

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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Assalaamu 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah.

Distinguished President Imam Mohamed Magid,

The ISNA meeting in 2012 was a success and may Almighty God add to its success in years to come.

لا اله الا الله

No (other) god is there but Almighty God.

This precious creed must be explained in today's language that people may embrace it whole heartedly and say:

لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

When explanation is based not on fairy tales but The Holy Quran and Hadith of The Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), the attendee develops a clear unshakable grasp of his faith.

Such a session did not stand out. We are reminded three times:

هو الذى ارسل رسوله بالهدى ودين الحق ليظهره على دين كله. (ال عمران – التوبة - الفتح)

أن الله هو الحق المبين. (النور)

The word Al Haqq was hardly mentioned in all the sessions I attended.

The emphasis on truth was not palpable. If issues cannot be elucidate by truth; simple belief, faith, myth or mysticism will not be convincing to the educated public.

قل ادعوا الله او ادعوا الرحمن ايا ما تدعوا فله الاسماء الحسنی . (الاسراء - 110)

As Al Haqq is the blessed name of Almighty God; the statement that Islam is the religion of Truth (دين الحق) is the core message.

Without truth الصراط المستقيم (The Strait Path) is devoid of meaning, with truth it holds all the guidance. (XI:56) (XXXVI:1- 4)

(Four years ago I wrote to Dr. Ingrid Mattson on this subject. A copy of that letter is attached)

The Holy Prophet's emphasis on truth by word and deed is our guide. (His Hadith from Imam Bukhari vol. II Tahajjud: 222 is attached)

It is adherence to truth that gets us closer to the ultimate and Absolute Truth otherwise it is more like declaring allegiance to a league or a party; which has nowadays become the acceptable norm: "do as you please just wear the badge"

Mohammad (صلى الله عليه) was known as Al-Ameen (trustworthy, honest) before the revelations descended upon him. Honesty is not possible without truthfulness. The Holy Quran states how much truthfulness there must be. "The weightless fraction of an atom." (متقال ذرة) That is the aim so that the ecstasy of being in Almighty God's presence is experienced. We cannot know our Maker (الخالق) without being truthful and we cannot achieve serenity without truth. Knowledge and science is based on truth not the reverse. Genuine piety, education, research and communication is not possible without truth as its basis. We are blessed to be able to express ourselves with clarity to people of any faith or no faith. We declare that Al Haqq we worship and to it we have surrendered. There is nothing confusing in this religion.

فذا لكم الله ربكم الحق فماذا بعد الحق الا الضلال فانى تصرفون (يونس - 32)

"Thus such is Allah your sustainer The Ultimate Truth; what is there (left) after Truth (is ignored) but error. How then are you turned away?"

When asked "What do you believe in?" The answer "Al-Haqq" is a knock out as it is meant to be.

The word "Al Haqq" recurs in The Holy Quran more than two hundred and twenty times, so that we can have a clear Understanding of Love of Almighty God, of The Holy Quran, of our daily prayers and the Reason for our Existence.

We are reminded:

يومئذ يوفيهم الله دينهم الحق ويعلمون ان الله هو الحق المبين .

"That day will compensate them Allah for their true religion and they will know that indeed Allah is The Truth most Evident. (Sura Noor : 25) Must Muslims wait till judgment day to realize that Allah is The Evident Truth?

Truth helps us better understand the message of The Holy Quran the miracle given to Mohammad (PBUH) in which the biblical miracles are mentioned but it is The Creation that is identified as The Miracle.

Recitation of The Holy Quran (XVI: 98) begins with:

اعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم .

"I take refuge in Allah from Satan the accursed" This statement is a covenant.

In practice it means I take refuge in (الحق) The Truth and reject lies, deceit, malice, injustice and all that is *haraam* and sinful.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

"In the name of Allah, The Gracious, The Merciful" This is a constant reminder of the virtues of Almighty we cherish because without compassion individuals lose their humanity. In practice it is a commitment to carry out the task at hand most truthfully and diligently.

Sura Ikhlaas (CXII):

قل هو الله احد

Say " He Allah is One" As there is One Truth!

"Allah is All Perfect" As The Truth is Perfect.

لم يلد ولم يولد

Never He bore (a child) Nor was He born. (He Is)

As Truth has no child nor is it born. (It Is!)

ولم يكن له كفوا احد

And never is there to Him in par any one.

As Truth has no parallel.

As The Truth is The Blessed Name of Almighty God the question "Who created The Creator?" does not arise. He is!

When The Holy Quran is understood clearly; the agony of confusion is lifted.

Sura Imran sheds light on two categories of verses.

