

4/27/18 Hagerstown

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All praise is for Allah, the Lord of the worlds and peace and blessings be upon all His Prophets and Messengers, their families and followers.

I pray to Allah to bless this gathering and grant us success in this world and the next. May Allah increase our faith and commitment to His religion and may He strengthen our brotherhood, sisterhood and unity. - ~~London~~

We are at a critical time in our history where faith and civilization both are facing challenges. Today much of civilization is without faith and people are losing faith in civilization. So What is Faith?

Faith according to Islam is not just some rules, regulations, laws, rituals and traditions. True faith is belief and action. The Prophet Muhammad said: 'Faith is sixty or seventy odd branches, the highest of faith is saying 'La ilaha illa Allah', the lowest of faith is removing something harmful from the road, and modesty is a branch of faith as well...'

Allah clarified this to us in Surah Al-Baqarah
Brothers and sisters.... Islam stands for pure and sincere faith in Allah, the Lord and Master of the Universe, and righteous actions that build the healthy and wholesome community and civilization.

When

Someone came to the Prophet -peace be upon him- and asked him about faith. The Prophet recited:

لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ
وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ وَآتَى الْمَالَ عَلَى حُبِّهِ ذَوِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينَ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ وَالسَّائِلِينَ
وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَالْمُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا وَالصَّابِرِينَ فِي الْبَأْسَاءِ
وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَحِينَ الْبَأْسِ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ - 2:177

"It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards East or West; but it is righteousness to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the

wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity, to fulfil the contracts which you have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the God-fearing." (al-Baqarah 2:177) *truly for Allah these who*

Omit

This Ayah 177 of Surah al-Baqarah is called Ayat al-Birr. The word "al-Birr" is very important. The word "al-Birr" in its various forms occurs in the Qur'an about 20 times. It means "obedience to Allah, charity, doing good deeds, respect and kindness to parents, care of other relatives and fulfilling the vows and commitments."

"Al-Barr" is one of the names of Allah.

It is also the quality of Allah's angels. They are called Kiraman Bararah.

The Believers are also called "Abrar" and Allah has promised many rewards for the "Abrar"..

This ayah was revealed to the Prophet -peace be upon him- in Madinah when some hypocrites and non-believers wanted to engage Muslims in the dispute over the issue of the Qiblah. They told them how come you are facing Makkah now while you were facing Jerusalem before? Why did you change the direction of your prayers? Does this mean that your prayers were wrong before and all these years you prayed in vain? Allah mentioned in the Qur'an what they were saying. He said:

سَيَقُولُ السُّفَهَاءُ مِنَ النَّاسِ مَا وَلَّاهُمْ عَن قِبَلَتِهِمُ الَّتِي كَانُوا عَلَيْهَا قُلْ لِّلّهِ الْمَشْرِقُ وَالْمَغْرِبُ يَهْدِي
مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ - 2:142

"The Fools among the people will say: "What has turned them from the Qibla to which they were used?" Say: To Allah belong East and West: He guides whom He will to a Way that is straight." (al-Baqarah 2:142)

~~Then the Ayat al-Birr was revealed to the Prophet.~~ Allah told Muslims not to get disturbed about what people say. You should focus your attention on the main fundamentals of the religion and what Allah loves for you to do. The real religion of Islam is not limited to only forms and rituals. ~~The~~ true faith and righteousness consists of some important qualities and actions, such as:

1. Iman: Strong faith in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Prophets, The Pre-Decree and the Day of Resurrection.
2. Charity: Helping the parents, relatives, orphans, poor people, travelers, needy, people who are deprived of freedom in order to enable them gain freedom.
3. Devotion and worship: Performing regular prayer, Hajj, Fasting, remembering Allah and reading his Book.
4. Fulfilling the promises, contracts and commitments, being fair and good to all people with strong commitment to justice and standing up for what is right, and speaking out against oppression and transgression.
5. Patience and perseverance: inner strength, steadfastness, and discipline.

