

Daughters of Eve
and
A Society Reminiscent of Paradise

***Prepared by the Taleem & Tarbiyyat
Departments***

Lajna Imaillah-USA

**Under the auspices of
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Preface

By the Grace and Mercy of Almighty Allah, Lajna Imaillah-USA humbly presents an English rendering of the compilations entitled, “**Hawwa kee Baitiyaan (Daughters of Eve).**” We are grateful to Lajna Imaillah-Karachi, Pakistan, Amtul Bari Nasir Sahiba, and Tariq Mahmood Badr Sahib for compiling this valuable book. Hawwa kee Baitiyaan is a priceless resource of guidance and inspiration in the form of five sermons presented by our beloved Khalifatul Masih IV, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{ra} to Lajna Imaillah in UK, Qadian, Germany and Canada from 1990-1991. *Huzoor^{ra}* elaborated on all aspects of training in great details in these sermons. In the words of Huzoor^{ra}:

- ❧ Mothers build the world of tomorrow. It is the task of women to decide the fate of nations and they would have to make that decision today.
- ❧ Today, Ahmadi women will have to illumine their bosoms with the love of God. Your children cannot change without you transforming yourselves. Your children’s hearts will not fill with the light of God until your existence is illumined with it
- ❧ The responsibility to train future generations lies on children being born today. Hence, you will have to be good mothers to raise such good children.
- ❧ The best legacy that a mother can bestow on her child is of Taqwa. Your children are your whole wealth and your future.

In October 2002, the Majlise Amila of Lajna Imaillah-USA recognized the importance of translating these sermons into English so that a valuable resource would become available for the moral training of present and future mothers who were unable to read and understand Urdu. Upon receiving encouragement from Respected Ameer USA, Dr. Ahsan Zafar Sahib, Lajna Imaillah-USA embarked on this project of translating the five sermons into the English language. When the English translations were completed in 2003, the Majlise Amila agreed that these sermons should be incorporated into the National Lajna Tarbiyyat Program.

We hope that the format of this book will be easy to follow. Each chapter includes a list of Study Questions at the end of each Sermon intended to:

- ❧ Reinforce the concepts and promote discussion
- ❧ Stimulate active thinking and reflection about applying these Sermons to our daily lives

The translations were prepared with great care being directed at keeping the English translation and the structure of the sentences as close to the original Urdu text as possible. Please forgive any errors and omissions that you will find while reading this book. We welcome your feedback, corrections and constructive suggestions on how we can improve upon this attempt.

May Almighty Allah increase our understanding of these sermons and enable us to reap moral and spiritual benefit from the guidance and inspiration found in them, so that we can raise a generation of truly pious children, Ameen.

Shanaz Butt
President, Lajna Imaillah-USA
October 30, 2005



Acknowledgements

All praise belongs to Almighty Allah for providing Lajna Imaillah-USA with the opportunity to work on this project. Lajna Imaillah-USA is very grateful to Lajna Imaillah-Karachi, Pakistan for compiling this valuable book in Urdu and to Respected Ameer Sahib, Dr. Ahsan Zafar for his encouragement of this project. The enthusiasm, motivation and commitment of Lajna members who helped with the translation, typing, editing, formatting and compilation of this book is most gratefully acknowledged and appreciated. This project would not have been completed without their tireless effort and dedication. Jazaakomullah Ahsanul Jazaa to all the members acknowledged below for their devotion and zeal throughout the different phases of this noble effort.

Shamim Azam organized the initial stages of this project and worked with the members who volunteered to translate the assigned sermons. The first series of translations were done by Dr. Amatul Ahmad, Dr. Sadiqa Mian, Shazia Sohail, Ateya Rana Qureshi and Zakia Mahmood. The translations of these five sermons were finalized by Shazia Sohail who also helped in various other aspects including compilation, typing and formatting of the sermons. Additional assistance in proof reading was provided by Shazia Sohail, Saliha Malik and Naureen Choudhry. Saliha Malik and Naureen Choudhry studied the sermons and developed the questions that are included at the end of each sermon. Naureen Choudhry translated these questions into Urdu with Samrah Ahmad assisting her in the revision stages. Asma Siddiqui finalized the layout, cover design and type setting and assisted in the printing efforts of this book. We are grateful to Basharat Mirza Sahib for his assistance in printing the workbooks.

May Almighty Allah accept and bless the sincere and humble efforts of these members and give them the finest rewards in this world and in the hereafter, Ameen.

Shanaz Butt
President, Lajna Imaillah-USA
October 30, 2005



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ .

In the name of Allah the Gracious the Merciful

Ahmadi Mothers – Builders of the New World

Address of Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{ra}, Khalifatul Masih IV

Delivered on July 27, 1991 on the occasion of the Annual Convention of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Community (Ladies Session) at Islamabad, Tilford Britain

Following are some of the important points from this address:

- ❧ The objective of bringing the whole world together under one command can be fulfilled only on the condition that it is brought together on the existence of One and Incomparable God. Other than this there is nothing in reference to which we can unite the divided human race.
- ❧ It is not possible to have peace in the world without justice. Absolute justice can be established only with reference to God's existence. The Ahmadiyya community was established to bring humanity together in the name of God.
- ❧ Bringing hearts together is the basic issue. Without this neither individuals nor nations can be brought closer to each other.
- ❧ Joining the hearts is a two-part process. Firstly, bring about such a pure change in your ideology and course of action that hatred should never be the stimulant.
- ❧ When you see evil, hostility towards it should not be your perspective. Your objective should be to replace evil with beauty.
- ❧ This discourse starts from the self. Unless people see the light of Islam in your personality the world will never accept what you have to say. It is important to manifest God Almighty in yourselves before you can become godly.
- ❧ Secondly, there should be a relationship with God Almighty. It is not possible to join hearts without special intervention and blessing from God Almighty.
- ❧ The solution to all problems today is love of God. It is this love that can join hearts. The madness of love will bring about pious changes in the world. Every person will have to traverse the road to this love individually. Today, Ahmadi ladies need to undertake this journey the most.
- ❧ Mothers build the world of tomorrow. The destiny of the future world is written with the milk of mothers, whether it will be a toxic nation or prove to be a reviving one. It is the task of women to decide the fate of nations and they would have to make that decision today.
- ❧ Today Ahmadi women will have to illumine their bosoms with the love of God. Your children cannot change without you transforming yourselves. Your children's hearts will not fill with the light of God till your existence is illumined with it.
- ❧ Try to adorn your environment and surroundings with God's love. Sing lullabies of God's love to your children during early stages; talk to them about love of God.
- ❧ You are standing at the head of a new century. You have been appointed as the revivalist of this century.
- ❧ You have to fulfill the requirements of the training of children in the future.



Verses from the Poem of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani^{as}, The Promised Messiah and Mahdi

After recitation of the Holy Qur'an, selected verses from an in-depth poem of Durre-Sameen were read with melody in the following order, before this address of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV^{ra}.

He who turns to naught finds the Friend
O skeptic, try this prescription also

Forsake arrogance, my friends, for that is piety
Give up the way of pride, vanity, and greed

Give up the love for this temporary abode
Give up the path of pleasure for that Friend

Accept the life of hardship with sincerity
So angels from above might descend upon you

What is Islam but to perish for God
To prefer His approval over that of the kin

O earthworm, give up arrogance and pride
Dignity befits the Lord of Honor

Be inferior to everyone in your mind
This may lead you to the house of union

O lovers of status, this is not a place to live
None of the earlier people survived in it

Search for the path that will purify your heart and soul
The mean self should perish compliant to God

The path that finds the lost Friend
The path that offers the wine of pure faith

The latest powers that are a testimony to God
The living powers that are the means to faith

That Unknown is revealed by signs
In truth all proof is with divine signs

Whoever falls in love with that Pristine Being
Finally finds His Mercy responding

They are withdrawn as if asleep to the world
The Light they saw possesses them now

How can one love an unseen beauty
How can one be fond of an imaginary idol

If there is no sighting I'll settle for conversation
I'll settle for the effects of the loveliness of His beauty

When you have no knowledge of the Living God
You are unrestrained, bold, with no fear in your heart

Wake up, O who are asleep, it is springtime
Come and see, that Friend is at our door

Real religion is that whose God is Self-Evident
Who reveals His whereabouts by His own powers

The actual aim is to behold that Face
Finding the Known Friend is real paradise



After *Tasha'hud*, *Ta'awwuz* and recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* Huzoor^{ra} stated:

The Most Important Call of Time

A few days ago, President of Lajna Imaillah UK came to see me. She inquired about the topic of my address to women so she could choose verses of the Holy Qur'an and a poem accordingly. I replied that oftentimes it so happens that I stand up for a speech without any prior decision or groundwork and Allah Himself clarifies the topic to me at that time. So how could I tell her something that day which I had no knowledge of? I didn't know what topic I would be addressing on. I told her I would choose the verses of the Holy Qur'an and the poem myself. She need not worry. Therefore, when I chose the Promised Messiah's poem, peace be on him, the topic itself became clear to me and I realized that the most important call of the time is what you just heard in poetic form.

The Biggest Challenge for Ahmadiyya Movement

The world today is a world of confusion. Talk of unity is also with the intention of disorder. Great claims are being made, both on religious and political platforms, that there is a need for bringing the world together under one command and filling it with peace. But the claimants themselves are void of peace and confused. Their minds and intentions are confused. So how is it possible that they can bring peace to the world? The goal of bringing the world together under one command can be fulfilled only on the condition that it be brought together on the existence of One and Incomparable God. There is no other way of collaboration. The talk of humanity is mere fiction and imagination. Otherwise, in reality, racism is still as alive as it was a hundred years ago. It has disguised itself and has molded into different shapes. But geographical, national, linguistic, and religious differences are still dividing people as before. Whenever leaders of the world get together to make a decision, each one of them comes with the intention of taking back the most benefit for his nation, geographical area, or linguistic group. No concept of justice works there. Therefore, how can the world be filled with peace without justice? The concept of justice without the concept of one and only God cannot become universal; rather it becomes a regional affair. Absolute justice can only be established through relation with God, without which justice cannot exist. And to bring men together under one command is only bringing them to the One and Incomparable God. Everything else is just fictitious and meaningless talk; it is only deception and verbosity. There is no reality in it. But how do we bring people together in the name of One and Incomparable God? It is the big dilemma we are facing. The Ahmadiyya Movement is established for this reason. The biggest challenge it faces is to bring the human race, which is divided into groups, together under one command, and to unite their hearts.

Spiritual Revolution at the Genesis of Islam

As far as the reconciliation of hearts is concerned, we have seen the intense union of fragmented hearts in the early history of Islam. We have seen such tribes coming together that were thirsty for each other's blood. They would kill one another for no reason and take revenge on new generations for dishonor done to them a century ago; the fire of retribution could never be put out. We witnessed the sight fourteen hundred years ago that fragmented nations, whose hearts were not only split but were filled with hatred and enmity, suddenly came together under one command. And they bonded in such a way that, according to the Holy Qur'an, they were tied in relations of love. They became brothers who were always ready to forfeit their lives for each other. The Holy Qur'an discusses this topic at various places. At one point it exhorts:

Repel evil with that which is best. And lo, he, between whom and thyself was enmity, will become as though he were a warm friend. (41:35)

That we place a scheme in front of you that if you see evil, then replace it with beauty. Do not try to remove evil with hatred, for evil itself is ugly and unattractive. Its remedy is beauty. The picture presented by revenge is such that if someone has a boil on the nose, he cuts the nose off. The correct approach is to try to heal the wound. This would be an effort to change a flaw into beauty.

Therefore, The Holy Qur'an has put the scheme in front of us that enmity should not be our response if we see someone's fault. Transforming the flaw into beauty should be our goal. If we do that, says the Holy Qur'an,

"And lo, he, between whom and thyself was enmity, will become as though he were a warm friend."

Suddenly you will see the extraordinary miracle that enemies, who were after your life will become your devoted friends, willing to lay down *their* lives for you. This was the program initiated in the Holy Prophet's heart, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and was then molded into his actions. Therefore, owing to him a community was established that learned these ways from him. This resulted in a great spiritual revolution.

Program for Reconciliation of Hearts

Hence, joining hearts together is the basic issue. Without it neither men nor nations can come together. And only Allah can bring hearts together. Although this program was given to Muslims, still the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was addressed and told that even he had no control over hearts. Without Allah's desire, and possession over hearts, this disintegrated and divided nation would never have united under one command, and their hearts would not have converged. The work of the union of hearts relates to two parts. Firstly, by way of a pure change in one's views and course of action, that precludes hatred from one's efforts. Revenge should have no part in your planning. The only aim should be an effort to replace evil with beauty. This is the focal point. The other part concerns your relationship with God Almighty. It should be such that Allah should become your helper in this program since, without His help, your efforts cannot bring about the change that can unite hearts in this world. Union of hearts is not possible without special favor and support from Allah.

Importance of Self Improvement

As far as the first part is concerned, i.e. when you see evil, try to replace it with beauty, it appears to be a very beautiful message. One would think that every problem is solved. Women would say to themselves that they would henceforth substitute evil with beauty and the whole issue would be resolved; the world is conquered. But the world will be conquered only when you conquer yourselves. This subject starts from the self. One does not want to look at one's own flaws and remains unaware of them. One avoids looking at one's own weaknesses intentionally or unintentionally, because of the fact that one is trying to avoid transforming one's life into a hardship. Such a person has acquired the habit of presenting a lustrous façade and portraying himself as a beautiful and charming person who is better than others. His entire plan of reveling in it would be terminated if he starts looking for his own faults and they get disclosed. He would never be able to sing songs of self-praise in front of others. I have mentioned Bahadur Shah Zafar's couplet many times. These verses are delightful and carry a very deep meaning. I never tire of repeating them. He says:

*When I was ignorant of my own condition
I was busy looking at others' faults and skills.
When I saw my own vices
None remained defective in my eyes.*

This connotes that there was a time in my life when I was unaware of my own condition and my whole attention was focused on finding imperfections in others. This was the external eye that was becoming more and more enlightened while the inner eye was losing its sight with each passing day. I remained unaware of my own situation to the extent that when I woke up and gained consciousness, and looked at my own deficiencies, I realized that evil was only inside me. I am too overwhelmed to find faults in others now.

World Improvement is Impossible without Self Improvement

Hence, a man has two worlds. One is the outer world and the other is the inner world. Those who desire to improve their outer world mostly remain oblivious to their duty to propagate truth. Unless the inner world is enlightened one cannot spread light in the outside world. No matter how much you talk hypothetically, how many speeches you deliver, or disclose the virtues and beauties of the true religion, and tell people that this religion is the most attractive religion in the world, the world would never accept your word unless it sees the light of that religion in you. The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, says:

*How can one love an unseen beauty
How can one be fond of an imaginary idol*

If God is not your beloved, and is not visible through your person, He remains a fantasy for you as well as others. It is impossible to bring together the whole universe in the existence of One God merely through imaginative talk. First, God must become manifest in your being and your inner darkness must be illumined; only then God will be seen in your person the way light, which is invisible in its nature, is seen only after it collides with particles.

Manifestation of God in the Mirror of the Universe

It is very important to understand this reality. Mostly people think that light is something that becomes visible by itself. This is a completely ignorant concept. In the world of science today even a child who has studied science knows that light is invisible unless it collides with a substance and sends its appearance to the eye. If light, after colliding with different substances in front of you, did not send their images to your eye, then notwithstanding obviously being light, it is not light for you. That is why godly people are needed. God must be seen in the mirror of the universe because He is the light that is most subtle, and it is impossible to see Him directly.

The Most Important Mission of a Religious Community

Therefore, from this standpoint, when Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, became a godly person, only then we saw God. He became God-like and God manifested in him in such a way that He could be seen in every particle of this universe. If you read the Holy Qur'an with close attention and study it earnestly, then the most impressive parts of the Holy Qur'an are those that are related to the existence of God and manifestation of His attributes. His qualities are presented in different ways - sometimes directly, and sometimes with reference to the universe, and at other times with reference to humans themselves. And everywhere you will find that God is

not seen directly. But when His attributes are manifest, then He is seen. Therefore, with this reference, when it is said:

*How can one love an unseen beauty
How can one be fond of an imaginary idol*

then the most important mission for a religious community is to replace the imaginary idol with the real beloved. That real beloved will be seen by the world only when His magnificence is seen in your self. And the person through whom God is seen does not remain in need of signs to show Him. He is so evident in His own attributes, that when He shines in someone, the world sees Him through that person. This explains being godly. But before becoming godly, it is important to manifest God in your own self and it is important to replace your darkness with light. If you remain engaged in finding faults in others and claim that you will remove their flaws, and avoid the search for your own weaknesses, and feel aggravated if someone even brings your attention towards them, then it would be impossible for you to manifest God in your person.

Relinquish Contradictory Practices

Hence, this type of behavior continues to make the inner world darker and darker. Sometimes, despite this, you sincerely want to see the outer world illuminated. In fact, even though you are not ready to change yourselves, yet you have a genuinely deep desire to see pure changes appearing in the world. Therefore, there are many mothers who are involved in every kind of misbehavior but want to see goodness in their children and want to see light in them. It is a contradiction that they themselves are not aware of. If those superior qualities are good for their children then why are they not good for their own selves? And what is not good for them cannot be good for their children, in the sense that their children know where their mother's heart is and they cannot be fooled. Whatever direction your desires take, your children will take the same direction. They will not care for your words that might be flowing in another direction.

Deep Philosophies of Human Nature

The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, has informed us about the deep philosophies of human nature in this poem. He says: O people! If you want to become godly then first see God for yourself. Do not make connections with an imaginary beloved; rather love such an idol that becomes visible to you. He stated in a verse,

If I cannot behold Him, I'll settle for conversation.

If you cannot see God, then at least there should be conversation with Him. Some sort of discussion should take place; some sign of love and adoration should be noticed. This is a subject that is most needed by the world today and Ahmadi mothers need it more than Ahmadi fathers since children are born from their womb. Mothers build the future. The fate of a nation is written in mothers' milk, whether it will become a toxic nation or prove to be a life-giving one. Therefore, you have a great responsibility. The children of those Ahmadi mothers who fear God and are devoted to Him are never wasted. But I have seen such fathers who were God fearing and very pious, but their children were wasted just because the mothers did not cooperate with them. I have always seen mothers winning in this matter. The children of those mothers, who have developed a profound personal connection with God, are never wasted. That is why Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, did not say that heaven is under the feet of your fathers. He said heaven is under the feet of mothers. Hence, heaven has been placed under your feet. You have to

decide if you will bestow heaven upon the next generation or throw them in hell. Because if heaven is under your feet and your children become hell-bound, then you will be held responsible twice.

Responsibility of Ahmadi Mothers

So when it is said that heaven is under the feet of mothers it does not mean that there is heaven under every mother's feet. It means that if heaven can be attained by subsequent generations, it can only be attained through mothers who themselves have become a heavenly sign and heaven has become manifest in their appearance. The progeny of such mothers is bound to belong to paradise. Therefore, instead of addressing men on this subject, I have decided to address women on this topic today because I acquire light from the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. I do not speak from my own intellect. I say whatever the Holy Qur'an teaches. I present to you in my own style whatever the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, has said. Therefore, I have found this secret through the study of Holy Qur'an and Hadith that in reality, the decision making for the future of subsequent generations is a task for women. And they have to make this decision today otherwise the future will indeed remain dark. Today Ahmadi women will have to illumine their bosoms with love of God or their bosoms will not feed that light to their children that is fed through mother's milk and becomes a part of the offspring's body and soul. As the Promised Messiah, peace be on him said, the love of God is not a fictitious thing. Its signs become evident when pure changes occur. When it is about to rain, signs appear at that time too. It does not happen suddenly. Similarly when seasons change, even then signs are exhibited and you know what is about to happen.

A Single Solution to All Problems

Therefore, pious changes occur in those mothers who are moving in God's direction. When I considered this subject thoughtfully, many of my problems were solved. I would advise you to take care of yourselves so that you may not get swept away by the Western or other cultures. Do this or do that or take such and such precautions, all these are admonitions. Sometimes they are effective and sometimes people get even more repelled by them and retreat. But there is one advice offered by the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, in this poem, and in actuality, it has been emphasized over and over in different ways. And that is, if you get involved in the love of God, all issues will get resolved. Then there is no need for offering any other advice. Then God Himself will take care of you and He Himself will make you successful by showing you which way goes in the right direction and which way goes against it. How is it possible then that a man would leave the way of his beloved and tread the path that goes against His? Then the issues of sacrifice, of leading a pure life, and of cultural contradictions get resolved. Getting occupied in the love of God is the single solution to all problems. Generations born as a result of this love will indeed develop into generations belonging to God.

But its signs must become manifest, and these signs become evident in two ways. First, pious changes start occurring in the person who moves in the direction of God. He begins to gain cognition of his own self instead of others. Then he is not concerned about God being present at his neighbor's house or not. He is anxious that his own house should be clean enough for God to descend. When an honorable guest is about to come to your house you never leave your own house and go running to those of others so that they should start cleaning. A guest is coming to your house; why would anyone else clean his house? When you admonish others then you are practically doing the same thing. You desire that God should descend in your house; but you instruct others to clean their houses. You do not comprehend that the guest is coming to your house. Therefore, when you realize what guest is about to descend on your heart, this appreciation will make you see so many flaws that no matter how many stains you clean, some new stain will

appear. And a person who has had this experience knows that no matter how much you clean your house there is always a hidden place indicating that cleaning is not complete. And when that place is cleaned then some other places that had appeared clean earlier seem stained compared to this. And this is a never-ending process.

Successful Journey to Allah's Love

Hence, the journey to Allah's love is a journey that will not leave you aware of anyone other than your own self, and that His Magnificence should shine in your being in such a way that the world is dazzled by it. The world feels His luminosity and then, subject to God's command, you come out to the world as a messenger. The same philosophy applies to prophet-hood. People say that prophet-hood has ended forever. I say that it continues in an individual. Unless a person follows prophet-hood, learns its ways, and works for it, there cannot be any guarantee of his life. Therefore, prophets do not come to end prophet-hood. And the most distinguished of prophets did not come to end it from the standpoint that the elegance and fruits of prophet-hood may come to an end. If the adornments of prophet-hood come to an end then everything in the universe has ceased. The prophet comes with the purpose of continuing the graces of prophet-hood among people and to feed them its fruits. This is the meaning of *Khaatam*; a seal that carries the ability to inscribe its picture on other simple things. Meaning that it is capable of affirming its impressions. Hence, the real meaning of *Khaatam* is a being that makes impressions of itself, and makes them in abundance. For that reason, alongside the mention of Muhammad, peace be upon him, the Holy Qur'an says:

Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. And those who are with him.... (48:30)

See that Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, did not remain alone. Now those who were his friends have become like him. 'And those who are with him' connotes that they adopted his fellowship in good qualities. So in that sense, in reality, a genuine change comes about. But if the stamp lacks the engraving, then how will it inscribe its impression on anything? Some stamps get erased. When an impression is left, the erased portion makes it appear imperfect. A flawed impression appears. Some letters and marks are missing. One finds it very difficult to recognize the stamp whose impression was inscribed.

Thus, a man's situation is exactly the same. When a person imprints himself with God's existence in such a way that it leaves a deep impress, at that time he starts transforming into a stamp. From this angle, it is as if there are two aspects to the relationship with God. The first step is to make such a connection through love for God's exalted attributes that finally those qualities manifest in your own being. The second step is to deepen the impress of these attributes to an extent that they acquire the ability to appear in others. A stamp has to be carved out with repeated abrasions. Otherwise, if the letters of a stamp are written on a plain surface, as normal scripts are written, then a stamp cannot be made even though it can be read easily. The philosophy of a stamp is that the letters are engraved in such a way that they cannot be erased. The impress becomes a part of one's being in such a way that it has the ability to affix it on others.

