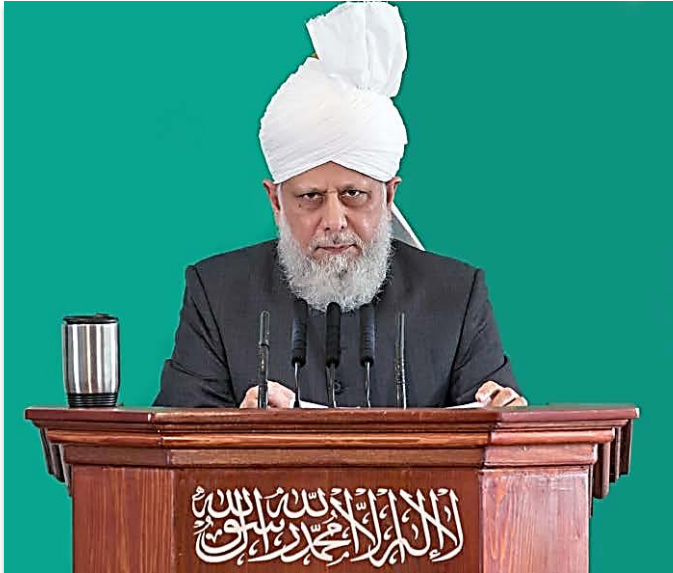
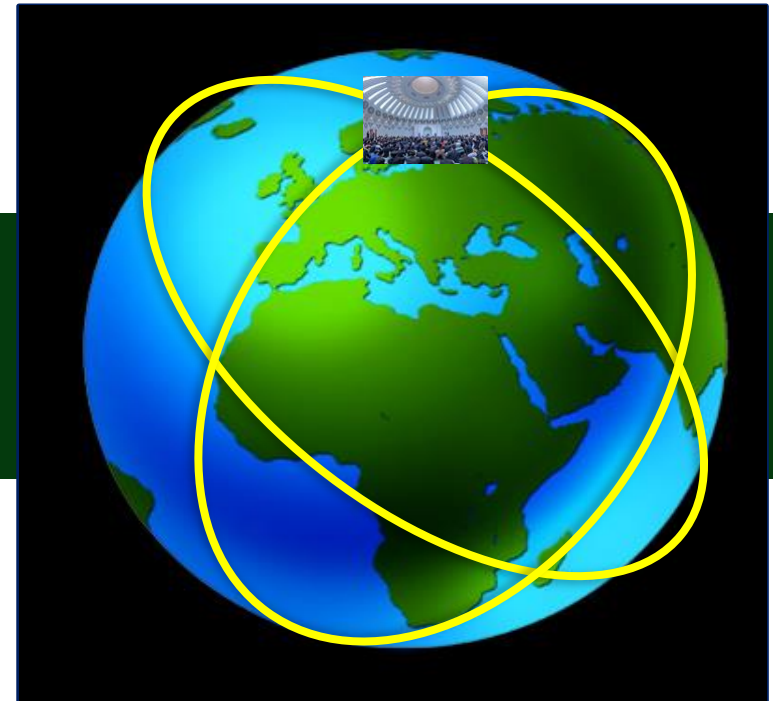


The Institution of Shura: Mutual Consultation



Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat
Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba);
Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim
Community



relayed live all across the globe

12th May 2023

The Institution of Shura: Mutual Consultation

(The Holy Qur'an 3:160)

These days various countries are holding their Majlis-e-Shura

Highlight certain aspects in light of the verse which he recited in the beginning along with the example of the Holy Prophet (sa)

May we fulfil our responsibilities whilst treading on the path of righteousness.

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And it is by the great mercy of Allah that thou art kind towards them, and if thou hadst been rough and hard-hearted, they would surely have dispersed from around thee. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them, and consult them in matters of administration; and when thou art determined, then put thy trust in Allah. Surely, Allah loves those who put their trust in Him.

(The Holy Qur'an 3:160)

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These days various countries are holding their Majlis-e-Shura (meeting of the consultative body). His Holiness (aba) said that even in countries where the Shura has already taken place, the delegates can still take benefit from this advice, because their responsibilities continue after the Caliph of the Time has approved their proposals in order to ensure their implementation.

His Holiness (aba) said that he would highlight certain aspects in light of the verse which he recited in the beginning along with the example of the Holy Prophet (sa).

In the verse, Allah the Almighty testifies to the fact that the Holy Prophet (sa) was extremely tenderhearted towards his people.

The verse also states that those who were to carry forth the same mission, especially his true servant who was to come in the latter days were to show the same kindness and compassion.