Brothers and sisters - - -
Allah wants to build individuals and societies based on these principles. So These principles must integrate in our personality and we must build the social order in our communities ^{upon} these principles.

So what is a Community or what is Civilization? *active*

is the criteria to determine whether a place is a civilization or not?
Is it high rise buildings? Is it big highways? Is it great factories and shopping malls? Is it big sports stadium, entertainment centers and music halls? Is it big business, banks, stock markets? Is it big armies, tanks, machine guns, atomic bombs? Is it TV, radio, faxes, Internet? Are these things civilization and community?

Civilization is not just material progress and development *brothers and sisters*. Civilization is that human beings act like humans, have upright morals, values, beliefs and practices to live their lives by. The true civilization and

Since we are talking about faith and its relation to civilization.

community is love, kindness, charity, politeness, good behavior, generosity, peace, justice and fairness.

True civilization requires faith. Without faith the civilization becomes shallow, lop sided, self-destructive, oppressive, and harmful. But faith also must be true, authentic, and based on divinely revealed principles. Upright Civilizations and communities are made by faithful human beings. There are all kinds of civilizations, but the civilization that is based on true and authentic faith brings peace, happiness and harmony in the world.

Our way of life and religion of Islam is a faith that inspires civilization and building communities and ^{encourages} social solidarity. When the Prophet Muhammad emerged with reviving the Message of Islam upon earth, the world was in deep darkness. Religions had lost their authentic message. Morality was at its lowest level. The whole world was in the grips of social, economic and political disorder. There was no one who could save humanity. But Allah sent Prophet Muhammad, His last and final Prophet to humanity. Allah gave him His message. He inspired and motivated people and gave them right direction and set a good example. In a short period of time his followers became the leaders of humanity and for more than one thousand years they were leading the world in culture and civilization. From every direction people came to learn from them.

The faith was simple and reasonable. It was based on the principle of Tawhid, believing in the Messengers, and the Hereafter. There is only one God who created everything visible and invisible. Allah is the Lord and only He should be worshipped. People should not bow to idols, humans or animals. Allah guided human beings through His Prophets and Messengers who came to every part of the world. Human beings are responsible and there will be a day of reckoning in the Hereafter. Islamic faith emphasizes balance between reason and revelation, between spiritual

and material, between the rights of individuals and the rights of the society, between this world, its needs and the Hereafter. The spirit of Islamic civilization is balance, wholesomeness, ethics, morality, equality, tolerance, deep respect of others and sincere devotion to Allah.

Brother and sisters in Islam...

Today ^{much of the} ~~the whole~~ world is in crisis. There is a moral crisis everywhere. ~~Corruption~~ Hypocrisy is called diplomacy today. Lying and cheating are called business and politics. Adultery and fornication are called private relations and personal orientation. Pornography is called art and free expression. There is violence, injustice, and double standard in politics. 'Human rights' is a slogan and it is applied selectively. Globalization has become global exploitation. Families are falling apart. Drugs and narcotics are on increase. Crimes are abundant. Human beings are afraid of other human beings because they are of a different skin color, ethnicity, or speak a different language. There is a pollution of morals and pollution of environment. We have global dangers.

In the past if there was a problem in one part of the world the other parts would not even know and would not be affected, but now we are totally inter-dependant. We are linked with each other. We are now facing global challenges and global dangers.

Material prosperity is good; but more important is spiritual prosperity and moral goodness. The Qur'an has severely criticized the civilizations that became very prosperous, but they ignored true faith and morality. Allah says:

أَوَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ كَانُوا أَشَدَّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً وَأَثَارُوا الْأَرْضَ وَعَمَرُوهَا أَكْثَرَ مِمَّا عَمَرُوهَا وَجَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيَظْلِمَهُمْ وَلَكِن كَانُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ

ثُمَّ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ آسَأُوا السُّؤْأَى أَن كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَكَانُوا بِهَا يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ – 30:10

"Have they not traveled through the earth and observed what was the end result of those before them? They were greater than them in power, and they plowed the earth and built it up more than they have built it up, and their messengers came to them with clear evidences. And Allah would not ever have wronged them, but they were wronging themselves. Then the end of those who did evil was the worst [consequence] because they denied the signs of Allah, and used to ridicule them."