The Method of Shaping the Human Race into a Unified Nation

Therefore, to become Godly, only a relationship with God is not enough. Rather, such a deep connection with God is needed as a result of which one acquires the ability to transfer the impress of God's attributes to others. This indeed is the way through which human race can be shaped into a unified nation. Because it is only God's existence in reference to which humans can join under one command. Besides Him there is no reference by which you can unite the divided human race

into one being. And for this task, as I have mentioned earlier, there is no other way besides this. The rest is fictitious talk and stories. Absorb God into you, which is not within your capacity unless you equip yourselves with love. Love is a strange power. There is nothing comparable to it. The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, has presented such remarkable composition in praise of love the like of which I could not find anywhere in the literature of this world. He says:

*O love you have made amazing signs appear
You made the wound and the ointment alike on the path to the beloved*

O love! You are a strange thing and have shown surprising signs. You have made the wound and the salve similar to each other. So now if I get a wound in God's way, it would be soothing as a balm, and when I am treated with an ointment that too would soothe me like a balm.

Stimulating Power that Brings Revolution to the World

Thus the hard work needed to bring about a revolution in this world is not possible without love since the work that is done without love is considered a hardship. A mother finds it very difficult to take care of someone else's child, to the extent that I have seen even grandmothers thrusting the child back into the mothers' hands when it is dirty. They say they will love the child a lot if the mother has made it presentable. But if it gets a little dirty and smelly, they say, 'take him, we cannot deal with it.' My wife is sitting beside me; she does the same. The poor daughters have adorable children. They get them ready and the children look beautiful all dressed. Only then they come on the grandparents' laps. And as soon as they get a little dirty the mothers have to take care of them. This happens because mothers love their children more. One type of love is for the pleasure itself and the other kind is to suffer for the sake of that pleasure. There is a difference between these two types. Therefore, unless you love God in such a way that the wound and the salve become equal you cannot provide any cure to the world. Otherwise it will remain a headache, an untidy business, and a perpetual difficulty. But if there is love, then all these issues and paths become straightforward. Huzoor says:

*Till I had not become crazy, I had not come to my senses
O madness of love! I adore you for this beneficence.*

O love, I did not gain sanity till you made me insane. I did not have wisdom. O madness! I revolve around you smitten because you bestowed on me that which even intellect could not confer. Hence it is the madness of love that will bring about virtuous changes in the world. And every person will have to make this journey individually.

Today Ahmadi women, most of all, need this journey of love. Ahmadi girls need it because they are the future mothers. It does not mean that men do not need it. Men definitely need it but they will receive this favor through their mothers since their paradise is placed under the feet of their mothers. And the best definition of paradise is love of God. Some people, rather many, hear the word paradise and think that they will enter the gardens of heaven right from underneath the feet of their mothers, whereas the actual definition of paradise is love for God. The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, says:

“Our superior pleasures are with our God.”

This means that the world looks for a different paradise. We, on the other hand, see no paradise other than receiving Allah's love, being granted his affection, and finding His approval. As a result of this, we find higher pleasures. These are pleasures that an ordinary person cannot visualize because a common man sometimes sees these people entangled in troubles. The lives of

prophets are mostly riddled with suffering. Some grief is related to the fulfillment of their duties, which is significant anguish. The more responsibilities are given to a person, and the more he fulfills them with complete sincerity, the more difficult his life becomes. People unrelated to them throw certain worries at them. They keep showering them with enmity and hatred. In such circumstances, for the prophets to survive and gain pleasure out of such lives, is an inexplicable mystery, which the world cannot comprehend. The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, presents its solution as:

*O Beloved! Your lovely glances are a sharp sword
That slice through the whole issue of grief caused by strangers*

Meaning, people think we are trapped in immense difficulty. Strangers have oppressed us in various ways and we must have been crushed under such tyranny. But then says, O my Master! O my beloved Lord! Your divine glance carries the decree of a sharp sword due to which the entire dispute of the afflictions caused by strangers is laid to rest. Nothing remains to be said. So here also it is love that comes to one's aid. Love makes the difficult paths easy.

Miracles of Divine Love

A poet presents his experience by saying that he revolves around his beloved's street day and night and is always turned away. He is continually driven out, but still does not give up going there. He stumbles, so people call him insane. They ask him to change himself. What does he tell them in return?

*O Warner! What have you said
That I should not go to my beloved's street?
We have to be stomped on by wayfarers
And still keep going*

O foolish advisor! Why do you say that I should not go to my beloved's street? I swear to God that if every passerby despises me, I will still go there. The pleasure in these insults cannot be understood without love. Love makes one go crazy. It is love that created the concept of Farhaad. All his life he kept on chiseling away a mountain with the intention that from that mountain the streams will flow which he will present to his beloved as a gift. In such a state he gave his life. What was it that motivated him to give his whole life over to this work of drudgery? That toil itself was his reward. People do not understand. They say Farhaad had gone mad. He was indeed mad for he was madly in love. He was not crazy like the usual crazy people who have no sense of their own selves. Those who are crazy for God's love have spiritual objectives. Worldly people cannot understand this goal.

Therefore, as an outcome of divine love, all your endeavors will become easy. Then there will be no need for someone to say that you should not go outside dressed in such a manner, should not waste time like this, be simple, try to be as good as possible, or that God has provided you with means but do not go beyond limits; keep some for the service of religion and try to create a virtuous society in this world. These are all empty exhortations. You will hear them and then forget them. But if you are in love with God, then your heart will become your advisor. Your attention will always be towards Him. Even if not always, you will become more and more conscious of this. Often you would do something and then hear a voice coming from your heart that you love God and He does not like this. This process starts with simple experiences at the beginning but in reality its end runs like free flowing water. At that time one does not remind oneself but flows in love. This love will carry one around and change the course of one's life. It is love that decides

which direction one will go. At that time their condition is that they are compelled to go, since they have become helpless in love.

To Reach God, It is Important to ask Him for Assistance

Today, the solution to all the problems of the world lies in love of God. And it is this love that can bring hearts together. Other than this all remedies are meaningless, false and nonsensical. They are just worthless utterances. So start this journey and if you have wasted too much time and have fallen behind, then ask for God's help because without that such a journey is never completed. No man has the power to reach God by himself or to receive His love. Even for that you need God's assistance. But sincere intention is a prerequisite. That is your responsibility. One day you should decide that you have to fall in love with God and whatever may happen you will love God and will search for His beauties. When you talk about love, then this verse of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, will become a warning for you:

*How can one fall in love with an unseen beauty?
Why should anyone get attached to an imaginary idol?*

You will think that in reality you were convinced of God's unity only theoretically. You do not see His beauty. Then how can you love Him? Hence, many Ahmadi men and women write to me in agitation that I claim prayers can provide pleasure but they have been banging their heads and have found no pleasure. There is no pleasure for them because their beloved has remained imaginary and they have not pondered over the words of the prayer, or become absorbed in it while praying. That was the reason I had to give a series of sermons, spread over months, to explain how to get involved in prayer. One sees the face of God as a result of getting involved. And that face is so beautiful that, whether you want to or not, you will fall in love with Him.

The Secret of Receiving Divine Love

An interesting aspect of love is that there is no question of control in it. The one thing that is obligatory is a connection with beauty, because love is impossible without that. A poet says that it is a fire that you cannot light when you desire to, and cannot put out at your will. Ghalib's verse is that love is a maddeningly strange thing that when we try hard to fall in love, it does not happen and once it happens, it does not go away. A fire is lit that cannot be extinguished. Therefore, a man has no control here but beauty does. Only beauty decides who will fall in love with whom and since it belongs to God, therefore He Himself will decide when and how He will manifest Himself to you. That is why prayer is important and the prayer should be that, 'O Lord! Show your charming face.' Therefore, Prophet Moses, peace be on him, since he had divine wisdom, did not pray that 'O Lord! Fill my heart with your love.' He prayed instead, 'O Lord! Show me your face,' since he knew that as soon as he would see the face, he would fall helplessly in love. The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, in reference to the beauty of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, presents the same theme when he said:

*If you desire evidence about his truth then fall in love with him
Because Muhammad himself is the evidence of Muhammad*

Meaning, you ask for proof. The proof of Muhammad's truth, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, lies in falling in love with him. He himself is the proof of his truth because he is beautiful. Testimony for the truth of beauty is never required. The spirit and the power of the charming involuntarily conquer others. Behold beauty and then you will be helpless. You will then follow it since this is human nature. God has placed such a strong attraction for loveliness in human nature

that one becomes helpless. So I will disclose the secret to you that you should ask for love of God in the following sense:

‘O Lord! Show us your beauty or the manifestations of it. Make us helpless. We should see you and fall madly in love; and become oblivious to the world, and all that is in it. And we should love you and then be unable to love anyone else in comparison to you.’

Ahmadi Women’s Greatest Favor to their Children

This is the prayer as a result of which Allah will bring pious changes in you. As long as there are no pure changes inside you, any moral change in the outside world cannot be brought about! Cannot be brought about! Cannot be brought about! It is such a decisive rule that no power on earth can change it. You should cultivate sagacity in yourselves. Replace your darkness with light, and fill it with such radiance that it can be seen from outside, and the light of your heart manifests itself. Therefore, the Holy Qur’an presents this subject in the same fashion:

Their light running before them and on their right hands.... (57:13)

Their light that does not remain limited to them, *yas’aa baina aideehim* it runs ahead of them and illuminates the world as well. Mothers need it because they have children in their custody. If you can instill love of God in their hearts at a young age then it is the biggest favor you can do for your children. And to establish that love you will need to talk about God. And while talking about God, if your core is not touched, your eyes do not shed tears, and your heart does not melt, then to think that children will be impressed by it is a false tale. There is no reality in it. Children of mothers whose hearts melt and flow in the form of tears whenever they mention God, truly love Him. The expressions on their faces change. Children wonder what has happened to their mother, what is the reason for her sadness, and what emotions have captured her? This is the impression that brings about a moral and noble change in a child’s heart. This is the essence and life of revolution. To become such mothers, as I have mentioned, you will have to search for the beauty of God while asking for His help, to the degree that this beauty manifests itself in you and fills your heart with such love that your existence melts and molds into a new existence.

Best Time for the Training of Children

Hence, for today’s address, I chose only this topic. There is nothing more I want to say because I feel that the crux of the matter is the following, and you should hold firmly to it:

There are many ways of loving God and I have mentioned those in various sermons. Today I am addressing you only in reference to the fact that if you have already become mothers, then even today God has given you the capacity that you should try to color your surroundings and your environment with His love. If you have not become mothers yet then bring about those virtuous changes in you today so when you do become mothers you are already someone who loves God. Sing the lullaby of God’s love to these young boys and girls at this early period of their lives when they are being nourished in your laps, playing in your arms, and growing on your milk or by drinking milk from your hands. Talk to them about love of God, and then all of the subsequent stages will become easier. And the reality is what I have related at the end. The attempt of mothers for their children to get involved in the love of God at a later stage, when they had been neglectful at the beginning, is a very difficult task. So difficult that sometimes mothers almost die with grief, but cannot do anything. So start your work when it is easier. And this job starts when the child is born. And from that time on, this task continues till the child reaches maturity and gains his independence. During this time, you can bring magnificent changes in him. And when I say that

you can bring those changes, I repeat the same thing to end this address that all the changes you need to bring, you will have to bring them in yourselves first. Your progeny cannot change without you changing. Unless your personality is filled with the light of God, your children's bosoms will not be filled with that light. May Allah grant you this ability. You are standing at the beginning of a new century. You are appointed as the revivalists of this century. As a nation you are identified as the successors. You have to fulfill the needs of training of children in the coming ages. This is the way through which you can give best training to your children in the future. May Allah grant you the ability to do so. Ameen



Study of Daughters of Eve and A Society Reminiscent of Paradise

March – April, 2006: Ahmadi Mothers – Builders of the New World

Discussion Points

1. What is Huzoor^{ra}'s program for Reconciliation of Hearts? Compare this program to the outcome of revenge.

2. Huzoor^{ra} explains that step one is to conquer the self. Why do we avoid this?

3. How is light made visible? How can God be made visible?

4. How is the example of cleaning the house for a special guest compared to the state of a man who sets out to welcome God in his heart?

5. How can we raise children to have goodness and light? Please discuss the full meaning of the Hadith: *'Paradise lies under the feet of the mother.'*

6. What is *the contradiction some mothers are unaware of?* What negative consequences manifest themselves in their children as a result?

7. Discuss the meaning of *Khaatam* – 'seal' in depth. What is Huzoor^{ra} instructing us to do?

8. Describe the power of Love:

- ☞ Use the verses of the Promised Messiah^{as} to help you in your discussion.
- ☞ Compare the people who are crazy for God's love and the *"usual crazy people."*
- ☞ Describe each group's activities. What clothes would each group wear?

9. What is it that guides the one who loves God? Explain what is meant by higher pleasures and what makes the difficult path easy.

10. What is the prayer that the one who loves God prays?

11. What is the greatest favor a mother can bestow on her children? How? At what age should the mother bestow such favors on the child? Why?

Hold a workshop on “Uniting Hearts”

12. *“The biggest challenge facing the Ahmadiyya Movement is to bring the human race, which is divided into groups, together under one command and to unite their hearts.”* Conduct a workshop to establish how this might be done. Refer to Huzoor’s^{ra} entire Sermon to make a step-by-step plan.

Self Reflection Journal

13. List three things you will practice for the next 30 days to make a pure change in yourself.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ.

In the name of Allah the Gracious the Merciful

World Peace is only possible through Restructuring of Homes

Address of Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{ra}, Khalifatul Masih IV

Delivered on July 28, 1990 on the occasion of the Annual Convention of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Community (Ladies Session) at Islamabad, Tilford Britain

Following are some of the important points from this address

- ❧ The world is in search of peace in today's modern times. In their pursuit for peace they wander the streets, cities and countries. But the peace that they could have found in their homes is gradually leaving their homes desolate. The modern society most importantly needs restructuring of homes.
- ❧ Thus only that society is the correct society that is based on the teachings of Islam. That society has no color; it is neither of the East nor of the West. It is neither black nor white - it is a radiant society. Hence we should try to universalize a society and make it the shared value for all people only to the extent that it is being illuminated by Islam.
- ❧ If Ahmadi ladies do not offer that model then they will be deprived of the opportunity to fulfill an important demand of this time. They will fail to bring together the entire human race as 'one nation,' (*Ummate Wahida*).
- ❧ The concept that Eastern society is Islamic society is erroneous. Certain aspects of Eastern society are Islamic, but numerous aspects are not only un-Islamic but are conflicting and opposed to religious values.
- ❧ In Eastern societies where families are apparently extensive and their mutual relations are seemingly very strong, an innate system is at work that severs their bonds and teaches hatred.
- ❧ Of the evils of Western world, a huge one is that of individualism. Selfishness has developed in society. Homes are breaking up due to individualism, and fondness for pleasure has driven people crazy; they destroy the peace of others for the sake of their own enjoyment.
- ❧ Restiveness, lack of trust, and hatred become rampant as a result of homes disintegrating. It is impossible to build nations or to create national unanimity unless homes are constructed with accord therein. The nation where homes are divided can never stay together.
- ❧ The nation whose homes are lacking peace will always have streets devoid thereof.
- ❧ Real paradise lies in building homes. It lies in strengthening ties of kinship, which is why the Holy Qur'an has repeatedly drawn our attention to them.
- ❧ If you sever ties of kinship you will be severed from Allah's mercy, and whoever is severed from Allah's mercy is lost. Despite their supplications God will not turn to them with benevolence.
- ❧ Homes are breaking up nowadays in the West as well as East. Our lord and master, the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is the sole builder of homes. Only his teachings can reform the East as well as the West.
- ❧ There is no guarantee of world peace as long as there is no guarantee of peace and internal serenity of homes.

- ☞ If you want to bestow peace on the world then Ahmadi women should make their homes models of true Islam, and present such pure examples in the entire world as a result of which mankind should once again attain its lost paradise of home.
- ☞ Start rebuilding your homes. Make them a symbol of paradise. Develop humility and love in your relationships. Refrain from anything that would cause breakup of family ties and create hatred. Today the greatest need of the world is homes. Keep this in mind. And if this home is not offered by Ahmadis then no society in the world can offer a home to mankind.



After *Tasha'hud*, *Ta'awwuz* and recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* Huzoor, may Allah be pleased with him, recited the following verse of the Holy Qur'an:

"O ye people! Fear your Lord Who created you from a single soul and of its kind created its mate, and from them twain created many men and women; and fear Allah, in Whose name you appeal to one another, and fear Him particularly respecting ties of kinship. Verily, Allah watches over you."
(4:2)

And then said:

Quest for peace

I have chosen the topic of 'home' for my address today. In these modern times people are in search of peace. Busy in their quest for peace, people are looking at every potential corner by which they feel they can hope to find peace. They keep running on all those avenues where they expect that advancing on these paths will grant them peace. But instead of attaining peace, with each passing day they are moving away from it. In their pursuit of peace they wander streets, cities and countries. But the peace that they could have found in their homes is gradually leaving their homes desolate. A house without peace is analogous to a nest without birds. People in modern society, most importantly, need to rebuild their homes no matter what religion they belong to, whether to East or West, North or South.

Reasons for Destruction of Homes

When we picture in our minds the destruction of homes and visualize the breakup of families, we generally think of Western society and see certain evils in it that lead us to believe that Western culture is responsible for disintegration of homes. But the fact of the matter is that if we look at it with justice, the East is also responsible to a great extent. There are many social evils found in the East that do not exist in the West and are playing an extremely perilous role in breakup of homes. Before this discourse I examined the situation with fear of Allah in mind and I saw certain features that led me to believe that in some aspects Eastern culture is producing more dangerous circumstances. In short, the Western culture has also caused a disintegration of homes and continues to do so and as a result of this the society is suffering increasing grief. But the manner in which their homes are breaking up is not based on hatred. Instead it is caused by insensitivity, neglect, and personal selfishness. Personal selfishness plays the same role all over the world. But in our East the cultural and social problems are such that they not only break up relations but also create relations based on hatred instead of love. The word *Shareeka* (associate) that you have heard of among families has been inherited from our centuries old culture. You will not find any such concept in the West. Many social evils have led to the birth of the concept of *Shareeka*. Therefore, justice requires that prior to exhorting one should examine the whole situation and then analyze the ailment. Next, one should draw attention of each party to the faults discovered and then give advice with righteousness and in the name of Allah.

Analysis of the Evils of Eastern Society

As far as the evils of Eastern society are concerned the apparent strength of our ties is practically becoming the cause of creating distance among these relations. In the West since people live in separate homes the concept of a big family living together does not exist; even if it did exist earlier it has been left far behind in history. But in most Eastern countries our families are more extensive, and their mutual relations appear to be very strong. In certain cases not only the daughter in law, son, mother in law, son in law live together in one house but uncles (father's elder and younger

brothers) and other relatives also live there. In certain areas they have a common kitchen, i.e. all the food is prepared at one place. In some big families even separate accounts are not maintained for their businesses. Not only in the non-Ahmadi society, but even among Ahmadis we have seen such evils where the father or the mother died and the property was not distributed, and it was assumed that one way to keep the family together was that no one should demand their share; no one should dare say that give me my share of my father's or my mother's property. The older brother or any other elder in the family had control of affairs. Resentment grew quietly in people's hearts and their pain increased day by day. The feeling intensified that the person who had the control or the one whose name was on the property, was gaining more profit from it. The result is that even though sometimes the first generation would tolerate the situation but as the subsequent generation grows up, this apparent relationship of love turns into a sentiment of hatred. Even though the intention in the beginning was pious, but since the step taken was wrong, the good intention could not, and cannot, bear good fruit.

This is an example. But in practice I have seen many such matters that reveal that bad traditions that are against the Islamic law lead to bad results and instead of generating love they spread hatred in the society. Thus only the society that you have a right to present to the rest of the world is the correct society. It is based on the teachings of Islam. That society has no color; it is neither of the East nor of the West. It is neither black nor white. It is a radiant society. Thus we should try to universalize a society, spread it all over the world, and make it the shared value for all people only to the extent that Islam is illuminating it, and its foundations are fixed in Islam. But in our society we find the erroneous notion that Eastern society is Islamic society. Certain aspects of Eastern society are Islamic and are such where religion and culture have merged together and have acquired the same face. But numerous aspects are not only un-Islamic but are conflicting and opposed to religious values. They are antagonistic to religious values and have been inherited from an idol worshipping culture. Thus it is essential for Ahmadi ladies, whether they are from the East or West, that they make their mode of life in accordance with Islam.

We are discussing Eastern society but it is very difficult to talk about the whole of it. But now when I talk about Eastern society I will mean those ladies who were born and brought up in Eastern countries. From a certain angle their society is Eastern but it is not essential that from every aspect it is Islamic as well. Therefore if they are going to try to be teachers of the world, and want to play an important role in fulfilling the intense need of the human race that it needs a home today, then they should make a good home and present its examples.

The need for a Model Islamic Society

You must have seen that extremely beautiful buildings are being built in the world these days because of the effect of modern engineering. Some buildings are made as models so that similar homes may be built on a large scale. Where is that model? This is the question that has been worrying me. What is the example that we can present to the entire human race as an 'Islamic Society'? If Ahmadi ladies do not offer that model then they will be deprived of the opportunity of fulfilling an important demand of this time. They will fail to join and interlink the entire human race in one nation. Therefore you should give great importance to the need that I am placing before you today. Since this is a vast topic therefore I will try, to the best of my ability, to present it to you in points.

Some Basic Evils of Eastern Society

Our society (here by 'our' I do not mean 'mine' because I am a flag bearer of Islamic society and I represent only that. But since I belong to the East, the word 'our' comes to my tongue as a habit -

so the Eastern society) has many deep-rooted evils that have impacted the daily lives of Ahmadis as well.

1. Considering financial gains in arranging marriages

We have not been able to reform our ladies to the extent that while arranging marriages they should focus on good girls and good boys instead of focusing on the wealth of a good girl or a good boy. We have generally inherited this habit from Eastern society and its foundations are established and fixed in idolatrous cultures. The Hindu society had many customs whereby they would attain financial gains also at the time of arranging marriages. Hence the legacy of this misfortune is still penetrating in our country Pakistan. The Muslims living in India have also inherited a portion from this misery. The Hindu nation is expressing disgust towards it and is developing new schemes that such dangerous tendencies should be uprooted. If needed, laws should be passed so as to eradicate these evil practices. But here such incidents take place on a daily basis where the mother of a boy thinks that since her son is educated and earning she should look for a daughter in law. Instead of looking at the morals of the daughter in law she looks at her home. She looks at the kind of sofa sets that are in their homes. Are material comforts present or not? Do they have a car or not? If they have a car will they give their daughter a car in dowry or not? They also cast a glance at the rest of the property. It seems as if instead of a mother looking for a daughter in law an Income Tax Inspector has gone out to appraise the property. This produces horrible consequences. Even if such marriages take place, provisions for their destruction have been made during their creation. Such marriages are built on a branch that will not survive and will definitely be cut down. Jewelry is also kept under focus. They are wondering to what extent the daughter in law will borrow, or will be wearing, jewelry when she comes to their house. I have added the word 'borrow' myself; as far as their expectations are concerned they think that even if the girl's family has to sell all their property they should send their daughter to their house with a great deal of jewelry. And the reality is that mothers of those girls who are to be sent as daughters in law sometimes give their daughters borrowed jewelry and try to secretly get the jewelry back the next day so that they can return it to the person who entrusted it to them. Thus the conflicts that take place afterwards reveal such matters. What an absurd thing it is, but it comes forward as a serious issue that they were deceived. The *Jhoomar* (a piece of jewelry worn on the head) that the daughter in law was wearing was borrowed, the earring given to her was borrowed or that she does not accept that it was borrowed. She says that it was given to her but then they took it back. So brutal is this society that instead of growing love, it breeds hatred. Mothers who adopt such unkind ways sow thorns in the path to their sons' happiness, and poison the society forever. Such matters do not come to an end but go on progressing, leading to complaint upon complaint and extremely mean talk!!

