

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



October 24, 2017

## “Everyone Has the Right to Freedom of Expression”

In our world there have always been certain people who have tried to stop human beings from discussing and sharing their opinions freely. There are as many opinions as there are human beings and may be even more and it is a positive sign that everyone wants to say something. Why should it be that someone should always want that he should be heard? Why should a person want that everyone should be all ears just to his opinions, neglecting everybody else? However, it is not possible to confine what the people hear and what they say.

There is an inclination among the people that they want to give final opinion and they always want to draw a final decision regarding others and they desire that no one should stop them. Though this sort of inclination may be interesting but it has its own disadvantages and this would only be possible if they were deities. Such proclivity has in fact brought troubles not only to the ones who have them but to the ones who have been influenced by them. Universal Declaration of Human Rights says, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

The greatest virtue of human is wisdom and the greatest act of wisdom is to share knowledge through conversation. Conversation, in its passive form, is a thought, while in its active form it is a voice.

As a matter of fact it is difficult to recognize the being of a human without his voice in the infinite expanse of the universe. Our reach is to the extent where our voice can echo and without our voice we would disappear in the darkness of silence.

So, it is important that we talk as long as we live. The ones who do not have the opportunity to talk they feel that the unspoken words spread throughout their bodies like poison and snatch their happiness.

However, those people would be controversial who, themselves, would always talk but not allow others to do so. Their conversation would really hurt and would be an agony even if they talk about eternal bliss and peace. It can be observed that the history has never witnessed a nation that might have acquired all the truth in the world; if such a miracle had happened the world would have been free of all sort of deprivations and sufferings. It is the reality of life that its truths are distributed among different times, places, languages and minds. It would be great if all the truths could be acquired from the old men who sit under the tree and tell different sorts of stories to the people; but the reality is different.

Therefore, everyone must be given a chance to speak their minds and let the words flow through their tongues and reach others, so that they can listen to them and analyze them; in this way the speaker would not feel that his words were not given the due respect. A very limited reservoir of knowledge has reached to us and if a major part of it remains untold and is victimized by silence, we would have a major loss – A loss that would be very difficult to compensate for. Here it is important to note that there are certain people, who, when talk, try to create conflicts and differences; however, it should not be forgotten that if such people remain silent, they would create even more divergences.

It is really important that human beings must keep the doors and windows of their inner selves open and let their expressions free like the winds in the deserts and the water flowing in the rivers. Indeed, the ones who speak are the real teachers and while those who are silent basically hide what they have. Therefore, it is necessary that the tradition and culture of speaking must be followed and pursued so as to spread what people know and let the listener judge as per his perceptions.

In our society, for many years there have been certain limitations which are imposed on the people and which hamper free thinking and free expression; however the people have not dared to stand against such limitations though these limitations influence them the most. Moreover, it can be observed that among the ruling elite there is a sort of reservation regarding freedom of expression and they try to practice it in some way or the other. As mentioned by Mokokoma Mokhonoana, “Most people do not really want others to have freedom of speech, they just want others to be given the freedom to say what they want to hear.”

They try to impose limitations on freedom of expression through certain ways – they strive to generate social pressure and they even design laws to acquire their objective.

This clearly shows that they are afraid of the realities and they are not confident enough to face them. However, the people have to understand that only a limited number of people have their self-centered incentives behind such controlled silence; therefore, such efforts should never be supported and people must make efforts to shatter all such chains that strive to chain their thoughts and their talks.



## Kabul University with 85-year Educational Activities

By Mohammad Baqirian

Kabul University was established in 1311, Afghan calendar, which ushered its activities with founding medical department and subsequently many other departments. With founding a myriad of departments, Afghanistan took high step in educational field and laid the cornerstone of the university. In 1325 (1945), a great ceremony was conducted for establishing Kabul University. Almost a year has elapsed from the establishment of Kabul University with ups and downs. Now the questions are that within such a long period, what are the achievements of this educational institution? Has this University an acceptable record in educational and intellectual arenas? Could this University train the individuals who are able to resolve educational, social, cultural, political, and artistic issues of the society?

It is an undeniable fact that there was not a palpable achievement and the function of our university was not successful enough. Despite the historical record, magnificent structure, and manifold programs and chapters, this university could not bring changes in the life condition of Afghan people. The history of this university is easily inferred from dusty books in its library, obsolete chapters, and traditional teaching methods rather than achievements, progress, or abilities.

In spite of comprehensive changes in educational and scientific fields in modern world, the issue of education in an organized way is still elusive in our universities, including Kabul University, and capable and dynamic individuals are hardly ever employed in government universities. The bulk of lecturers in government universities have Bachelor degree. Subjects are taught in general manner in universities. The graduate students lack basic qualifications and high level knowledge.

Unluckily, if this trend continues in our universities, mainly in Kabul University, the decade-old data and information are included in our chapters, and university officials think of no fundamental plan for getting out of this issue, we will encounter a plethora of apparently graduate individuals who would lack enough abilities and skills. For example, although there are literature departments in our universities, our literature is in the moribund.

Similarly, we have journalism department, but the verbal literature and preparing news do not meet the standard. We have the departments of English, Chinese, Arabic, French and German, Russian and Turkish literatures, there are still no individuals to be graduated with high qualification. Despite having many students studying in the mentioned literature departments, there still lacks a qualified translator to translate a foreign book into Persian annually. Those who study foreign languages, they learn simple conversations within four years of study.