And Allah says:

الَّذِينَ يَأْتِيهِمْ نَبَأُ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ قَوْمِ نُوحٍ وَعَادٍ وَثَمُودَ وَقَوْمِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَأَصْحَابِ مَدْيَنَ وَالْمُؤْتَفِكَاتِ أَتَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيَظْلِمَهُمْ وَلَكِنْ كَانُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ - 9:70

"Has not the story reached them of those before them? The people of Noah, 'Ad, Thamud; the people of Abraham, the men of Madyan, and the Cities overthrown. To them came their Messengers with Clear Signs. It is not Allah Who wronged them, but they wronged their own souls." (al-Zawrah 9:70)

Ad, Thamud, Madyan, People of Lut, People of Saba', People of Pharaoh and others, they were great builders and lived very prosperous and sophisticated life, but they lost the balance and equilibrium and so they suffered the consequence. Brothers and Sisters in Islam....We have a great responsibility upon our shoulders....not only one responsibility but many responsibilities...responsibilities to our Lord, to our families as well as to our communities and our societies that we live in.

an 2 way lived

in greatly materially developed civilizations with fine Islamic morals, teachings and etiquettes...

social solidarity is in helping our local communities

was

Muslims must lead our communities towards a new way of life filled with faith, morals, and social service. Muslims must step up and lead our communities. We must take our role seriously. We have the authentic message of Allah contained in the Quran. We have the most beautiful example of Prophet Muhammad contained in the

on way community

Sunnah. But we ourselves first must live by those teachings and principles.

Brothers and sisters, we do not lack numbers. We do not lack resources. We are more than 2 billion Muslims in the world. But we must come back to Allah, to our heritage, to our values and principles.

1. Our faith should be strong and sincere. Our practices should become more meaningful, not just ritualistic.
2. We must emphasize learning and education. At home, at the masjid, at school.
3. We must get out of nationalism and foster more unity and brotherhood, sisterhood among ourselves.
4. We must practice justice and fair dealings with all. We must be able to trust our own selves, our brothers and sisters, and our leaders before we ask others to trust us.
5. Our morals and manners should reflect the true teachings of Islam.
6. The objective and purpose of our life should be to establish Islam in our own lives and share this message with all people wherever we may be. We must inculcate in us the true spirit of Iman, Taqwa and Islah.

Second Khutbah

Brothers and sisters, Muslims of ~~Kashmir~~ and ~~Burma~~ are crying for help. The world is ignoring their cries. Muslims of ~~Chechnya~~ are being annihilated and no one care for them. Muslims in Iraq, Syria and Yemen are dying in thousands every month. The rights of Muslims in Jerusalem, the rights of Palestinians to their homeland are slighted and played around, and ~~our~~ governments are afraid to speak. We have threats and real dangers to our own civil rights here in this land. We have much propaganda and stereotypes against Islam and Muslims and those trying to ban our brothers and sisters from entering this country.

when we think about the world today

aid us in fulfilling our religious and social obligations... may Allah help us and

Afghanistan Yemen

Afghanistan

many

even

Brothers and sisters, unless we take our role and responsibility seriously in the world and in our societies, ^{starting society} we will continue to suffer and the world will continue to suffer. The world and our immediate communities need us. When Muslims succeed-the world succeeds.... and when Muslims lose the world loses. We are the people who must support justice and mercy in the world. We must stand for our rights and for the rights of those who are victimized and oppressed.

50 What is our Role in society, in our communities, in the world... at our jobs, in our neighborhoods, in our colleges, in our masjids?

