أَخْبَرْتَنِي بِخُلُقِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ، قَالَتْ: كَانَ خُلْفَهُ الْقُرْآنَ، أَمَا تَقْرَأُ
الْقُرْآنَ قَوْلَ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى خُلُقِ عَظِيمٍ .

“Umm al-Mu'minin, inform me of the morals of the





Messenger of Allah ﷺ." Umm al-Mu'minin said, "The morals of the Prophet ﷺ were in accordance with the Quran. Haven't you read in the Quran the saying of ALLAH ﷻ about Prophet ﷺ And You are surely on an excellent standard of character." (Musnad Ahmed)

That is, the morality of Allah's beloved Prophet ﷺ is the whole Quran. If you want to see the morals of the Beloved of Allah ﷻ, then look at the Quran. If you want to see the Quran, then look at the Beloved of Allah ﷻ. Dear Muslims, unless we do not utilize this source of light as the basis of our life, as the foundation of our homes, as the bedrock of our society, as the source of truth for our governments, Muslims will not be able to progress.

The exemplary morality of Muslims

When India was under British occupation, a case came up in the court. The Muslims claimed on a piece of land that it belonged to their mosque, while the Hindus laid a claim to the land belonging to their temple. The incident took place in Kandhla, a small town in Muzaffarnagar. The judge was English, and as the case came before him, he saw that the Muslims were on side, and the Hindus were on the other side. Separately, he asked the Muslims, "Do you trust a Hindu who can be called for an opinion on this matter?" The Muslims thought and said that they did not trust anyone. Then the Hindus were called and asked, "Is there anyone among the Muslims whom you can trust that he does not lie?" They said "Yes, there is





an elder in our town, Mufti Elahi Bakhsh Sahib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. We know him that he never lies. We can trust him that he will not lie, even today.”

The English magistrate summoned Mufti Elahi Bakhsh Sahib رحمۃ اللہ علیہ. He wrote back saying that he had sworn he would never see the face of a British person, because of the brutal execution of many *ulema* by the British in the War of Independence, and this time was not long after. The judge insisted on his participation, saying, “You must come, you do not need to turn your face toward me, but this matter is very delicate, and the decision is on you.” Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ relented to come, and his face was away from the English judge. The eyes of the people were on the face of Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ to see what verdict he would deliver. Hazrat رحمۃ اللہ علیہ said, “Yes, this place belongs to Hindus, and not Muslims.” And so, the decision on the piece of land was made in favor of the Hindus. However, because of upholding his high moral values, the Muslim elder captured the hearts of thousands of Hindus. At the spot, hundreds of Hindus took *shahadah*, “La ilaha illa Allah Muhammad Rasoolullah.” By giving a small piece of land, hundreds of Hindus got the wealth of Islam. It was said by someone on this occasion, that Muslims indeed lost, but Islam won.

The special distinction of the East

Dear readers, in the past, the character of a Muslim was one of great strength. This character was grounded in truth, morality and honesty. When the East used to be overwhelmingly Muslim, there were Islam was geographically widespread, and the life of a Muslim





was ideal. The father-son relationship, and indeed other relationships and associations were free from materialism; they were purely spiritual and heartfelt, like a pure bond between a teacher with a student, and the relationship between a student with a teacher.

Dear Muslims, all these relationships used to be so strong that they used to be incomparable. The children served their parents not only in life, but also after death; the children used to remain connected with the connections of their father even after his passing away, they were treated with gifts and love, with the only reason being that those people were friends of their father's. Even after life, his father's associations were kept alive. Thanks to the morality in Islamic traditions, this was a special feature of Eastern society.

The virtue of the Eastern woman

If an Eastern woman's husband has been out of her sight for years, is it possible for her to become interested in someone else? Never! And this has been the beauty of the maidens of heaven within her. As Allah ﷻ says:

"فَمِنْ قَصْرَتِ الطَّرْفِ لَمْ يَطْمِئِنَّ أَنْسُ قَبْلَهُمْ وَلَا جَانٌّ"

"In them there will be maidens restraining (their) glances, whom neither a man might have touched before them, nor a Jinn." (الرحمن: ٥٦)

These women did not look up in other men's eyes, they used to sacrifice their lives in anticipation of their husbands, but never committed infidelity.





