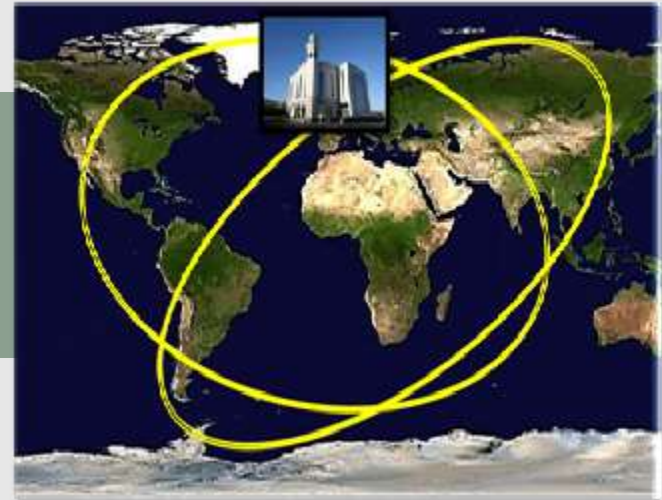


SELF-REFORMATION: RESOLVE, FAITH & REHABILITATION



SERMON DELIVERED BY HADHRAT
MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD (ABA);
HEAD OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM
COMMUNITY



RELAYED LIVE ALL ACROSS THE
GLOBE

17th January 2014

NOTE: Al Islam Team takes full responsibility for any errors or miscommunication in this Synopsis of the Friday Sermon

Summary

In order to reform ourselves, we need to strengthen our will power, enhance our knowledge and improve our commitment to put good intentions into actions.

In religious matters will power or strength of resolve is iman (belief). Thus, with increasing faith the will power to do good increases.

The will power is strengthened by strong knowledge, which raises awareness about right and wrong.

The will power and knowledge need to be supported by the determination and commitment to act to reform oneself.

This is the fundamental philosophy of personal reformation.

INGREDIENTS OF SELF- REFORMATION

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STRENGTH OF
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IMAN (BELIEF)

STRONG FAITH
CAN LEAD TO
REFORMATION

NIZAM
JAMA'AT; A
SOURCE OF
EXTERNAL
SUPPORT FOR
REFORMATION

17th January 2014

The essence of the series of last few Friday sermons is that there can be many obstructions to one's practical reformation.

These can be broadly classified as lack of will power, lack of correct knowledge and lack of power of action.

In order to reform ourselves, we need to strengthen our will power, enhance our knowledge and improve our commitment to put good intentions into actions.

The power of action to do good, can be improved by one's own efforts and sometimes external support is needed to help ourselves reform.

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As we have established, the first thing needed for reformation of practices is will power.



The concept of willpower varies according to the type of action.



In religious matters will power or strength of resolve is iman (belief).



Thus, with increasing faith the will power to do good increases.



With increasing will power the ability to overcome bad and do good increases tremendously.

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These are not mere words; we see practical examples of this.

Arabs at the time of advent of the Holy Prophet (sa) were engaged in all sorts of vices such as alcoholism, robbery, killing of daughters and marrying their own mothers.

And these uncivilised Arabs showed a revolutionary changes in themselves after accepting the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and inculcated an amazing strength of resolve or will power in themselves.

The strength of their belief led them to decide to put every commandment of faith in practice and avoid everything contrary to the commandment of God.

They accepted that each instruction of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) would be the last word.

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The determination of the Companions was so robust that it overcame any weakness of practice.

The Companions used to drink alcohol and we know what alcohol does to people.

They were regular drinkers, who drank five times a day; used alcohol as water and their social lives revolved around alcohol.

When the Divine commandment about the prohibition of alcohol reached the Companions attending these drinking parties, they broke the pitchers of alcohol straight away, and threw away the alcohol they were about to drink!

Despite their state of drunkenness, they broke the pitcher of alcohol, they obeyed the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

Thus, the will power or the strength of resolve and faith of the Companions overcame their alcoholism.

