



Unleash Your Potential

MAJLIS 8

Nurturing the Next Generation

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وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَى
وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ

- "Help one another in furthering piety and birr, and do not help one another in furthering evil and aggressiveness".

» Sûrah al Ma'idah 5. 2

Unleashing Your Potential

1. Karbala – an instrument of reform
2. Power of Intentional Living - Vision & Niyah:
3. Thinking for a Change – The power of Critical Thinking
4. Time is life's capital - a trust from Allah
5. Evaluating one's self worth - Value Proposition of insaan
6. Emotional Intelligence – EQ v/s IQ
7. Living a purposeful life – Making a Contribution to Society
- 8. Nurturing the Next Generation**
9. Concept of the Society of Believers – Intentional Society
10. Life is a Journey – Islam is the vehicle – Direction of a society

Moving with Husayn

- Do not just stay with Husayn in history;
- Move with him in reality, and change.
- Our knowledge of Husayn elevates us.
 - It makes us human beings, free men, followers of truth and justice
- *Upon the crib of Ali Asgher , eyes have flowed (with tears)*
- *In the crib of life, those very eyes have remained shut.*

Empowering Women

- The *aza* enables for the modern woman to identify with Zainab's (SA) role in Karbala .
- Fatima (SA) became a symbol of courage
 - Strong and powerful roles as angered wife
 - Outraged daughter of the Prophet Muhammad,
- Demonstrated a defiance of the limitations assigned to her by culture
 - to “transcend gender expectations and regulations.”



Looking at the multitude rejoicing the daughter of Ali AS said:

- "Woe upon you O people of Kufa. Do you realise which piece of Muhammad's heart you have severed!
 - Which pledge you have broken!
 - Whose blood you have shed!
 - Whose honour you have desecrated!
- It is not just Hussain whose headless body lies unburied on the sands of Kerbala.
- It is the heart of the Holy Prophet. It is the very soul of Islam!"

Community and Family

- Two most important aspects of faith are community and family
- Within the family, the **role of women** as mothers is the most sacred tenet that underpin our faith
- *Who among the people is the most worthy of my good companionship?*

Family

- Family - an intentional society
- To lead a common life,
 - With common responsibility,
 - With reciprocal rights and obligations based on a definite social system
- Hukulul Ibaad – critical need



***Mothers
Indispensable for building the
next generation.***

A believing and an educated mother has the best opportunity to imbibe her children with faith and moral values.



“Raise your children differently from the way you were raised, for they are going to live in a different time”

Imam Ali (AS)

- ***Behaviors change with time***
- ***Prepare the future generations so that they will not be out of tune with their time and place.***

Guiding the Youth of the New Generation – Ayatullah Mutahhari

- *“ We must completely remove the thought from our heads that this new generation must be guided by following the methods used by the previous generations. ”*
- *“ Each generation is responsible for the guidance of the proceeding generation ”*
- **7 Generations !!**



Are Our youths developing into healthy adults?

- What challenges are they facing as they grow in the North American culture?
- What role can the home and Community play in nurturing these youth in multi-cultural and multi-faith systems

A matter of Serious Concern

- Well educated and economically well placed young men and women are running shy of the Community
- Why are such youths choosing to keep away from the mainstream of the Community?
- The Community belongs to them and they will have to lead into the future.

Muslim Youth in North America

- Torn between - maintaining an equilibrium of identities
 - nationality
 - faith
 - culture of their parents origins
- How can we create futures that are meaningful for them

Family life in NA

- Today every other child in the U.S. is born out of wedlock.
- 38% of children now live without a biological father
- 6.6 m. live with divorced single parents, mostly mothers
- 20% of children in the United States, ages 6-12, have not had a 10 minute conversation with a parent in a month.

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- 15 million out a total population of about 60 million youth come from dysfunctional families
 - Conversation is with TV, which acts as their mother, father, baby-sitter, and teacher.
 - By the time they are teens, children have seen an estimated 18,000 violent murders on TV.



A country with many children but without adults.

- A lot of them will drop out of high school and will be functionally illiterate in a country with free universal education.

"Something is wrong with the entire American family,"

"One has the weird sense that America is a country with many children but without adults."

