

# Dare to be You!

**Regional Tal'im Camp 2011**

**Lajna Ima'illah Canada**

# Introduction

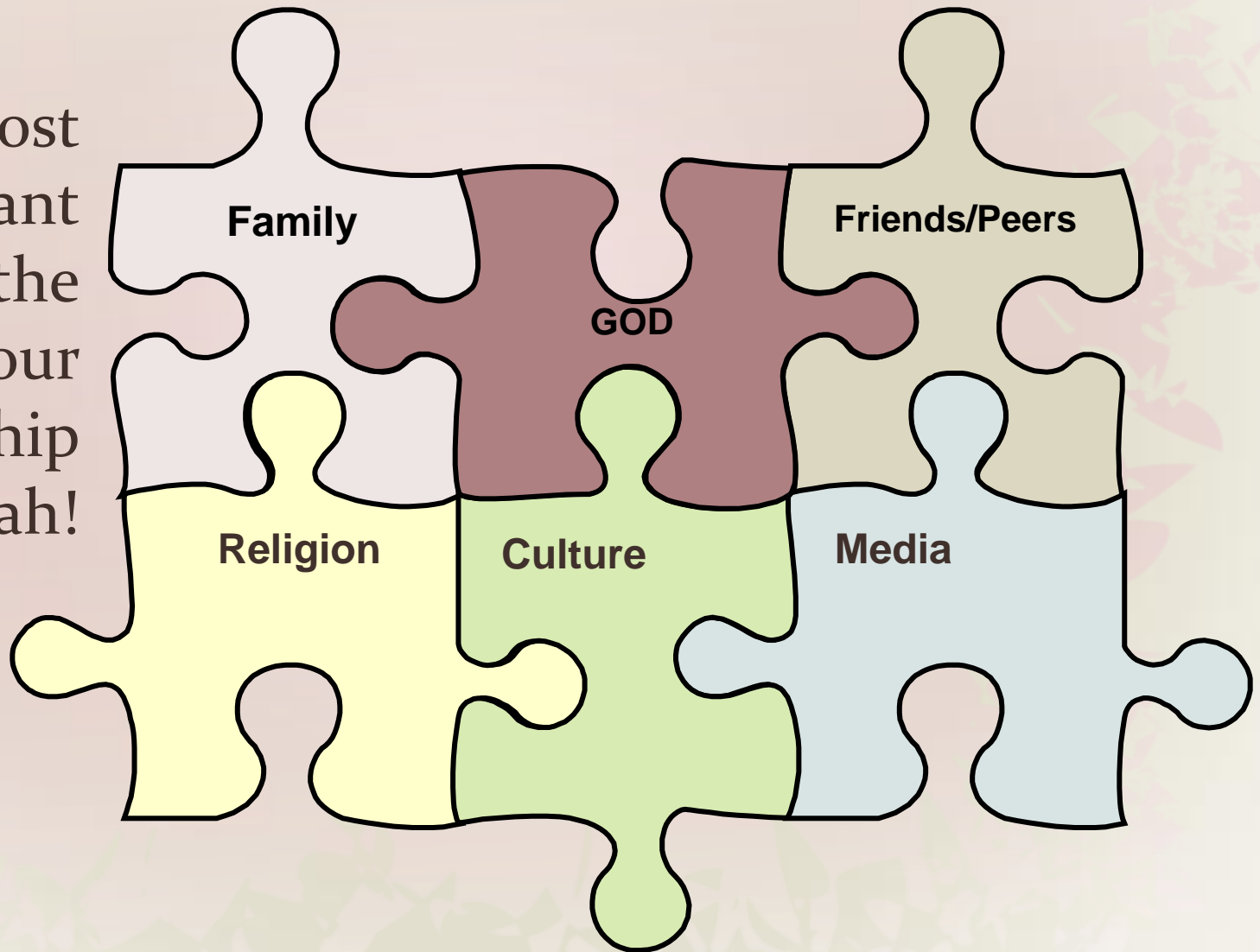
**“Daring to be You” essentially means...**

1. Being proud of who you are and having the courage to be yourself.
2. Appreciating your unique position as Ahmadi Muslim adolescents and young adults growing up in the West.

***Today, we will explore how Islamic values and Western values influence who you are becoming.***

# Putting together the pieces of your identity puzzle...

The most important piece of the puzzle is your relationship with Allah!



# Cultural Values vs. Religious Values

**Cultural Values** = Eastern or Western Values  
*eg. Pakistani or Canadian Values*

**Religious Values** = Islamic values based on the  
Qur'an & Sunnah of the  
Holy Prophet(sa)

# Differentiating between Cultural and Religious Values


## Some Cultural Practices attributed to the Religion of Islam

- ✽ **Female circumcision**, a common practice by Muslims in African countries.
- ✽ **Honour Killings**, common among Pakistani Muslims.