2. Eyeing the income of the daughter in law

Then there are those mothers who may not care about these things but lay great emphasis on the daughter (in law)'s education. An evil intention is hidden behind this. Their intention is that a daughter whose education can become a source of income for her should come to their home, so that she may earn an income alongside her husband and hand over her earnings to them. Such an intention cannot stay hidden for long. Once marriage takes place the girls are forced to find jobs, work hard, and then hand over their income to them. These are un-Islamic practices. Such practices do not exist in the West. If homes are breaking up in the West it is not due to hatred. Their homes disintegrate due to rising inclination towards material pleasures. Individualism is gaining hold and becoming more evident than before. This individuality on the path to material pleasures is getting in the way of building relationships. If a man in the West gets married, he does not like that his wife's mother or if a woman gets married she does not like that the husband's mother, should be a burden on their home. This restricts their freedom and pleasure. Thus this

concept of freedom first breaks up homes and converts them into mere husband and wife; ties to the rest of the family are reduced to the extent of worldly custom or some event. Just as you would merely invite friends to these events, other members of the family also participate in a similar fashion. But since there are no expectations there are no disappointments. Gradually this selfish society has evolved into the kind of society where elderly mothers, who are in need of help, are spending the remaining days of their lives all alone, waiting for death. There is no one to look after the old father. Therefore, the whole society attempts to fulfill its collective obligation. Old people's homes are constructed. Effort is made to provide other means for taking care of them, to the point where this group places such burden on the society that other needs cannot be met. This produces a society that suffers from lack of peace, and restlessness. This situation keeps worsening and eventually the whole society becomes restive. You will see that this is the shape of things in England. But remember these evils do not breed hatred.

3. Ostentation

Our, or I should say Eastern, society has evils that produce hatred. This is what *Shareeka* is. Such evils multiply because of many other bad habits, for example, ostentation. On the occasion of marriages people have created this pointless issue of honor, and they worry a great deal about their false sense of honor. Our ladies are paranoid that if they do not show off at the time of weddings they would be disgraced in front of people. Look, you were disgraced when you lost respect in front of Allah. What respect is there left to lose?

A believer is disgraced as soon as he transgresses from the guidelines laid down by Allah and the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and turns his back to the teachings of Islam. Nothing else is left. Then why worry about what's left and what's gone? The fact of the matter is that ostentation has produced dangerous consequences in our society.

4. Taunting the daughter in law

These events are the beginning, but after this beginning a conscious effort is made to keep alive their ill effects forever. If there was a slip-up at the time of sending off their daughter, if they failed to show off, or the food ran short, or even if there was too much salt in the food, at any minor fault the *Shareeka* raises its head immediately and says that this particular thing happened at that time. Then they never put it behind them. That poor lonesome girl, who was sent by someone to live in someone else's house, feels that she has come to the house of her enemies. She is taunted at every occasion. If ever she cooks and it turns out bad, it is said, "Yes!! We know whose daughter you are. Haven't you come from the place where this particular incidence happened on the occasion of your wedding? Our guests made gestures of dismay. No one ate a morsel. It was not even edible." Such exaggeration, and then they make the poor girl's life difficult with their taunts.

5. Mother in law's jealousy towards her daughter in law

Then these issues grow deeper in the form of vices in the society when the mother in law gets jealous of the daughter in law. This cannot be seen in Western society but it is widespread in Eastern society. When the son shows affection to his wife who was brought to his home by his mother, apparently with great desire and longing, then the mother from thereon is bent on ruining her. She does not let an opportunity pass whereby she can destroy the home of this poor girl. Thus if the son pays attention to his wife the mother in law gets angry and believes that the only way to retain control of her son is by concentrating on finding faults in her daughter in law and then mentioning these to her son. If these faults are not there then she can create a few on her own. This is not a difficult task. Some people can make up stories very easily. If this newly wed has come from a poor home and is kind to her brothers then all hell breaks loose. Even though in most

situations such women are careful and if they help their brothers they do so with their own income. But these mothers in law that I am talking about, I hope to God that there are no such mothers in law among you, cannot even tolerate that an educated girl who has not placed the entire burden on her husband and earns herself, should spend some on her home and give some to her poor brothers and sisters. This is beyond their endurance. They start poisoning the ears of the husbands and think that in this way they have won their son over and he belongs to them now. It does not matter if he belongs to them or not, for he will not belong to himself. A son whose home is ruined will have a distasteful life.

Ties of Kinship need to be protected

In this Eastern society where families are apparently large and relationships appear strong, an innate system exists that is severing ties and teaching hatred. This is why the Holy Qur'an repeatedly draws out attention towards ties of kinship. The verse that I recited today is the one that Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, recited on the occasion of every marriage. Following in the tradition of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, out of the three verses that are read at the time of marriage of every Muslim, this verse that I just recited is the first. Allah says:

O ye people! Fear your Lord Who created you from a single soul.

'Created you from a single soul' has several meanings. One connotation related to this occasion is that none of you has any superiority over another. This carries the meaning of all uniting in one soul. Therefore a society that was created from one soul should stay together as one soul. A society that gets divided and converts into several souls forgets its origin. A split is created in it. Allah says, "We have granted you abundance as well; We have created men in abundance and women in abundance. But this was not done so that you may assume separation and tear apart in matters of the hearts. Instead it was done so that you may create these ties again and once more strive to become one." This message has been given at the end of this verse in this form, "And fear Allah, in Whose name you appeal to one another, and fear Him particularly respecting ties of kinship." Implying We have spread you all over the world and We created many lives from one life, but not so ties of kinship should break but so that relationships may be established and established with respect.

Allah says, 'remember that the God to whom you beg to have your desires fulfilled teaches you that you should guard your ties of kinship and take care of them.' These two subjects have been tied together in such a way that if a woman or a man, whichever it may be, do not honor the ties of kinship and instead of being kind to their relatives sever relations with them, then the message for them is that their prayers will not be accepted. It is very important to understand this point because I receive numerous letters with requests for prayers and they also include letters stating that they don't know why their prayers are not accepted. There can be several reasons why prayers may not be accepted, but one reason that is explained here is that if instead of strengthening your family ties, you behave in such a way that these relationships are severed then remember that you will sever your relationship with Allah. The one to whom you beg to get your desires fulfilled will not grant you your wishes.

This is not my explanation but it is the explanation given by the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. At one time he stated, as if Allah had informed him, that the attribute '*Rahman*' (merciful) of Allah emanates from the same element that the name '*Reham*' for the organ of a mother in which a child is born, comes from. *Reham* is the name given to the uterus of a mother and it is also the basis of the attribute *Rahman* of Allah. Allah says if you sever the ties of kinship (*Rehme relations*) you will be severed from God's mercy. One is deeply related to the

other. Thus he who is cut off from (Allah's) *Rahmaniyyat* (mercy) has nowhere else to go. A society cut off from *Rahmaniyyat* also implies that this society cannot foster love and so hatred will sprout. A person cut off from mercy is cut off from *Rahamaniyyat*. One meaning of this is the one that I have just explained that despite your prayers, Allah will not treat you kindly. The other is that such a society is devoid of divine favor and breeds hatred.

Present to the World a Society Based only on the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah

We can see many major vices in the Western society and it is essential to remove them as well as provide safeguards against them. But as majority of the Ahmadi ladies at present belong to Eastern society I want to bring their attention to this matter. If you look at Western society only with a critical view and then invite them towards your own society, in return they too will look at your society with criticism. They will have the right to say that they reject it, because this society is not based on righteousness. This will create racialism leading to geographical and national divisions and create hatred that will divide the nations. This is not just related to the West but to the East as well.

When I went on a tour of Africa, at many places some African ladies complained to me against some Pakistani ladies that they have a certain way of life and try to show us that it is the Islamic way of life and that they are its representatives and supporters. Please inform us if it is the Islamic way of life or not, and if it is not, was Ahmadiyyat instituted to impose and enforce Pakistanism on the rest of the world? At some places there were misunderstandings. In some cases their complaints were legitimate. When I explained the matter to them clearly they understood it very well. I made it unmistakably evident to them that Pakistanism and Ahmadiyyat are not two names of the same thing. Ahmadiyyat is something different. Ahmadiyyat is Islam. Every aspect of Ahmadiyyat should be based on the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah. Thus an act that is based on the Holy Qur'an and is based on Sunnah is Ahmadiyyat. A lady who reflects this aspect has a right that as a representative of Islam she should instruct you to assume that habit or take up a certain custom of mode of living. She does not have a right to present things other than this before you and claim that as a representative of Islam she has come to teach these ways to you.

Individualism - Biggest Evil of the West

Among the problems of Western world a huge evil is the same individualism. The society has become selfish. Worldly pleasures and modern appliances that are helpers in producing these pleasures are playing an extremely horrifying role in further reinforcing selfishness. Day by day society is disintegrating because everyone wants to have the maximum benefit from the means of pleasure created as a result of modern advances and no relation is an obstacle in this pursuit. No kinship is a hurdle. Whatever income a son earns he keeps to himself. Rarely would he give a portion of it to his poor sister or to his poor mother or spend it on his poor brother. Thus from this angle this society is becoming a society of individualism, because the needs of every individual are not being fulfilled. The subject of unfulfilled needs is not related to poverty. It is related to contentment, that is, in many cases it is related to contentment. The richer the Western society is becoming the more its desires are blazing. The cry of '*Are there any more?*' (50:31) is rising. People get accustomed to the means of pleasure being provided to them. It becomes their basic right. Then the desire for still more arises: western television, radio, and other means of communication present such a picture of a fictitious paradise in front of them that it appears to be real from afar and everyone tries to run towards it. But in reality it is not paradise. This paradise is like seawater that further inflames thirst instead of quenching it.

Real Paradise lies in making Ties of Kinship Strong

Real paradise lies in the making of a home. Real paradise lies in making *Rehme* relations strong. The Holy Qur'an sheds light on this topic in the verse that I have put before you. With remarkable sagacity, and looking at it with utmost wisdom, the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, chose this verse to be recited on the occasion of marriage. This is because of both his discernment and intimate knowledge of God but I believe that, even though no such tradition has come to my knowledge that the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, did so as a result of clear revelation from God Almighty, but since it was his rule that he did not take any step without revelation, therefore I have complete faith and conviction that in addition to sagacity it was related to revelation as well. Incidentally, here you can say if wisdom was involved how could it be a revelation or if it was a revelation how could it be a result of his wisdom?

The Holy Qur'an has itself provided the answer to this question. The Holy Qur'an presents the example of the light of Hazrat Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, or the light of Allah in his form, as if he was clear oil that was ready to ignite on its own. It contained such pure characteristics that even if there had not been a revelation from Allah, it still would have provided the means for illuminating the world. The light of Allah's revelation descended upon it and Hazrat Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, became 'light upon light' (*nooron ala noor*). Thus revelation is deeply related to wisdom as well. This is the reason why different prophets have disparity in the status of their revelation. There is disparity in clarity and light, otherwise it is the same God who sent revelation to every prophet. Thus the resplendent teachings that were granted to Hazrat Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, were a result of the intervention of his God given wisdom, which was transformed into *nooron ala noor* (light upon light) by the light of revelation descending upon it.

Horrible Effect of Destruction of Homes in Western Society

The selection of this verse for the occasion of marriage bears extraordinary importance and it plays a basic role in the making of homes. Allah reminds us that we were created from one soul. Even though we are increasing in numbers and are spreading, we should always strive to return to being one soul. We can achieve this only by strengthening the ties at home and fortifying *Rehme* relations. This comprises an enormously deep secret of wisdom that it is impossible to build nations or to create national unanimity unless homes are constructed with accord therein. The nation in which homes are divided cannot stay together. National interests are dispersed. A nation whose homes are lacking peace will always have streets that are devoid thereof. This is a law that cannot be changed by any worldly power. If you analyze the crimes of those countries where dangerous crimes, that are becoming more horrendous with each passing day, are breeding despite their economic and educational progress, you will see that the ultimate reason behind the rise in these crimes is breakup of homes.

These days in England there is talk of an extremely painful crime. Every report and all announcements on radio and television are saying that some wicked people kidnapped innocent children to make pornographic films. Almost forty children were killed during filming of the kind of horrible films that they wanted to make. They must have committed all sorts of atrocities against these children, and there was no one who could have paid heed to their screams and to their cries. This is such a painful incident that it makes the entire nation hang its head low in shame. In fact this causes all mankind to hang its head low in shame. But look at this. The ultimate reason behind this is that because of individualism homes are falling apart and desire for pleasure has made the nation mad. Since there is no peace and interest left in homes therefore young men, growing up in such homes, take to the streets not in search of peace but in search of pleasure; and they ruin

other people's peace for the sake of their own enjoyment. The ultimate reason behind drug addiction, pornography, or other such vices is the same.

Thus even though hatred did not play a role in disintegration of homes but the breakup of homes led to hatred and, in practice, the ultimate end is hatred. As a result of the breakup of homes lack of contentment, mistrust, and hatred becomes rampant in the society, and since the pursuit of pleasure takes place outside in the streets therefore there is absolutely no consideration that some one else will be harmed or that it will cause grief to someone. While mugging to get a little money, even hands are sometimes cut off.

In 1978 when I went to America I took my wife and two daughters to see Harlem. People tried to frighten me from going there. They said you are going there; it is a very dangerous place. On top of that your wife and daughters would be wearing the veil. We are not sure if you will come back alive. I said it was not so. I did not understand what could happen in broad daylight. Then they told me that a similar Eastern lady was walking with a thick gold bangle on her hand, and since there was not enough time to scramble for it, so a man cut off her wrist with a sharp knife and when the bracelet fell to the ground he ran off with it. They said this is the situation here. This is not just the situation over there, but is becoming the same everywhere and cruelty is on the rise. The reason is that there is no peace in the homes. If a society has love and affection in its homes and the relations between husband and wife or a man and a woman are not the only sources of pleasure, but the ties between brother and sister, and mother and son, and father and son, and other relatives that are included in this verse are strengthened (*Rehme* relations include all the ties of kinship of husband as well as wife) then a vast family is created. If we build our homes from this standpoint one would find such peace there that many fortunate children who grow up in such homes have no desire of quickly leaving after returning from school or work, or head towards pubs or to mingle in bad gatherings that have been made nowadays to provide temporary pleasures so that one may go and waste one's time there. This is the society that later on, in reality, promotes drinking and gambling and all kinds of vices breed there and, as a consequence, homes are destroyed.

Rebuilding Homes is only possible through the Teachings of Hazrat Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him

Thus homes are falling apart in the West as well as East. Our lord and master Muhammad Mustafa, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is the sole builder of homes. It is only his teachings that can reform the East and the West. It is impossible to guarantee peace in today's world unless and until we can guarantee peace, contentment, and internal serenity in our homes.

Thus, think about rebuilding your homes. And as I have explained before, since most of the Ahmadi ladies among you belong to Eastern society, you have to eliminate your shortcomings and make your homes exemplary.

As far as those ladies are concerned who come from the West and have converted to Ahmadiyyat, as far as I have observed, are upholding the spirit of Purdah due to Grace of Allah even though there are many impediments here and it is difficult for them to change their way of living and to wear clothes that are considered foolish in their society. They pull themselves together, are careful and pay attention to protect themselves and they are indeed headed away from the un-Islamic society towards the Islamic society. It is essential that you take more steps towards them than they do. That is, those ladies who have been raised in Eastern society will have to purify themselves. They have to break free from the bad habits of East and eradicate them. They have to reinstate the pure society of Islam, because in my eyes Ahmadi ladies from the East have so far not been able

to create a purely Islamic society. We have to eradicate all those bad traditions that we inherited from certain un-Islamic societies. We need to create a pristine and pious environment. We have to fulfill our obligations to one another. We need to form relationships with each other and strengthen these ties instead of hurting them with cheap and disgraceful ways. Those ladies who enjoy taunting and deriding others and create an image of superiority by playing a negative role and think that by ridiculing someone they have elevated themselves, are involved in a dirty pleasure. This pleasure can never bring them peace. Their suffering and difficulties will definitely increase with each passing day. Along with this, they are also increasing pain and suffering of others. They should try doing some noble deeds. They should try to serve someone. They should also try winning the heart of their daughter in law with love. Similarly the daughter in law should not think that she has come to some one else's home, and continue talking about her own house and be wrapped up in the memories of her parents. Instead she should, in accordance with Qur'anic teachings where we are taught to respect *Rehme* relations from both sides, try to live as their daughter and should care for them just as she would care for her own parents and serve them. Then this kindness from both sides can turn the society into paradise.

These are small issues but they can create such enormous negative repercussions, as a result of which the whole society has to undergo trouble and torment. Homes fall apart, marriages fail, and then sometimes people have to run to tribunals. Sometimes they have to go back and forth to courts. But at each time, at every place, and at every occasion you will see that the root of the problem is a transgression from Islamic teachings.

An Important Message

Thus if you want to bring peace to the world then it is incumbent upon Muslim ladies, whether they are living in the East or in the West, that they should make their homes models of true Islam so that when people coming from the outside look at them they should know what they have gained. They should present pure examples in the entire world as a result of which mankind should once again attain its lost paradise of home.

I believe that the paradise that has been mentioned in the Holy Qur'an in the initial history of Adam bears a deep relation with paradise in the home. Therefore the punishments that the Bible has suggested, even though we do not find mention of them in the Holy Qur'an, are definitely related to homes. Hence I believe that the extremely important message for you today is that:

You should try to rebuild your homes. Make them a symbol of paradise. Develop humility and love in your relationships. Refrain from anything that would cause breakup of family ties and create hatred. Today homes are what the world needs the most. Keep this in mind. And if Ahmadis do not provide this home to the world then no society in the world can offer a home to mankind. May Allah enable us to do so. Ameen.



Study of Daughters of Eve and A Society Reminiscent of Paradise

May – July, 2006: World Peace is only Possible through Restructuring of Homes

Discussion Points

1. What are the sources of breakdown of family in the East?

2. And what are the sources of breakdown in the Western culture?

3. What is the difference between religion and culture? Discuss some commonly mistaken examples where a cultural value is taken to be a religious value and vice versa.

4. Explain the meaning of: *“O ye people fear your Lord who created you from a single soul.”* (4:2)

5. Why are prayers not accepted? Give one reason that the Holy Prophet^{saw} explained.

6. How are the wisdom of the Holy Prophet^{saw} and revelation intertwined? Refer to *Surah Al-Nur* (24:36).

7. How can Paradise be experienced?

8. How can Peace on Earth be established?

9. Compare the story of Hazrat Adam^{as}'s loss of Paradise with today's loss of Paradise.

10. What Islamic Values is the model home based on, that should be presented to the world?

Hold a workshop on The Family in Islam

11. Find at least one Hadith or event from the life of the Holy Prophet^{saw} that relates instructions on the following topics:

- ☞ Islamic Marriage
- ☞ Relationship with parents
- ☞ Relationship with in-laws
- ☞ Relationship with extended family
- ☞ Raising children
- ☞ Importance of Purdah

Self Reflection Journal

12. List three things you will change in your home and relationships over the next three months to bring the peace of Islam into your home.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah the Gracious the Merciful

A Heavenly Society

Address of Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{ra}, Khalifatul Masih IV

Delivered on December 27, 1991 on the occasion of the Annual Convention of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Community (Ladies Session) at Qadian, India

Following are some of the important points from this address:

- ❧ The respect and status that the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} ascribe to women is unparalleled in any other religion.
- ❧ The Holy Prophet^{saw} stated, "Your paradise lies under your mothers' feet." This is a magnificent accolade to women; whoever is deserving of this tribute does indeed attain the highest status in the heavens.
- ❧ It is within a woman's power to construct the future of a nation. The paradise mentioned here is not just the one in the hereafter but also the paradise in this world.
- ❧ Any nation that does not attain paradise in this world should not cling to the false hope of attaining one in the hereafter.
- ❧ From this angle, a Muslim woman has some responsibilities that relate to this world as well as the next.
- ❧ If our society cannot make a paradise out of every home then, according to this tradition, it is not an Islamic society.
- ❧ Hence the glad tidings of paradise do not imply that every mother inevitably has paradise under her feet. The purport is that God has the expectation that paradise should gush forth from under the feet of Muslim women and wherever they set foot it may be the step of blessings. Their children, and all those reared by them, may build a heavenly society.
- ❧ Ahmadi women actually have the capacity for this and also have the potential to fulfill the expectations of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} that they create examples of paradise in this world.
- ❧ Every mother who not only gives love to her child but also creates justice and balance in him does, in reality, create paradise for the future.
- ❧ A woman who remains self-centered causes a certain kind of damage. Children who see their mother living a selfish life will grow up to be selfish.
- ❧ Mothers who lie to their children to pacify them or to leave them at home always produce dishonest children.
- ❧ Thus you find heaven as well as hell in these insignificant matters and it is your prerogative to opt for either one of them. You have to create a pure society with your deeds.
- ❧ The knowledge of the perfect example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} is enough for you.
- ❧ Frequent rudeness at home becomes responsible for most evils in our society.
- ❧ The husbands who do not have relations based on love and benevolence with their wives, and are not sensitive to their tender feelings, are responsible for snatching away their children's paradise from under their mothers' feet.

- ☞ Also the men who accept their wives' capricious behavior without showing any resentment. Thus it is the balance in the relationship of parents that makes or breaks the future generations.
- ☞ Teaching the Holy Qur'an is a great blessing. It is the second aspect of creating paradise.
- ☞ Create the love of Holy Qur'an and the love of Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} in them from early childhood. Also implant profound love for Allah the Exalted, since all other kinds of love gush forth from His love.
- ☞ These are the children who will certainly attain paradise from under their mothers' feet.
- ☞ There is no injunction in the Holy Qur'an that would make Ahmadi women worthless. God has made it obligatory for you to surpass men in every noble field.
- ☞ Hence, O Ahmadi ladies! I expect from you, God's messenger expects from you, that you should disregard what men say to you. Instead you should try to move forward in all those noble fields where men are negligent.



After *Tasha'hud*, *Ta'awwuz* and recitation of *Surah Al- Fatihah*, Huzoor^{ra} said:

Extremely High Status of Women in Islam

Women are mentioned in some form or other in all the religions of the world, and I have tried to review all of them from this angle. But it is a fact that no other religion has ascribed the respect, status, and honor to women that the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, have. One is amazed and deeply hurt when one makes this comparison. If at all any positive mention of women is found it is extremely insignificant and trivial. Otherwise we find mention in a negative light. Yet they are sharp and arrogant in attacking Islam that it does not give any position and dignity to women.

Once in a question and answer session in Europe a Christian lady asked this very question (and as far as I remember there has never been any discussion when this question was not raised). My response was that I would tell her about just one statement of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, about women. She could search not only in the religions of the world, but in the cultures and societies at large and show me the fraction of the dignity that he has bestowed upon women in one small sentence. I told her that once the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said that, "*Your paradise lies under the feet of your mothers.*" This is a beautiful sentence and a magnificent testimony of approbation for a woman, and bestows on her the highest exaltation.

