

**LEARN TO LIVE
WITH LOVE**

by

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Translated by

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Introduction

The following speech was delivered by Moulana Syed Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi at Mehrajganj (Gorakhpur) under the auspices of "Message of Humanity Forum", which was attended by members of both the communities in great number. The meeting was presided over by Principal Rampat Tewari. He appreciated this attempt to kindle the flame of love in the hearts of the people and said that it is the most important need of our times. The same speech is available in Urdu and Hindi also.

Lucknow

Qazi Abdul Hameed

10-08-1959

Learn to live with love

Gentlemen,

I thank the Chairman and those speakers who have said such kind words about me though, it is possible, they might have not met or heard me earlier. It is a fact that a man does not live or hanker for food, clothes and money alone, he also aspires and needs love. If a man gets everything in this world but not love, he would rather feel as if he were passing through a museum where he saw so many things but could not touch and feel them and came out of it "empty handed". Love is such a bliss that man forgets his illness, tiredness, anger and worries. Man, in fact pines for values; respect love and confidence.

The chief malady we are suffering from these days is lack of confidence while our political leaders (God may forgive and guide them towards good deeds) have created such an atmosphere in which self-respect and mutual cooperation have been the greatest casualty. Nobody appears to have confidence

in anybody else. The common man is afraid of the demands made by the politicians. The conditions these days are such that, one is no prepared to believe that anybody would ever deliver a speech without making any demand on them now or at any other time later. One hardly expects any one to come and deliver a speech without any personal interest. If the speaker is inexperienced, he comes out with his ulterior motive without for the proper time while the one who is mature in this art waits for the right time. Somebody would make his demand there and then or wait till the next day or for six months. But it is certain that one or the other demand would be put forward by him now or later. There is, however, still hope for better times otherwise the prevailing conditions are such that one may lose all patience; go mad and leave for jungle. It is said that we live on hope and it is true to a great extent.

I would like to narrate the story of well-known sufi. It is about Hazrat Nizamuddin Sultan-ul-Aulia. There is a big colony (and a Rly. Stations) named after him in Delhi. The people used to call him 'Sultanji' out of love. It is said that a disciple (murid) once presented him a pair of scissors. He said:

"I have no use for scissors." It is not my 'way' to cut and tear. I unite the hearts and bring people close to each other. The scissors are meant to cut and separate, give it to somebody and get me a needle (if you will). I want to bring amity amongst different people and not to create enmity between them.

These days we find scissors everywhere. The speech, the language and the demeanour all of them work like scissors. I would say, with apologies to the politicians that politics works scissors these days there are sharp and long. The common scissors may be eight or ten inches long, but politics is such a long pair of scissors that one can cut anything with it at any distance. The political 'scissors' in Delhi are doing their job throughout the country. The political parties work like scissors. The pens work like scissors too. The language and the pen which were meant to unite the people are employed like scissors. It is said about certain persons that when they speak they spread good cheer and happiness. It may be true in good old days. These days the people speak to sow seeds of discord and separate people from one another.

A conference of Newspaper Editors was held in Lucknow a few years back. Some of our colleagues invited a few Editors to Darul Uloom with which I am associated. I was asked to address them. It was a good mixed gathering. I recited a couplet from an old Persian amatory sonnet in which the poet addresses his beloved:

Tread soft or do not move at all,
There are a thousand lives under your
feet,

That poet addresses his imaginary beloved and says that there are a thousand lives under your feet, so tread soft, better still do not move and keep still. I reminded the Editors that thousands of lives are under the spell of their pen.

There may or may not be a thousand lives under the feet of the poet's beloved, but I have the least doubt that there are, not thousands, but lacs of lives under the influence of the newspapers which they edit. They mould the minds of their readers. It is common knowledge that journalism has attained such importance and acquired such power of influencing people that the epithet

of "Her Majesty" which is used for queens, is used for it too. There is hardly any place where the newspapers are not read and the journalists are not treated as a privileged class.

I told the editors that those days are gone when the poets used the analogy of beloved from trampling over a thousand lives. But these days pens (writings) of some journalists create barriers amongst different people and prove more disastrous.

There have been many kind hearted persons in our country who strived to bring different people closer. I am a world-trotter and I have visited many countries including Muslim majority countries. I am glad the great number of persons who propagated the creed of love, who chanted the songs of love, who played the melodious flute of love far exceed in our sub-continent in comparison to any other country in the world.

I am a student of history, and I have studied it deeply. It has been a sort of a hobby with me. The history tells us that our sub-continent produced numerous such persons who worked in a manner the needles work, i.e. they have brought different people closer.

I have narrated the story of Hazrat Nizamuddin. He is known as 'Mahabub-e-ilahi, (The beloved of God) also. But he was a man loved by his contemporaries. If you read the biographies of 'sufi' order, you will find to what extent these persons had love and regard for the common man.

