



Harmful innovations in religion

Friday sermon
October 29TH , 2010



SUMMARY

Hudhur (aba) gave an exposition on harmful innovations in religion

Among the ills that take over imperceptibly is one that is a great sin: *shirk*. Some practices of Muslims are tantamount to obvious shirk

Hudhur (aba) read out a prayer of the Prophet (pbuh) that illustrates that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) was the greatest champion of Unity of God

God has sent the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) to safeguard Islam from *shirk* and harmful innovations

Hudhur (aba) said it is the obligation of Ahmadiis that they become helpers of the Imam of the age and endeavour to establish Unity of God with their each word and deed

Hudhur (aba) advised Ahmadi children and parents to abstain from the practices of Halloween as these are based on shirk

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا
دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ
فَقَدِ افْتَرَىٰ إِثْمًا عَظِيمًا

Chapter 4 , Verse 49

Surely, Allah will not forgive that any partner be associated with Him; but He will forgive whatever is short of that to whomsoever He pleases. And whoso associates partners with Allah has indeed devised a very great sin.

Harmful innovations in religion

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Harmful innovations in religion

Modern innovations
have many benefits

However, they can also
promote mutual ills

Badness is attractive
and enticing and can
make one forget
one's traditions and
beliefs.

Some Ahmadis, considering such
matters trivial, also get inclined in this
way, resulting in very bad
consequences.

Shirk (associating partners with God)

Among the ills that take over imperceptibly is one that is a great sin: *shirk*

Even a hint of *shirk* is unacceptable to God

A Muslim who claims to be firm on the Unity of God, needs to be extremely careful in this fast moving world

In particular Ahmadi Muslims, who have accepted the Imam of the age, the first condition of whose bai'at is

'The initiate shall solemnly promise that he/she shall abstain from *shirk* right up to the day of his/her death.'

Thus is the first promise to enter Ahmadiyyat, true Islam

On reflection we find many among the Muslims who practice latent *shirk*.

By prostrating before graves of Pirs (ascetics), or by placing offerings or by supplicating to the graves

As this practice continues from generation to generation, faith in God continues to be weakened

Ghastly allegations

Seeing such harmful innovations among Muslims gave the audacity to a Hindu to write a poem depicting that if Hindus worshipped idols, Muslims prostrated before graves

Ghastly allegations

He has gone on to lay a ghastly allegation that, God forbid, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) is considered god

Hudhur (aba) read out a prayer of the Prophet (pbuh) that illustrates that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) was the greatest champion of Unity of God

'O Allah, grant me Your love and the love of one whose love will benefit me by You. O Allah, make the things I like which You grant me, a source of strength for me, a source of enhancing in Your love, a source of developing belief. And grant me Your preferred things in return of the things I like that You keep away from me'

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The Holy Prophet (pbuh) was so particular about the spiritual training of his Companions that he would say that even a little hypocrisy is *shirk*.

He said, 'avoid shirk, it is more subtle than the footprints of an ant [on soft soil]'.

The Companions asked how they should avoid shirk. In reply, he told them to read this prayer

'O Allah, we come in Your refuge from knowingly associating partners with You. And we seek Your forgiveness from doing so unknowingly'.

To avoid shirk

Hudhur (aba) explained that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) only ever described himself as a man, a humble man at that.

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Unity of God and Ahmadis

Hudhur (aba) said it is the obligation of Ahmadis that they become helpers of the Imam of the age and endeavour to establish Unity of God with their each word and deed

'God Almighty desires to draw all those who live in various habitations of the world, be it Europe or Asia, and who have virtuous nature, to the Unity of God and unite His servants under one Faith. This indeed is the purpose for which I have been sent to the world. You, too, therefore should pursue this end, but with kindness, moral probity and fervent prayers.'

[The Will, pp. 8 – 9]

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Hudhur (aba) explained

Hudhur (aba) said when certain harmful innovations become prevalent they take one away from the true teaching and harm religion

That is how all early religions lost their original state

Certain harmful innovations have made their way in Islam and some of them are tantamount to obvious *shirk*

However, in accordance to His promise, God has sent the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) to safeguard Islam from *shirk* and harmful innovations and Insha'Allah it will remain safe.