It was never said for a man or a group of men that their progeny's or nation's paradise lies under their feet. This appellation of honor or certificate was awarded only to woman. This lofty purpose is not found in any other religion or culture. I cannot say that she was impudent but she asked this question with confidence in her knowledge and awareness that no Muslim has an answer to this question. When I went into further detail about it not only did she acquiesce but later on supporting it said that, "Today for the first time I found out what respect and status Islam bestows on women."

This is Good News as well as Bad

Even though it is a short instruction it carries a deeply positive as well as negative theme. This is not only good news but carries an aspect of warning in it as well. The Holy Prophet Muhammad's exhortation, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, to all men or to the whole nation that paradise lies under the feet of your mothers has a wealth of wisdom that has been abbreviated into a small sentence. Women are holding the reins for building the future of a nation. The paradise mentioned here does not mean only the paradise of after life, but also the paradise of this world. If a nation has not achieved paradise in this world, it should not hold unreal expectation for one in the after life. It is a dream of a lunatic because the heart that is devoid of peace in this world cannot attain peace in the hereafter. Those who are blind in this world will be blind in the other world too. Hence in this respect a Muslim woman has certain responsibilities pertaining to this world as well as to the other.

First of all it should be determined whether the house of every woman, who is the queen of her house, has changed into a paradise or not. Do her children show any signs of being destined for paradise or not? Every woman can scrutinize herself and examine whether, according to the standard given by her master Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, she is the woman that he speaks of with such love, pride, and trust.

He addressed her and talked about her, and said, "O Muslim woman! It is expected of you, who have entered my circle of faith, that paradise should lie under your feet." Thus this message is not

merely for men and children to seek the paradise under their mothers' feet, though this is what is generally understood and referred to regarding it, that we should respect women, and earn their prayers. But actually it expresses a much more extensive interpretation about the character of a woman. If our society does not transform every home into paradise then, according to this tradition, it is not a Muslim society. If a man is at fault for turning a paradise into hell then that fault is not limited to the time when he got married and started living with his spouse; it is related to a time in his past. He received such an unfortunate mother that under her feet he found hell instead of paradise. Hence the glad tidings of paradise do not mean that every mother inevitably has paradise under her feet. The purport is that God has the expectation that paradise should gush forth from under the feet of Muslim women and wherever they set foot it may be the step of blessings. Their children and all those reared by them may build a heavenly society. With this point of view an Ahmadi woman has a lot to ponder and be concerned about. She needs to examine herself repeatedly. All the Islamic teachings that disallow certain acts and prohibit women from acquiring certain demeanors are undoubtedly deeply related to the theme in this tradition. These are all the acts that turn a paradise into hell.

Thus Islam does not confine women to the surroundings of their houses while men are completely free to do whatever they like. In this respect a believing woman certainly does not spend her life in confinement. In a different sense she does indeed live in captivity, but in that sense all Muslim men are also confined, because the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him said, "the world is a prison for a believer and a paradise for the disbeliever." Here 'believer' encompasses all believing men and believing women. Hence this is the prison that I was referring to. Nowhere in Islam will you find the mention of that kind of prison wherein a woman is deprived of all sound pleasures and a man is at liberty to do whatever he pleases. All the restrictions are for the sake of protection, magnificence, and honor. They elevate the position of women. They prevent women from sinking in the quagmires of the world. These restrictions have no other meaning. But today I do not intend to go into further detail about this subject. There are some other issues on my mind.

First, it is not sufficient to provide academic responses to the misunderstanding the world has about a Muslim woman. Because often in question and answer sessions, when Westerners have raised this question, I have, with divine guidance and support, answered them satisfactorily to some extent. Despite this, sometimes it so happens that a woman will question, "Alright if this is the Islamic society, show me some examples. Does this kind of paradise prevail in Egypt, or in Syria, or is it manifest in Saudi Arabia or Pakistan? Give me the name of any country where the paradise you have described could be found?" So it is not enough to give only a verbal explanation. The paradise I am talking about is a solid reality. This is not a dream whose interpretations need to be pursued. Ahmadi women have to demonstrate practically to the world this solid truth in their lives and their society. Therefore, sometimes I tell them that I could not show them that paradise in its entirety and utmost beauty, but if they had time they should meet Ahmadi women living in their country. They should go to their meetings, have discussions with them, visit their homes, and I am hopeful that they would indeed find some glimpses of that paradise. It is a magnificent favor and blessing of God Almighty that, except a few, the Ahmadi women living in Europe are creating a society that is entirely different from European culture.

European Society

If you were to describe the European society concisely you would say it creates excitement and restiveness. It presents you with impulses that not only leave the heart feeling discontent but also with the fire of desire raging inside it. This fire cannot be put out by any amount of water. The heart craves that water which is salty like the seawater. The more you try to quench your thirst with this water, the more your thirst will rage. This is such a reality that when you openly describe it

to the Westerners they always admit to the fact that their civilization and culture invites them to such pleasures that never provide any peace. It is merely a chase; a search and yearning for more and more which is nowhere to be found. Eventually those who run unbridled after the worldly pleasures achieve nothing but restlessness and dissatisfaction. At one point the Holy Qur'an has presented the picture of this society as if someone is chasing after a mirage. Intense thirst forces man to dash towards the mirage but it flees further and further away, till he is unable to run any more and finds himself at the point of that mirage where God has come to reward him and he has achieved nothing. Very often that is how they meet their end.

Restiveness is increasing in their society day by day, and their culture is becoming full of anguish. Despite attaining high economic status no amount of wealth can provide serenity to their hearts. Day by day, crimes are breeding in their streets. Injustice and bloodshed are on the rise. On the one hand the requirements of refinement are such that they claim to civilize the whole world, and reproach the poor third world for being so inhumane. They mock them for not being mindful of meeting the basic needs of human beings and not understanding the subtleties of fulfilling human rights. They claim to educate them in refinement and civilized behavior.

On the other hand upon close observation we find that they are infested with horrible tendencies that are on the rise day by day. The crimes, which are shown openly on their televisions or described in their newspapers, are so horrible that it is impossible to mention them. Once in a TV program a very experienced police officer appeared and he described a city, whose name he did not mention because of legal considerations. He said, "I have been performing my duties in this town for a long time (he mentioned 25 or 30 years), and I personally know that in 33% (one third) of the families either the father is abusing his daughter or the mother abuses her son and immodesty is at its peak unheeded in this town. Laws as such that they protect the criminals and are used against the innocent and ruin their rights of protection." However, this was his legal argument but I viewed it from the standpoint that after a long journey of civilization they get to the same end that the Holy Qur'an describes as a mirage; the place where one would face God's chastisement. One would be surrounded on all four sides by this chastisement and would not find the way to salvation. This is one aspect that I have mentioned briefly.

The fact is that because of the diseases that are erupting and the sentiment of restlessness that is prevailing everyone is looking for peace and solace outside their home instead of at home. Undoubtedly there are some exceptions, where you will find peace, tranquility, and higher human values at home. But the state of most homes is that they are a place to spend the night; otherwise the tranquility and pleasure lies outside of the house. Those pleasures and tranquility are such that they deprive someone else of their joy and peace of mind. The spread of such kinds of diseases has turned the pleasures bestowed upon us by God Almighty into a hell. If you observe minutely, this state of affairs of un-Islamic lifestyle is appearing not in one country or two but is evident in the whole world. Therefore, when I give the example of the West, I do not mean at all that the East is free of these afflictions. I am only comparing the Islamic and un-Islamic values. India is also getting involved in these vices and so is Pakistan. It is as if the East and the West are trying to outdo each other. How to change this trend and how to reverse it so that there is tranquility and peace in the world is the topic to which I want to draw your attention.

Potential of an Ahmadi Woman

An Ahmadi woman is indeed quite capable of fulfilling the Holy Prophet Muhammad's expectations, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, of creating an example of paradise in this world. She should be a source of such attraction and charm for her home that she becomes an axis and the members of her family rotate around her. They do not find comfort outside but find peace and tranquility in their homes. They should live with such love and affection that only one aspect of

pleasure seeking should not be their fascination. This fascination turns into obsession, to the detriment of peace in the world. They should find peace and comfort in various delicate relationships bestowed upon mankind by God Almighty. Just as blood reaches the heart from all sides via blood vessels, they should also become hearts, with love reaching them from all sides. They should become such hearts that all parts of the body receive peace and tranquility from them. This is the Islamic culture regarding which the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, had said in a brief sentence that, "Your paradise lies under the feet of your mother". Thus one runs in the direction of paradise. How could it be possible that paradise lies in one direction and one runs in another direction? An additional practical manifestation is that, with generally slight variations, in societies where un-Islamic values are getting established, the relationship between mothers and their children, and in this context between fathers and their children as well, is getting severed or is diminishing. The younger generation feels as if the older generation is a burden and a misfortune; a calamity that has afflicted them. They shun the responsibility regarding their rights if it causes a little discomfort to them. Once or twice a year, by incurring slight discomfort, on the occasion of Christmas or such, they either invite their parents or visit them. Otherwise, generally, there is no place for the elderly in their society, and whatever little space exists is also narrowing. Of course there are some noble families, that are considered old fashioned, that do fulfill the rights of their parents because of the deep association they have with their past, but not to the extent that they continuously try to gain their approval. If there was paradise under their feet, one would work hard and struggle to achieve it till the last moment. One would wish to hear the prayers of one's mother during her final moments, and wish to hear the sound of his father's approval. This is what would bring one peace and tranquility. Such a situation cannot even be imagined in the West. These relationships are slowly disintegrating in the East too. Often Ahmadi mothers write to me that their children's attitudes are changing and they do not show the same respect and concern any more, as if they were strangers. How can they cure it? I would like to make you understand that you have remedial measures available to you only when your children are young. God has blessed you with this remedy. If this was not true, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, would not have placed such high hopes in you that paradise does lie under your feet, whether you take advantage of it or not.

Damage caused by Self-Centeredness

The crux of the matter is that a mother who, from an early stage, not only gives love to her children but also instills justice and balance in them is actually creating a paradise for the future. The mother who showers her children with love and thinks that she has provided them with everything is mistaken. The love that comprises only of devotion and is lacking any vestige of discipline, solid expectations, and requirements of balance, will harm children instead of benefiting them. But the damage that is done by the mother being self-centered is greater than all these. This kind of harm is increasing day by day due to modern trends.

If a woman who wears make-up, attends social functions, and arranges to entertain herself, is cautioned to be careful she would reply, "These are trivial matters; I have not committed any sin. Do you want to make my life hell?" But the fact is that these trivial matters sometimes create huge issues. There are mothers and fathers whose search for their own pleasures dominates their lifestyle. Often such mothers neglect the upbringing of their children. When they return after spending time outside they just want to ascertain if their children are present in their rooms or not. They fulfill their children's immediate needs and tend to those that are sick. After that they shed their responsibilities and disappear in their separate rooms. Next morning they start arranging new social programs, and searching for new pleasures. First the attitudes of such mothers change, and then the children's. God has blessed children with great perception. Those children, who have seen their mothers living a selfish life, certainly grow up to be selfish individuals. From an early age they feel that their mothers are not doing them any favors. Rather, they think that whenever their

mother felt like it she loved them, but she never became their companion or offered her friendship to them. She never created the kind of relationship where they would enjoy each other's company. Thus from that very point the child's future started getting associated with the streets outside.

Establish a Relationship of Trust and Love with Your Children

Apart from this, diverting a child's attention by misleading him seems a small matter but results in long-lasting harm. Those mothers, who lie to their children to make them quiet, or make various excuses not to take them along, produce a progeny of liars. Such children never obey their mothers; instead, sub-consciously they are trained to deceive others. Even though the mothers may be virtuous, sometimes they think that to evade a child is an ordinary matter. It is not a sin. It is not a big deal to make a promise to the child and then break it. This is the way kids are normally treated. What they do not realize is that they are themselves ruining the future of their child forever. Once I happened to come across this ordinary incident that a father had given his child a piece of sugarcane as he was climbing the stairs. The child's mother was also following. She noticed that it was difficult for the child to hold on to it. So she offered, "Let me hold it for you. I will give it back to you when you reach the top." The child said, "Oh no! I have seen you. By the time we reach up there, you will have eaten half of it." Even though this was a minor incident, I assure you this reaction of the child shook me up. I could almost see peril in the child's future, because if he could not trust his mother how was he going to trust other people. So in these seemingly insignificant occurrences you can find paradise as well as hell. It is your prerogative to embrace paradise or hell. The future generation has been linked to your footsteps. If you provide paradise for them in this world then you will see that, with God's Grace, the assurance for their final paradise will certainly be granted.

These are some aspects that have other offshoots. This topic calls for further elaboration. With various illustrations it needs to be made clear to you where one could stumble, what needs to be avoided, and what course of action should be adopted. But I am hopeful that from these few examples you would have understood the argument that paradise or hell do indeed lie in these small matters.

I have seen some mothers frightening their children. In my family, I have tried very strictly to establish that children should not be scared. By strictly I mean firmly, not with force or punishment. I do not recollect if, in my life, I have punished any child more than once or twice. Otherwise, I am convinced that if you have a relationship of confidence and love with your child, a slight variation in your expression delivers enough of a reprimand that he does not need any other kind of punishment. So I have tried my best to explain this to my family as well as my relatives, not to scare children. If the child does not sleep, or wants to go somewhere, some mothers intimidate them by saying that a monster is coming, or an evil spirit will catch them. Momentarily, she gets rid of the child, but the monster of fear stays with him and he can never get rid of it. Sometimes they are going out for a long time, but tell the child that they will be back soon. The poor child keeps on waiting. How can truth be expected from such a child later on in life? The child sees the real picture of the way you live your life at home, and does not believe in the fake image that you try to impose on him. No mother can deceive a child in this manner. It would be different if it were a matter of a day or two. This is a lifelong issue. A child is certainly able to understand his parents. This results in later producing either respect in his heart for them or disrespectful tendencies towards them.

The nations where the gap is widening between the earlier and the later generations may not necessarily share the same mistakes. There are certainly some mistakes made due to which children are growing up with the belief that this is a selfish world. Anyone can do whatever they want, and acquire anything by force. Everyone is responsible for his or her own pleasure and that

no one has to depend on anyone else. When children grow up in these circumstances, their parents seem a burden and an antiquity to them. Just as old and used furniture sometimes seems an eyesore, similarly parents seem to appear like old furniture. Such a society is moving away from paradise and is the best soil for the worst of things to take root. Day by day this kind of society is proceeding towards destruction and disaster. You have to bring about a pious society by actions, and you do not need an extensive academic research to create it. These are common and simple matters. The knowledge of Holy Prophet Muhammad's perfect example, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is enough for you. Every time you come in contact with your children, if you realize that you are casting an influence not only for today but for tomorrow also, then you will certainly develop a sense of responsibility in your own behavior.

Men who Snatch away Paradise from under Mother's feet

The second point concerns women as well as men. Sometimes the paradise that should be under the mothers' feet is snatched away by unlucky men. Here the responsibility for turning paradise into hell for children lies with these unfortunate men instead of mothers. These are men who are ill mannered and abusive in their homes. They have no regard for delicate feelings of their wives. They think that since they are physically stronger they can treat their wives as they wish. There is harshness and anger in their discourse. They are in the habit of being irritated and enraged on petty matters. Consequently, so many evils start appearing that if you pry into this matter and pursue it further you will find a vast subject unfolding before you. I myself have often reflected upon it and understood that daily rudeness inside the home is responsible for most evils in our society. These men who are not kind and gracious to their wives, are unmindful of their tender feelings, and have no capacity to disregard any slip, also deprive their children of the paradise from under their mother's feet. Moreover, the men who tolerate dissolute behavior of their wives without any reproach also snatch the paradise from under the feet of their children's mother. Hence it is the balance in the parents' relationship that builds or ruins the future generations.

Where the mothers are oppressed they poison the ears of their children against their fathers in their absence and this is a natural tendency that is prevalent in the whole world. It breeds a race that is rebellious towards their fathers, and rebellious races revolt against every system of law and order. The mothers think that by gaining more sympathy of the children they have retaliated against their husbands, whereas the fact is that they are not taking revenge but destroying the children and rendering them worthless for the future. Even if their complaints are justified, when children start objecting heavily against their fathers, they generally lose respect for religion as well as society and are completely devoid of respect, giving rise to a generation of people with a rebellious bent of mind. If you take this further, these people are the ones who are future husbands and are going to establish relationships with women. So actually the mother did not take revenge on her husband but on innocent women of the future. She raised such discourteous children who continued the oppression that their father had subjected their mother to.

Similarly, there are also situations that are in exact contrast to this; where the mothers are capricious and husbands are unable to control them, because some women form their relationships with men in such a way that it is suggestive of the notion that they are from a better society. They are better educated and are more aware; and that they have accepted these men in spite of their shortcomings. The husband's family is comparatively lower but despite that the princess agreed to come to his house. She might not proclaim it verbally but her behavior declares that she is superior and he is inferior. This creates a permanent feeling of inferiority in the husband. He sees degeneracy and un-Islamic behavior prevalent in his house but dare not stop it. Imagine what these children would be learning and thinking while growing up in such conditions? Gradually, they cease to have respect for this mother. Whether the father directs them or not, when these children grow up they testify against their mother and know in their heart of hearts that

she never treated their father right, never rendered him his due, and did not bring them up appropriately. Despite understanding all these things, they are quicker to be influenced by evil than by good.

An Important Secret of Human Nature

Because of the regard for time I will shorten my speech. But I want to impress upon you that you should instill this secret in your mind, and adopt it in raising your children, that just as water flows downwards it is part of human nature that it will embrace the easier path instead of the more difficult one. Hence children generally acquire the manners of whoever has the worse behavior out of the mother or the father. Later on weaknesses from both sides get added up and sometimes get multiplied. Therefore, it is not an insignificant matter to create an atmosphere of paradise in your home. These issues and relationships should be looked at closely. The final decision depends on whether your home is a paradise for you and your husband or not. Do your children love and respect you both equally, or not. If the man has flaws does the wife overlook them to the best of her ability or not? But she does indeed try to remove those shortcomings. She keeps providing sincere and virtuous advice to him. If this is the case then it is good. If the things I first mentioned are present in a woman, then she is not worthy of raising the future generation. This is true of men too. There is deep wisdom in Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, sparing men and making only women responsible for making the home a paradise. But men also play a great role in destroying this paradise. It is the responsibility of the woman to protect her children from such men. How to guard is the delicate topic I want to explain to you.

When a woman's heart is shattered by her husband's unjust and unkind behavior, her reaction in his absence will decide whether she is protecting her children from his habits or not. If, in order to gain their sympathy, she exaggerates the father's misconduct, weeps while telling tales of his injustices, and embraces them while saying their father is cruel then she herself has destroyed them. And instead of protecting them she has let her husband's tyranny extend to them. If she makes a sacrifice and comes between her husband's oppression and the children, and bears ill-treatment without letting them know about it, then her example would be like that of a hen. It is a weak animal but when a bird of prey attacks her chicks she covers them with her wings. No matter how she suffers, could even get killed, but she does not let the ferocious bird get to the chicken, except when she is killed. Then the bird could do to them whatever it wanted. This is the true example of motherhood that we find in an animal. O devotees, who accept the servitude of Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, can you not be equal to a true mother from among the beast? Is it too much to expect of the believers of Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, that they adopt the lofty example of motherhood found in the animal world? The final decision rests on whether you can protect your children from those bad influences, by shielding them at any cost, or not.

Hence there are various small factors that make or break a home. Briefly, (I know that there is more time, but I want to be brief in advising you because this topic is very vast and cannot be covered in detail in a short time) I have identified a few examples. You expand them and vigilantly try on your own to fulfill the expectations of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, regarding you. In the end the result will be that his condemnation will be self-evident if your future generation is proceeding towards hell. He will complain to you that: "O mothers identified with me! You did not leave paradise behind you; your feet could produce flames of hell, but not the soothing breezes of paradise." Would you like to reach that point of reproach? If you always keep this criterion in view, the Holy Prophet Muhammad's disposition, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, will guide you at every step. Place yourself in this temperament and ponder over what your leader and master would expect of you in a given situation.

Progress of Lajna Imaillah India

The next subject that I would like to touch upon briefly is that I am very pleased that, by the Grace and Beneficence of God Almighty, every Lajna in India is consistently making progress. Their leadership is also very mature and gentle. They are watchful in all directions, and without any noise or ostentation the Lajna is continuously presented with solid programs, which are monitored patiently. Weaknesses are pointed out amiably, without causing animosity. May God grant all your Lajna chapters such leadership and nowhere should authoritarian leadership emerge. Rather, the secret of a true leadership is to make progress with love and compassion.

As far as I have reviewed the reports of Lajna Imaillah India I am pleased that, by the Grace of God, they are advancing from every angle. I happen to look at the reports of committee members of Qadian Lajna, and have examined their proceedings closely. By the Grace of God everything seems to be correct and appropriately placed. May God enable you to be grateful for this exceptional quality, and as a result of this gratitude this God-given quality will grow and flourish.

I have given my advice at various occasions, and have given some special programs for Lajna to follow. I do not judge from the transmitted reports or creative writing whether my advice has been actually followed or not; rather I take into account the final numbers if there is any development or not. From this standpoint I want to present this example of how, by the Grace of God Almighty, Lajna India has achieved success with regard to education and moral training programs. As far as moral training goes, there were 2,819 ladies who knew how to read the Holy Qur'an. Imagine the amount of time and detailed effort put into it in one year that this number has increased to 3,352. It is fortunate to teach the Holy Qur'an in one year to that many ladies who could not read it earlier and this is the second aspect of creating paradise. The first aspect was to protect your children from negative influences and the other is to provide such positive values that will protect their future, with the Grace of God. And the means for that is to create the love of the Holy Qur'an and the love of Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, in them from the very beginning. Also implant profound love for Allah the Exalted, since all other kinds of love gush forth from His love. If one loves God, one loves godly people. And when one loves pious people one's favorite pastime is to adopt their virtues. Hence a solid guidance does not mean only verbal counseling but to create a practical manifestation. The homes of those ladies, where the Holy Qur'an is not read or taught, are desolate and will breed desolate progeny. Even if the children are free from social evils, they are growing up in a vacuum. If you do not fill the vacuum with excellence then evil occupies it. These children are not safe. It is true that as long as they grew up in your house you protected them from evil, you shielded them from mischief, but if you did not cultivate solid virtues and merit in them then there is no guarantee that they will have a secure future. So these are the tactics that I expect from Lajna. The sound of the recitation of Holy Qur'an should echo in their ears from early childhood. They should grow up in the lap of such mothers who love God and godly people, and this should be expressed to them from early childhood. These children are the ones who will certainly gain paradise from their mothers' feet.

Lajna Imaillah has provided a huge service towards learning the meaning of Holy Qur'an. According to their report, 1,257 ladies who did not previously know it were taught the meaning of the Holy Qur'an.

I will put before you instances of financial sacrifice. I cannot say about all the Lajna chapters of India but about Lajna Qadian I can say that, by the grace of God, they show incomparable examples of financial sacrifice. The Qadian chapter is poor but I have always found that whenever there is a new scheme, the ladies and young girls take part in it with such zeal and fervor that sometimes I feel like stopping them and saying, "You do not have the capacity for it." It is a fact that despite having a feeling of joy I worry about them. Then I think that it is the concern of the

One that they are making the sacrifice for. He is indeed aware of it and He knows how much to reward them. He, with His grace and bounty will confer spiritual and worldly wealth on their future.

