

**Address of the H.E. Lt. Governor of Delhi, Shri Tejendra Khanna  
At Annual Convocation of Jamia Millia Islamia University  
On November 16, 2011**

Distinguished Vice-Chancellor of the Jamia Millia Islamia University, Najib Jang Sahib, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Rashid Sahib, Hon'ble Registrar, Deans of Faculties, Members of the Teaching Staff, Honored Guests, Members of the Media, the Student community, Ladies & Gentlemen.

I want to express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for inviting me to this function and giving me the opportunity of sharing a few thoughts with you. Education it is said, is a preparation for life and many of you who are passing out today at the graduation or post graduation level, have your whole life ahead of you, as members of society, the Nation and the global human community. Let me wish you, by the grace of God, all success in your endeavors in your personal as well as your professional lives and that you become great contributors to the essential spirit of our Nation, which we have inherited as a legacy from our elders, sages, saints and prophets.

At the end of the day, we find that every human being has a basic desire for peace and happiness in his life. Stories are told of Alexander, when he was on his global campaign to win wars and conquer new territories that he met at the bank of the Ravi or Beas river, in Punjab, a person who was sitting in quiet meditation, wearing coarse clothing, hardly having a thatch over his head as a shelter, and little to eat. He was very surprised to see him and asked how it was that he seemed so much at peace with himself, when Alexander's view was that conquering new territories and expanding his kingdom would be the key to his happiness. The mendicant said that peace was a state of mind, and did not depend on how much wealth you command, how many palaces you have or how many kingdoms you rule over. Again, the sages and saints have told us that peace of mind is not something you can buy at a Department store or any other Bazar by, putting money on the table. It is not a

purchasable commodity. They have also said that you should not build your bridges and base your hopes of acquiring permanent peace and happiness on worldly things or circumstances, which are in a constant state of flux and change. We talk about relationships, about holding high offices, about wealth and positions of eminence, but are any of these things really stable and sustainable. Wise people have emphasized that the only permanent thing in this World is CHANGE. Every day marks some change. Dictators who used to rule over huge territories, and terrorise their people, all met their inglorious ends.

I remember as a young IAS officer when I first went to the Punjab Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh, at the lift which was going to take us to the upper level of the 10- storey building designed by Corbusier, there was a small brass plaque which had the following citations by Confucious. He said, "if you want to have peace in the country, you must have peace and harmony in society; if you want peace and harmony in society you must have peace and harmony in the family; and if you want peace and harmony in the family, you must have peace and harmony within yourself." Ultimately, we can share and give to our fellow human beings only what we ourselves possess. Agar Hamari dukan Khali hai, to hum kya kisi ko denge aur kya kisi ko bechenge. The only manner in which we can strive in earnestness and humility to acquire that peace and harmony within ourselves is by trying to connect with the Almighty in moments of quiet and silent worship, because he is the Omnipotent, Loving and unchanging Eternal Power which has created the entire Universe.

We have come at His command and we shall go when we are beckoned back by Him. "Ghalley aaye Nanka, sadde uthi jaye". I have often said in public speeches that we should admire in our Muslim brothers and sisters three very important aspects of daily life: the first, to bow in prayers five times, to remain connected with the Almighty, the second, to accept the Will of the Almighty, and third, to earn an honest livelihood "Haq-halal ki kamaee". If people of our country were to abide by such principles, there would be no need for Anna Hazare & the Lokpal Bill. People would be autonomously dedicated to honesty for every penny that they earn.

In respect of our dealings with our fellow human beings, I also feel that the core of all ethics and morality lies in treating everyone with love, humaneness and a spirit of service. Where we have Mohabbat, Khidmat aur Inksari, hamare rishte aapase main Khushgavar aur purkhuloos honge aur kayam rahenge. Chhotte se chhotte apne rukan ke saath agar hum pyar, mohabbath aur ijjat ke saath pesh aayenge, hamare rishte bahut majboot honge, puraman honge aur usme Kul Malik ki bakshish bhi shami hogi. These are basic qualities, which bind families, societies, nations and the global community together.

I have the highest respect for people from all religious streams living in our great country including our Islamic Brothers and Sisters. Quarrel about the methods adopted by different religions to try and connect with the Almighty, because at the end of the day, in his Court or "darbar", the only currency which has any value is love, humility and spirit of selfless service. Paltu Sahib was a saint of the "Sant" tradition in U.P. a few centuries ago. He wrote, Paltu Oonchi jaat ka mat koi kare ahankar, Sahib ke darbar mein keval bhakti pyar. Guru Gobind Singhji in the Sikh tradition said, "Sanch kahoon, sun leyo sabhai, fin prem kiyo, tin hi Prabh payo" and Bulle-Shah, who was a famous Sufi Saint in Punjab said, "lakh ibadat kare jo koi, bane na kade namaai, fad tak pyar na hosi palle, rab na hosi Raze, . My short point is that we have to love and respect our fellow human beings whether they happen to call God by the name of Allah, Jesus, Ram Krishan . If we have true love for God in our hearts, He also expects us to treat all our fellow human beings with love and kindness. We cannot seek his forgiveness, if we ourselves indulge in anger, violence and other negative behaviours and actions towards our fellow human beings. Kabir Sahib's poem which finds place in Sri 'Guru Granth Sahib says: *"Avval Allah noor upaya, kudarati de sab bande, ek noor te sab jag upajyaye, kaun bhale kaun mande. Loka bharam na bhulo bhai, Khalik mein khalak, Khalak mein Khalik, pur rihan sab dhaen. Mati ek anek bhant se, safe sirjanhare, na koi koch mati ke bhande, na koi Koch kumhare, "Na khalik mein koi nukhs hai, na Jo unhone khilkat banal hai usmein koi nukhs hai. Mera kahne ka matlab hai ki agar aap apni jindagi mein aage jakar aman aur khushhali aur uski rahmat ko hasil karna chahte hai to ye lazim hai ki apni*

*jindagi mein in usoolon ko sabse avvleen darja dein. Iske upar pura pura amal karein aur phir koi noubat nahin aayegi ki uski rahmat aappe nazil na ho.*

I am sure that coming from a University like Jamia Millia in which living by a core value system is given great importance, all of you will attract abundant blessings of the Almighty and make a great success of your personal and professional lives and become true torch-bearers in taking in our Society and Nation forward based on unswerving adherence in thought, word and deed to fundamental human values of love, compassion and spirit of service.

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