An Ahmadi should make a jihad-like endeavour to avoid any innovations that may lead to shirk

Hudhur (aba) explained that the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) even considered laying too much stress on incantation (*wazaif/wird/dikr*) as innovation

This is because such practices make one disregard the real aspect, which is Salat

Hudhur (aba) said doing *dikr* is very good, but only when done secondary to obligatory worship

The gatherings of *Allahu* and other *dikr* can incline one to satanic ways when they exceed their limitations



Hudhur (aba) explained that some influences that may appear to lead to piety can take one to harmful innovations

Hudhur (aba) related an anecdote that once a very pious lady became inclined towards incantation. With increasing interest in dikh, she gradually gave up her voluntary worship of and later she found herself moving away even from obligatory worship of God. On realising her mistake, she started to say '*La Hawla wa la quwwata illa billa*' (There is no power to avoid sin or to do good except through Allah) and thus her attention to worship of God was restored

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Halloween; A word of warning!

Many people start following practices of the society without thinking and simply imitate others

Carelessly, some Ahmadis also let their children participate in this without giving any thought to its origin

One such practice which is celebrated popularly in the West is Halloween

Halloween is generally regarded as fun

Halloween is a harmful innovation among Christians which takes one closer to *shirk*

Hudhur (aba) said it should always be remembered that any 'fun' that is based on *shirk* is to be avoided

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Halloween originates from old Irish pagan practices

Halloween

- Halloween is based on concepts belonging to witches; concepts which trample upon religion and sanctity of homes

Concept

- Its basic concept is that on 31 October the boundaries between the living and the dead are removed and the dead come back to cause harm to the living

Concept

- In order to avoid being harmed, so-called magicians are called in who take animals and crops from people and sacrifice them in a specific way

Concept

- Bonfire, special costumes and masks are all part of the ritual and is meant to frighten the dead to stop them from harming the living

No matter how much fun it may be considered, its very basis is wrong and it includes *shirk*

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Hudhur (aba) said the practice of Halloween is a hidden evil

It is against the dignity of an Ahmadi child to dress up in strange manner and go door to door like beggars, even if it is for chocolates.

Ahmadis should have a dignity which should be inculcated from childhood

Children dress up in costumes and go from door to door asking for something to bring comfort to spirits

This is shirk

The notion is that if a household gives something to the costume-clad children the dead would not harm the household

Indeed, it is all considered good fun, but the idea behind it all is based on *shirk*

Hudhur (aba) said the practice of Halloween is a hidden evil

This is shirk

The message of Halloween is thus of existence of witches, evil spirits and satanic worship

It is extremely wrong to 'believe in' things that are 'supernatural' even if it is for fun

These are Satanic concepts

For this reason, our children should strictly avoid them

Such practices also embolden children to do wrong in the name of fun

For us, the biggest matter is the bringing of dead spirits who can influence living people, as if, equal to God and thus committing *shirk*. Gifts are meant to please the spirits

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Hudhur (aba)
said that
Halloween rituals
do not stop at
wearing of
costumes and
going from door
to door

Rather older
children
deliberately
frighten people in
their homes and
disturb
surroundings;
become nuisance
and ruin their
lives

This is why
Hudhur (aba)
said he would
once again
advise Ahmadis
to avoid this

They should not espouse so much
influence of the West that they get
embroiled in hidden/latent *shirk*

Dr. Grace Ketterman writes in her book, 'You and Your Child's Problem': 'A tragic by-product of fear in the lives of children as early as preadolescence is the interest and involvement in supernatural occult phenomena.'

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said man claims to worship God, but does worship entail an abundance of prostrations etc. or plentiful reading the rosary (*Tasbih*) beads?

Rather, worship is possible by one to whom love of God attracts to such a degree that his or her own being is nullified from the middle. Foremost is absolute belief in God as well as full awareness of God's beauty and favours. This connection of love is such that its pathos is ever-present in the heart with this state always evident on the face.

The heart carries God's greatness to such an extent that the entire world appears dead by comparison and every fear is only associated with His Being and there is pleasure in His pain. Delight is experienced in solitude with Him alone and without Him the heart does not find satisfaction from anyone else.

When such a state is attained, it is called worship, but this state is not generated without special blessing of God.

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Hudhur (aba) prayed



May God enable us to meet the expectations as stated by the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace)

If we make endeavour God will bless, Insha'Allah.

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