On one occasion, when I had urged for contribution for centers, it was such a sight in every household that Ahmadi girls were giving up their meager savings by smashing their money boxes against walls. They offered whatever few pennies or little coins they had saved for themselves in the way of religion. How benevolent is our God and how majestic! Sometimes He rejects millions that are offered at his feet without love and ardor, disregards it as if it has no value. On the other hand, if a humble and sincere person submits his scant savings with utmost love and affection, He accepts it with greater love and affection, like you would accept the gift from your beloved and kiss it. God has His own way of kissing, and I know for sure that in this sense he would have surely kissed their meager savings. Apparently this expression does not fit God, but Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, has talked about God in a similar way several times, like 'God smiled in heaven when He saw this.' Similarly Hazrat Musleh Maood, may God be pleased with him, once narrated that the hospitality of one of his companions was such that God also started to 'smack' His lips in heaven. Meaning that just as people eating delicious food openly smack their lips sometimes, God also started to smack His lips upon seeing that sight of hospitality. So, in this very sense, I am sure God kissed these small sacrifices and appreciated them. This appreciation by God will change the little girls' destiny for the better. He will not only convert their homes into paradise, but also change them into homes bestowing paradise. Hence this is the second aspect of paradise that is under your feet, and remains associated with your feet. The purpose is to not only guard your children from negative influence, but also to nourish them spiritually. I have noticed in birds that when their offspring are young the birds themselves start getting lean. In several birds the male and the female both pick food for their babies and feed them morsels in their beaks all day. They themselves get weaker but keep sacrificing for the young ones. So you have to put the morsels of spiritual food in your children's mouth. If you teach them these ways of sacrifice then they will start to find pleasure in them right from childhood and will never want to give up this habit.

A Creditable Example of Ahmadi Ladies in India

So far as preaching is concerned, by the grace of God, Ahmadi ladies of India are actively involved in it. Up till now there are 183 ladies who have fulfilled their pledges and are actively involved in this work. I was exhilarated to see a sample of the kinds of fruits God is bestowing upon them. In a village named "Kangoli Bengla" in Bengal a widow took the oath of allegiance, perhaps through the persuasion of some Ahmadi ladies or a missionary. Later on she became the center for preaching. And owing to her invitation towards God, three more ladies took the oath. The result was that some men and some mullah started severe opposition up to a point that the husbands of these three ladies threatened to divorce them, throw them out of their homes, and break off all relations forever. They said, "Divorce is nothing, if you even sever our heads from our bodies, we will not break our association with Imam Mahdi; and use whatever force you can, but we will definitely invite people to God, and will further keep on spreading this religion." Consequently, by the Grace of God, those three ladies affiliated thirty more households with Ahmadiyyat in a short time.

Ahmadi Ladies are Expected to Surpass Men in Every Sphere of Virtue

By the Grace of God, Ahmadi ladies are capable of bringing about a magnificent change in the world if they so desire. Do you think you are of those women who are meant to be confined to their houses? If you are called for endeavor in the way of Allah and any mullah gives a verdict against it, do not pay even a bit of attention to him and altogether ignore him. There is no command in the

Holy Qur'an to turn Ahmadi ladies worthless. God expects Ahmadi or Muslim women to excel in every healthy field over men, as Muslims have been perpetually given the doctrine of:

"And everyone has a goal to which he turns his whole attention. Then vie with one another in good works." (2:149)."

Now consider thoughtfully; it does not say that we have given a doctrine to men only. Such beautiful words have been used that are applicable to everyone. It is said, *"le kulle wijhatun:"* Everyone is granted a point of view. Every nation has an objective. O servants of Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, your objective is to try to surpass each other in every respect. Hence if you are included in that 'everyone,' and you are certainly included in that 'everyone,' you have been assigned the divine command of trying to surpass men in every field of virtue. Thus if men are lagging in the field of preaching then leave them behind and come forward and accept the responsibility of spreading Islam, the true light of Ahmadiyyat, in this country.

I would like to narrate to you the shining example from the history of Islam, which I already mentioned in an earlier address, and then I will take leave of you.

Once the Muslim warriors lost their footing in a battlefield. Sometimes this happens when one feels helpless. Occasionally it happens that the warriors, despite their willingness to give their lives, are unable to check the assault of the enemy and start retreating. So I am not accusing them; just narrating the incident. The ladies' tents were located behind them. When the women noticed that Muslim warriors were running back towards their tents one of the truly dedicated servants of Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, asked other ladies to pull out the clubs from the tents and tell those men that they were destined to die in one of two ways. Either they would die as martyrs at the hands of their enemies or they would accept a cursed death by being beaten by the women's clubs. "Now tell us, what will you do?" When the men heard this they turned around in a way that a hungry man turns towards food. They gave their lives with such magnificence that they altered the course of the battlefield. Thus they changed a disgraceful defeat into a magnificent victory.

"Hence, O Ahmadi ladies! I expect from you, God's messenger expects from you, that you should disregard what men say to you. Instead you should try to move forward in all those fields where men are negligent. You should try to achieve new victories in every noble field, so that the sense of honor of your men becomes awakened, and they too try to be ahead of you in their concern for the honor and defense of their religion. If you do this then India will be at the feet of Islam not in a few centuries but in a few decades. And the tribute for this achievement will go to you. O Ahmadi ladies! You will be commended for this success, not the men. These are the ladies adorned with virtues of the religion of Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and they will be applauded for this success. May God grant you, as well as the men, this success."



Study of Daughters of Eve and A Society Reminiscent of Paradise

August – October, 2006: A Heavenly Society

Discussion Points

1. *'Paradise lies under the feet of the mother'* – Evaluate this Hadith by finding 10 ways you can make your home a paradise for your family's moral and spiritual progress.

2. In what way do Muslim women and men confine themselves to create a paradise on earth? In your discussion please explain the Hadith: *"The World is a prison for the believer and a paradise for the non believer"*.

3. Elaborate upon the society that Holy Qur'an describes as a mirage.

4. What kind of Parenting leads us to Paradise (10 points) and what kind leads us to Hell (10 points)? Use Huzoor's^{ra} examples to reflect upon situations that come up in your own experience.

5. Keeping in mind the '*secret of human nature* (which Huzoor^{ra}, mentions in his sermon) assess the ways we become neglectful.

6. How does the chicken protect her young from a bird of prey? List 10 ways we can protect our young from wrong influences.

7. What is the Holy Prophet^{sa}'s reproach to mothers, which Huzoor^{ra} advises us to keep in mind in any given situation? Present some practical examples.

8. How should a mother react when her child uses a vulgar word? What is the best way to tackle this situation?

9. In what ways did the ladies of Jamaat India please Hooray?

10. How will the Lajna of your chapter resolve to live up to Huzoor^{ra}'s expectations? Make a practical plan.

Hold a workshop on the Challenges We Face

11. Keeping in mind the main points of this sermon, discuss the challenging issues facing us in this society from the point of view of :

- ☞ The Mother
- ☞ The Youth

Offer positive and practical solutions for us to apply in our daily lives.

Self Reflection Journal

12. What obstacles do you personally face in creating Paradise in your own home? How can you overcome these obstacles?



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ .

In the name of Allah the Gracious the Merciful

One Nation

Address of Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{ra}, Khalifatul Masih IV

Delivered on September 8, 1990 on the occasion of the Ladies' Annual Gathering at Nasir Baagh, Germany

Following are some of the important points from this address:

- ☞ One of the luminous attributes of God Almighty is "He is neither of the East nor of the West," meaning that He belongs to the East and West equally.
- ☞ Similarly the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} is the sole prophet for the whole world. He is not inclined towards East or West but possesses divine inclinations. His religion has also been declared balanced.
- ☞ A wonderful remedy for the problems of the world has been suggested in the verse 'Neither of the East nor of the West.' The East and West both belong to God. They will indeed be joined. This is divine decree that cannot be altered.
- ☞ Under this divine decree, eventually true Islamic teachings and the sacred example of the Holy Prophet^{saw} will spread in the world. As a result of the conquest of this exemplary character the world will enter a new era where the distinction of East and West will be eradicated, and man will live his life in the world as a member of one nation in his capacity as a human being.
- ☞ This divine decree will be fulfilled, and is being fulfilled, through Ahmadis who have been spread throughout the world for this purpose. Every Ahmadi who travels to the West or East should, without any discrimination of religion or society, and without any distinction of citizenship, always remain a representative of God. Do not merge your nationalities with your religion.
- ☞ Today's mothers and sisters will decide for the future generations if they will be heavenly or hell-bound.
- ☞ Those pious women who are from the *Umma* of, and servant of, Muhammad^{saw} and who practice Islam with honesty and righteousness, have heaven under their feet.
- ☞ "*Modesty is all good,*" meaning modesty is a human virtue that is entirely good. This virtue is disappearing in the West. Modesty should not be allowed to die at any cost, because human character is deeply related to modesty.
- ☞ The thing that protects a woman most is modesty. Modesty does not survive for long without outer covering. Slowly it disappears.
- ☞ Modesty is the principal weapon of an Ahmadi woman. Guard the Ahmadi society here. Start the struggle to raise the banner of modesty as an individual as well as a member of the Jamaat.
- ☞ The climate of Islam cannot be altered by change of countries. Nizam-e-Jamaat should be on guard (from the beginning for newcomers to this society), and should participate in their moral training.
- ☞ Coercion is not allowed in Islam. True and pious advice is the greatest power. Purely driven by compassion for humanity, for the sake of protection of society, give advice with a pure heart in a heartrending manner.
- ☞ The real tool is advice that can be effective in every country of the world with equal power.

- ❧ Women's habit of saying incorrect and baseless things for the sake of pleasure of the tongue is absolutely unacceptable.
- ❧ This leads to the spread of dirty, false, and extremely exaggerated gossip in the society. The ill effects of this turn the society desolate.
- ❧ Islam does not allow inquisitiveness. But it enjoins that when a sinner brings you information you should conduct inquiry.
- ❧ First investigate the matter so no innocent person should needlessly face trouble.
- ❧ Evil cannot spread in a society where Nizam mobilizes immediately.



After *Tasha'hud*, *Ta'awwuz* and recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah*, Huzoor^{ra} stated:

The Manifestation and Effect of Allah's Radiant Attributes

The mention of Allah Almighty's Light that was shaped in the spiritual mould of Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa^{saw} is found in the Holy Qur'an in a very beautiful manner. Its mention has been made at the beginning of *Surah Al-Nur*. From this it is evident that those attributes of God Almighty that are altogether Light can manifest themselves in a person also but the condition is that the person should let his qualities be colored by Allah's luminous attributes and should diminish his own existence in front of that Light. This incident became evident completely in the person of Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa^{saw}.

One of the luminous attributes of God Almighty mentioned is "*laa sharqiyytin wa laa gharbiyyatin*," neither of the East nor of the West; that is to say He belongs to the East the same way as He belongs to the West. In other words it can be said that He neither belongs to the East nor to the West, but exists uniformly or equally among everyone. Similarly, Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa^{saw} appeared as a messenger for the whole world. He neither belongs exclusively to the East, nor to the West; he is the union of the two. He exists in a similar fashion in both. He fulfills the rights of both equally. He does not treat anyone with partiality. He has the ability to settle the affairs of both with perfect justice. This is an attribute of Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa^{saw} that has been referred to as the Light of Allah. This means that since God Almighty is the Creator of both the East and the West therefore just as it cannot even be imagined about Him that He would discriminate between one creation and another, all his creations being equally dear to Him, similarly all kinds of prejudices are erased from the heart of the person who is imbued with godly attributes and acquires a portion of this particular attribute. National, racial, religious, and geographical prejudices are all eradicated. No class distinction is left that separates one category of people from another in the same country.

The Poison of Prejudice and its Qur'anic Remedy

In this small portion of the Qur'anic verse (*la sharqiyyatin wa la gharbiyyatin*, neither of the East nor of the West) a magnificent remedy has been suggested to resolve the issues of the world. If this solution is adopted most of the issues of today's world can be resolved by acting upon just this portion. As you all know, prejudice is showing its effect explicitly at certain places nowadays in politics of the world. Those nations that are comparatively less developed and not completely cognizant of the rules of politics, instead of successfully concealing their bias they give prominence to it and try to gain national interests by getting energized by it. The developed world regards such people and nations uncivilized and treats them as if they are old-fashioned and unaware that the world has become cultured and has advanced to a degree that there is no room left for prejudice. But the fact is that the world that considers itself to be civilized and cultured is not justified in mocking the less developed world. The only difference between the developed world and the old-fashioned one that is regarded as uncultured is that this world has been successful in concealing its bias since it is better statesman, and more diplomatic. It is skilled at employing language that can provide assistance in carrying out an ongoing battle against prejudice on the one hand and exercise prejudice to its own advantage on the other, without hesitation or distinction. Thus today's world is also not free from prejudice. As far as the third world is concerned it is simple and ignorant. It is ignorant of the art of diplomacy. Like fools they continue to verbalize whatever is brewing in their hearts (even if it is prejudice). Their expression of prejudice gets used against their own selves. The world that masquerades as the proponent of civilization and claims to be free from prejudice is in actuality not free from it. The only difference lies in its expression, or lack of it. Some express their prejudice and some cover it with smooth talk. The person who can

conceal his prejudice by clever talk is not necessarily free from it. Thus basically the world is as much a victim of prejudice today as it was a hundred or even a thousand years ago. Even today the world faces the same evil that it did forty or fifty years ago or even before that when many a times it dealt with perils due to prejudice.

Muslim Countries and the Attitude of Their Leaders

As far as Muslim countries are concerned we have a twofold grievance with them. Similar to the third world they give in to their emotions and not only declare their prejudicial thoughts but convey them forcefully to the world in the name of Islam. This is a heinous crime. For, as I just proved, the Holy Qur'an has stated openly about The Holy Prophet^{saw} and the religion that was granted to him that *la sharqiyya tin wa la gharbiyyatin* (he is neither of the East nor of the West). He is not inclined towards East or West but possesses divine inclinations. He is not a man of the world but has become a man of God. Divine attributes became manifest in his person and granted him such a high level of justice that precluded any talk of prejudice towards East or West. Similarly his religion has been declared balanced. It is not inclined to left or right but is established on the middle path, or the path of justice. This being the case, Muslim countries and their leaders or religious scholars give statements that present sores simmering with prejudice to the world in language that portrays Islam as being entirely responsible for them. For example, if they vent their political fervor by announcing jihad in the name of Islam, they are guilty of a twofold infraction. On one hand their country gets defamed and on the other Islam itself becomes a target. The defamation of the country becomes obvious when the politics based on emotions and passion is rendered futile. In today's world the real fight is that of politics. Political contest is fought with brains not brawn. A highly competent politician tries to protect his people from the enemy by employing his intellect. Hence, the people of Muslim countries and their leaders (if they want to succeed) will have to use their intellect and practice rational politics. Mere expression of excitement and enthusiasm will not work. When they exhibit passion and concoct stories by associating their vindictiveness and rage with Islam, the biggest blow is rendered to Islam, and then to the Ahmadiyya community that is the proponent of true Islam in the world. We have committed ourselves worldwide to removing misconceptions prevalent about Islam. When misconceptions due to erroneous practices of Muslims themselves create new obstacles in our way, we have to tell the whole world repeatedly that the voices that they are hearing from Saudi Arabia, Iran, or Libya are not those of Islam. The voice that was raised by Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa^{saw} fourteen hundred years ago in Mecca and Medina, and whose mention is found in the Holy Qur'an, is the real Islam. If you want to scrutinize Islamic values then study the Holy Qur'an and examine the character of Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa^{saw}. This is why I constantly exhort Ahmadis that they should not combine their nationality with their religion. If they are Pakistanis then they should confine their Pakistanism to the boundaries of Pakistan. And when they go to other countries and deliver the message of Islam, this message should be universal; it should have no connection to Pakistan just as Islam has no connection to Libya, Iran, or Saudi Arabia. Islam is not associated to the nations that now inhabit these countries. Rather Islam's association is to the Holy Qur'an. Islam's association is to the exemplary conduct of Muhammad^{saw} which is entirely above suspicion, is pure, clear, and spotless. It is our job to exhibit this exemplary conduct. Whether we present this character in Germany, or other countries of Europe, America, Africa, China, or Japan, it does not change due to change of country. And in this way the change of countries will not impact its efficacy because it is neither of the East nor of the West.

Divine Decree of Joining the East and West through Islam

Thus the quotation that some English writer once used and which then became famous worldwide is:

*The East is East and the West is West
And never the twain shall meet*

Thirteen hundred years before this quotation was said, or twelve hundred years if it is of the previous century, the Holy Prophet^{saw} rejected it forever because God had decreed in the heavens that East and West belong to Him. They will indeed be joined. This is divine decree that cannot be altered. The foundation for joining the East and West was laid in Mecca and Medina at the time of the appearance of Holy Prophet^{saw}. God Almighty announced regarding him, that the being has appeared whose light is neither of the East nor of the West. He holds the status of being the common factor between the two. Thus, in your capacity as an Ahmadi you are a representative of that light. It is mandatory for every Ahmadi who travels to the West or East, or goes to Africa or America, that he should protect this character of his. With his word or action he should not in any way portray to the world that he represents a nation or a prejudice. Contrary to this he should, without any discrimination of religion or society, and without any distinction of citizenship, always stay a representative of God. If justice demands that some other religion be praised and the excellence of that religion be accepted then Islam and the God of Islam demand from him that merely due to bias towards Islam he should not close his eyes to the merit of others. The Holy Qur'an itself talks about certain merits of others. These days it is the perception that Jews are the greatest enemies of Muslims and Islam. But they were the greatest enemies of Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa^{saw}. During that period when their animosity was at its peak, the Holy Qur'an has said such things in praise of some of their qualities that one is amazed to read them. What a great benefactor of humanity and magnanimous proponent of justice was that prophet that when he enumerates their evils he very courageously admits their merit as well at a time when the hostility of certain adversaries was at its peak. This is the exemplary character that is worthy to live on in the world, and will be the cause of joining the East and West. And this is the example that will finally demonstrate the divine decree of uniting the East and the West. And no scheme of the world can defeat this destiny.

The Divine Decree of Joining the East and West will Appear through Ahmadis

This destiny will be and is being fulfilled by those Ahmadis who have been spread all over the world for this reason. Divine decree created such circumstances that even the people who at first could not imagine leaving their country were forcefully driven by angels till they were compelled to leave their beloved land and go and settle in other countries. The objective was not that their economic circumstances should change. The motive was that the word of God Almighty should be fulfilled whose fulfillment has always been ordained. Under this divine decree at last true Islamic teachings and the sacred example of the Holy Prophet^{saw} will be spread in the world. And it is this holy example that will prevail because it will be successful in winning the hearts of the world. As a result of the conquest of this exemplary character the world will enter a new era where the distinction of East and West will be eradicated, and man will live his life in the world as a member of one nation in his capacity as a human being. Efforts should be made, generally in Europe and particularly in Germany, for the attainment of this lofty goal. Since, according to my knowledge, today Ahmadis are not settled in any country in the whole of Europe in such large numbers as are settled in Germany, and this evident fact can be seen quite clearly. For example this is a gathering of ladies. By the grace of God this hall is filled to the brim. According to the report by noon, attendance had reached two thousand and members are still coming. Similarly a separate assembly is being held for men. In their gathering also, by the grace of God, there is plenty of hustle and bustle. People who visit from Rabwah on such occasions say that it seems to them that a small Rabwah has been established here. But this Rabwah should not remain small, because with migration God has promised expansion of residence. It is a promise of God that if you migrate

He would grant you expansion. The increase that has been promised, in addition to residential expansion, comprises religious, spiritual, and moral increases. The banner of these expansions has been given in your hands. You will certainly be answerable if you exercise breach of trust and do not take advantage of this enormously grand opportunity to convey the message of Islam to these nations with your word and beautiful actions, after completely purging yourself of prejudices. And the men (who are listening) will be answerable as well.

General Review of the Standard of Truth in the Western World

In view of this aspect, as required by justice, I had raised a point yesterday: That we accept that the standard of truth in the Western world has risen comparatively much higher than that of the Eastern world. It is a misfortune that in the Eastern world falsehood keeps on increasing everywhere (it is not only a matter of Pakistan, be it India, African countries, and other countries and areas of the third world, everywhere). Of course, by the grace of God Almighty the standard of truth in Far East is extremely high. For example in Japan it is so high that I can say with certainty from personal knowledge that in this matter Japan is not behind any European country; rather it is probably somewhat ahead. Therefore the impression created in yesterday's discourse that the whole of the Eastern world is habitual liar is not correct. At that time I did not have Japan, Korea and other countries of the Far East in mind. I was actually talking with India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and other surrounding countries in view. I think this correction is necessary. The truth is that the entire East is not in the habit of lying. In the East there are certain nations that are customarily truthful and others that have become habitual liars. Compared to this, very little dishonesty is found in the West. A lie is spoken when a special need arises; otherwise there is no concept of lying in everyday society.

This was a matter of fairness that I stated. Certain people experienced discomfort over it. Their point is that such discourse on my part will bring disrepute to Jamaat. My articulation will not cause disrepute; if it happens it will be due to the liars. Some miserable people are innocently in the habit of lying. They would be telling a lie and not even be aware that they are doing something wrong. Since childhood they have been brought up in such an environment that it has become second nature to them to gossip and lie about everyday trivial matters. There are those also among them who do not lie at the time when something serious is being discussed. This is proof of the fact that goodness is predominant in them nonetheless. But these habits (that fibbing about little things is considered to be of no consequence) are dangerous. They yield an unsuitable environment and can destroy future generations. Therefore it is essential to completely avoid these minor habits. Lajna Imaillah can play a major role in this matter; this is so because women are the factories of future generations. They are factories in the physical, as well as the spiritual and moral sense. They can produce and vouchsafe whatever kind of progeny they desire for the future. Therefore, at the junction of any two generations, women play the most important role in adorning the new generation. This is the reason that the Holy Prophet^{saw} did not pronounce that paradise lies under the feet of fathers, but that of mothers. What deep wisdom has been pronounced in this small phrase, and numerous insights have been confirmed. One of those insights is that a woman plays the biggest and the most important role in shaping the character of future generations. This is what is expected of Muslim women, because Prophet Mohammed, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, has faith in them that paradise will emanate from under their feet owing to the fact that they are included in his *Umma* (nation). Paradise emanating from under the feet also implies that the subsequent generations will be born heavenly due to a superior upbringing. Thus, note what a huge confidence has been placed in you. And what an important message has been relayed to you; that today's mothers and sisters will decide for future generations if they will be heavenly or hell-bound. Sisters who will soon become mothers and the mothers under whose care the present generation is being nurtured will be granting a great favor to future generations if they decide to make them heavenly. If you do not make this decision then you are not the mothers that

Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa^{saw} is referring to. The Holy Prophet^{saw} did not pronounce that there is paradise under the feet of every mother. Mothers who are not pious will have hell under their feet. Thus he said that paradise lies under the feet of a mother. This implies that those pious women who are from the *Umma* of, and servant of, Muhammad^{saw} and who practice Islam with honesty and righteousness, have heaven under their feet. Future generations will be born heavenly; will be nurtured with heavenly attributes in the lap of pious mothers, and will derive heavenly nutrition in the form of mother's milk. This is the message that has been granted to you (meaning the Ahmadi women present here). Therefore, upon coming here they (those women from Pakistan who have come and settled in Germany) should remember that not only the paradise of future generations lies under their feet, but the paradise of the new generations being granted to them spiritually, the spiritual children being born as a result of propagation, is also deeply connected to their pious example. If this example is imperfect, and if they have failed to make this an excellent Islamic example, then indeed the paradise under their feet will continue to diminish to that extent.