God states that rather than kindness, if anger and strictness were to be shown, then people would flee away, which is why the commandment of forgiving and praying for forgiveness has been given. Similarly, the commandment of mutual consultation has also been given.



It is thus that Majlis-e-Shura is held, but as the name indicates, this body exists to consult, not to make decisions. Hence, God states that after consultation, when a decision is made, then complete trust should be placed in God.

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His Holiness (aba) said that the example of the Holy Prophet (sa) seeking consultation was surely to guide us right and to establish unity in his people. It is narrated that when the Qur'anic verse about mutual consultation was revealed, the Holy Prophet (sa) said that this had been made a mercy for his people.

In light of this, we should be grateful for the establishment of Majlis-e-Shura and honour it. With regards to the manner in which the Holy Prophet (sa) sought consultation, we find three types of examples; one was that when counsel was required on a matter, an announcement would be made for people to gather

The second manner in which consultation was sought was that the Holy Prophet (sa) would specifically summon those whom he thought were most apt to give suggestions on a particular matter. The third manner in which consultation would be sought was that when the Holy Prophet (sa) deemed it appropriate, he would summon people one at a time to seek their advice. These were also the same methods adopted by the Rightly Guided Caliphs.

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His Holiness (aba) said that it is narrated that no one would seek consultation more than the Holy Prophet (sa).

Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) said that had the Holy Prophet (sa) not asked them, they would not have said anything. The Holy Prophet (sa) said that in matters regarding which he had not received revelation, he was just like them.

The Holy Prophet (sa) also consulted his Companions after his migration to Madinah, when the Makkans sought to destroy the peace of Muslims.

Not only is the conduct of those from whom consultation is sought of the utmost importance, but they must be at the forefront in the fulfilment of whatever decision is made as a result of the consultation.

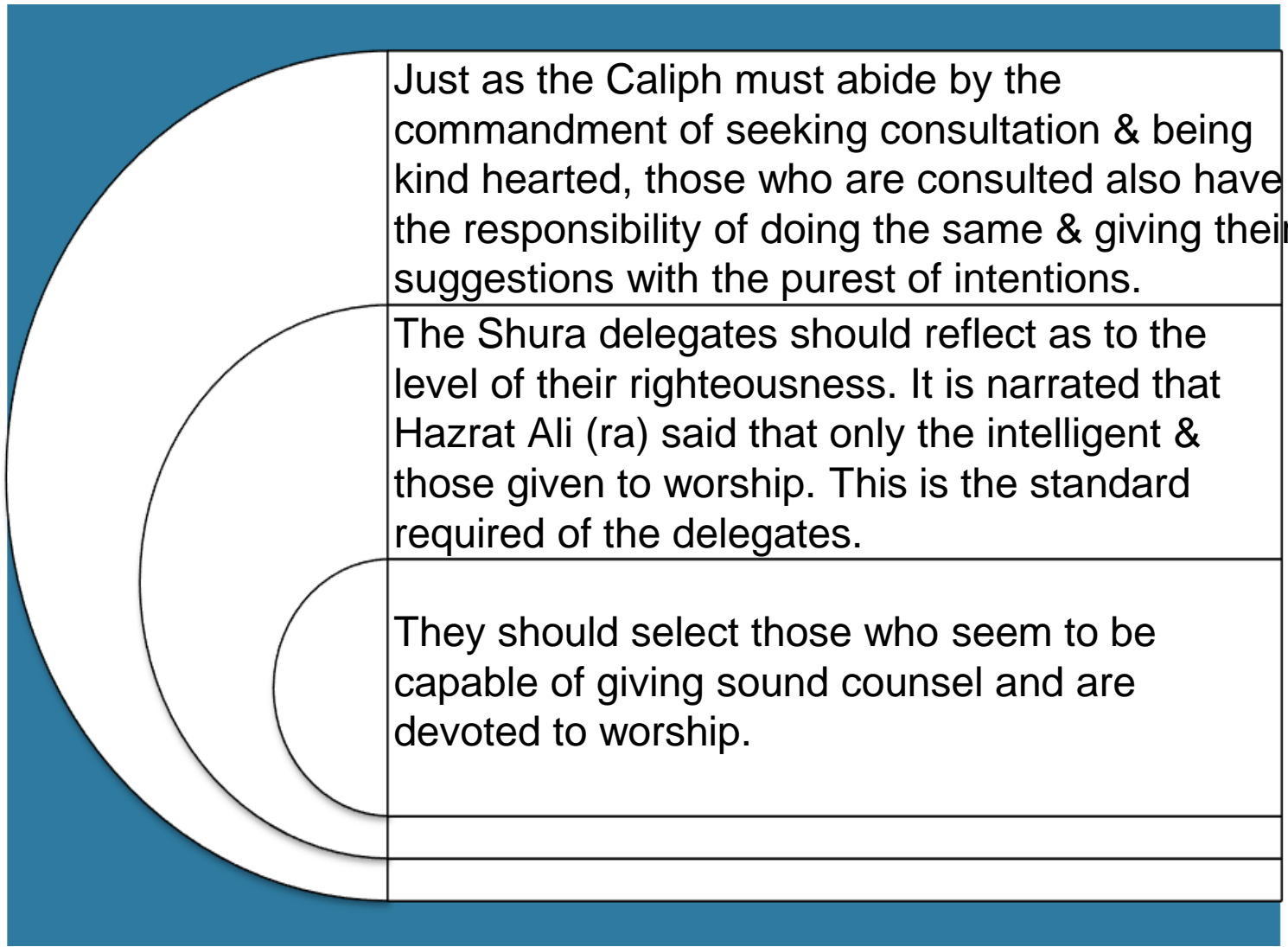
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All the delegates of Majlis-e-Shura must bear in mind that they must be the foremost in implementing whatever decision is made by the Caliph of the Time.

