

## MESSAGE TO THE YOUTH

The youth are the integral component of society; therefore, their contribution to a vibrant Islamic society cannot be ignored. In this particular sense, an ideology has a value system but Islam goes beyond the confines of a man-made system because it is a *din* – a code of life.

The Qur'ān outlines its vision of an ideological community in the following *āyah*:

*You are the best of community for mankind – to command of all that is good and forbid that is evil as the believers of Allah.* (3: 10)

This universal concept of community does not discriminate on the basis of race or materialism consideration; rather, it promotes values that are of enduring benefit to mankind. It is a truism that the rise of Islam is the greatest miracle in history. Even European historians acknowledged the contributions of Islam to the civilisations of the world. Islam did not operate in a vacuum: the Abbasid and Ottoman caliphates showed the peaceful nature of conquests even when they were faced with the hostile Christian armies. The rise and fall of empires were a result of the rulers' indulgence in material pursuits and moving away from the spirit of *da`wah*. Furthermore, schools of thought were formed, highlighting their sectarian outlook. Sadly, these divisions were a far cry from the principle of *tawhid* (unity) that welded Muslim communities from different regions and with different cultural temperaments.

Muslims should remember that a foundation without a structure is collapsible. Likewise, the *shabādah* without moral and spiritual values does not make up Islam. It does not even bring out the Prophetic model that is our perfect guide in this world.

*Sidq* – absolute truthfulness in thought, word and deed is the first principle of the *shabādah*. The second principle relates to *amānah* - trustworthiness. These qualities were impressed in the noble personality of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) who was called *sādiq al-amin* (truthful and trustworthy). Even the *musbriks*

(polytheists) of Makkah who opposed him vouched for these outstanding qualities. Only then was he commissioned to invite the people to Allah. The third factor is the burning desire for everyone to lead a successful life. This aspiration allows the human personality to be transformed with positive qualities.

Over the course of time Islam has become a cult. For the Muslim youth this becomes a serious challenge. The age of youth is the age of innocence. Perversion grows as age grows. In other words, the youth become vulnerable to these conflicts and become confused about the true Islam. Consequently, The Muslim community becomes stagnant and loses its dynamism. This is in contrast to the life-enriching teachings of the Qur'an and the sunnah of they Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).

Muslims need to rediscover the whole of Islam so that the blending of all values are beautifully brought out.

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