هو الذى انزل عليك الكتاب منه آيت محكمات هن ام الكتاب واخر متشابهات . (ال عمران - 7)

"He is the One that has sent you the book; of them are the decisive verses, they are the substance of the book and others that are metaphors." (III:7) And further gives an example (LIX: 21)

Verses of The Holy Quran must be understood as they are meant to be. Stories and fairy tales that have crept into Islam need to be eliminated. This is possible by adherence to truth when studying The Holy Quran and Hadith. The Holy Quran forbids describing Almighty God in physical terms (سبحن ربك رب العزة عما يصفون - (الصفات). Contemplating on and ascribing physical feature to Almighty God is an error. Whatever human eye has seen is not God nor will these eyes see Him. It will be a different eye and different circumstance. (ليس كمثلته شى)

If I understood Mohammad Ninowy correctly, in his discussion he had an issue with the idea of “Almighty God being hidden behind a thousand veils” as that would be inconsistent with Evident Truth (الحق المبين).

One cannot help but wonder if those who wished to remain in power were instrumental in keeping the public ignorant of the importance of truth. The most effective instrument was to threateningly label the questioner a “Kafir”.

It is the cobwebs before our eyes that prevent us from seeing the Truth.

The boundaries of Almighty God’s creation is not limited that He will not continue to raise better students, scholars and leaders among men. We must and do respect and revere those who strived and facilitated the way for us but we should not close the door to progress. Progress meaning getting closer to The Truth. That must be the goal of every parent and teacher. Suppressing it was meant for subjugation that has worked for too long a period and still continues.

The teacher's task is to make topics easy and comprehensible for the students. The Holy Quran makes that goal clear for every parent, teacher and leader (II: 185). To have students carry tomes on their backs or carry charts and branching classifications in their memory would not be consistent with this concept. Good memory is a blessing but information alone does not necessarily produce wisdom or a good Muslim. It is good for an individual to memorize as much of The Holy Quran as possible but it is in understanding and putting it into practice that brings him joy. Being mindful of Allah is greater (ولذكر الله اكبر). A mind full of Truth is the blessing we should all yearn for. Good memory and extensive information is a blessing but without Wisdom (عقل) and awareness of Truth, it may lead to arrogance. And many have lifelong worshipped images or images of themselves.

The warning is there: (فلاتزكوا انفسكم هو اعلم بمن اتقى) Don't boast of your purity He fully knows of your piety. (LIII: 32)

Communication with maturing, intelligent and inquisitive youth is only possible by being truthful with them; sharing with them what we know but more importantly making them aware of our deficit and short comings. (In Arabic, Persian, Pashtu and Urdu Haqq means Truth, Justice, Rights and Reality - the one who adheres to it and Loves it is pious - Mutaqi) Muslims will be able to participate in the debates

regarding Evolution, Child Bearing, Piety, Global Warming etc. if their Islamic perspective is based on Truth.

In search of The Ultimate Truth we need to look at the right place and apply the correct instrument. The Truth has no boundary nor a physical trace. It is futile to look for sound under the microscope.

(ليس كمثلہ شیء)

"There is nothing to compare Him with"

The search for an entity that would conveniently satisfy our mental capacity is as misconceived; The Infinite cannot be contained in the finite. When a Muslim Say's "God Knows" he means it. Truth is all knowing.

The Holy Quran does recognize and address the people of the book and others by the names they chose but the Verse repeated again and again makes it clear that there is only one religion. Just as there is one Mathematics, one Physics one Chemistry.

As Dr. Jasser Auda said the length of beard, the brevity of pant-sleeves, the number of times we pray or the garments we wear cannot define who we are. It should be obvious that we must be defined by how truthful we are.

To not lose sight of the miracles that surrounds (Quran XLV: 3) us, we Muslims must and do pray with eyes open.

When the world was thought to be the center of universe a powerful king or his minions would proclaim him "god". Connivers would proclaim a godly person "god" or the "son of god." As the earth is no longer that central place; such pronouncements have and should become obsolete.

Adherence to undeserved customs and beliefs is trivializing The Truth which is one reason our societies and congregations are in great difficulty. Neglect of truth is destroying the fabric of our existence. Religion without truth as its basis is meaningless.

The outcome of our efforts will be different if we realize that surrender to Allah means surrender to Truth. This is the attitude meant to enlighten and bring peace to all human beings.

To repeat, by Truth is meant Truth, Justice, Rights Reality (الحق) as recognized in Arabic, Farsi, Pushto and Urdu. Rabbi Hillel, it is said set in a sentence; The Holy Quran set it in one word: Al-Haqq. It is up to the reader to learn what it means.

None of The Magnificent Names of Almighty God can be ignored but Truth is the light with which we can find our way.

To recognize and address this issue urgently is of the essence if we are to pull ourselves out of the present quagmire.

Muslims do not have two sets of rules, one to practice religion by and the other for secular life. There is no two biology, chemistry or physics. Islam recognizes one set of rules: The Rule of Truth and Justice for all.

Three things we learn to keep in mind every moment:

A) We have a Creator.

B) That Creator is The Truth.

C) We are devoted to it.

This needs to be emphasized and talked about.

لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله .

Assalaamu 'Alaikum.

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