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Such strength of resolve is all-encompassing and such people are the champions of the spiritual world and can conquer Satan at every step.

The faith of will power gives one strength to overcome even the strongest difficulties and attain self-reformation!

More recently, we see somewhat similar incidents among the followers of the true and ardent devotee of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) disliked the use of tobacco because of its intoxicating effect.

Upon hearing this, his companions broke their hookah and gave up smoking forever.

There are examples of his companions who gave up all their previous bad habits after accepting Ahmadiyyat.

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These bad practices should not be abandoned out of fear of any law, society or parents.

- The underpinning thought should be that God and His Messenger (pbuh) have prohibited them or in this age the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) has advised against them.

Ahmadis need to employ their will power and strength of resolve to avoid all forms of addictions and intoxications.

Huzoor has come to know that some of our young boys and girls use *shisha* (a form of inebriation available in Muslim restaurants) saying that it is not intoxicating and its occasional use is not harmful.

Huzoor warned them that to remember that this mild and occasional use would lead them to stronger addictions. They should use the strength of resolve of their faith and say **NO** to any such offers.

Intensity of faith instils the will power that enables one to take decisive actions to do good.

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- There was a time when effort was made to prohibit public consumption of alcohol in USA.

- The law could not be implemented because of strong public resistance and manoeuvres.

- Thus, the worldly law could not work because this was not supported by the strength of faith.

- Ultimately, to accommodate this bad practice, the law was amended and alcohol consumption remained legal.

- However, what is deemed bad in God's law can not be amended.

- In order to reform our practices we have to abide by laws of God based on the strength of our faith.

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Alluding to the example of
the Companions, who
readily gave up their habit
of alcohol consumption to
follow the Divine
commandment, Huzoor
said,

the people whom the
advanced world called
ignorant overcame their
habit of intoxication with
the strength of their faith.

They reformed their
practices and then
convinced the world of
their higher morals so
much so that ...

.. ultimately, the world
followed them.

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In a nutshell, with regards to religion, the will power is the power of faith which enables one to do good deeds and avoid evil.



The will power is strengthened by strong knowledge, which raises awareness about right and wrong.



The will power and knowledge need to be supported by the determination and commitment to act to reform oneself.



This is the fundamental philosophy of personal reformation.

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Let it be clear that there are many reasons why one might not be able to accomplish reformation despite will power and knowledge.

Such as habits, love for material things or fear of material loss.

For such people external rather than internal remedy is required to enhance their self-reformation.

The external support may be another person or other material influences.

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In any case there are three types of people in this world and there are [spiritual] ailments.



There are people whose practices are weak because their faith is not complete.



There are people whose practices are weak because their knowledge is not complete.



There are people who have faith and knowledge but because of their personal weaknesses they are unable to reform on their own and need support.

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Just as for broken bones external support such as plaster and metal plates are needed till healing is complete and bones regain their strength...

Similarly, our Nizam e Jama'at (administrative system of the Jama'at), our office-holders, our auxiliary organisations should act as external support for the weaker member of the community.

However, if the office-holders lack in knowledge and have weaknesses in their own practices, then how can they support others!

Every section of the Nizam, in fact every Ahmadi should self-reflect and become a support to friends and dear ones who have weaknesses, so that every member of the Jama'at attains high levels of reformation of practices and in this regard achieves nearness to God. May God enable us to do so!

17th January 2014



**Arsalan
Sarwar**

Dear Arsalan Sarwar was martyred on 14 January. He was 17 years old and an FSc pre-engineering student in Islamabad.

- He was martyred in a random firing attack in Islamabad.
 - Arsalan Sarwar was loved by all
- With the grace of God, he was a Moosi, joining the Wasiyyat scheme at the age of 14 and was currently serving Khuddam.
- He was also active when a member of Atfal.

Martyr of Ahmadiyyat

Arsalan and his brothers were active members of Jama'at. Arsalan used to read books of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace), he was regular in observance of Salat which he offered with pathos and with the grace of God was also regular in his chanda.