

Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Raheem

THE BLESSED WAQF-E-NAU SCHEME

Tashshahuud, Attawwudh, Basmallah

إِذْ قَالَتِ امْرَأَةُ عِمْرَانَ رَبِّ إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

Remember when the woman of 'Imran said, 'My Lord, I have vowed to Thee what is in my womb to be dedicated to Thy service. So do accept it of me; verily, Thou alone art All-Hearing, All-Knowing.' (Aal-e-`Imran 36)

Her name was Hannah and her husband Joachim. And even though they enjoyed a moderately luxurious life as a married couple they lamented the absence of a cry of a baby of their own in their home. Both husband and wife made a vow to Allah, “O Allah if you bestow upon us a child we will certainly devote it to the service of faith.” A short while later Hannah realized that Allah had accepted her prayer and she was pregnant. On that occasion she prayed to God saying, “O my lord, I have vowed to thee what is in my womb, whether it be a male or female, healthy or otherwise, I place no exceptions to my vow; an absolute devotion. So accept it from me”.

The prayer is so beautiful that Allah has preserved it in the Holy Quran so that the rest of us may emulate.

Hazrat Maryam (as) was born, and in fulfilment of her mother’s vow, not only was she devoted to the service of the faith, but her mother continued to pray for her progeny that they too may remain devoted servants of Allah.

In a Hadith Qudsi, Allah says: (صحيح البخاري, كتاب التوحيد) اَنَا عِنْدَ ظَنِّ عَبْدِي بِي

“I relate to my servant as he thinks of me” i.e. when your sacrifice is unconditional, the reward is unlimited. It is therefore not surprising that Allah accepted this great sacrifice and personally took over the physical and spiritual upbringing of the child.

فَتَقَبَّلَهَا رَبُّهَا بِقَبُولٍ حَسَنٍ وَأَنْبَتَهَا نَبَاتًا حَسَنًا وَكَفَّلَهَا زَكَرِيَّا كُلَّمَا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهَا زَكَرِيَّا الْمِحْرَابَ وَجَدَ عِنْدَهَا رِزْقًا قَالَ يَا مَرْيَمُ أَنَّى لَكِ هَذَا قَالَتْ هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْزُقُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

“So her lord accepted her with a gracious acceptance and caused her to grow an excellent growth and made Zachariah her guardian. Whenever Zachariah visited her in the chamber, he found with her provisions. He said, ‘O Mary, whence hast thou this?’ She replied, ‘It is from Allah.’ Surely, Allah gives to whomsoever He pleases without measure.” (Aal-e-`Imran 38)

The spiritual status of Hazrat Maryam (as) is such that Allah has set her as a model for believers to emulate.

What is more? At a time of immense spiritual decadence among the children of Israel, when none of their men was spiritually capable of fathering a prophet of God, Allah chose none but Hazrat Maryam (as), the unconditionally devoted girl to mother and father the final prophet and reformer among the children of Israel.

It is therefore in pursuit of similar achievements that through Allah’s guidance, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) in 1987 initiated the Waqf-e-Nau Scheme during this era of the second advent of Jesus (as) so that prior to their birth many more Maryams (males and females) will be devoted to the service of Islam Ahmadiyya through whom even thousands of Jesuses will be born for the spiritual and moral reformation and service to humanity.

Prophecy of the Victory of Islam through Jama’at-e-Ahmadiyya

In his book, Tadhkiratush Shahadatain, Hadhrat Masih Maud (as) states concerning the progress of the Jama'at:

...And three centuries from now shall not have passed when those who await the coming of Jesus, son of Mary, whether they be Muslims or Christians, shall relinquish altogether this conception. Then shall prevail only one religion over the whole world and there shall be only one religious leader. I came to sow the seed which has been planted by my hand. It shall now grow and flourish and there is none who can hinder its growth.

This grand prophesy of the Promised Messiah (as) was made 119 years ago in 1903. Today, the community has spread to almost every country of the world and in most places, it is respected and acknowledged as a true representative of the beautiful teachings of Islam. This was possible due to the devotion of life of thousands of Ahmadi youth who were ever ready to be dispatched as missionaries to the farthest corners of the earth to propagate the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat. But we are far from reaching our destination, there are yet mountains to traverse and oceans to cross. The need for life devotees will continue to grow.

The Waqf-e-Nau Scheme

The blessed divine scheme of Waqf-e-Nau was initiated on 3rd April 1987. This scheme has progressed till this day and we are in its 35th year. Many children have been devoted around the world under this divine scheme. In Ghana, our numbers at present exceed 1,000.