Allah tells us in the Quran:

فَلَوْلَا كَانَ مِنَ الْقُرُونِ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ أُولُو بَقِيَّةٍ يَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْفَسَادِ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِمَّنْ أَنْجَيْنَا مِنْهُمْ ۗ وَاتَّبَعَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مَا أُتْرِفُوا فِيهِ وَكَانُوا مُجْرِمِينَ -

11:117 - وَمَا كَانَ رَبُّكَ لِيُهْلِكَ الْقُرَىٰ بِظُلْمٍ وَأَهْلِهَا مُصْلِحُونَ -

"So why were there not among the generations before you those of enduring discrimination forbidding corruption on earth - except a few of those We saved from among them? But those who wronged pursued what luxury they were given therein, and they were criminals. And your Lord would not have destroyed the cities unjustly while their people were reformers." (Hud 116-117)

Brothers and sisters:

We have to play that role, the role of "Ulu Baqiyah" the people of good sense, the people of good morals, good behavior, the people forbidding corruption, transgression and oppression on earth, social reformers, and social leaders... These are the people who save themselves and save others. Let us take that leading role in our societies and communities.

The reform of society was one of the main targets of Islam and the prophet Muhammad and his disciples reformed a society filled with alcoholism, prostitution, highway robberies, tribal wars, oppression of women, orphans, usurping the money of the weak...Much worse than the society that we're living in today, but very similar in some cases...so what is stopping us from trying to reform the society that we live in here in the USA?

Brothers and sisters ^{the area we chose to work in is} ~~live here~~ in one of the poorest regions and cities in the state of Maryland. 34.9% of the people living here, live below the poverty level. Hagerstown is also ridden with drugs, crime and recidivism. There are people who cannot afford a doctor, people who are our neighbors but they are starving and have nothing to eat while we are filling our stomachs with steaks and biryani and kabsa...Our Prophet Muhammad said:

لَيْسَ الْمُؤْمِنُ الَّذِي يَتَشَبَّعُ وَجَارُهُ جَائِعٌ

'A man is not a true believer who fills his stomach while his neighbour is hungry.'

So what is our responsibility towards our neighbors? Why did Allah choose for ^{you and me} ~~me~~ to reside in ^{Fredrick next to Hagerstown?} Hagerstown? How can we help the spiritually and physically poor? How can we help those without a place to sleep?

So as a response to these questions, and from the blessings of Allah, then the blessings of this community and its elders. We have founded an organization called Islamic Ministries and Community Development here in Hagerstown.

iMacD focuses on nourishing our neighbors physically as well as spiritually by inviting ^{others} ~~others~~ to Islam by distributing information materials about Islam via email, text messages, dawah tables in our downtown area, inside colleges and universities and on the street, and also on signs and billboards on the main streets. iMacD also focuses on feeding the poor in the downtown ~~Hagerstown~~ areas as well as providing other social services programs for all individuals in need in the ~~local Hagerstown~~ area. ^{and Washington}

~~USA~~
~~COUNTY~~

we test
zone in
you from
Hagerstown
map

many of
the places
in the USA
that need
reform are
right in
front of
our
eyes

Us to fulfill this responsibility 10

~~Washington County~~

Allah has chosen Hagerstown as iMacD's hometown because he knows that our community here is one of the most concerned and one of the most generous, and contains those who are known for seizing the opportunities of receiving reward from Allah and are known for fulfilling their social responsibilities here in our communities.

Islamic Ministries and Community Development is your organization. It is you. It does not belong to any individual, any government or to any political party here or abroad. We invite people to Islam with wisdom and fine preaching, dialogue, reason, interact, and help all people spiritually, physically, and mentally.

~~Frederick~~ Chicago/Rockford

iMacD's call to the Muslims here in Hagerstown is to come together, hold fast the rope of Allah, work together as Muslims regardless of ethnicity, race, or color. Work together to fulfill our individual and social responsibilities here in our local communities. Be strong, have self-confidence, work hard, be good and do good to all people, remove the misunderstandings, doubts and misconceptions about Islam by being visible and active in your community as a Muslim, and never do anything that can create misunderstanding about Islam in the minds of others.

Learn about social solidarity in Islam and how to build communities and how to be leaders and good examples for our neighbors. Take pride in your faith and values, live by them and spread the good news of Islam.