- Martin Marty, professor at the University of Chicago

Our Culture \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

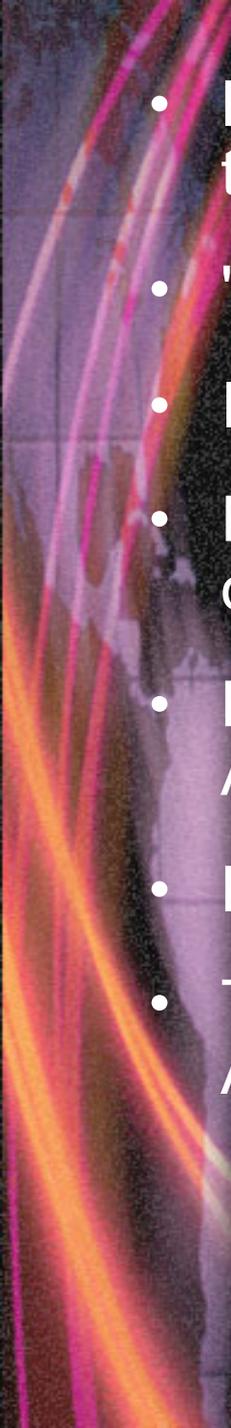
- Completely governed by the economic imperative.
- Human life everywhere is now basically defined in economic terms.
- Human aspiration in terms of economic goals.
 - Whole education is geared towards that end.
 - Education for the love of knowledge !!
- Blame Shaytan

Shaytan's Strategic Plan

- We can't keep Muslims from going to Mosque."
- We can't keep them from reading their Quran and knowing the truth."
 - So let them go to their Mosques; BUT steal their time
 - they don't have time to develop a relationship with Allah and his messenger Muhammad.

"How shall we do this?"

- Distract them from remembrance of Allah
 - Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life
 - Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow."
- Persuade both parents to go to work for long hours so they can afford their empty lifestyles.
- Keep them from spending time with their children

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- Keep the TV, VCR, CDs, DVDs going constantly in their home
 - "Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day.
 - Invade their driving moments with billboards.
 - Flood their mailboxes with junk mail and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes.
 - Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on Allah's creation.
 - Keep them busy, busy, busy!"
 - This will jam their minds and break that union with Allah and his messenger Muhammad (SAW)

Help them Reconnect

- Reconnect with the core message which is the heart of our faith:
 - Surrender to His will (Islam),
 - Accept Allah into ones heart (Iman),
 - Belief in his Oneness (Tauhid)
 - Act with Justice (Adalah)
 - Lead a life of goodness and morality (Taqwa)

Role of Fathers

- Viewing fatherhood in material terms
- Working long hours for the family
 - Lend me \$30
- *‘I have to see to it that my children are well fed, obtain a good education and are given a good start in life’.*
- The father’s role - far beyond that of just the financial protector.

A tremendous responsibility

- Pedestal of leadership in the home
- Role model of the child
- Leadership does not imply the right to be overbearing
- **Empowerment**

The 'U' Generation – A Self Definition !

- I live in America and I am an Uncle
- Mine is a mind that is in bondage to the past glories of my ancestors
 - The fast foods of western thought and the home-cooked porridge of Islamic traditions are equally agreeable to my palate.
- Indigestion & get verbal diarrhea.

Shift the Paradigm

- Make Space for that fresh vision
- Accept that they may have a better handle on the road ahead.
- Move away from the drivers seat
- Don't be a back seat driver
- Allow them the privilege of making mistakes



Imam Sadiq (AS)

“A person who is fully aware of the time in which he is living in will never be overcome with bewilderment (of the things around him).”



Light of our future

- Look around you for a moment
.....
- light of the future is our youth.
- If we empower and nurture our young
 - adjusting to change
 - becoming agents of change.

A Prayer in verse

- ***O Lord, endow the Muslims heart with motivation anew***
 - ***Such that it can warm the heart and stir the soul anew***
 - ***Let every drop of the Islamic nation shine once more***
 - ***Bless it with determination and zeal once more***
 - ***Those who have been blinded , give them fresh insights too***
 - ***What I have perceived, show the same vision to them too***