

Society Customs and Celebrations

Inter-Racial Harmony



Halloweens and Birthdays



*Inter-racial
harmony*

MKA USA
Tarbiyyat Department


فَإِنْ لَّمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكَ فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّمَا

يَتَّبِعُونَ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ^ط وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّنْ

اتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ^ط بِغَيْرِ هُدًى مِّنَ اللَّهِ^ط

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ^ع

But if they do not accept this invitation of yours, then know that they only follow their own evil inclinations. And who is more erring than he who follows his evil inclinations without any guidance from Allah? Verily Allah guides not the unjust people. (28:51)



وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ وَنَهَى النَّفْسَ

عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ ۗ فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَىٰ ۖ ﴿٤٢﴾

But as for him who fears the station of his Lord, and restrains his soul from evil desires, the Paradise shall surely be *his* home. (79:41-42)



SAYING OF THE HOLY PROPHET (PBUH)

Hadhrat `Amr Bin al-`Aufra has narrated that the Holy Prophet (sa) said, 'The person who revives any one of my *sunnah* so that others start practicing it, he will reap the reward equal to all those persons' rewards who act upon that *sunnah*, and their reward shall remain with them as well. The person who introduces an innovation and others adopt it, he shall share in the sins of all those who act on it, and their sins will remain with them as well.' (*Sunan Ibn-e-Majah*)



THE FAREWELL SERMON

“O people, take note that I trample under foot all un-Islamic customs and traditions.”



CONDITIONS OF BAI'AT (INITIATION) IN THE AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM

VI. That he/she shall refrain from following un-Islamic customs and lustful inclinations, and shall completely submit himself/herself to the authority of the Holy Qur'ān; and shall make the Word of God and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) the guiding principles in every walk of his/her life

HARMFUL INNOVATIONS IN RELIGION

However, they can also promote mutual ills

Modern innovations have many benefits.

Badness is attractive and enticing and can make one forget ones traditions and beliefs

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

FROM FRIDAY SERMON DATED OCTOBER 29TH, 2010

HALLOWEEN; A WORD OF WARNING!

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

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

Halloween is generally regarded as fun

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

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

OCTOBER 29TH, 2010

SA 2011

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*

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.

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

This is shirk

Ahmadis should have a dignity which should be inculcated from childhood

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



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.'



BIRTHDAYS



- We follow the noble example of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Promised Messiah (AS) and his khulafa. There is no precedent whatsoever of them customarily celebrating birthdays nor their birthday is ever celebrated by others.
- If something is not worth celebration then its pointless whether done at larger or smaller scale, within family or as a party.
- Better celebration if any would be through prayer, charity etc.

INTER-RACIAL HARMONY


يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ
وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ
لِتَعَارَفُوا ۗ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ
أَتْقَىٰكُمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٤﴾

- O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female; and We have made you into tribes and sub-tribes that you may recognize one another. Verily, the most honorable among you, in the sight of Allah, is he who is the most righteous among you. Surely, Allah is All-knowing, All-Aware.



INTER-RACIAL HARMONY SAYING OF THE HOLY PROPHET (PBUH)

○ “Even as the fingers of the two hands are equal, so are human beings equal to one another. No one has any rights, any superiority to claim over another. You are as brothers. O men, your God is One and your ancestor is one. An Arab holds no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a White over a Black person, nor vice versa, but only to the extent to which he discharges his responsibility to God and man. Only the God-fearing people merit a preference with God.”



FRIDAY SERMON

June 20, 2008

Huzur said a few days ago he was most pleased to see a family that came for mulaqat. Huzur said seeing them spontaneously stirred up emotions of glorification of Allah. The family constituted of African Americans, White Americans and they also had a Pakistani daughter-in-law. Huzur said this is the true picture of Ahmadiyyat and Islam because Ahmadiyyat has come to join hearts.



FRIDAY SERMON DATED June 20, 2008

The advent of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) took place to make man recognize the true God and to establish love among mankind. Huzur (aba) said if this is not the viewpoint then it is pointless to claim to be an adherent of Khilafat. It is up to the Pakistani and the African Ahmadis to close this gulf. Each one of us should have the words of the farewell sermon of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) in our view in which he enjoined that all men were equal and no race or creed had any superiority over another and the only preference was due to taqwa.

- Huzur (aba) said the African American brothers and sisters should remember that if they consider that they are being discriminated against even then they should not think that they are less than anyone. If they have a connection with Allah, the Holy Prophet, the Promised Messiah and Khilafat, then no force on this earth can diminish them and no worldly power can take this station from them. They should change their minority into a majority and set high standards of taqwa for the Pakistanis. Complaining does not solve the problem; the problem will be solved by coming together.



FRIDAY SERMON DATED June 20, 2008

Huzur (aba) said as the Pakistani Ahmadiis have been in the community longer, it is their obligation to blend and absorb those who are new and to foster brotherhood and to look up to the model of the Ansar of Medina and the migrants of Mecca from early Islam who truly made great sacrifices for each other . Huzur (aba) said if we are to attract the world to us we have to abandon hatred and malice and have to look after each other. What does being active in religious expedition mean? There is no greater expedition than to bring the whole world under the banner of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him). If we had mutual discord how could we ever do Tabligh? How would our tasks be blessed? Huzur (aba) said whether one is of Asian origin or is an African American or a white American, if one has not brought about a pure change in oneself and is not continually striving towards it, then we are straying away from our real objective.



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- Do you have any close friends in Jama'at who has different ethnicity than yours?
 - Why do you think there are not more interracial marriages in our Jamaat?
 - Do you think things will be different when our children are at a marriageable age?"



SCENARIO 1

During Khuddam Ijtema, A and B are playing table tennis final. B is losing the game and in anxiety calls A a derogatory word about his race.

1. B should be ignored as it is just a game
2. B is in no way justified to use such a language and should be punished right away
3. B should be advised to seek apology from A and from Allah as he hurt feelings of A and has gone against the teachings of Islam



SCENARIO 2

“A” thinks that Halloween is part of our culture and its not a religious matter so there is no harm in being part of Halloween fun as long as it does not seriously hurt anyone.

1. It's a matter of personal choice.
2. If he totally stays away from Halloween related activities, its like isolating yourself from the rest of society, which is not good.
3. The basic concept of Halloween has hidden evil and is against the basic teachings of Islam so “A” should re-consider his thoughts.



SCENARIO 3

- B usually celebrates his birthday with his immediate family only at his home. However, he does not like the idea of large scale birthday parties done by his friends.
 1. B and his friends both are not following the Sunnah.
 2. B has not understood the spirit in discouraging birthday celebrations.



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