A Value that has become Rare in the West

In this connection today I want to say to that along with some vices there are some virtues found in the East as well. Compared to this the West is becoming deprived of certain virtues. Fairness demands that attention of the people of West should be drawn to the values they are losing. One of the values of the East is modesty. According to some people this virtue used to be present but now it has become a part of the past. But it was found in the East to the degree that despite its depletion, even today it is present there to a large extent. Contrary to this it is vanishing from the West. Therefore it is imperative for you to adopt the value of modesty; it should not be allowed to die on any account, and should be kept alive at all costs because a person's character is deeply related to modesty. Ahmadi ladies, who have come here after being raised in a decent environment, confront numerous dangers due to lack of modesty. I get some deeply troubling reports. I am getting even more disturbing reports particularly regarding those women who have reached here in the last one to one-and-a-half year. There are such loggers (community lodging designated by government for common people in Germany) here where men and women are kept together. Since there is no concept of reticence in the West, therefore staying in such loggers can cause problems. In fact, by acquiring a completely erroneous concept of freedom in the West, the liberty of a woman has been presented in a manner that their unbridled promiscuity is not objectionable any more. Owing to this, Europe has suffered so much loss that their family life shattered has into bits. The connection of previous generations is severed from the future generations. That is to say generation gap (the vacuum that appeared between the old and new generation) arose and kept on increasing. Shamelessness played a huge role in all these evils and drawbacks. Because of this there is such a huge gap between the concepts of modesty in the East and West that it is practically impossible for Westerners to comprehend that they are becoming devoid of it. Their point of view is, "What is wrong with it if young boys and young girls live in the same logger?" They say, "What difference does it make?" They say this because their concept of modesty is not what it once used to be. It has changed altogether, which is why they cannot see what difference it makes.

It is Imperative to Hold on to Both Modesty and Outer Covering

You are aware that the thing that protects a woman most is modesty. Therefore the greatest and the biggest enemy of a woman is shamelessness. The veil has an exterior form as well, but if the veil of modesty is not inherent alongside this outer covering, then the latter is left with no value. Contrary to this even if outer covering is not present, i.e. is not there with the severity that is expected, and the veil of inherent modesty is present then such a woman is safer. Some women present the excuse that since they are obligated to observe the veil of inner modesty therefore they

do not need outer covering. This excuse is also false and inappropriate. The fact is that the veil of inner modesty does not last for long without outer covering. In such a situation the mere veil of modesty lasts for a while in one generation, but gradually it disappears and changes completely into shamelessness; and this immorality is more dangerous than before. Therefore there is no question of preferring outer covering or the veil of inner modesty to one another. Both need to advance with the same rapidity. Both need to be included in our journey of life with equally firm strides. Of course, modesty indeed has the distinction that it alone truly protects a woman. Nonetheless, we cannot ignore the apparent means of protection of modesty. Modesty and the means of guarding it have their significance firmly established in their respective areas. It is an exceptional situation that outwardly a woman observes the veil but, due to lack of modesty, she becomes an evil for the society. Otherwise, in general, outer covering guards modesty. Thus in the Eastern character, outer covering played the biggest role in protecting modesty. Therefore protect your modesty and protect it whichever way possible, because modesty itself will protect you. Akber Allah Aabaadi, the famous Indian poet (who died before the establishment of Pakistan), while speaking on the topic of veil, said:

*For the protection of the harem the sword is no more
How long will the sticks of the hanging screen work?*

His purport was that the sword, that is, the political power that we had, for the protection of dignity and honor of our women, is not there any more; how long will these sticks of the hanging bamboo screens protect the dignity and honor of our women. This is a very powerful verse and with regard to poetical beauty it is very lofty but in reality, it is devoid of truth. Because fact of the matter is that sword does not protect chastity. Chastity is protected by modesty. Neither screens nor swords are of any use in this matter. No power in the world can stop from immorality the nations that decide to become shameless. Contrary to this, modesty will protect those nations that decide to be modest whether they have swords and screens or not. This is the reason that the Holy Prophet^{saw} stated on the topic of modesty: *“alhia khairun kullohu,”* meaning, modesty is a human virtue that is entirely good. There is no question of balance in this, for the more modesty there is the better it is. It is only better to have more and more of it. There is no harm in it; it imparts benefit upon benefit. Some people understand this topic incorrectly, but right now I do not want to broach this topic. I want to tell you that modesty is the greatest weapon of an Ahmadi woman. In this context, your social occasions become the measure of modesty. They become a kind of thermometer. I receive reports concerning marriage ceremonies in particular that complete regard is not shown for the veil due to influence of the environment here. Men are also coming and going in ladies' gatherings. Video film is being made; romantic poetry is being read. Parties also reach interesting stages. They believe that by tolerating these kinds of un-Islamic practices they will avoid being counted as conservative in the eyes of others. Their way of thinking is that they are somewhat conservative but not so mediocre that they cannot do these kinds of immodest things. They think that all this is allowed. This way of thinking and acting is not proper on any account. These initiatives will slowly take you to a dangerous place. You should guard the Ahmadi society here and take a firm stand in preserving modesty wherever social values are attacking it.

Nizam-e-Jamaat should Make Arrangements for Supervision in the Loggers

In any case, there are opportunities present for friendship between boys and girls in loggers. It appears to newcomers, who come from abroad and get settled there, that suddenly they have come and encountered a changed climate. They forget that the real climate is that which always stays the same spiritually, and that is the specific climate of Islam. It is a climate that cannot be altered by change of countries. The newcomers do not keep this subtle distinction in view. Upon

coming suddenly into the liberties of the Western world they start thinking that all hurdles have been removed from their paths. They have now reached a world where there is nobody to question or check them, and to impose restrictions. Now they can do whatever they want, amuse themselves as they wish, as if there is freedom to do their hearts' desire. When they embrace ideas of this kind, they do not just attain freedom from restrictions but from Islam as well. It is possible that in the beginning this step may not lead to grave consequences, but the intentions that are acting behind this initiative blossom and do not desist from causing trouble. Religious restraints also start to take leave one by one from the hearts of those people who let their character change because there is no apparent restriction. Arrangements cannot be made for protection of people who free themselves from religious ties. Nizam-e-Jamaat (the system of the community) should guard them during the early period. It should be aware of what conditions they are in, and what precautions are required to protect them from the evils of this liberal society; it should make arrangements for supervision in all such loggers where innocent girls who do not completely understand their issues, and such young boys who did not exhibit good character in their own countries even, are together. Arrangements should be made for guarding their morals. The Nizam should keep an eye on them and take part in their training.

Our Real Weapon is Advice

Coercion is neither allowed in Islam where they (the new settlers in Germany) came from and nor is it allowed here. The greatest power is the power of true and pure admonition. This is such a tremendous power that no power in the world can work against it. Allah Almighty has stated in the Holy Qur'an that:

So keep on admonishing. Surely, admonition is, indeed, profitable. (87:10)

It is evident from this that the most important and powerful weapon that was given to the Holy Prophet^{saw} was the instrument of exhortation. And, in his servitude, the most powerful instrument that has been given to you also is that of admonition. Thus, not in a taunting manner, not for the sake of wounding, without blaming mothers for their sons who need reformation, but purely driven by human compassion and for the protection of Islamic society, give advice with a pure heart in a heartrending manner. As you just heard this verse from the poetry of the Promised Messiah^{as}:

*We have no malice, brothers, our counsel is humble
I would lay down my life for the pure of heart*

He states, "The advice that I give is not based on any rancor". In reality there is no mutual relevance between admonition and anger. The advice that carries anger and hatred will cause harm instead of improvement. That is why the Promised Messiah^{as} stated the basic philosophy of admonition after admonishing us. He stated that 'God Almighty is my witness that I admonish without any anger and malice in my heart for the wicked.' I am indeed waging a holy war against evil with the aid of pure and humble exhortation. These voices of admonition have arisen from my heart and I am compelled to convey them to mankind for the sake of its welfare. Thus he stated:

'We have no malice, brothers, our counsel is humble,'

Referring to the effectiveness of this admonition he stated:

'I would lay down my life for the pure of heart,'

Meaning I am a humble servant. It is correct that God has granted me a highly exalted status, but the state of my heart is that wherever I see purity and piety, I feel utmost devotion to it. In short,

the real weapon is admonition indeed. This is the weapon that was granted to the Holy Prophet^{saw}. This is the weapon that was granted to the Promised Messiah^{as}. And this is the instrument that can prove to be effective in every country of the world, be it Eastern or Western, with equal power. No government is needed for this job. What is needed is purity and humility of heart, and making the admonition compassionate. As far as determining the situation and searching to become cognizant of it is concerned, you may certainly do that. This is included in the duties of Nizam-e-Jamaat; but it should be done for the purpose of reform through admonition and not for the sake of harshness.

Different Times for Admonition and Remedy

In this context the fact that harshness is of two kinds needs to be explained. One kind of harshness is for the sake of reform where compulsion is used, and such means is employed that might physically force someone to give up a particular path. In Islam such harshness is not allowed against adults. Islam teaches us to make use of admonition for the reform of such people. But after the period of advice (which is in any case superior), comes the period of cure. In this new period a certain kind of severity is justified, but the significance of that harshness is not coercive but remedial. In the end the community has to take strict remedial action as well. As last resort the community will have to exercise such severity here also.

I want to make the difference between harshness of compulsion and remedial severity very clear. It will not be correct on any account to regard corrective harshness to be coercion. This can easily be made clear with one example. Suppose, there is an epidemic somewhere and there are certain patients who are contagious. Despite every effort their sickness cannot be controlled, and they are not even willing to understand that they should confine their disease to themselves, and not afflict others with it needlessly. For such patients the law that is in force in all the developed countries of the world that are against coercion is that they are forced to stay in quarantine. Quarantine is that place where contact of such patients is severed from outside world, so that their germs and influence do not harm people. There is no such quarantine in the Ahmadiyya community. There is a quarantine of a different sort. We exhort the rest of the community that, not as a punishment but rather for their own defense and self-preservation, they should break off social contact with such people. By doing so their innocent daughters would not be adversely affected by the sight of their bad character; and they may avoid evil. Such sick people influence others also through their careless talk. Evil and indecency spread due to this. In the end such initiatives have to be taken to stop this and to protect others from it.

Islamic Teaching about Inquisitiveness and Inquiry

It is essential to keep another distinction in mind in this context. I will end this speech after elucidating this difference. There are certain issues whose detailed comprehension is essential; otherwise your office holders or others hearing this sometimes make mistakes due to not understanding certain subtle distinctions. I want that Islamic system should be implemented with such detail that no kind of ambiguity should be left. Everyone should know the reasons behind what they are doing. And the arguments should be so strong that they should be able to convince others, be they Muslims or non-Muslims; and should be able to satisfy them that there is hidden wisdom in various teachings of Islam. There is no compulsion or coercion in it, nothing uncivilized in it, but rather it is an extremely lofty teaching based on a highly mature vision. It is such incomparable teaching that mankind has no solution but to embrace it.

It is necessary to understand the acceptable limits of inquiry with the intention of gaining awareness of the situation. The basic principle regarding this is that Islam does not allow inquisitiveness. It is against unnecessary curiosity about personal affairs of people and

discovering situations by probing. There is a clear instruction of the Holy Qur'an that "*wa la tajassaso*," that is, do not exercise inquisitiveness on any account. Do not exercise undue interference in people's affairs. And without any reason, by falling prey to delusions, do not try to investigate what anybody is doing in privacy. This is called inquisitiveness. Inquisitiveness is forbidden and disallowed. But there is also the injunction of inquiry. It is stated "*iza jaa'a kum faasiqum binabaa in fata bayyanoo*," whenever a sinful person brings some information, investigate it. Meaning, instead of believing this news, you should research it. Now there is a huge difference between inquiry and inquisitiveness. The direction that I am giving is not of inquisitiveness but of inquiry. The reason for this is that there is gossip going on covertly among ladies. Now, if this gossip is going on about different loggers, different homes, or certain boys and girls, such gossip is absolutely illegitimate. Such women have acquired a taste for gossip and are causing the spread of indecency. Such gossip is not for the sake of admonition, because admonition should be given to the one in need of it. This is not considered admonition that a woman leaves her house, reaches the house of her neighboring woman and says, "Do you know what is happening at such and such place?" She drops her work and asks, "Tell me what is happening". She says, "The girls do this and the boys do that over there, this and that is going on, no one has any discretion". She responds, "Really? This is going on in our neighborhood?" In such gossip, first of all there is a lot of falsehood and exaggeration. Secondly when that woman listens to this and conveys it to others, she does not have fun till she adds a few details to it, to the extent that a mountain is created out of molehill.

Evil that Destroys Nations

Gossip that is horrible, filthy, extremely exaggerated, and baseless starts to spread in society in this manner. Its extremely destructive influence acts upon the society in two ways. Firstly, women who are the cause of spreading indecency do not remain dear in the eyes of God. Allah disapproves of them. Blessings disappear from amidst them. Instead of deserving God's love they attract His displeasure. Since there is more probability of this disease spreading among women, therefore the danger is that the whole society will get entangled in it. And if, God forbid, the whole society gets tainted, then apparently all women will be practicing goodness, paying monetary dues, and reading the Holy Qur'an, but would be continuously violating a basic commandment regarding which the Holy Qur'an has issued a warning that, "Beware! Do not get afflicted by this sickness because it destroys nations". Such women continue to be further afflicted by this evil, and with their own hands, continue to destroy their good works; they become guilty of spreading evil in the society. Other women who are listening develop courage and enthusiasm for evil from their talk. No matter how many times the listener touches her ears and says "*astaghfi rullah*", the thought is produced in her heart that other women are acting in this manner; the restrictions of Islam and community are there for me only. Then gradually when immorality spreads she says, "It is no big deal; such and such does this, so why shouldn't we". Such women keep an eye on the workers of Lajna and the wives and daughters of other workers of the community, and if they see any defect in them they obtain more of an excuse to violate rules. They say if such and such does this then nobody says anything to her, but if I do it then it is a big issue. In this way the environment for admonition to work is destroyed. Just as a seed cannot be planted in desert similarly in such an environment advice is not effective. In the blazing heat of the sun, in the season of drought, the most barren is that sandy area where something grows only when it rains by chance; otherwise nothing grows there. Society is made desolate by the frivolous habit of baseless gossip by these women. Then in such desolation, the seed of spirituality cannot be planted. The whole nation gets inclined towards destruction due to this.

The Mutual Difference between Inquisitiveness and Inquiry

The frivolous habit of the tongue is not an insignificant issue. In reality this is very dangerous. As I have said, inquisitiveness, which is forbidden by God, is produced as a result of this. The person who says things that come under the heading of 'disclosure of indecency' in general public has been termed as a sinner by God Almighty. He chose a very sagacious word by saying that when a sinner talks to you, you should investigate it. This has twofold meaning. One is that generally there is a trend among sinners to gossip; decent people do not have this trend. Even if they do, it is insignificant and very little. Secondly, when such news would reach the authorities, meaning the Holy Prophet^{saw} and his representatives, then the Holy Qur'an advised them to distinguish who is conveying this matter; because sinners as well as the righteous would convey matters to them. Therefore it is stated that when the righteous report a matter, they should act upon it with more certitude. And when immoral people convey a matter to them then they should investigate it completely before taking any steps, so that in this situation no innocent person is troubled needlessly. This is the Islamic teaching called inquiry.

Thus wherever such a matter reaches an office holder of Lajna, inquiry is incumbent upon her. The Holy Qur'an has enjoined that "exercise inquiry", and in the matter of inquiry you should get to the root of the lie. You should catch the woman who says such a thing right there that, "Did you make it up yourself or hear it from someone? If you have heard it then tell us who you heard it from? Otherwise I will report it to the system with your name, and will tell the office holder that you are spreading this thing, and are not giving anyone's name that you heard it from." This is called inquiry. Thus if that woman does not give anyone's name during investigation then she is guilty of spreading indecency, and did not help the Nizam in stopping it. Or she is guilty of creating a scandal by making up something on her own; otherwise there was no issue. In both the cases she deserves to be punished. If the system interferes in this manner and takes action then truth will become distinct from falsehood, and it will become evident if there is any issue or not. In a society where Nizam is mobilized immediately, evil cannot spread. It is necessary to exercise inquiry for eradication of such things, but never forgetting the fact that inquiry is totally different from inquisitiveness. Inquisitiveness is that you needlessly interfere in such personal matters of people that have not come out yet; that have not themselves assumed the level of indecency, and that have not reached the stage of complete openness yet. Interference is that you, on your own be suspicious about some man or woman that covertly he or she must be doing this. You get engrossed in curiosity about this matter and sit in ambush and try to ascertain internal affairs by prying. This is inquisitiveness that is completely forbidden in Islam. Everyone has some privacy. The veil of God Almighty's attribute of "Coverer" is on it. You do not have permission to tear up this cover and peek inside. But if someone has himself taken off and thrown away this cover and has reached the stage of shamelessness that can be seen from outside, it is a crime not to exercise inquiry there. There it is essential to investigate. It is necessary to find out what the truth is and what is false.

Custom of the Community in the Matter of Investigation

In this matter it is the common custom of the community that if an office holder is involved in some issue then one should complain against her through her, so that she right away has an opportunity to defend herself. Secondly, there is a wisdom in it that whoever is going to hear the complaint, his time should be saved. Instead of the listener having to send the matter again to the office holder against whom complaint has been sent, in one instance he can hear the issues of both the parties and reach a conclusion. This custom of the system is only regarding office holders. That is, when someone has a complaint against an office holder, then he should send his complaint through that office holder; otherwise members of the community can write all kinds of things to Khalifa-e-Waqt

(the Caliph of the time), and they do. On no account is it the requirement of the Nizam that a letter should always be sent through the president. A woman, a man, an old person, a child, whatever they see or feel, express this in their letters innocently. Through the letters received from all over the world, Khalifatul Masih stays informed about what is generally going on everywhere. There is no hurdle in writing directly like this, nor is it against the Nizam. But if someone tries to send a complaint directly by ignoring the office holder against whom he has a complaint, then we say that to do so is against Nizam-e-Jamaat. But this does not mean that the one who receives the direct complaint does not have a right to investigate such a matter. His right to investigate is firm in its place; the Holy Qur'an gave him that right under the verse of inquiry. This will be the modus operandi for Nizam-e-Jamaat that is based on the Holy Qur'an. Many a times I give advice to such people that your complaining directly is not the right way. Send it through the President, or the Lajna President, or the concerned office holder, and that I will not take any step until this complaint reaches me according to the prescribed manner. But sometimes I decide that the nature of this matter is such that instead of compelling the complainant that he should send his complaint through the concerned office holder, I should ask the concerned office holder or office holders directly. To do so is not against Nizam-e-Jamaat, and all of you office holders have this right as well. It is true that if you get a complaint about someone, then you do not have a right to accept one-sided opinion. For example, if that complaint came by ignoring the system then you have a right to ignore it, and compel the one writing it that he should go through the good offices of the Nizam. But you are not bound that since they did not go through the good offices of the system, therefore you cannot take any steps and investigate any matter. Certain complaints are of such nature that even if they do not reach through the system, inquiry is essential. The requirement of justice is only this that no step be taken, and the heart should not be allowed to accept any influence, till such time that the other party's side is heard.

The Harm of Not Understanding Nizam-e-Jamaat

Thus due to not understanding the difference between inquiry and inquisitiveness, and not understanding the spirit of Nizam-e-Jamaat, sometimes the office holders of Lajna also say strange and ridiculous things that in reality become a joke. When I came to Germany last time, during the meeting with one family, while talking to me, a girl started to cry; she cried till she was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. I tried to find out what had hurt her; first she would not say anything, but when I persisted she said, "Yesterday I was extremely humiliated, and Lajna is responsible for this disgrace." When I asked for the detail of what had happened, she told me that she had stood first in one of the Lajna competitions. At the time of prize distribution her name was called out and she came and got her prize from Begum Sahiba; an office holder of Lajna, with great harshness, yanked away the prize from her, and said, "We made a mistake that we called you; go back." I was very hurt to hear this complaint from the girl. Upon reaching England I wrote to the Lajna President that she should have this matter investigated and inform me of the result. The reply that I received from there also included the fact that I myself had suggested to them to abide by the rules of the Nizam and I myself was breaking it. The purport was that 'since that girl did not write through me (concerned office holder) therefore you do not have a right to investigate.' This reply is not correct. I want to explain to you that in certain situations I also have a right to conduct an inquiry. And so does every office holder among you. If a complaint arrives and it is of the nature that the office holder decides to investigate it, then although he does not have a right to accept one-sided influence and deem someone guilty, he does have the right that, by way of investigation, he should send a letter to Nizam-e-Jamaat and find out the detail of what really happened; and ask why such a thing happened. This is not a new issue. It happened due to lack of knowledge and dearth of training of your Lajna office holder.

I remember that when we were little in Qadian we did not have much opportunity to keep company with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih the Second¹². When he ate a meal at our house then we would also

get a chance to sit together, and we would join him in the meal. At that time I would see that many a times women would bring their complaints; someone would come crying and state her complaint, and he would note it down; another woman would come and give her complaint written down on a piece of paper. About such complaints his custom was that he would not make any decision unless and until he gave the other party a chance to present his position. He would never believe one-sided statements. Of course, one-sided statement does leave its effect on the heart to the extent that if a person is in pain then the listener will also start to experience that pain. This is a human constraint. But this pain on no account means that the person feeling the pain has deemed the other person guilty. Before adjudging guilty, investigation is done. This is the common practice. It has always been done like this.

I receive complaints from the whole world. Directed by the verse of the Holy Qur'an, "*iz jaa a kum fasiqum bi naba in fata bayyanoo,*" I feel that investigation is essential also because the one who is writing seems guilty. Whether he has adopted the means of Nizam-e-Jamaat or not I consider it appropriate that I should send the letter back to the system and investigate to what extent this person is making false allegations and to what extent genuine ones. If I do not do this then that person would keep on acting in an improper manner, and it would not be possible to expose him to the world. If I send the letter of complaint to Nizam-e-Jamaat, then the Amir cannot write to me that I am in violation of it. Obviously I know more about Nizam-e-Jamaat than the Amir. If the Khalifa-e-Waqt is not going to guard Nizam-e-Jamaat then who else is going to do it. Khalifa-e-Waqt understands better what the subtleties of Nizam are. How it is guarded and how does one act upon it. Therefore do not concern yourselves with such trivial details. You also have the right, and every office holder among you has this right as well, that if some complaint arrives, you do not consider it because it did not come through Nizam-e-Jamaat. Without a doubt every office holder has this right but if it is a situation about which his heart tells him that its investigation is essential then it would be a crime not to investigate. But it is necessary that this requirement of justice be borne in mind that the person against whom the complaint has been made should be informed of the whole situation.

Explanation of the Correct Course of Action regarding the Complaint under Consideration

The summary of detailed reply that I received from Nizam-e-Jamaat regarding the situation that I just presented was that, "The girl who stood first had already received her prize. When her name was called out again by mistake, why didn't she speak up that 'I have already received my prize?' She is lying that we were unkind to her by taking the prize away from her. Why did she not speak up that her name had been called by mistake therefore she should not be given the prize?" These are all childish remarks. Everybody is eager to get a prize. If you summon someone by calling her name that person will be overcome by the spirit of eagerness and hence come running. If the Nizam has given the prize twice, by mistake, then there is a different way to take the prize back. Nizam should remind her separately at a time when she does not feel humiliated that, "Sister, we made a mistake; forgive us. This prize has been given to you twice; therefore please give it back." This is the requirement of courtesousness that should be fulfilled in such a situation. Otherwise, if you refute a young girl in public, then she is sure to stumble.