The Poison in our Society:

It has become customary that if an individual makes a mistake it is attributed to the religion (he professes) and the religion is blamed for it—some people go to the extent of saying that these people have always been doing such things. It is their old habit though the mistake has been made by an individual, may be for the first time. He is the culprit and the community and the religion have nothing to do with it but they are blamed for nothing. The fact of the matter is that our minds have been poisoned and thus the whole atmosphere has spoiled. It is necessary to root out this evil. If it is not removed it would be difficult for an individual to move out of his house. I am not a seer. I am a common man like one of you. But everybody has been given common sense and he tries to derive the conclusion from the (outward) signs he observes. If there is lightning and thunder, anybody can easily

conclude that it is going to rain. It is not prophetic. It is a phenomenon which everybody experiences in his life. In the same way if these untoward incidents, which take place almost every day in our country, are allowed to continue and they are not stopped the future of our country is not safe. The evils of suspicion and hatred are being fostered among the people and the literature, the educational system, the philosophy and, above all, the politics is adding fuel to the flames.

The Philosophy of Fear and Hatred:

An eminent European philosopher has said that "if you want to keep any nation in serfdom then keep these two points in mind, and do not allow the nation to overcome them, one is hatred and the other is fear." They will keep them antagonized and fighting each other and you will remain the leader and your position would remain quite safe. His name is C.E.M. Joad and the book is "Guide to Modern Wickedness". He was Head of the Deptt. Of Philosophy in London University some years back. He has written that "if there is a community which does not fear and hate then produce one or bring one from outside.

Anything which does not exist and which is not found anywhere, present any such things, may be star, sun, moon, fish or river in such a manner that those who have confidence in you, may fear and hate it. That is all. Your job is done. Now you be at ease. The people will themselves keep fighting and hating each other. The trouble these days is that the political workers want to see their purpose to be served here and now. They do not worry about the future that if the country is ruined, where would they be? We concede that they win the elections today, become the chairman or member of some committee, become popular and the people respect them but there will be a day when the people will know the truth. That day may dawn in our lives or in the next generation.

The people think about the coming generations also and they work for them, buy land and plant trees, etc. if somebody says that these trees would not bear fruits in their life time, they will say they are not meant for them but for the children. You do not worry about your children now but if fear and hatred take roots what will the conditions be? say after sixty or seventy years, when we are not

here, how coming generations will live in that vitiated atmosphere of fear and hatred?

The Seeds of Hatred are Being Sowed:

The way a farmer sows and reaps the crop, that same way the seeds of hatred and fear are being sowed these days. The future generations would reap what we have sowed. One community is afraid of the other and conceals that fear. It is angry but afraid. It does not show its fear as the people would think it is coward and chicken-hearted. I frankly say that a Muslim is afraid of a Hindu and a Hindu is fearful of the other. Why is a Hindu afraid of a Muslim? He afraid because he has not known him and he has no knowledge of the love he has for others.

Learn to Love:

But when they do not know each other then how the bonds of love would strengthen?

Our literature and poetry is full of love of the country and the countrymen. But it is not being allowed to flourish. It has been checked. On the contrary, hate is being allowed to grow. The man who teaches to hate is popular, is a leader, wins elections and occupies the same chair again and again. The

man who teaches to love each other, is asked to go back saying; we have no need for such a person. This is our weakness. If a person addresses the Muslims and delivers a fiery speech that you are being tyrannized, the Hindus do not want you to live here as respectable citizens, I would be shouting (after them) but the entire crowd of Muslims would run to hear him. If somebody comes and works up the sentiments of the Hindus saying that Pakistan is preparing to attack Indian, the people would rush to hear him, leaving the speaker, the chairman and every body else. It is because of the fear complex which has been allowed to grow. Those who take advantage of this human weakness, they know that the easiest way to get things done is to invite the people, create hatred, and enrage them. There are very few people who are prepared to hear those who talk of love, tolerance and to control the passion. Out of these persons some would be sleeping and some would be hearing half-heartedly. This trend is dangerous for the country. If these things are allowed to go on like this it would be difficult to collect a good number of people at any place after ten or twenty years. There is still time, learn to live together and try to build the nation and the country. God

has given everything to our country. Learn to live like responsible citizens, then you will enjoy life. Life without lot of money can be joyful if there is love in between members of the family. The family may live on bread and water but the members live happily and sleep well. If there is a family may be big or small, but there is hatred in between its members, then there are litigations in between them, they cannot sleep because of the fear-somebody may enter the house by stealth and strangle anybody, may implead in the court, disgrace any member of the family, etc. there is everything in the house one can desire for, there are many bread-winners, substantial bank balance, all the luxuries, but there is no peace of mind. The members of the family cannot sit together and talk freely. There is another family but is does not possess all these items of luxury, but they love each other. There is a father, a mother and four children-two brothers and two sister- they are devoted to each other. If an elder relation visits them, they pay respect to him. It gives immense pleasure to the visitor and those visited, the elder relations shower love and affection on the younger ones and pray their prosperity. It seems there is life in the family

and bread and water taste as good as bread buttered on both sides.

