



Unleash Your Potential

MAJLIS 9

A Life Well Lived

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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. **Society of Believers – A Life well Lived**
10. Life is a Journey – Islam is the vehicle

Be the best before you desire the best

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا
الصَّالِحَاتِ أَوْلَىٰكَ هُمْ خَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ

*Those who have faith and do righteous deeds
They are the best of creatures.*

(Al-Bayyinah 98:7)

Relevance Today

- Whoever is with Husayn (as)
 - cannot pledge allegiance to an oppressor,
 - nor can such a person fight alongside an oppressor
 - excuse an oppressor or justify his oppression.
- **Therefore, shorten your tears when they are tears of history, and let them flow when they are tears of the oppressed and downtrodden human beings.”**



I am a reformer !

- "Our society has become corrupt and the ummah of my Grandfather has become degenerate.
- I have risen up to carry out reform and I am a reformer."
- **LET US NOT BE LIKE THE KUFANS**

On a personal level:

- Encourage and associate with others who are doing good, ignoring their imperfections.
- Loving and hating for Allah only not on parochial, ethnic or linguistic basis
- Making meaningful contributions to the World
- **INTENTIONAL LIVING**



On a community level

- Standing up for justice and for the rights of the persecuted people of the
- Discharging my responsibility before demanding my rights
- Take on something bigger than my self.
- **PURPOSEFUL LIFE**

Fully utilize the opportunity life offers

- Every day we live is a day further from birth
- Every breath we breathe is a breath closer to death.
 - Prophet (pbuh) said; *"Live as you please, but you will die some day; love what you may, but someday you will be separated."*
- **TIME IS THE CAPITAL OF LIFE**

Analysis Paralysis

- We seem to be too occupied or distracted to do anything
- *all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.*

Can not be selfish, uncaring or indifferent.

– If we are not part of the solution, by our apathy, we could be part of the problem itself

» Edmund Burke - British Statesman]

More is Less !

- Wider freeways but narrower viewpoints
- More information, but less knowledge
- We have more degrees, but less sense;
- We've conquered outer space, but not inner space;
- We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul;
- We've split the atom, but not our prejudice
- This is a land of
 - fast foods and slow digestion
 - two incomes, but more divorces
 - of fancier houses, but broken homes.
 - disposable diapers as well as throwaway morality.

Finding a place in 21st Century America



- 6 million Muslims make America home.
 - Numbers on the rise.
- Verge of becoming the country's second largest religion
 - Muslims in America are putting down roots
- Becoming more and more engaged socially and politically

Facilitate transition

- Facilitate greater understanding of the richness of the Islamic experience
- Muslims in America need to engage much more in the political system and civil society.
- ***Responsibility before Rights – Humanity First***



The Key

- The way in which the new generation of Muslims will construct their Islamic identity must be different from the way parents have constructed their Islamic identity.
- **The newer generation is striving to be Muslim And American.**

Need of time to nurture a new Generation

- Decisions we make today about how to practice the faith in a Western context will define Islam in the 21st century.



West can offer the best Chance

- The best chance of a balanced movement to emerge that would overcome disunity among Muslims may well lie in the West.
 - The level of education among Muslims in the West is higher than in any Muslim majority country.
 - Free access to literature and varied opinion.

Co-existence or co-annihilation ?

- In 1967 Martin Luther King Jr. published a monumental essay titled *“Where do we go from here: Chaos or Community?”*
 - He ended this essay by stating “we still have a choice today. Non violent co-existence or violent co-annihilation.”
- Today we have a choice.
 - Enjoining good and forbidding evil is the way to do this

My Truth is Better than your Truth

- Intolerance
 - causes economic injustice,
 - political double standards
 - killing human beings on a massive scale.
 - a major threat to peace and security.
 - Caused most wars
 - Caused religious persecutions
 - Results in ideological confrontations

Beyond Tolerance to Understanding

- We use the word "tolerance" in the same breath with peace, love, justice
 - What if someone said to you, "You know, my friend, I tolerate you."
- Suddenly the word, tolerance, loses its loftiness.
- The problem with tolerance is it keeps the situation "us and them".
 - It keeps the other dehumanized, and tolerance can quickly degenerate into prejudice, hatred, and violence.

Understanding – A way to be?

- Understanding between the members of the Muslim Community
 - **INTRAFaITH – Website**
- Understanding between the people of different faiths and cultures.
 - **INTERFaITH**
 - As we learn about our own faith traditions and communities, we should also learn about others.



**“to enjoin people to do good
and to forbid them from evil”.**

- Imam Ali bin Abi Talib (as) has said,
- **“Verily Allah has never cursed the people of the past except for their neglection of Amr bil Ma’roof and Nahyi ‘anil Munkar.**
 - (Nahjul-Balaghah)
- **Duty to Share the beautiful Teachings**
 - Three sons Legacy

Be the best before you desire the best

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- We all want the best for ourselves

A Life Well lived Requires

- Moral consistency,
- Compassion,
- Courage to be you-nique,
- Commitment to excellence

Consider Your Legacy

Moral Consistency

- **Moral consistency** is simply about being clear, being honest authentic,
- Who you are speaks far more loudly than anything you could ever say.
 - ‘Walk your talk’ and be aligned with your core values.
 - Be consistent in thought, word and deed
 - Indicate Left and Turn Right

Compassion

- Help and empower those around you.
 - Be like the sun which gives away all it has to the plants and the trees; and in return, the plants and the trees in return provides sustenance and shade to others
- Imam 'Ali AS
 - *“Socialize with people in such a way that when you die, they mourn for you; and when you live, they desire your company.”*

Be YOU-nique.

- It takes tremendous **courage to be YOU-nique.**
- Do not walk the path of least resistance,
- Do not be afraid of taking the road less traveled
- Do - not what is easy- but what is right.
- **Blending In or Being your self**

Commit yourself to excellence

- No one is perfect - every single one is a work in progress.
 - **Commit yourself to excellence** in everything you do, but do not seek perfection;.
- The quest for excellence is not a quest for perfection, for only Allah is perfect;

Quest for Excellence NOT PERFECTION

- A determination to maximize the potential which Allah has granted to you. .
 - “When you hear that your brother has sinned, give him up to seventy excuses. If you cannot, say to yourself that he has an excuse which you do not know of.” — Ja’fār al-Şādiq,
- Excellence is by man, while perfection is the domain of the Divine.
- **RECOGNIZING SELF WORTH**

Leave a legacy

- Jalaluddin Rumi
- *“After our death, do not search for us in the tombs of the graveyards of the world, but search for us in the hearts of the people we have inspired.”*
- Build your legacy by adding deep value in every encounter with everyone you deal with and leaving the world a better place in the process.

In Conclusion

- An engaged Muslim community at ease with its existence in the land we have chosen as our home.
- We do not live in Iran, Iraq, UAE, Saudi Malaysia, Pakistan.
- We live in AMERICA.
- Time to shed some of our own baggage to lighten the load for the next generation to be Muslim and American in the true sense of the Word.

MEANING OF *INTIDHAR*:

- Deeper meaning and significance to the act of awaiting the appearance of al-Hujjah (AJ)
 - We await the re-appearance of our 12th Imam (AJ) to establish justice.
 - Least Imperfect Society
- Will we be in his camp or in the camp of those who opposed to justice?
- Promise to be a better human being ---
 - *Ab Ankhen us bashar ko (Najm Afandi)*

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- If you can do this –
– It is a life well lived.