

The Youth

- ❖ I stress on the youths everywhere to consult with and benefit from the scholars in particular in their endeavor to explain and present the teachings of Islam, and in order to address the issues raised and refute the allegations made against Islam. In this way the youths would be able to realize the goals of Imam Husayn peace be upon him.
- ❖ By every means possible we must encourage the youths to join the Husayni groups, which form the rope of salvation from ignorance and deviation, and we must be relentless in this; we should keep trying until we succeed.
- ❖ I call on my brothers the scholars and seminary students, to express and explain the essence of the fundamentals of Islam, and refute the doubts and suspicions raised about them for the forthcoming generation of the youths.
- ❖ There are some accusations thrown at Islam, and some of the youth who do not know Islam repeat it, saying; Islam is all prohibitions and restrictions. In response to that we would say, it is completely the opposite, because we have freedom in Islam the like of which there is none anywhere else.
- ❖ People at this day and age, especially the youths, as well as school pupils, university students and lecturers, are in the most need for someone to tell them about the obligatory duties (*wajibat*) and the prohibited matters (*muharramat*). They have tens or rather hundreds of questions about Islam but await someone to answer them. This requires knowledge, studying, and scholarly enhancement. Not everyone can easily answer their questions, and expose oneself to replying, debating, and writing without the necessary knowledge. Rather this requires the background, preparation, and scholarly mobilization.

- ❖ The youth are more able to crush the Satan's head and go against him; so they should take the initiative before Satan overcomes them; this is because salvation from Satan would be more difficult in the future. Satan knows that, and knows that if mankind reaches forty, his abilities to fight Satan weaken, except those on whom Allah shall have mercy.
- ❖ It is imperative for us to introduce the Prophet of Islam and his Ahl al-Bayt, peace be upon them, to the male and female youths in the way they introduced themselves, and in the same way that the holy Qur'an introduced the personality of Allah's Messenger, and the reality of Ahl al-Bayt, peace be upon them, and not through the extremists' expressions, which emanate from the deviant groups that want to elevate the Imams beyond what they are, or take them lower than that.
- ❖ Whoever youth you know of, care for them in whichever way that is correct. Speak to them in a lenient way, come back to talk to them time after time, and if you speak to a youth for ten times and is not drawn unto you, speak to them for the eleventh, and the twentieth, and so on. The important thing is that you don't give up. Because whenever a youth goes astray, history itself will change, and whenever a youth becomes faithful and a truly practicing believer, then in all probability, thousands of youths will be guided through him in the future.
- ❖ I cannot stress enough about the youths; protect them and correct their beliefs.

- ❖ It is mandatory to pay attention to the upcoming youths. Special programs dedicated for them should be set up, they should be included in public or general programs, they should be taught the roots and branches of the Islamic religion, and its great moral teachings, and to train and educate them in the way that the Almighty Allah, His Messenger, and the Ahl al-Bayt, peace be upon them would love them to be taught, for they have been singled out by Imam Sadiq, peace be upon him, in his instructions to us.¹
- ❖ The youths are tomorrow's men and women and builders of the future, and they have been singled out by the Prophet and his Ahl al-Bayt, peace be upon them, in their instructions to us.
- ❖ There were pious, strong, and proactive young believers around the Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali, and all other Imams, Allah's peace and blessings be upon them, and it was through them that the facts and realities of faith and the rulings of the holy Qur'an were transmitted to the succeeding generations and the ensuing times. There is a marvelous example and role model in that.
- ❖ If we pay particular attention to the youths, and show an appropriate care and dedication for them, in terms of good and virtuous training and education, wise guidance, and direction to virtue and righteousness; then out of them there will arise good, decent, and righteous leaders, and trustworthy reformers. But this requires a comprehensive determination on behalf of all parts of the community in order to give the best results.

¹ This is in reference to the document the Prophet's sixth divinely appointed successor, Imam Sadiq, peace be upon him, wrote for his Shi'a, which he instructed them to study and reflect upon its content on regular basis, and adhere to and act upon on it. Therefore, the Shi'a of the time used to keep a copy of it in their dedicated prayer-rooms in their houses, and whenever they used to finish one of their daily obligatory prayers, they used to study the document and reflect upon one or more of its points and seek to implement it/them. Amongst other sources, this document is reported in al-Kafi, vol.8, book of al-Rawdah, pages 2-14, *al-islamiyyah* edition.

- ❖ It is a requirement for all; mothers and fathers, the family and the tribe, all men and women in general, to have complete and utter dedication to the young men and women, in order for them to grow into a pious generation, and in order for them to build the future civilisation on the basis of virtue, piety, welfare, goodness, justice and fairness.
- ❖ It is imperative that the youths in Iraq today, who will be tomorrow's men and the future's hope, whether they are in the seminaries, universities, or other employment, to take as role models the youths of Imam Husayn, such as Ali al-Akbar and al-Qasim ibn al-Hasan, peace be upon them, as well as his loyal companions, when facing life's challenges, adoring themselves with faith, patience, piety, sacrifice, and self-denial.
- ❖ It is imperative for the youths in Iraq to do their utmost to rebuild and develop Iraq economically, politically, socially, and culturally; for it is their country, and love of one's country is part of faith.
- ❖ During one's youth, one has greater ability to focus, greater opportunity, and, often, has less problems and difficulties. Thus the non-married has less problems than the married one, and the married one with no children has less problems than the one with children, etc. Therefore as one progresses in life, the opportunities one has lessen, but one faces more responsibilities, and thus one should take the initiative early on to develop one's abilities, talents, and experiences, such as public speech and writing, before it is too late.