Brothers:

Learn to live with love so that you may, at least, have a taste of what is living with love. Is it life that a man is afraid of the other? The residents of the locality are fearful of the neighbouring locality. The co-workers who sit side by side in the office have no confidence in each other – afraid that the other may lodge a complaint against him, get him trapped while taking bribe. May be he accepts illegal gratification himself but he may get his colleague caught red-handed. This atmosphere of fear is prevailing everywhere – in the offices, residential localities etc. I would say with apologies to the Chairman (who happens to be the Principal of the local school) that there is lack of confidence in between the teachers and the taught in the institutions which are meant to build the character of the younger generation. The students do not respect the teachers; the teachers do not show affection towards their students. The conditions in this place may be good, but I am talking about the these conditions in general. It appears as if the

teachers and students are enemies and belong to opposite camps.

Brothers:

There is no need for a long speech. We have to learn to value human life. The prophets (Blessing and peace of Allah be upon him) were the first to teach humanity. Then, their followers carried on their mission. They were God's good men. I just narrated the story of one such "sufi".

Once I was coming in a car with some friends from Atrola where we had gone to attend a marriage. Dr Ishtiaq Husain is here. He was driving the car. All of a sudden a young girl came in front of the car in a village through which we were passing. She was coming or going to her in-law's place. She had covered her face with a veil and probably she did not see the car. Dr. Ishtiaq Husain did his best to avert the accident, but unfortunately, she was hit and she fell down in a swoon. Dr. Ishtiaq Husain is a qualified and renowned Homeopath and he keeps his box of medicines with him. He administered some medicine to her and she regained consciousness after some time. But a lot of people collected there, they were not

interested in knowing the details as to how the accident occurred. They were not prepared to allow us to leave the place, rather wanted to beat us. It was just possible that a riot may have flared up. But a Samaritan teacher of a school stopped them from harming us in any way. We were taken to the Police Station. We wanted to pay compensation to the girl. The villagers told the teacher that you are a Hindu and they are Muslims, why should you sympathies with them? He said they are human beings and we are also human. We never met him afterwards. We wan that such a climate be created in the whole country and it is the object of the "Message of Humanity Forum".

We might think who would heed our feeble voice specially when we would convey our message in a tehsil before a gathering of a few hundred persons and leave, it would not bring about a great change. But the beginning is always humble. If the people (who brought about great changes) had thought that how many persons would hear and work with them, then nothing would have been achieved in the world. The country would not be free. The great leaders who strived to free the country, like Mahatma Gandhi, Moulana

Muhammed Ali and Moulana Sahukat Ali and Motilal Nehru did not draw big crowds in the beginning, as they did at the peak of struggle for freedom when lacs of people used to collect at their meetings. If a farmer would think what a small seed would do, he would die of hunger if he would not sow seeds in his field.

Create a Climate of Mutual Confidence:

We want to tell you to create a climate of mutual confidence and love so that each one may have faith in the other. The Glorious Qur'aan has laid down a principle with which a picture of ideal society is created in our mind. There was an occasion when a person blamed somebody for something. It says why did they not say that it may be wrong because what they do not do, the other person also may not do it. We want an ideal society. If somebody says that such and such person has committed theft, we may think, can we commit theft? If we cannot commit theft the other person, who is our brother, cannot also commit it. The Glorious Qur'aan directs us to build such a society.

There should be confidence and faith that we may not readily believe whatever one

says about the other person (without enquiry). We find these days that we believe whatever insinuations one makes about the other person. If somebody says something which is true then some people would advance hundred and one arguments. Did you see it yourself? Did you try to investigate it? Were you wide awake or dozing at that time, etc?

The people go for shopping and buy articles of daily use on confidence. An ailing person goes to a medical practitioner because he has confidence in his ability to correctly diagnose the ailment and prescribe the right medicine. The students go to their teachers thinking that they would solve their difficulties because they have better knowledge than themselves. The binding force in all these cases is confidence. If it is removed from among ourselves, the society would disintegrate into isolated units. It is mutual confidence and good hope which have kept people united with one another and without them no society can exist.

It is just this message which we want to convey to you and the whole of India. It is the purpose of this tour and the object of the

"Message of Humanity Forum". I am addressing literate people and it is not necessary to speak at length.

We want you to create an environment of mutual love and confidence and convert our country into a garden of Eden.

The end