Thus, Lajna is doing very good work; and is working very hard. But it is also essential for Lajna that just as they consider their own feelings, and feel pain on being asked to explain themselves by Khalifa-e-Waqt, they should consider the feelings of the Ahmadi girls under them the same way. They should also consider, and be sensitive about, their dignity. If, by mistake, extra prize is given out, what is the great catastrophe? Then taking that prize back in public is certainly a very painful experience for anyone. The fault is yours. Why did you give the prize again? And if, by mistake,

you had given the prize twice, and you absolutely had to take it back, then you should have taken it later; and even if you don't take it back, what's the big disaster? Lajna is not so poor that they would go bankrupt by giving a small medal twice. Therefore Lajna's reply is a childish response. Well, whatever it is I do not accept this reply. But I am not telling you this because your presidency or your leadership is flawed. I am telling you this because such incidents keep happening at different levels. Training is required to discharge one's responsibility. They should also reform themselves. Here, the woman who gets appointed to an office from among you should always keep this fact in view that playing with emotions in this manner, due to which somebody feels humiliated and hurt, sometimes produces very dangerous results. It distances not only one person but an entire family from Ahmadiyyat. Serving is not an easy task. Do not care so much for your own feelings; do not have mercy on yourselves, but you must care for other people's feelings and develop mercy for them. Discipline has its own place and feelings have their own place. There should be no conflict and clash between these two. But they cannot be sacrificed over one another.

May Allah grant you the capacity that you understand these admonitions and get ready to fulfill the demands of the time. If there have been mistakes in the matter of guarding modesty then do *astaghfar*, and start a jihad for raising the flag of modesty by way of Nizam-e-Jamaat and also as a member of the community. If you do this you will be successful in restoring this lost value to the West. The recovery and restoration of this value is extremely important for the protection of the West itself. They have become afflicted in many kinds of evils due to this deprivation. May Allah grant you its ability! Ameen.



Study of Daughters of Eve and A Society Reminiscent of Paradise

November – December, 2006: One Nation

Discussion Points

1. Allah's light is "neither *of the East nor of the West.*" Discuss the meaning of this statement. Explain how we can personalize this teaching.

2. What is our responsibility as Ahmadi Muslims in conducting ourselves in the society in which we live?

3. What aspects of our culture should we present when we travel or when we relocate/emigrate?

4. What was Allah's plan in joining the East and West?

5. *'Paradise lies under the feet of the mother.'* What specific work has Huzoor^{ra} entrusted to Ahmadi Mothers to earn this honorable title?

6. *"Modesty is the greatest weapon of an Ahmadi woman."* How can modesty be fostered? Think of all the situations in our society, where we would have to take a firm stand, in preserving modesty. Discuss the perils of abandoning modesty.

7. Discuss positive and negative peer pressure. Illustrate with examples.

8. *"Society is made desolate by the frivolous habit of baseless gossip".* What constructive suggestions does your Lajna have to eliminate the evil of backbiting and gossip? For example, when someone comes to you with gossip, what responses would effectively stop it, keeping Taqwa in mind?

9. Explain the difference between inquiry and inquisitiveness. When is inquiry necessary?

10. What is the correct procedure for complaints keeping in mind due respect to Nizam-e-Jamaat and the feelings of the fellow sisters involved?

Hold a workshop on Freedom and Restraint

11. Divide in to groups to discuss the implications in 'Freedom' and 'Restraint' using the following ideas. Present your discussions to the larger group.

- ☞ How can freedom from the ills of a promiscuous society be achieved?
- ☞ Is there such a state as freedom? Refer to incidents in the Life of the Holy Prophet^{saw}.
- ☞ Your daughter is going to college. What challenges will confront her? What practical advice can you give her and how would you give that advice?

Self Reflection Journal

12. List three ways you will change to present yourself to family and friends through Islam rather than your culture.



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of Allah the Gracious the Merciful

Propagation of Religion and Upbringing of Children

Address of Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{ra}, Khalifatul Masih IV

Delivered on July 6, 1991 on the occasion of the Ladies' Annual Convention Canada and Ladies' Annual Gathering, Germany (via telephone) at Toronto, Canada

Following are some of the important points from this address:

- ☞ Ahmadiyyat is entering a new era of progress. The interest of the world in our community is increasing so profusely and demands are pouring in so rapidly that if our present resources remain constant it would be impossible for us to fulfill the needs of the world.
- ☞ There is a deep connection between my Khilafat and Lajna Imaillah. During my period, with the Grace of Allah Almighty, Lajna will be very prompt in service to Jamaat and will assist me with a great force.
- ☞ My Khilafat has a connection with Russia as well. This is the time when we will indeed spread the faith in Russia very rapidly. Ahmadi ladies can play a major role in the spread of Islam there.
- ☞ For the sake of your girls' protection assign them religious responsibilities right from the start. Entrust them with such high level tasks as a result of which they develop a feeling that they are extremely noble ladies. They have been created for a specific purpose. They have to do great things in this world. They are not to follow the world but have to make the world follow them.
- ☞ This zeal appoints an internal guard inside a person. God has placed it inside every conscience.
- ☞ If this kind of feeling is created in early childhood then later on the guard and protector of their conscience keeps them on the correct path.
- ☞ All those countries where we have ventured to come in order to serve the faith we have encountered cultures whose poison runs deep and protection of our children from it should be our uppermost priority. It cannot be achieved by being defensive. So create the aggression of love in your children for Islam.
- ☞ The responsibility to train future generations lies on children being born today. Hence, you will have to be good mothers to raise such good children.
- ☞ The best legacy that a mother can bestow on her child is of Taqwa. Your children are your whole wealth and your future.
- ☞ The most important thing for the etiquette of moral training is devotion. If you have true eagerness in your hearts then the children of such mothers can never go to waste.
- ☞ Keep an eye on your children's habits and behavior since early childhood. Try to instill the love of faith in their hearts with love and affection.
- ☞ Unjust treatment of the wife is one the most significant sins. It is a sin that destroys the whole society.
- ☞ Women ought to raise their boys in such a way that when they grow up they treat their wives in a decent manner. Today's mothers are giving birth to tomorrow's men.

- ❧ Women in the future have to face the incorrect upbringing of boys by these mothers. As if in reality it is a woman who is being unjust to another woman.
- ❧ If you want to be merciful to yourselves then give your sons a good moral training and tell them about the rights of women from early childhood. Teach them to respect their sisters. Develop fine emotions in them and make the idea of women's respect entrenched in their hearts. If you raise such boys then it would be an enormous favor on the next generation. And generations after generation Ahmadi girls will be conferred good husbands; husbands like we found in Prophet Muhammed^{saw}.
- ❧ We greatly need the environment in our homes to be decent, to be pleasant. It should be the perpetual wish of men, sons, and daughters to come home to find peace. They should love each other, show affection, and the relationships in Ahmadi homes should be better than those in all the homes in the world.
- ❧ This model when presented by you will make you the best messenger of your religion. Otherwise, in today's world no one listens to mere words.



After *Tasha'hud*, *Ta'awwuz* and the recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah*, Huzoor^{ra} said:

Today we are holding a Lajna Ijtema here. Similarly another Lajna Ijtema is being held in Germany. By the grace of Allah, they can hear this address at this time. I was informed of this via fax from them and with this they expressed a wish that when I address the Canadian Lajna I should keep them in mind that they could also hear my voice. Today it is the first day of their Ijtema as well. Therefore I am addressing both of you simultaneously.

The first thing is that the German Lajna, with the blessings of Allah, is a very prompt Lajna. Whenever I had a chance to go to Germany and observe them closely I was very pleased with the fact that Lajna is very prepared in all of their tasks and they are particularly directing profound attention towards the moral training of their girls and its blessed outcome is becoming apparent as well. When I visited them one or two years earlier, Lajna had for the first time entered a new program; a question answer session was held with young girls. I was very pleased to see that those little girls knew a great deal. If one does not have knowledge one cannot even ask questions and answers are not the only criterion to judge someone's knowledge. To a great extent you can assess someone's knowledge from the questions too. Those who ask superficial questions have superficial knowledge. Those who ask profound and searching questions indicate their knowledge as well as their mental inquisitiveness. These young girls left a good impression on my heart. They asked very good questions and sometimes you could tell from their questions the extent of their parents' religious knowledge. This is a very important issue that I would first like to draw your attention to.

The Rapidly Changing Condition of the World and Our Responsibilities

We owe a responsibility to the future generations. In particular, we have an enormous responsibility for the generation that is entering into youth before our eyes. The reason behind this is that Ahmadiyyat is now entering a new phase of its progress. God had given this glad tiding to the Promised Messiah^{as} that now righteous people are leaning this way and angels are descending upon them. We are entering a period where we can see these angels descending in front of our eyes. The interest of the world in our community is increasing so profusely and demands are pouring in so rapidly that if our present resources remain constant it would be impossible for us to fulfill the needs of the world. The arena of USSR in itself is so large and their needs are so numerous that even if the community dedicated all its resources to it those needs could not be fulfilled. Russia has capsized suddenly as if it never had any life. Some of the ill effects of its collapse are appearing before the world and others will become apparent. For now, the world is under the impression that it is a huge victory for America and its allies, or a victory for capitalism. But this is mere foolishness. This system that we are present in right now has failed and that system has also failed. One of them broke and appeared as such and the other is about to break. Ahmadiyya community alone bears the entire responsibility to handle the chaos that is going to be the consequence of the breakup of both these systems.

Establishment of Ahmadiyya Community in Russia

As a result of the chaos in Russia, the Ahmadiyya community was able to infiltrate there very swiftly. We had frequent communications with them. Some of the top representatives from vast Islamic states, that are a part of Russia right now, came to England and met me, and to some we sent our representatives. Now the result is that, with the grace of Allah, in most of the Muslim states Ahmadiyya community is established and their leaders are going to attend our annual convention this year. Some new countries, about which there was no mention in our program and there were no visible means whereby we could approach them, have entered Ahmadiyyat e.g.,

Mongolia. Allah has made such an arrangement on His own that one is amazed. Indeed, this whole affair that has started is in compliance to Allah's decree. Our efforts and we have nothing to do with it. Thus a little while ago a Muslim leader from Mongolia visited England. He belongs to Kaazik or Kazak nation and they had migrated from Russia to Mongolia at some stage. After he came to England someone advised him that if he wanted to get in touch with a Muslim organization then there was only one place. He should go to the London Mosque and meet them. They will advise you and will inform you about how your needs can be fulfilled. So they contacted us and subsequently we had several meetings. He expressed his willingness that on returning he would first invite my representative and then myself so that I could go in person and make contact with the Muslims living there. One hundred and forty thousand Muslim Kazaks live there but with the exception of those guided by Allah, all have turned atheist. There was not even a single mosque left there. All traces of Islam were completely erased from there. They painted a tragic picture in front of me, but I was disappointed to realize that they were more inclined towards oil wealth and less towards Islam. Hence they made some signals that made me feel that we might not be able to fulfill their needs. I told them, "Look! If you desire the worldly wealth then you have come to the wrong place. You should go to Iran, or Saudi Arabia, or Indonesia or contact Libya. You will find wealth but not faith or human values and even if you do find Islam it would be in the name only, which is the Islam of the Dark Ages. You will not find the Islam of the brilliant era of Prophet Muhammed^{saw}. Now it is your choice which pathway you adopt." Anyway they fulfilled one of their promises upon going back and invited my representative.

When my representative went to the constituency of this leader, the conduct of those people was totally different. They were indeed yearning for Islam and wanted to be guided. Since I already had written an affectionate message to Russians in their own language, he took it with him and after reading it those people rapidly developed an interest. They don't have any halls for lectures other than cinema halls and since the leaders of the Communist Party were themselves interested, they arranged for our representative to speak in a cinema hall where everyone in the audience showed their support by waving their hands. Our representative notified them that their leader had different inclinations and warned them about his possible displeasure on their association with us. But they said they were the ones who chose him as a leader. If he acted according to their wishes he would remain their leader. Otherwise they would choose a new leader, but he could not keep them from being interested in Ahmadiyyat. So three of their principal leaders came to meet me before my visit to USA. I departed while they were still there. As a result of this meeting we were able to include the Mongolian Embassy in the process. It was decided that upon returning home they would immediately formally register Ahmadiyyat and then they gave me the impression that once registered, one hundred and forty thousand Muslims will become members of the Ahmadiyya community along with them. Therefore as long as they stayed there, we were able to have mutual discussions on a wide variety of issues. We established what their educational needs were and to what extent we could send teachers and help them. The Mongolian Embassy even assured us that they would not force us to request a visa through Pakistan for however many men we needed to send for their moral training since they understood the circumstances. We should directly tell them and they would be responsible for making sure that our people keep arriving there. Hence, by the Grace of Allah, these relationships became strong very quickly. They took a number of books with them and we are sending some more to them. It is surmised that in Mongolia, Inshallah, the Ahmadiyya community will establish the first mosque and it is hoped that its foundations will soon be laid.

The Role of Lajna in Religious Propagation in Russia

Now the moral training of these one hundred and forty thousand Ahmadis, who, by the Grace of Allah, have entered Ahmadiyyat in a state that their slates are clean, is not an easy task. They are Muslim by name but have no idea what Islam is. We have so many needs. We need translations

for so many things and we need numerous workers. We need many women to inform them about women's issues. There was one lady also among the visitors who met my wife and daughters. She has returned with a very pious impression. I am thus telling you openly that you are about to face many responsibilities. It is not only a matter of Mongolia. As I stated earlier, signs of interest are appearing very rapidly from different states in Russia. Men are going to do what they have to do but it is my heartfelt wish that women should not fall behind the men in any way. I am sure that once our women make up their minds they have the ability to keep up with men. One of my observations is a witness to this. During the time of Hazrat Musleh Maood¹² whenever he started a scheme in which he especially addressed the Lajna and assigned them a responsibility, they said "Labbaik" (Here I am to do thy bidding) immediately in response to it. Then they fulfilled the obligations entrusted to them much more quickly than men. Similarly I see even now that since the National Lajna presidents of every country are in direct contact with me, and there is no intermediary whenever an instruction is given to Lajna, then without delay, by the Grace of God, they act on it saying "Labbaik". Compared to this, men exhibit a little laziness. In the matter of education as well we have seen that in Rabwah, and earlier in Qadian also, Ahmadi girls were ahead of their brothers and such in education. One reason for this is that they didn't have outside activities. Boys go out and waste a lot of time. Despite this the girls had opportunities to chat with each other; the fact that they sacrificed this for studying is commendable. So Lajna and Ahmadi ladies have, with the blessings of Allah, always stepped forward in good deeds and they can play a major role in fulfilling the educational needs of the world.

Religious Publication in Russia has a Special Relation with Lajna and Myself

Firstly I wanted to say that those of you who are attaining education right now should learn different languages. Russian language carries a great significance right now because the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, had prophesied regarding Russia that Allah the exalted has made him the bearer of the rod of Russia and then there was the prophecy, "I see my followers like grains of sand in Russia." So now I believe that this is the time and era in which we will Inshallah, spread Islam in Russia very rapidly indeed. It has a connection with Lajna as well as with myself. My Khilafat also has a connection with Lajna. Today I wanted to unfold this subject to you.

Probably when I was only a student in Jamia (university) Ahmadiyya I had a strange dream. I have spoken about it before in an address to Lajna that I delivered at my first convention. The dream was that there is a gathering where there is a discussion going on between different scholars (non-Ahmadi and some Ahmadi) about the truth and refutation of Ahmadiyyat. After a while I sensed that Ahmadi scholars were not answering the questions the way they deserved to be answered and the obvious signs of victory that should appear are not appearing. I stood up and took charge to answer the question. I utter a strange sentence that could never have occurred to me on my own. For that time this sentence was unusual and strange but this is how I started, "Sometimes some arrows are saved for some special times but the time to use them arrives sooner than expected. I am one of those arrows of Lajna Imaillah that was saved for a special time but the time has come sooner, so I will take this matter in my own hands." After that I gave some details. Anyway, my discourse transformed the situation immediately and all the opponents lowered their heads in agreement. From this dream I gathered that my Khilafat has a profound connection with Lajna Imaillah.

The arrows of Lajna Imaillah connotes that there is an arrow of the maidservants of Allah that is being shot for the world. Whatever it might mean my interpretation is that in my time of Khilafat, with the blessings of Allah, Lajna will be very active in their service to Jamaat and they will assist me with an enormous strength. The reason for this interpretation is that when an arrow is shot the

hands that shoot it are in the back. The strength of those hands is transmitted to the arrow. So calling me one of the arrows of Lajna Imaillah connotes that Inshallah, Lajna will act upon each of my projects with great strength and the message of Islam will reach the world due to its power.

My Khilafat also has a connection with Russia. A long time ago, before even the partition of India, while I was still very young, Hazrat Musleh Maood^{rz} had a dream. The dream was that he was at a place that was surrounded by army and there was imminent danger. He was in a room where Umme Tahir (my mother) was laying, and there was a child lying with her that was his. But since I was older than that child that he saw so Hazrat Musleh Maood^{rz} could not discern who that boy was. Anyway he said that he saw that danger was imminent. He says to Umme Tahir that she should immediately get up and get ready. They should leave that country. Perhaps she delays him or could not get ready so he picked up the child and rushed out of there. With the child in his arms he reaches a place that is foreign to him and he inquires what area it was. In low voices people asked him to lower his tone. He was in Russia. He asked them who they were? They replied that they were Ahmadis and Ahmadiyyat was spreading there but it was still not time to talk openly.

Now in this dream the little child in Hazrat Musleh Maood^{rz}'s arms was myself and a very young child was shown because it was going to take some time when Allah would train me and bring me to a point that I would migrate from Pakistan in the conditions that I did migrate from there; and then I would get in touch with Russia. Being in the arms of Hazrat Musleh Maood^{rz} connotes that God almighty would grant the ability to one of his sons to propagate Islam in Russia and have ties with Russian Ahmadis under his patronage, with his blessings, and as a result of his prayers and the promises linked to his person. So this dream precisely came true in my person. Surrounded by army means perilous conditions during martial law or military government. Hazrat Musleh Maood^{rz} did not have any other son with him but me who migrates from there. He was seen in the dream symbolically, but actually it indicated my migration and in exactly the same circumstances that there was military siege and he felt that conditions were dangerous and he should leave. After I had come to England circumstances developed that we got in touch with Russia. Before this we could not even imagine it. So now I am disclosing both of these connections to you that Ahmadi women can play a major role in the matter of propagation of Islam in Russia.

Young Ahmadi Girls should Learn Russian

First I wanted to draw your attention to the learning of Russian language. We are going to need a large number of teachers for moral training. If you can teach your daughters Russian as an additional language here, you should do that as far as possible. I don't know if there are any Russian families here or not but in Germany they have come in large numbers and some are coming. It is therefore easier for Lajna in Germany that with their other responsibilities they also include the task of establishing relations with Russians. As far as my observation goes, and I have met them in Germany too, Russian ladies quickly get impressed with the message of Ahmadiyyat. The families that Ahmadi men and women got in touch with have responded with great love and friendship. So if it is not possible at present for them to go to Russia then the women of Germany can establish relations with Russian families in Germany, and young girls learning the language will get some practice too. They should develop friendship with Russian girls and start meeting them.

As far as the literature is concerned we had already, by the Grace of God Almighty, had it published to a great extent and there is some that is being published now. But we are going to need Ahmadi girls who can translate the books of the Promised Messiah^{as} directly from Urdu to

Russian in large numbers or translate other literature of the community as well. I am hoping that in this matter you will Inshallah make an effort to fulfill this responsibility with great focus.

One advantage that you will get out of this is that the girls, who will be motivated and in whose hearts this zeal is created from the standpoint that they should learn Russian and master it for the service of their faith, will be protected from other tribulations. Because the girls who have the enthusiasm and quest to achieve a superior goal right from the start are not influenced by the ills of their surroundings and with Allah's blessings they are so focused in their enthusiasm for their goal and they derive such pleasure that they start considering other pleasures of the world comparatively petty and are less impressed by the outside culture.

Let your Daughters take Religious Responsibilities

The second thing I wanted to say in this context is that in order to protect your daughters assign them religious responsibilities right from the beginning. Give them such a superior responsibility that it results in instilling this feeling in them that they are great women who have been created for a specific purpose. They have to do great things in this world. It is this feeling that protects one from a number of evils and it is necessary to instill it in early childhood. When I am in a family meeting I have observed those children who are in Waqf-e-Nau (committed to service of Jamaat). When their mothers introduce them to me they show a unique sentiment of kinship. It seems like mothers are telling them from early childhood, "you are waqf. You are waqf. You do not belong to us but to the Jamaat now." Some of them come and embrace me with such ardor and tell me that they belong to me. These parents are our parents by coincidence. We are permanently yours. And such innocent devotion emanates spontaneously that one can assess that, by the grace of Allah Almighty, it is this enthusiasm that will protect them in the future; will keep them firm on the correct path. They will carry the feeling that they were created for a specific superior goal that makes them different from ordinary people. This kind of zeal should be developed in other children also even if they are not waqf. It appoints a guard inside a person. Outside guards are admonitions of parents or the environment. They do not always stay with one. But this internal guard that arises from one's conscience carries a very powerful voice. It has the most influence on a person. If you wish to protect your children from this ill society then you should wake up the guard in their conscience. Allah has placed it in everyone's conscience. Develop an enthusiasm, zeal, and a sense of superiority inside them that they have been created for more superior tasks, and for higher goals. They have to change the condition of this world. They are not to follow the world but to get the world to follow them. If this kind of feeling is created in early childhood then later on the guard and protector of their conscience keeps such children firm on the correct path, by the grace of Allah, no matter what school they attend or even if they move away from their parents. Such children are always preaching in their schools and environments and then they come home and tell their parents about the conversations they had that day. When they tell me these stories in my meetings with them I am sometimes amazed at how Allah has enlightened them. When children of slight knowledge have to face someone for the sake of Islam, so much so that certain times they have to take a stand in front of their teachers, Allah enlightens their hearts with such understanding that as a result of this experience their bond with Islam strengthens.

Develop an Aggressive Love of Religion in your Children

Thus in all those countries where we have ventured to come in order to serve the faith we have confronted cultures whose poison runs deep and protection of our children from it should be our highest priority. It cannot be achieved by being defensive. It is only possible if they assume a kind of aggressiveness and this aggression is not an unjust or hostile one. It is an aggression similar to a mother protecting her children out of love. It is an outcome of love and gives you an

extraordinary force and courage. There is no competing with aggression due to love. Those of you who were raised in Punjab, Indo-Pakistan, or some other rural area must have seen often in your homes the hen with little chicks. Hen is not aggressive in nature and is a timid and innocent type of bird. It will run away from anything. A cat's nature is aggressive and so is a dog's. I have noticed that whenever a dog or a cat attacks the chicks, the hen wrathfully jumps on them and an innate fury rises in it. I have witnessed this with my own eyes and I was amazed to see that the dog gets scared of the furious hen and runs away, since the dog instinctively knew that there was no competing with the aggression of love. It seems that there was a lion inside the hen that woke up. So instill the aggression of love in your children for Islam. If you are successful in doing this then you can have complete faith that your children will always triumph over adverse surroundings. There is no power in the world that would be able to overcome them because, in reality, there is no power equal to the aggression of love and who else can appreciate it better than you, the mothers. Allah has placed it in your nature and Islam needs those mothers who can raise their children in this manner.