Colors of love and affection

In the days gone by, fathers used to sacrifice everything for their children. In the hearts of the fathers used to be such compassion for the children, which is now considered stuff of storybooks. There was exemplary brotherhood between brothers. That used to be the beauty of the society one could see fifty or sixty years ago. If there was an elder in a house in a neighborhood, he would be considered a respected elder for the entire neighborhood, and a child at one home used to be treated as one of their own by everyone. There was such openness between the families that each house was considered a home for anyone in the neighborhood. Today, sadly, even an elder of one's house is not considered an elder, nor is he respected as such. Remember, when the training of children is based on materialism, then this beautiful aspect of life will not be seen. Materialism is not the spirit of life, but morality and good character are the essence of life.

Correct the course of your life

Dear readers, the map of life should be based on the morality of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. We should build our lives on principles of Islamic morality, we should put these principles first in the upbringing and education of our children. My first concern for my child should be that his morals are in accordance with the Sunnah. The criterion to bring a new daughter-in-law to my house





should be this Sunnah as a standard. Setting up the environment of my home should follow this map.

Contrary to this, nowadays, there is only one thought: that of materialism. A large part of my prayers is dedicated to these materialistic gains. My anxiety and worry, my stress and my sobbing, all of it is devoted to materialistic goals. Lying is its norm, and this lifestyle is devoid of civilization. It is unfortunate that no one says today, that they are concerned that their children have lost their morals, it is sad that no one cries that the language their children use is offensive and immoral.

When do we deserve righteous rulers

Dear Muslims, one map of leading this life has been given to us by the Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. When the society is built on this map, and the lives are lived in this way, then Allah ﷻ gives Muslims an empire and a government, which is not focused on minting money, but first on building the morals and good character of the nation. Then this government has such a code and a manifesto, under which the foremost priority is the building of the nation.

Dear readers, there are two great sources to build a nation. One is education, and the other is media. When the government is secular, it uses both these tools to make money. Even if the plague of immorality continues to spread within the nation, but if the government is resolute to draw light from the life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, then for the government, the foremost





priority remains to improve the morals of the nation. To that end, they use both these sources in a positive way. As a result, the nation is properly trained and built. The rest of the material gain is secondary in their eyes.

When the Caliph of the Muslims, Hazrat Umar bin Abdul Aziz رضي الله عنه took over the Caliphate, and implemented the system of justice, he took the light from the life of the Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم in every matter, but the income in the treasury began to decrease. One of his officials said the system he had set up is obtaining less money. Hazrat رضي الله عنه replied, "Allah sent His beloved Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم as a guide, not to collect taxes and levies."

In other words, Hazrat رضي الله عنه explained the role of a just ruler and the interpretation of an Islamic government in two sentences: that the foremost priority of an Islamic government is the moral training of the nation, not to make money.

The result of moral decay

When the nation itself becomes immoral, then such people come to power who are constantly quarreling with one another. Their language is filthy, and their ethics are depraved. Just looking at their wicked characters makes one's head to bow in shame. Such people become the leaders of the nation, about whom my beloved Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

وَسَادَ الْقَبِيلَةَ فَاسِقُهُمْ وَكَانَ زَعِيمُ الْقَوْمِ أَرْدَلَهُمْ.

"The most wicked man will lead the nation, and the representative of the nation will be the most dishonorable





man.” (Tirmdhi)

That is, the ruler of the nation will be the most wicked man, and the leader of the nation will possibly be the worst man of the nation. But when morality and the feeling of right and wrong within a nation disappears, the nation runs after such a depraved leader. That is why they raise the slogans of these leaders to live long.

Dear Muslims, beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ spoke the truth; when material gains and losses become the “be-alls and end-alls” in the eyes of the nation, then the one who is a storyteller of profit and losses means everything to them, and the one who pitches fake promises means everything to those people.

