

RELIGION, MORALITY AND MATERIAL SUCCESS



**Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat
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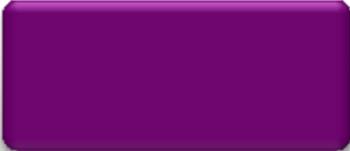


**relayed live all across the
globe**

Date April 24th, 2015

RELIGION, MORALITY AND MATERIAL SUCCESS

SUMMARY



As morals can be taught by secular education, does that leave any need for religion?



This is the question that may arise in young minds or posed by well-educated people.



Young people and adults need to understand the true interaction between spirituality, morality and material progress in order to put these in practice.



A Muslim would practice morality and attain material progress within the framework of spirituality.



With spiritual progress, an improvement in morals is inevitable; and high moral practices are the key to material progress.

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As morals can be taught by secular education, does that leave any need for religion?

This is the question that may arise in young minds or posed by well-educated people.

When our youth ask us this question, some of us may not handle this question very well.

This leads the adolescents to assume that although Islam claims to be the true faith with all the resolutions to problems, it does not have the answers in practical terms and does not keep up with the times.

As a result in spite of Islam being a living faith we find people among Muslims who reject religion and existence of God.

In light of this we all need to reflect as to how we should practice our faith and also inspire our youngsters to practice.

Certainly Islam is a perfect religion and the Holy Qur'an is a complete Book and the blessed model of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), an embodiment of the Qur'an, is before us

Faith, morality and material progress are all aspects of human life that needs to be placed in proper context.

Young people and adults need to understand the true interaction between spirituality, morality and material progress in order to put these in practice.

God sent the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) to address these problems and he imparted insight to us.

Hazrat Musleh Maud (may Allah be pleased with him) delivered a Friday sermon on the correlation between morality, material gain and religion and the Islamic viewpoint on the matter and how the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) demonstrated this through his practices.

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It is difficult to separate religion, morality and man's material needs.

Because one is religious, this does not bar one from being moral or seeking material progress. All these are inextricably linked!

Only Islam makes the correlation between spirituality, morality and material success.

A Muslim would practice morality and attain material progress within the framework of spirituality.

However, a vast majority of Muslims do not understand the reality of religion and connect morality and material gain to religion rather excessively, so much so that they drive people away from religion.

Some religious scholars have made laws of their own in the name of religion. This leads to conflict.

The situation in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan is borne of fictitious laws made in the name of religion!

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On the other hand the developed but non-religious Western world tries to make morality and spirituality a part of the material world.

They regard Divine revelations and progress of human mind and morality as a useful quality.

They consider religion as a tool that saves poor and uneducated from a life of crime.

They claim that moral people do not need a religion.

Reflecting on morality, spirituality and material success tells us that they are deeply intertwined and their boundaries merge with each other.



The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) was the world reformer for spiritual, moral and material aspects. His blessed life is a composite of them all.

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said that without prayer man's faith cannot be perfected.

Three elements are necessary for supplications and prayers.

Firstly, one must be certain that one's entreaty will be heard.

Secondly, one must have the assurance that whom one calls has the power to help.

Thirdly, one must have inherent love and devotion to God and is to turn to no one else.

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The Promised Messiah (as) like all prophets was sent to provide clear guidance on how to find the right interactions between religion, morality and material progress.

With spiritual progress, an improvement in morals is inevitable; and high moral practices are the key to material progress.

On the other hand, worldly success does not always lead to high morals.

Similarly, it does not necessarily go hand in hand that those who possess good morals also have the true faith.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud (ra) explained this with an example that people who pursue spirituality, are like those at a higher level who have stairs to access the lower levels (of morality and material success). However, those at lower levels do not have access to the stairs to ascend to the higher (spiritual) level.

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A person, who has attained the perfect faith, cannot be devoid of perfect morals.



If a person attains all aspects of morality and acts on these, he will possess the attributes of truthfulness, honesty, justice, righteousness and virtuousness.



The given consequence of this is that he will acquire knowledge, skill, competence, ability and diligence.



The natural outcome of all this would be achievement of material success.

There is an easily understandable example that if one sits close to a fire, every part of his body warms up.

So it is not possible for someone to remain deprived of the Divine blessings, if they give up everything in order to be close to God.

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Thus, we should try to reach God, strive to understand the religion of God and make the love of God part of our nature.

If we make a concerted and earnest effort to seek Divine light, the darkness of falsehood will be dispelled, our morals will improve and we will attain worldly success

So while living in this society if we want our youth to understand the connection between our religion and morality then we must show them that material progress is attained by sincerely following the true religion.

Indeed, the younger generation should make a sincere effort to develop a true bond with God. May Allah the Exalted enable us to do so. Ameen

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