

FROM THE MINBAR

ETHICAL IMMUNIZATION: ISLAMIC EDUCATION

Khutbah delivered by Imam Dr. Zijad Delic at SNMC on September 9th, 2011 corresponding to Ramadan Shawwal 11th, 1432 H.

BACKGROUND

Indeed all praise is for God, Lord of the worlds. Peace and blessings of God be upon Muhammad (S), his family, Khulafai Rashidin, all his Companions, and all those who follow in their footsteps until the Last Day. All praise is for God! We praise Him. We seek His help and ask for His forgiveness. We seek God's refuge from evils of ourselves and from our evil actions. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except God, alone, having no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad (S) is His Messenger.

My dear brothers and sisters in Islam. As Salamu 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu.

INTRODUCTION

Islam is a total frame of reference; a complete system and way of life which embraces the entirety of a human being's existence. It does not separate what pertains to 'religion or spiritual' such as acts of worship, from what pertains to human interaction and mundane or 'secular life'.

ETHICAL IMMUNIZATION

When a family gets a new baby, almost immediately after the congratulations, the baby is taken to the doctor to get the vaccine shots. These are the vaccine shots against measles, diphtheria, polio... etc., which can affect a baby in future. Why do parents do that?

Because the vaccine will give the child immunity against those diseases in the future. Someone might ask, since these babies are at home and are not exposed to the infections, why then do they need the vaccination so early?

The answer is that it is important to give immunity before exposure to infection, so that later on when they are exposed to the infection, they would have acquired the immunity and would be able to fight the diseases.



PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL

We are not only physical beings but spiritual beings as well. There are moral illnesses and they are transmittable. So this medical principle of early immunization also applies to the moral state of our souls. We need a moral vaccination to immunize the soul to be able to resist all kinds of moral illnesses.

We are well aware of the modern world's moral conditions. The challenges can be noticed everywhere we turn. The modern world is infected with violence, immorality, drugs, drinking... etc.

If you watch TV just for a day, you would notice that almost every program offers something that leads directly to violence and immorality: a young boy shot his classmate, a young boy shot his teacher, a young boy shot his mother... A president/ a leader of a country or a large corporation did an immoral act, cheated, made a fraud...

PEER PRESSURE

These are very dangerous social diseases and are very infectious and our kids are exposed to them on every day base. Especially at a later stage in their lives as teenagers, there is a peer competition, a vigorous competition supported by all

forces of evil from outside, with which Mom and Dad do not have a chance to compete with.

At that point in their lives, the maximum influence on the child would be his/her peer group, not his/her parents. They would influence his/her thinking; they will provide the food for his/her thought.

They constitute peer pressure, which is very powerful, and hence children unless previously vaccinated, cannot be immune from catching such diseases that will negatively impact on their lives, the family structure and progress of the society.

For this reason, we should make sure that in the limited time that we have been given for educating our kids, which is early childhood, we vaccinate them against these moral illnesses, so that at the time they get exposed to the infection, it would not be too late. If we give them proper moral vaccination at proper time they will acquire the resistance against these infections.

The biggest challenge that parents of today face, including Muslims, is that many parents wait until they see the diversion of the children, from right to wrong.

One day a good boy/girl becomes an uncontrollable kid. Some parents think that because they are Muslims their children will be 'good Muslims' automatically, without any doubt. This is not true!

This Issue 'From The Minbar' presents

⇒ ETHICAL IMMUNIZATION
Islamic Education

⇒ In next issue: 'Family in Islam'

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DO NOT MISS THE CHANCE

If you miss the chance, then it would be a bit too late, when the disease is at second stage and when you come later on saying: "Br. Zijad, my dear brother, please help me! My daughter/son is on the streets. My son does drugs. My daughter/son does not listen at all."

Do not prepare the soldier for the battle during the battle. He/she should be prepared before the battle. Once when the disease is caught, you are not looking for immunity; you are looking for treatment.