By God, have a conscience!

The cunning of others, the naivety of one's own

My dear, the tune of profit has become to such an extent that if the disbelievers say that we will rule over you, the life of all of you will be very good. These materialistic Muslims will immediately show readiness, because their When we are accepting agents, we will also accept masters. When our support is for their agents, who thrive on foreign money, the nation will also welcome their foreign masters.

But remember, the infidels are very wise; they know that if they control the minds of our people, we will wear what they say, we will eat what they say, we will use what they give us, we will stand by those for whom they will give us guidance. Our daily routines would be as they would like.





Our support, our slogans, and our language will reflect the issues they want us to discuss.

Dear readers, the enemies of Islam are very satisfied that they have captured the thinking of us Muslims, even from afar. It does not matter if they are physically staying away, they know we will virtually stay with them. The lands we grow crops on will be ours, the labor will be ours, the blood and sweat in toiling on the land will be ours, but the capital and profits will go to them; whether this profit comes out in the name of education, whether it comes out in the name of medical treatments, whether it comes out in the name of travel and entertainment, or whether it comes out in the name of investment in multinational companies.

Hard work and effort to improve those in our circles

Dear Muslims, it takes a lot of painstaking effort to strive for reform and positive change, and everyone has to work hard in his or her area. We have to become familiar with the lives our ancestors led, we have to see the glorious lives of our predecessors, we have to teach and narrate those glorious characters to our children and our generations. Then only will these generations survive, otherwise tomorrow they will sell all that we hold dear for a few bucks. They will sacrifice everything for meaningless gains. If we commercialize their minds and put materialism in their hearts and minds, they will give it all away. No trace of faith and Islamic values will remain with them.





Dear readers, this arduous work has to be done by both parents – the father and the mother. And no matter which field a person is in, the abilities that Allah ﷻ has given them, the resources they have been blessed with, each of them have to worry about our collective future, and do something about it. Some people can put in their efforts, some people can devote their talents, some people can invest their capital resources, and some people can beg to Allah at nights for our shared progress. When the nation as a whole is mobilized, courageous and determined, then only can it move in the right direction. Then only will the help from Allah ﷻ will come. Otherwise we will be a witness to a thousand political changes, and still nothing meaningful will happen.

The path to the success of humanity

Dear readers, the map of a life which is based on ethics and morality is actually a successful map. Allah ﷻ says in Quran:

"وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ"

"And You are surely on an excellent standard of character." (القلم: ٤)

Whenever a prophet came to the world, his foremost priority was the training of his nation and the correctness of their morals. Then if that nation uses materialism, it becomes beneficial, not harmful. And if there is no nurturing their characters, if there is no morality, then however much materialism gains are accrued, it will remain detrimental to humanity. Therefore, first off,





human training is necessary, and then the path to materialism can be taken, after which the nation can reap from its benefits. This is the path to the progress of humanity, to success, and to a happy life.

What is considered treasonous?

Dear Muslims, everyone can start working to fix things within their scope, and should begin at their homes. First of all, ask yourself if there is any space for building character and morality in the institutions where your children are studying. Ask yourself if your children are studying in a highbrow institution just to make a status, so that you, as the parents, can boast among your friends that your children are studying at that certain place. Remember, even if your children become well read, but if they remain untrained in building a good character, they may become a part of a machine run by disbelievers. When they grow up, there will be no pain in their hearts for the improvement of Muslim *ummah*, of the Muslims at large, of Islam, and of their country.

Dear readers, in the past, when morals were high, these abilities, the God-gifted intelligence, and the knowledge were considered a great gift from Allah ﷻ, and to use these talents directly or indirectly for the disbelievers was considered a great treason. Using one's abilities for the system of disbelievers was considered a great betrayal of religion and of one's country. Such a person was considered a traitor. It is a great betrayal for a man to become a supporter of disbelievers with the blessings given to him by Allah ﷻ, to become a source of progress





for disbelievers for only a few bucks. Does this person know how many days he will live? And how much wealth does he intend to accrue by living in this world for a short span of time?