In his series of sermons on the Waqf-e-Nau Scheme, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) expounds on the importance of Waqf-e-Nau:

“There will be an acute need of Life Devotees in the next century. We are going to offer a gift of millions of Life Devoties from all segments of the Jama 'at to Allah in

the next century. It is the people of the next century who will benefit from our gift, so we are, in fact, offering this gift to (the people of) the next century. So, whoever can offer this gift should get prepared to do so. It is possible that due to their blessed intention and promise, Allah may give children to families who do not have children and husbands or wives who for some reason cannot have children. Allah may accept their spirit of sacrifice and bless them with progeny. Allah has done so in the past. The prophets who prayed and asked for children so that they may offer them for Waqf, had children born to them even in their old age and even in cases where both husband and wife were incapable of having children. Look at Hadhrat Zachariah (as)! What a magnificent prayer it was! 'O Allah, I am old, my head glistens with hoariness and my bones are feeble due to old age. My wife is barren. She is incapable of bearing a child. But I yearn to devote a child to Your cause. Please grant me my wish.' [Friday Sermon 3rd April 1987]

Huzur further states: "Thus, the gift of Life Devotion is one of the many gifts that you will offer Allah in the next century or the gifts that you are offering at present. Ahmadies are contributing money to numerous kinds of chandajaat (donations), they are making financial sacrifices and they are sacrificing their time. This gift of Life Devotion is for the future. Allah turned my attention to this matter so that I should ask you to vow that the children born to you in the next two years, whether male or female, would be offered for Waqf as a gift to Allah. (the scheme was first intended for 2 years, extended for 5 years and then made permanent)

The expectant mothers who could not participate in this scheme before can take part in it now. They can also vow. But this vow has to be made by both parents. They should decide on this together, so that there is unity of purpose in the upbringing and education of these children. And they should start training them in the best possible way right from their childhood. They should grow up with the conviction that they

were born for a great purpose at a great time when the first century of the victory of Islam is merging with the second century of the victory of Islam. They were born at this juncture. They should know that their parents asked Allah to give them a child with the intention and prayer that the child would become a great mujahid (striver) for training the future generations. If people would offer their children while praying in this manner, then I am sure that right before our eyes we will have a very beautiful and amiable generation ready to sacrifice itself in the cause of Allah. May Allah enable us to achieve this. Ameen.” [Friday Sermon 3rd April 1987]

Responsibility of Parents

These children are like a lamp lit in darkness. When parents devote their child under this scheme, a new light enters their home. What is this light and how do these children become the light of the house?

Remember that, from the time of their conception when the intention is made to devote them to Allah the Almighty under the blessed Waqf-e-Nau scheme, they become the trust of Allah the Almighty placed in your possession to take excellent care of them and decorate them with the best physical, moral, intellectual and spiritual attributes. Parents must therefore strive to create a pure and conducive environment for these children. Parents, themselves, are the first and foremost component of the environment of these children. Parents must therefore strive to reform and improve themselves physically, morally, intellectually and spiritually in accordance with the teachings of Islam so that they become excellent role models for these children. Thus, when parents devote their child with necessary attention, honesty and sincerity, it becomes a matter of course for them to begin a

transformation of themselves to become worthy of parenting the trusts (children) of Allah the Almighty.

To the parents of Waqfeen-e-Nau children, Huzur (rh) says:

“Dedicating children to Allah is a very serious matter. It is not a trifling matter. Remember that the people who offer sacrifices with love and sincerity adorn their offerings in proportion to their love. Sacrifices are a kind of gift. When you go to the market for shopping and you purchase ordinary household items, those are not given to you in wrapping paper or decorated with ribbons. But when you tell the shopkeeper that you are buying a gift, the shopkeeper wraps it in a beautiful manner. Sacrifices are like gifts and must be adorned accordingly. You must have seen that people decorate goats and sheep and some put jewelry on them before taking them to the place of slaughter. Some put garlands of flowers on them and adorn them in diverse ways. The ornamentation for human 'sacrifice' is of a different kind. The human soul is embellished with Taqwa (love and awe of Allah). It is the love of God that embellishes and adorns the human soul. Therefore, before these children are old enough to be put under the supervision of the Jama'at, it is the great responsibility of their parents to groom and adorn them in a befitting manner, so that the wishes of their heart of offering an extraordinary 'sacrifice' to Allah in an appropriately magnificent manner may be realized.” [Friday Sermon 10th February 1989]

“We have, by the grace of Allah, ample time for this new stock of Waaqifeen children. If we neglect their upbringing and moral training we will be held accountable for it before God. Now, it cannot be said that these are accidental instances. Therefore, first of all the parents should watch their children closely. And, as I will explain, they should pay special attention to certain aspects of moral training. If they, God forbid, think that their child is deviant and not worthy of Waqf, then they should fear God and inform the Jama'at honestly that they had a sincere

intention of presenting a gift to God. Unfortunately the child has these bad habits. If the Jama'at is still willing to accept him in spite of these habits, they are ready, otherwise the Waqf should be annulled. Thus, in future, we have to train the Waaqifeene-nau along these lines in a very serious manner.” [Friday Sermon 10th February 1989]