But it is immunity that we would like to cultivate in our children, so that when they are exposed to the diseases, they would have the immunity to resist it.

Then when he/she is offered a cigarette and then drugs, invited to immorality, he/she would be proud and ready to say: 'NO'. If they would be pressed more with words such as: "Come on, you are not a child, be a man." He/she would have courage to say: "NO, we do not do that, we are Muslims."

That is going to be the effort of your struggle for your children and their future. You as parents would be happy that you have succeeded in the battle of life – life of your own children and the future of our Din in Canada.

The time when Muslims lived with the inferiority complex should be gone. Now, the time has come when Muslims should say and live proudly as Canadian Muslims, as Allah informs us: "*Dignity is to Allah, and His Messenger, and the Faithful.*"

I assure you that only a good Muslim, a strong personality, one who is brought up properly, prepared fully, would say: "No I do not do that."

In this case, he/she will be on the offensive because he/she offers a role model, an example. He /she encourages the hesitant (who are many), who feel too weak to resist the peer pressure, to avoid catching the disease and becoming statistics.

How can we achieve this, strong Muslim personality? Not by waiting until our kids are adolescents. Not by waiting until they feel, 'I am 18 now, and I can leave my home and my family, living on my own, as I wish.' Not by waiting until they catch the disease, leave the house, fall into violence or drugs.

As we take our babies in the first weeks to the doctor for physical vaccination, so for moral immunization, no age is too early. Even in the early stages, children learn. So try to bring them up from that age and you would see that it is worthwhile.



PREVENTION NOT TREATMENT

Prevention is much better and easier than treatment. For that

reason, it is much better to introduce the concept of Allah and Islamic Morality to our children then to take care only of their physical side of life. Do not neglect the physical part, but do not think that it is the only priority.

Explain the concept of Morality to your children, that what Allah wants you to do and that what He does not want you to do, and then support your case with the statistics of AIDS, violence, broken homes, abuse, alcohol, drugs, etc. And evidence for your support is everywhere. Give them as parents, enough confidence, to stand tall in the face of their peers and say: "You may do it, but I as a Muslim/Muslimah will never do it."

Teach your children and let them know that if they are successful and work in the name of Allah, truth will be on their side. Let them know that they are not in minority. Let them know that they are in majority.

Mention to them the example of the Messenger of Allah, Muhammad (S) and Abu Bakr (ra) and their Hijrah from Makkah to Madinah and the support which they got from Almighty Allah. Mention to them the stories of prophets such as Ibrahim, Nuh, Musa and Isa (peace be upon them, and others...

SNMC: A SUPPORT SYSTEM

Once when we have a good Muslim home, here comes our strong SNMC community with all its programs: school, youth programs, family counseling, etc. SNMC is there to compliment the role of the home in an extended way and to prepare them for the challenges outside. At that point of time this is going to be their motto: "We are Canadian Muslims, we have a set of values, we do not do what others may choose to do, we have to be selective and do that what pleases Allah and avoid that what displeases Him. We have to do things that are appropriate within the Canadian context. We will do that which is ethically sound and beneficial to all citizens of this great nation.

It all starts with individuals as you and me. Almighty Allah says: "*Verily, Allah will not chance the condition of a people until they change it themselves.*" {Ar Ra'd 11}

We pray to Almighty Allah to help us immunize our children by a moral vaccination to immunize their souls that they can be able to resist all moral illnesses. We pray to Almighty Allah to help us make our community in Ottawa the most successful community in Canada so that we can bring up the future generation of Canadian Muslims who will be proud of both -- their religious and national identity.

Allahumma Amin.

AN ACTION ITEM

If YOU like this Khutbah and what we, at your SNMC, do, PLEASE:

Support our activities & projects ~ Please Donate ONE Prayer Spot for \$2,500 and be the ONE who will build the institution to help our children maintain Islamic Identity and build strong Canadian National Identity, Insha Allah.



South Nepean Muslim Community (SNMC)

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