The culture of translation is extremely low and translated books are imported from Iran.

We have the department of Islamic Sharia, however, religious tenets are not taught in appropriate way. Therefore, radical mentality and fundamental mindset grow higher. To name more, we have the department of psychology, but there are not expert psychologists to treat our patients thoroughly. Our universities possess the departments of geology, there are not expert geologists for discovering underground resources, though. There are departments of art, but our art is a disgrace. We have department of agriculture, there is no appropriate agriculture in the country. The same is the case with the departments of engineering, economy, social science, and so on and so forth. None of them have tangible achievements.

Our universities produce documents rather than knowledge or thought. That is to say, students get their documents but knowledge, skill, or expertise is not gained from our universities – where cramming chapters is the ultimate goal. The chapters are deplete from knowledge. On the other hand, our society also moves on the basis of documents and certificates. The criteria for employment is their certificate of knowledge rather than knowledge itself.

Every one wishes that our universities could train skillful and knowledgeable individuals rather than producing educational certificates. In other words, it was highly appreciated if our universities could change the minds and personalities of people rather than their appearance. It is further wished that our universities could train the individuals able to resolve the challenges of the society and heal their wounds. However, the dreams of the public did not come true within this 85 years. The problems are increased rather than being decreased.

Lack of committed and educated individuals is the main reason behind social and educational stagnation in our society. Nowadays, deception and dishonesty put our people in a deep quagmire. Moral turpitude is on rise, administrative corruption continues unabated, and the dragon of ethnocentrism and religious and linguistic strife is being fattened with each passing day. Likewise, economic gaps widen, the flame of fundamentalism ascends, and insensitivity is multiplied. Indeed, we live in a strange society.

In addition to learning knowledge within the past 85 years, it would be highly constructive if we could learn humanity, empathy, morality, manner of living, tolerance, and other such elements that could panacea our challenges. But despite not addressing our fundamental needs of life, our universities did not teach us knowledge, either. So, it is simply said that we had universities and education centers within 85 years but not knowledge or skill.

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## Moral Standards are at Stake

By Hujjatullah Zia

Morality is not something innate such as parental loves or emotional acts. When you feel hungry you eat something or you just love your friends emotionally – they are not called moral acts. If you feel sympathy and help a criminal escape from the law or police, you have done an immoral act.

Morality originates in your reason and conscience. You follow the reasonable orders of your wisdom, which is not colored by your sensation, it is called morality. But it should be noted that if you help someone as a reaction to his support or expecting something in favor, it is not called a moral act. Rather morality is a selfless act that you do for others without any expectations – which draws people's praise.

Morality is of a big value in individual and social life. “Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the oftener and more steadily we reflect on them,” wrote Immanuel Kant, “the starry heavens above and the moral law within.”

These days, the moral law within is being viewed with increasing awe, if not always admiration. The human moral sense turns out to be an organ of considerable complexity, with quirks that reflect its evolutionary history and its neurobiological foundations.

However, it is believed that moral values are in moribund in modern world despite the technological and scientific advancement. For instance, whenever I imagine the smell of a human's burnt limbs in the bedlam of a suicide bombing, the painful sobs of the wounded, the bloody bodies of street vendors, the children's sliced throats, the victims of rape, the mothers who seek their kids tearfully among the bodies of war victims, my senses go numb. Hence, the decline in moral standards is undeniable.

The ongoing violence and bloodshed in many parts of the world signify lack of respect of human and humanity. There are hardly any people who listen to the call of their conscience. When the inherent rights and dignity of men, women, or children are not valued, moral standards are eroding.

I have observed that in one part of our country, a number of people mourn the death of their near and dear ones, whom lost their lives in suicide bombing or terrorist attack, whereas a number of others celebrate a ceremony without a tinge of moral values. That is to say, one will hardly feel the pain of their brothers or sisters.

In fact, we have forgotten the fact that a human being is part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. We experience ourselves, our thoughts and feelings as something separate from the rest. A kind of optical delusion of consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from the prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. The true value of a human being is determined by the measure and the sense in which they have obtained liberation from the self. We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if humanity is to survive.

Honesty is one of the components of moral character which develops good attributes including truthfulness, kindness, discipline, integrity, etc. It involves the absence of lying, cheating others, theft, and lack of other bad habits which hurt people.

Honesty is really of being trustworthy, loyal, and sincere throughout the life. Honesty is very valuable and good habit of much importance. There is a well said proverb by the Benjamin Franklin that “honesty is the best policy”. Another quote by Thomas Jefferson is that “honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom”. Both are truly said by great people in the past however will be truth in the future forever.

When one closes their eyes to the challenges and problems of their neighbors or does not feel the anguish of a saddened individual, this is called lack of morality in human societies. On the other hand, if your conscience is shaken by a picture of a person who was killed without guilt, no matter who or where, and if your feelings are numbed by the pain of your fellows, you are called a person of morality.

It is simply said that “you reap what you sow”. If you do not sympathize your afflicted neighbors, they will, too, leave you alone with your troubles.

Humanity and moral values are global principles and respected everywhere in the world. Even those who do not cherish a certain faith or belief, morality will be still their inherent quality. Hence, morality can be exercise with or without religious beliefs. The issue to be regretted is that morality in modern is at stake and people hardly cherish this value.

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