“Teach these children to be jovial and pleasant. Acrimony and Waqf cannot go hand in hand. Ill-tempered Waaqifeen-e-zindagee always create problems in the Jama'at and sometimes even dangerous mischief. Therefore, good-humor and forbearance, that is, the ability to tolerate what someone says, are the two qualities that are very essential for Waaqifeen children.” [Friday Sermon 10th February 1989]

Huzur further says: “we want Waqifeen who are in the habit of suppressing anger right from early childhood, who are not contemptuous of those who have less knowledge and have the patience to listen to opposite opinion and evince tolerance. Patience also requires that when they are asked something, they should not immediately open their mouth in response. Instead they should think for a while before replying. If these manners and morals are taught in childhood, they become part and parcel of nature. Otherwise even the most learned person sometimes remains devoid of these ordinary good manners in spite of his good knowledge.” [Friday Sermon 10th February 1989]

Responsibility of the Nizam-e-Jama'at

Under the direction and supervision of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) and Hadhrat Khalifatul V (atba), a syllabus has been developed to guide parents teach the children. Thus, parents also learn a lot through teaching these children the content of the syllabus. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V (atba) directed the publication of the syllabus in a colorful and attractive format to make studying it easier and more fun.

This new syllabus format is available online. The National Secretariat will, inshaa Allah, work towards having it as hard copies so parents purchase for and to teach their children. When they are ready, they will be made available through your zonal secretary waqfenau or zonal missionary.

In view of the importance of the scheme, Ameer Sahib set up a separate office for this scheme in 2015 which worked directly under his guidance and supervision. Many meetings were held at the regional level through which parents and children were directly interacted with. However, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the continuation of these meetings was suspended. Even today, 2 years after pandemic started, we have had to adopt a new strategy to organize our Jalsa Salana. Now the restrictions have been removed to a large extent and life has almost returned to its pre-covid era. Ameer Sahib has graciously directed that these meetings be restarted. Through these meetings, personal interaction will be held with parents and their children.

In accordance with a directive of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V(rh), Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya and Lajna Ima'illah Ahmadiyya have appointed Muawwin Sadran WaqfeNau to assist the secretariat in organizing programs to augment the efforts of parents towards improving the Ta'lim and Tarbiyyat of the Waqfeen-e-Nau. Thus, in most zones, there is a khaddim who is either the Zonal Secretary WaqfeNau or assisting a Nasir to execute this task. Muawwin Sadra Lajna Ima'illah will assist in organizing programs for waqfaat-e-nau who are above 14years of age.

Parents and waqfeen-e-nau are therefore requested to offer these appointed secretaries the required assistance to make their work easy and effective. All issues related to waqfenau should be addressed through them. Thus, whether it is a new application, request for reference number, copies of the syllabus, or any other enquiry, kindly contact your Zonal Secretary and they will contact the National

Secretariat and have your need addressed. You may also your Zonal or Circuit Missionary if you do not know your Zonal Secretary Waqfenau or one is yet to be appointed.

Addressing a Misconception

Before ending this address, I would like to address a common misconception held by some parents and waqfeen-e-nau. Some parents think that if the child is devoted under the blessed waqfenau scheme, the child must be employed by the Jama'at or must serve as a murabbi or muballigh.

The Jama'at has a great need for missionaries, doctors and teachers. Thus, those who complete their education and get the necessary experience may be appointed by the Jama'at to work in any place in the world where there is a need. Many others will be asked to continue to offer their services in government institutions to further the welfare of mankind. Such individuals are required to be ready to make time out of their schedule to serve the Jama'at in various capacities and assignments when called upon.

Apart from these professions, there are many others which are of importance to the Jama'at such as research scientists, lawyers, architects, construction engineers, software developers, journalists, etc. those interested in these field are encouraged to do so. When they complete their education, they are required to notify the Nizam through the Secretariat. They must seek permission from Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih to work in any firm and be ready to find time to carry out any assignment given them by the Jama'at. They must also be ready to be called upon by the Jama'at to work fulltime in a capacity in which the Jama'at has a need for his/her skills. They must also exhibit the best morals at their places of work as a means of Tablighi.

Conclusion

In conclusion, parents are encouraged to safeguard the future of their children by offering them under the blessed waqf-e-Nau scheme. Those children who have been blessed to be part of this scheme must honor the sincere wishes of their parents by reconfirming their waqf and be ready to serve the Jama'at when called upon. May Allah the Almighty cause a positive transformation of this country and the entire world through Waqf-e-Nau children. Ameen