Both service and worship

The beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ spoke the truth from his true tongue:

فَإِنَّ نَفْسًا لَنْ تَمُوتَ حَتَّى تَسْتَوْفِيَ رِزْقَهَا.

“Indeed, no soul dies unless it fulfills its provision in this world.” (Sunan Ibn Maja)

That is, a person will not die until his allotted bread has been consumed in this world. Then why do the people use their abilities and knowledge for the benefit of disbelievers? Dear Muslims, we should dedicate our talents to our nation, to our country, to the service of Islam, and to the service of the Muslims. This intention can also be taken within our businesses, when we are farming our lands. We can work with this intention when we serve our own nation with the talents that Allah ﷻ has given us.

When moral values are violated

Dear Muslims, when profit and materialism are the sole focus, a Muslim can become a trader and can spread the plague of immorality within the nation for just small profits. He can pollute the whole society through





offensive and obscene content. On the contrary, when society used to have high morals, such people were considered enemies of the nation, enemies of the people, and enemies of humanity. While today, there are those among us who want immorality to spread among Muslims, the disease of usury to spread among us, and they are considered great industrialists, regarded as great leaders, and they get impressive awards, and this right here is the decline of our morality. Dear readers, when the life of materialism and the society based on materialistic gains come into being, morals start deteriorating fast day by day. The people become more corrupt than they were before. Then every person tries to get ahead of each other in looting. Moral values disappear from sight. In a materialistic society, people's job is only to earn money, whether it comes from a *halal* way or a *haram* way, whether it is permissible or not, whether it is their own earning or someone else's.

Just as an animal eats fodder from its owner's field, and can eat from somewhere else that does not belong to its owner, similarly this person, who has been brought up in the pursuit of materialism, where the distinctions between *halal* and *haram* has disappeared, he also scavenges for food inside the property of disbelievers. For him there is no distinction as to what is *halal*, or the thought of abstaining *haram*, or the difference between what is permissible and what is not, he becomes a





creature devoid of such a feeling of discerning traits.

The three pillars of nation reform

Dear Muslims, we need to promote morality more than anything. We should promote the life of the beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in our homes. We should educate our children about this, and not just as a mere teaching lesson, but we need to raise our children in a good, wholesome environment. We need to create educational institutions that provide moral training to our children. A nation has three pillars, education, media and economy. If the economy and all the channels of livelihood are fixed, and yet the basic training is not taken care of, then all those avenues of economy will also become unattainable, because the first two pillars are education and the media, from which the nation either forms or deteriorates.

When education becomes a business, then the teacher has no interest in making an effort to improve the behavior of the student. All he is concerned about is how much money he can keep on rolling in. He is only interested in running a business. He does not care if the student is drunk, immoral, dirty, unclean; he only cares that the student is paying him for his services as his client, and as such, he should place no obstacle in his client's way. In these institutions, the educators do not care about what they should teach, or how they should be focusing on character development of their students, and the students do not care what they are being taught. Their only goal is to make money. The teacher's job is to





be paid for his teaching, and the student's job is to get a degree. Both dovetail perfectly, all the while there is no such thing as morality or character building. And the parents are woefully ignorant of the actual conditions, just thinking that their son is studying at a renowned institution.

Where does salvation lie?

Dear Muslims, if only materialism is one's sole focus, then humanity will die, and this is the voice we are hearing so loudly from all corners today. Suicide is on the rise, especially young boys and girls between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five are falling into this swamp. In order to avoid this terrible situation, it is necessary that we constantly read about, discuss and try to lead the lives of the Blessed Companions رضي الله عنهم and the blessed life of the beloved Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم in our homes. If we build our homes, and train our children according to this map, then only will we succeed in attaining the peace of this world, and that in the hereafter.

May Allah ﷻ help me and you to do much more than we say and listen. Amen.

وَأَخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنْ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ





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