The Best Legacy from a Mother to a Child is Taqwa

As I have already stated, today's children have the responsibility to train the future generations. People are entering Ahmadiyyat in abundance. Ahmadis have to be an example not with mere talk, but with their actions, organization, and discipline. As a result of this whoever watches them should be impressed and their company in itself should be enough to train others morally. Now to raise good children like these you will have to become good mothers. It is not possible that you are not good mothers but continue to pray for your children or make requests for prayers for them that God should make them good. Such mothers who have given themselves over to the world, whose desires are all dedicated to achieve worldly gains sometimes do carry love for religion in their hearts and they initially do not realize which way they are headed. They know from their childhood that faith should be preferred over the world. Therefore they do pray for their children's faith and moreover whenever they have a chance they write to me but they themselves are lost in the material world. These parents ultimately lose their children. Children have the wisdom that they can recognize their parents' real aims. When parents tell them to be good, be truthful, or be righteous but they themselves lie, waste time and are inclined towards the world, children, though quiet, know in their hearts that parents are tattling. They like the world more than their faith. On the other hand if parents have a deep love for their faith, even if they are quiet, they leave a favorable impression on their children.

We have seen illiterate mothers who are lacking formal education but have piety and love for Allah and His messenger^{saw} entrenched in their hearts. They were simple and old fashioned but, with the Grace of Allah, their children all became very devout. When you inquire from them they will tell you that it is a favor from their mother who fed them love of God in her milk. This metaphor of feeding milk carries profound wisdom in it. Feeding love in milk connotes that those mothers had God's love mixed in their blood. And when they nurse their children they pass it on to them. When they talk they transfer the love through their talk, when they sing a lullaby they pour this love in their hearts. When they look at them with loving eyes they utter "*Bismillah*". At the same time they pray for them to be righteous and to grow up devout. Such simple mothers, who are not scholars, and have no special knowledge of religion, still carry fear of Allah in their hearts. The best heritage that a mother can pass on to her child is the fear of Allah. Love of Allah, and the fear of losing it, is called Taqwa that mothers can bestow on their children. Pay attention to these matters and this should be done in early childhood.

Children are your Wealth and Future

When children grow up (in your case example of little girls is more appropriate) the attitudes of these girls begin to change. When their hairstyles, the manner of their dress, their smiles, and the method of their entertainment become obvious, then you realize that they have changed their direction. At that time whatever you do will have no effect. Prayers do produce some result but my observation is that prayers are comparatively less effective in the case of these children. Prayers are accepted more when mothers have a deep desire to keep them devout. Hence, I see so many girls who, I am afraid, are not trained well. And the reason is that parents have watched them grow up in the same environment in the same manner and did not care. Moreover some parents even feel proud of themselves out of ignorance. Some of them have weak economic and educational background due to which they have become victims of inferiority complex. When they watch their children grow up with new airs, hear them speak English with a better accent, and watch them dressed up in garments that they had never even dreamt of, they think these children are turning out wonderful; very modern and of high status. They think that they themselves had been living in a hole. They don't realize that along with this these children are no longer theirs and are beginning to belong to someone else now. By the time they come to this realization, their children already belong to someone else. It is as if they were born in the home of Ahmadi parents, got educated at their expense and once they were grown up they were for others. Who are you raising these children for? For Muhammed^{saw} or for satanic forces? And to worship this material world? Your whole wealth is your children. They are your future. If you don't understand their behavior and where it is leading them then you don't know the etiquette of raising a child.

True Earnestness in your Hearts is a Must to Morally Train Your Children

For the etiquette of moral training the most important thing is devotion. I am not implying that you should be sent to school and taught how to train. That would take very long. I mean that if you have true eagerness in your hearts then the children of such a mother will never go to waste. Essentially this desire is lacking somewhere. There is a crisis and you should pay attention to it. Keep an eye on your children's habits and conduct right from their early childhood. Whenever you smell danger start working hard on it right away. Try to instill the love of faith with love and affection. The love given to them as a child is what always proves to be of use. Sometimes it is the nourishment in early childhood that also always proves to be useful. Whenever I asked elderly men who appeared strong for their age they would say, "Our mothers fed us good in childhood; they gave us milk, butter, and soup of bones as well, and till today we are benefiting from what they gave us." In fact this is true. I also remember that my mother was fond of buffaloes and in my childhood she would hand me over to the buffalo man with instructions to forcibly stream fresh milk directly from them into my mouth. Due to that, with Allah's blessings, my bones are strong since I received calcium directly. Sometimes medications and sometimes nourishment of this sort in childhood have a real affect. So what I am talking about is not a mere joke or metaphor. Moral training received as a child definitely shows its effects just like nourishment does. I have seen many such children who, even if they get off track in the middle, definitely come back and reach a blessed end due to deep training of early childhood. Mothers carry the bulk of the responsibility for this.

Spend time on children's Moral Training

If mothers are not given time and are not provided facilities for these tasks then the responsibility would lie on parents. I want the fathers or the fathers to be, who are listening to this, to understand this aspect that Islam has placed the responsibility on men to earn a living. It carries a profound

wisdom in it. Although women are allowed to earn when necessary and fulfill their needs, but only if they are unable to avoid it. But to earn as a profession is men's responsibility. The Holy Qur'an has explained it openly that women have this right on men that, as much as possible, men should provide them with a comfortable life and should take care of all of their needs. This is essential because if mothers have time and facilities and they are living in a good condition they will be able to give moral training to the next generation. If there is commotion because they too have to go to work, leaving the children with somebody else and rushing away then they cannot fulfill this responsibility. Or their time is spent in other interests. Some women, I have observed, waste two to three hours only in their adornment and makeup. Half of their day is spent only to get ready and go out of their houses. With the blessings of Allah we don't have such women here since I know that you are all courageous and active women. You don't even have time for it. But unfortunately families that have a luxurious life end up like this. Every woman carries an inherent danger to slip into this condition because she instinctively likes it. When I say that you require ample time I don't mean that you should sleep for half the day then wake up only to waste the rest of the day in your makeup and once you are dressed to the hilt you should leave for shopping. You don't need time for these things. You need time to wake up at *Tahajjud* time, to give love to your children and try to wake them up too. Pray for them. Wake your husband up for prayers if he is lazy. If your brother is lazy wake him up. Wake up all the children and teach them recitation of the Holy Qur'an. Recite beautifully yourself and then make them do it. When you are free from these tasks you will need to get them ready and send them to school or do other chores around the house. So a poor woman has no time to spend on vain pursuits. Allah rewards you simultaneously for the hard work you put in with these responsibilities. The picture that I am presenting is based on my having seen mothers from olden times that have such tranquility in their hearts that other women could not even imagine. Those mothers, who woke up at *Tahajjud*, prayed and then trained their children morally. They woke up their children for prayers and then watched them say their prayers. Their eyes received such delight from watching their children observing prayers that their righteous deeds filled their hearts with peace. Contrary to this are those girls who, in their desire to lead a luxurious life, are searching for it all day. If they don't find it outside, they listen to songs day and night and try to find solace in pop music. They try to find new fashions. There is no likelihood of a relationship between these things and the peace found by that mother whose picture I just painted. These girls who are looking for lowly entertainment are lacking this peace. Their life is restive all the time and they don't know what they are looking for and they can't find it. So the time that I said should be made available to you ought to be spent in these pursuits.

Then there are deeds related to learning. Women should develop an aptitude for improving their knowledge. The pleasure you find in this cannot be found in watching dramas, listening to meaningless stories, and in wasting time in these sorts of things. We have seen in our homes that my younger aunt (Hazrat choti phoophi jan) and my older aunt (Hazrat badi phoophi jan) had a very meager education by worldly standards but one of the bounties of having been raised in the home of the Promised Messiah^{as} was that there was great interest in education. Despite not having had any apparent education they were so enlightened and their perusal was so vast that I remember that oftentimes when we visited them we found them with books in their hands. Or they would fold the book and place it down to talk to us so that they could pick it up again once our conversation was over. As a result of this their speech was cultured. Their fondness for literature was so lovely that if you study the poems by Hazrat (older aunt) Nawab Mubarka Begum Sahiba you will be surprised that even the famous poets of the time could not compete with the eloquence and oratory of her language. Enlightened mind, enlightened heart, and tranquility too. Even in times of hardship they had a peace that never left their lives. The pleasure of this kind of life cannot be attained in a life full of activity and restlessness.

Fill your Hearts and Homes with Peace

Thus I am not inviting you towards boredom. I am inviting you towards a better life that will fill your hearts with peace forever. We need it because we cannot reform the society till we create such homes. We cannot support our claim that we are better than them. The society I am referring to is the society of people unrelated to you. It looks down upon you and looks at you with ridicule. They look at you with contempt thinking that you, who are wrapped up in a veil, are backward. What would you know about life? However if you have understood the meaning of life and your lives have become peaceful lives of high level then you will be looking at them with sympathy. You can compare this to a sleeping person who, when awakened, first thinks that it is cruel and says, "Are you crazy! What's the sense in waking up so early?" But once he is up and his eyes are wide open, and he steps out to breathe the fresh morning air and takes a stroll, he starts to feel sorry for those who are asleep and says, "These poor people are still sleeping like fools." It is only a matter of looking at things with a different perspective but the awake perspective is the dominant perspective and the sleeping perspective is the one that is subdued. One who wakes up from sleep knows well the pleasure of sleeping but the pleasure of waking up is different in its nature and its sensation is unique. Your pleasures are the vigilant pleasures. These are pleasures of a conscious mind. You have opened your eyes in light. The Islamic surroundings bring you out of the dark and into the light. These people that laugh at you are living in fool's paradise. They are enjoying their sleep thinking that they are having more fun. If you want to introduce them to your fun then create an atmosphere in your home that is full of peace. This is not only a woman's duty; the man has a great responsibility as well. That is why I said that men are also listening and they should listen very attentively. Allah Almighty has placed the primary responsibility of earning on men. Those men who live off women's earnings are contemptible, unlike a real man. They look disgraceful breaking bread idly all day long. They are either sleeping or creating a hell for their wives. They should realize that God has placed the responsibility of earning a living on them. They should earn enough to fulfill such of women's needs that would liberate them for those pious responsibilities. She has to give birth to children, cook food, wash dishes. She is strapped all the time and has limitless burdens. She has to perform religious duties as well. When she fulfills all these responsibilities she becomes more prompt than the man. It is my experience in England that women spend more time in doing all kinds of chores, as well as religious duties, than men. If we compare the schedules of men and women I am certain that women's schedule will look busier, will look more comprehensive.

Paradise Lies Under the Feet of Mothers

Thus where Allah has placed certain responsibilities on you for the moral training of your children and as a result it seems like you are entrapped in the household, the fact is that Allah has granted you more exalted ranks and in so many respects He has given you excellence over men. The greatest excellence is that Prophet Muhammed^{saw} said that 'your heaven lies under the feet of your mothers.' He never said that it lies under your fathers' feet. Meaning that all the men and women of future generations have their heaven lying under their mothers' feet. Such an exalted rank Prophet Muhammed^{saw} has given to women that no ignorant person can attack Islam that women have no status in it. However the means required for achieving this status should be made available to them.

If a man always speaks to his wife discourteously, is not mindful of her respect, nor does he show consideration to her parents, derides her on everything, talks cheap, asks her to do this and do that and still is unhappy, these men are oftentimes creating hell under their wives' feet since these women start to become ill mannered themselves and they also start saying whatever they can. If they are unable to say anything in the presence of their husbands such dissatisfied women poison

the ears of their children and turn them against their fathers. I used the word 'hell' because if parents are opposed to each other then psychologically children cannot receive proper moral training. Especially when the man goes out to work and regardless of whether he is unjust or not, (probably when men are unjust women get this annoyed; anyhow, whatever the case may be) if the wife is in the habit of relating stories of her suffering to her children in his absence and says, 'Your father has oppressed me and I have come to this condition. I labor day and night, I kill myself to do all this and he does not care for me.' She makes them feel sorry for her. As a result these children feel rebellious towards men and their fathers and psychological complications develop. Such children grow up with rebellious minds and often those who break off ties with Jamaat are children of such mothers. Then I have also seen that if the father is sincere and gives alms but mothers are not eager to serve their faith they poison their children's ears. Therefore creating a heaven is not just a mother's job. In the entire society the kind of mother that is evolving has an affect on mothers. I think that from this aspect men should also fulfill their responsibilities. Whatever sacrifices they want to make they should let their wives and their sons and daughters participate in them as well. They should make their attitude mellow so those women can try to find peace with them and vice versa. But the Holy Qur'an has declared mostly women to be a source of peace and you should well understand why that is the case.

The Injunction to Submit to Women in order to find Peace

God Almighty addresses men and says, 'We have created from among your kind a delicate gender- *Letaskunoo elaiha*, So that you incline towards her for the sake of peace.' (30:22). There lies a profound secret in this verse to improve the relationship between men and women. Allah says, *Letaskunoo elaiha*, So that you incline towards the woman in search of peace. This also implies that such a man can never be ill mannered. One cannot be rude to the person that one seeks peace from. He will find peace only if he has a soft corner for her in his heart. So in order to make the society a paradise a profound secret has been explained to us in this small sentence. The men who always seek peace from women and know that the peace that they can find at home cannot be obtained elsewhere, will actually find it in their women. These women will have a positive inclination towards them. On the other hand if these men go out for peace their homes will turn into hell.

When we analyze today's society it is apparent that those homes get damaged and turn into hell where men go out in search of peace instead of seeking it in their wives. Such homes are definitely ruined and their children are destroyed. Then you cannot become a mother carrying heaven under your feet. So I am explaining these matters in much detail to you as if explaining to a child. Not that I think you are not capable of it, or that you are not intelligent, but because these issues are such that they should be told over and over again with complete clarity so that they become entrenched so deep in all of your hearts that you may never forget them. I am saying this to men also that if they do not cooperate in this matter and their children are wasted then God will call them to account for these children; and they will be answerable in His presence. Keep in mind that you have your own daughters who will be going to the homes of others. Men should be mindful of the fact that when other people's daughters come to them how defenseless and vulnerable they are. If they have to deal with an unjust man how painful must it be for their parents. If a husband is unkind to his wife, is careless, and fearless, he should consider that perhaps in the future he might have daughters that will go to someone's house and they are going to be similarly vulnerable. If he thinks with this perspective he will tremble with the thought and will agree that this path is very perilous. But generally people forget this.

Cruel Treatment of Wife results in Destruction of Society

I think that cruel treatment of the wife is one of the most major sins. Ordinary major sins mostly affect one's own self but this is one sin that can destroy the whole society. When the husband's rudeness results in deterioration of the environment of a household the girls become grief-stricken. Sometimes they have to take their children and manage in such a way that their whole life is miserable. The ill effect of this is felt in the surroundings. Even before separation if the husband and wife do not have good relations children are growing up double-minded. Most of them don't know where to go; should they go to the mother or the father, and they listen to the woes of both. When they see the misbehavior of both towards each other (I say both because when men do it women start to do it also) they don't feel for either one and they lose their peace in the house. Mostly such children become dissolute and their peace is in the outside world. They feel more comfortable there. These are minor details but they carry a profound effect.

Raise your Boys into Men who treat their Wives Decently

It is essential for us to present a pristine society to the world. I am asking women that they ought to raise their children, especially boys, in a manner that when they grow up they treat their wives in a decent manner. Today's mothers are giving birth to tomorrow's men. Just like I have drawn your attention to the moral training of girls, similarly I want to convey this last message to you. Once before also I delivered a sermon on this topic that the final outcome we see is that a man is unjust to a woman but when we look into their childhood we find that it is the mother who has raised the boys like this. She makes them feel like God and they become arrogant. These mothers pamper them more and give them preference over girls until slowly they turn them into preposterous individuals. Women in the future have to face the incorrect upbringing by these mothers. As if in reality it is a woman who is being unjust to another woman. These are homes where boys are treated like God, are given preference over girls, all of their indulgences are accommodated, and they are given all kinds of freedoms. They are raised into men who always become a source of misery for a woman.

Hazrat Musleh Maood^{rz}'s mode of Moral Training

Hazrat Musleh Maood^{rz} had an attitude that was completely opposed to this. He was more affectionate towards girls as compared to boys and gave more protection to the rights of girls. At that time we did not understand it. We thought that he was being unfair to us. I used to have a fight with my own sister Amtul Basit. She could even scratch my face off and still I would get spanked later. If ever I raised my hand on her and Hazrat Musleh Maood^{rz} found out about it, it was impossible to escape his punishment. Sometimes he would be so offended that one would start to hate life itself. He was very mild of heart. In the revelation given to the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, it was said, "He would be mild of the heart". It was not said that he would be mild. I remember that once Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad^{rz} asked me if I knew the reason why it was said? It was because when he was enraged he would roar like a lion and shake a person's heart. So Allah tells us not to be dejected, he is mild on the inside. And actually that is what he would do. Sometimes he would be extremely upset and afterwards he would start consoling.

Few days ago I was discussing with my older sister Amtul Qayyum how father used to train her during her childhood. She said, 'Once I was playing with other girls and some of them made some mischief, though I was not at fault. He got upset with them and punished me as well without even listening to me. He was so angry that he said, "Absolutely not! The trip is cancelled for all of you, and such and such will happen.'" I got offended and sat down with my door closed. Afterwards, when he came to realization, he was actually singing around outside that my daughter is angry with

me. She does not realize that her father has come to her to apologize. His manner was so sorrowful that both Hazrat Musleh Maood^{rz} and I wept. Father and daughter embraced in such a way that both of them were crying. That crying was neither due to sorrow nor due to joy. It was a strange crying. It felt like a reunion of two hearts that were unhappy due to a misunderstanding.”

When I heard of this incident I remembered a number of other things from my childhood. He was indeed mild of heart but there is no doubt that his rebuke was frightful and I remember his reprimands. Usually this is why he would get upset with me. My sisters would hit me and if I defended myself or said something hard, I would in return get spanked again. I understood afterwards that women’s respect was being instilled in our hearts, that it is the delicate gender. And that I can never forget that when Allah entrusts you with the responsibility of the weak and those having tender emotions then you should make sacrifices and care for their sentiments.

This was the message that we could not understand at that time and afterwards it seeped into our hearts. It entered our blood and then we realized what was happening.

I want mothers to raise their children in this manner but I see that reality is completely contrary to this. In most homes not only is there a strong wish to have a boy but also mothers desire it more than men. When they give birth to boys and even if they have quite a few of them still they are spoiled and there is no respect for girls. The result is that these men become unjust and they mistreat women when they grow up. See how one generation leaves an adverse effect on the second and then the second leaves an adverse effect on the third. Thus if you want to be merciful to yourself then give your sons good moral training and tell them about the rights of women from early childhood. Teach them to respect their sisters and be watchful that they don’t even talk harshly to them. If you give birth to sons like these and raise such boys then I can assure you that it would be an enormous favor to the next generation. And generations after generation Ahmadi girls will be conferred good husbands who will be virtuous and loving, caring and sacrificing. Husbands like we found in Prophet Muhammed^{saw} continue to be bestowed.

Prophet Muhammed^{saw}’s Excellent Treatment of his Wives

I will finish my argument with this that no matter how much you study his relationships with his wives you will not find a single incidence where he returned their misbehavior with his own misbehavior. On some occasions he heard harsh words from them but he still never spoke to them in anger. Not speaking with anger is a very difficult feat but we should learn at least some patience from Hazrat Mohammad Mustafa^{saw}. Getting out of control as a result of anger and raising your hand on women, insulting them, or using abusive language for their parents are a few indecencies which have no place in Islam.

Prophet Muhammed^{saw}’s custom was that when he came home he would do with his own hands the chores that women should have done for him and further helped them in household tasks. What a magnificent example it was and as a result of this, with the blessings of Allah, virtuous generations were born. Generations that came later were obliged to them.

So you should morally train your children from this standpoint that not only girls, but boys also need this training. Like I have said, develop fine emotions in them. Don’t let their feelings get hardened. Instill tenderness in them. Develop sensitive emotions in them. Make the idea of women’s respect entrenched in their hearts. Give them as much love as you want but don’t give them preference over girls lest they become haughty. May Allah bless you with His divine guidance! We greatly need the environment in our homes to be decent, to be pleasant. It should be the perpetual wish of men, sons, and daughters to come home to find peace. They should love each other, show affection, and the pleasure they find in their home environment should put to shame the outside amusements. They should become a true picture of *Letaskunoo elaiha*. A

person who is away from home for the whole day should be able to find pleasure only when he comes home. We are lacking these homes here. The western world is becoming devoid of these homes and some people have even forgotten that there used to exist such homes in the world. You have to create these homes and once you do, invite other women over and show them the atmosphere of your homes. Tell them how you are living in peace and that you are not losing anything. Instead you are gaining a great deal.

Islam has not made you a slave or a prisoner; instead it has given you nobility and everlasting peace of the hearts. This model, when presented by you, will make you the best messenger of your religion. Otherwise, in today's world, no one listens to mere words.

May Allah grant us the ability that you should hold very dear all the aspects that I have mentioned. Give them a place in your hearts. Mould them into your conduct. Relationships in Ahmadi homes should be better than those in all the homes in the world. May Allah grant us the ability for this. Ameen.



Study of Daughters of Eve and A Society Reminiscent of Paradise

January – February, 2007: Propagation of Religion and Upbringing of Children

Discussion Points

1. What is the responsibility of the Ahmadiyya Community towards Russia? Recount Huzoor's^{ra} dream. What services can Lajna Imaillah USA offer?

2. What is the responsibility of Lajna Imaillah towards Khalifatul Masih? Recount Huzoor's^{ra} dream.

3. What is the outcome of establishing girls on the path of achieving a superior goal for their Religion? How can young girls be assigned religious responsibilities at a young age? Make a list of your suggestions to use in your Lajna.

4. How do we wake up the *internal guard* Huzoor^{ra} mentions, within our children and ourselves, which would protect us from the ills of our society?

5. What does Huzoor^{ra} mean by the aggression of love?

6. Describe how to bring about a *conscious, wakeful* state in yourself.

7. Discuss the *profound secret* Huzoor^{ra}, mentions in the words: “We have created from among your kind a delicate gender - *Letaskunoo elaiha*, - So that you incline towards her for the sake of peace”. (30:22)

8. In practical terms, what does it mean to raise our boys in the best manner? Give suggestions. How does this determine the treatment of women? Give examples from the life of Hazrat Musleh Maood^{ra}.

9. What alternative activities can we offer our children to replace those from the society that would be detrimental? For example, MTA instead of TV shows that expose our children to immodesty, vulgarity, violence and other vices.

10. Breastfeeding has many physical and spiritual benefits for the mother and the child. Discuss its importance in view of Islamic teachings.

11. Why was this Khutba called Propagation of Religion?

Hold a workshop or panel discussion on Raising Children.

12. Divide into groups to discuss the following questions:

- ☞ How is Taqwa transmitted from mother to child?
- ☞ How do we raise children for Muhammad^{saw}?
- ☞ How do we secure our wealth in our children?
- ☞ What behaviors should be altogether avoided if we are to create the right environment for our children?
- ☞ Discuss the scheme of Waqf-e-Nau in the light of this sermon and the importance of participating in this scheme.

Self Reflection Journal

13. Think of three ways you will practice to assume the responsibility put upon your shoulders as a mother, wife and daughter to make the society a better place to live in.