It is only when they set their own practical examples that the rest of the membership of the Community will be prepared to implement it and be prepared to offer whatever sacrifice is required for it

The Shura delegates must remember that every Ahmadi has pledged loyalty to the Caliphate, and thus, they must fulfil this pledge to the utmost degree.

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	Just as the Caliph must abide by the commandment of seeking consultation & being kind hearted, those who are consulted also have the responsibility of doing the same & giving their suggestions with the purest of intentions.
	The Shura delegates should reflect as to the level of their righteousness. It is narrated that Hazrat Ali (ra) said that only the intelligent & those given to worship. This is the standard required of the delegates.
	They should select those who seem to be capable of giving sound counsel and are devoted to worship.

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In countries where the Shura has already taken place, the delegates should continue to fulfil their responsibilities by vowing to set their practical examples whilst being mindful of their spiritual and practical states.

They should act upon the decisions that were made with righteousness and also see to their fulfilment.

It is in doing so that we can attain the blessings of God and that there can be blessings in the decisions that were made.

When this is not done, then the decisions made can be such that they cause ruin or even disturb the peace. Hence, in order to avoid this, we must always analyse ourselves.

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The proposals made are sent to the Caliph of the Time. In fact, the Shura is called only upon the instruction of the Caliph of the Time. Hence, Majlis-e-Shura acts as a helper of the Caliphate. After the system of Caliphate, Majlis-e-Shura holds esteemed importance. A Shura delegate holds that position for a year's time and they should understand the importance and gravity of this position.

The agenda of the Shura and the proposals that are made give the Caliph of the Time insight into the issues at hand in different countries.

The proposals made sometimes do not encompass the complete manner in which a problem can be solved, upon which the Caliph of the Time includes different aspects that perhaps were not in the view of the Shura delegates. Whatever approval is received should be implemented by every Shura member.

sometimes when expressing an opinion, some people become very impassioned and speak in a manner that does not behoove the sanctity of Shura. Therefore, rather than delivering passionate and emotional speeches, they should express their opinions in a calm and appropriate manner.

Sometimes, the Amir who is chairing the session may think that a person who is expressing their opinion is speaking against them or their executive body and then stop them from speaking.


However, the Amir should be reasonable, and consider that the person expressing their opinion is doing so with pain for the Community.

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Upon being elected as representatives, if the delegates are not at the standard of righteousness that is required, then they must continually seek forgiveness and strive to improve their condition.



Sometimes, decisions are not fully implemented due to slackness on the part of office bearers. In such instances, not only should the Shura delegates draw the attention of the general membership towards implementing the decision, but they should also remind the office bearers.



If despite this the decision is not being implemented, then the Shura delegate should write to the central headquarters.

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The decisions should be implemented to such a degree that the proposal never has to be presented to the Caliph of the Time again, nor should the proposal be sent with the note that since the matter was already presented previously, it is suggested that it not be presented again. His Holiness (aba) said that this should be a source of embarrassment. The goal should be for something like this to never happen.

We cannot bring about a change in the world with mere words, rather we must show our actions. If the Shura delegates focus on improving the standards of their worship and attending the mosque, then the overall attendance could increase in mosques three-fold.

The fulfillment of these tasks also requires funds. Hence, whilst discussing the budget, it should be seen how the most can be done whilst remaining economical.

His Holiness (aba) prayed that may we fulfil our responsibilities whilst treading on the path of righteousness. May Allah cover our shortcomings and continually shower us with His blessings.

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