# Preserving our Muslim identity amidst human culture...

**“The world is prison for the believers  
and paradise for the disbelievers.”**

**(Sahih Muslim)**

 **One of the biggest forms of Jihad for a Muslim is  
living life “in the world”, without being “of the  
world”.**



# Dealing with the two-fold clash of civilizations...

- ✿ **Living in the West, you might feel divided between...**
- ✿ **Islam and the West (ex. Concept of pardah)**
- ✿ **Your ethnic culture and the West (ex. Food, language, dress)**

# ISLAMIC DRESS = MODEST DRESS

## What are the basic elements of Pardah?

- ✿ Only adopt those fashions that are well within the bounds of modesty
- ✿ Cover their heads
- ✿ Cover necklines
- ✿ Cover arms (at least to the elbow)
- ✿ Coats should be at least to knee length

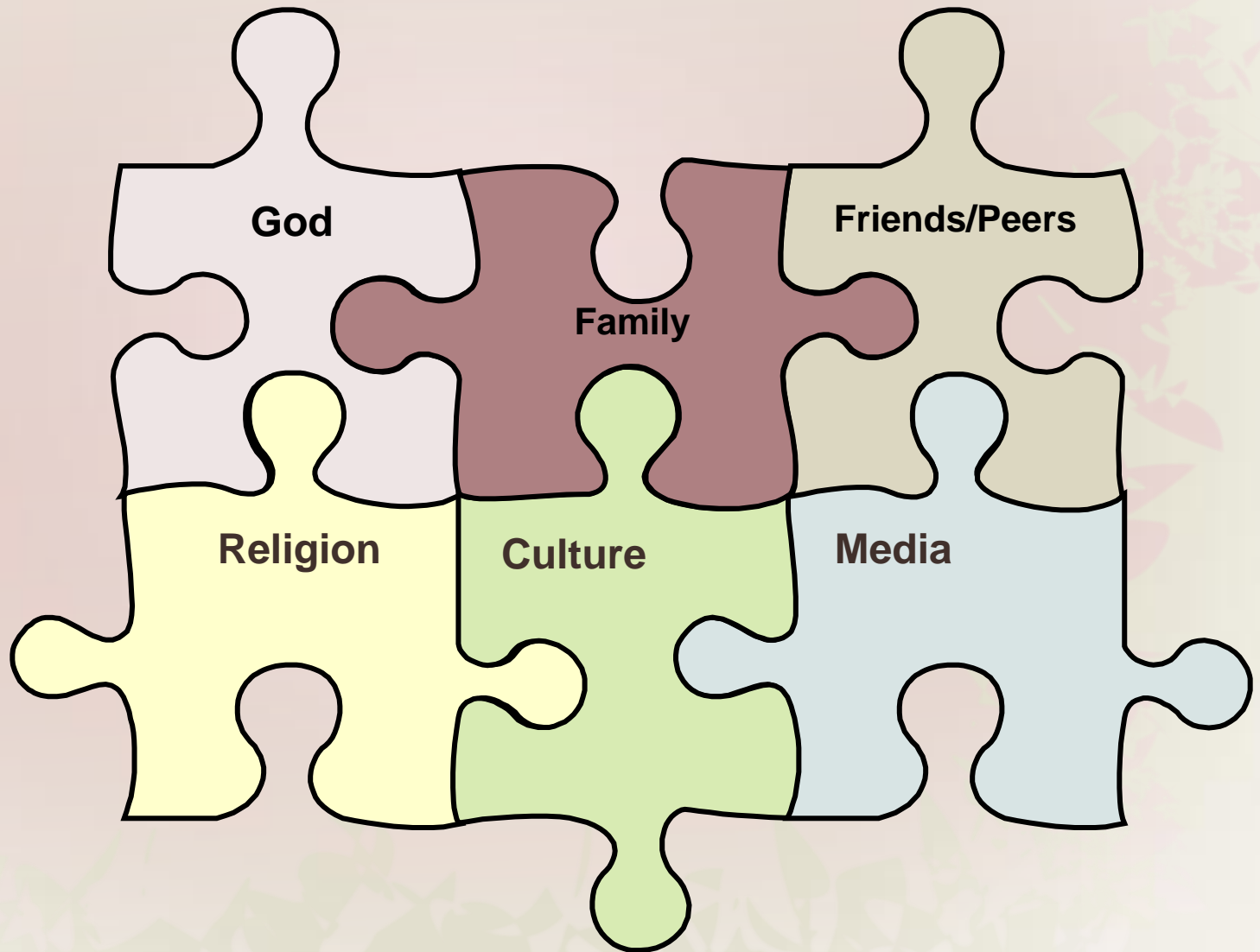
(Address to Lajna: Jalsa Salana, Germany, August 23, 2008)



# Our Jihad continues...

- ✿ **Thus, in our struggle to find ourselves we must take the best of both worlds.**
- ✿ **We must identify and differentiate true Islamic values from un-Islamic ones**

# People around us...



# Discussion Question # 1

- ✽ Describe the major influences in your life and how they help define who you are or who you want to be? (i.e. school, friends, teachers, media, etc.).

# Relationship with Parents

✽ **And worship Allah and associate naught with Him, and show kindness to parents,**  
(Surah an-Nisa', 4:37)

- ✽ Work on strengthening your bonds
- ✽ Build a relationship based on trust
- ✽ Don't forget to show Gratitude

# Friends – Company of the Righteous

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> stated,

**... if you wish to see God, then pray and strive, and another requirement is that you should keep the company of the righteous. (Lecture Lahore, p.19)**

**Choose Friends and Peers who are good company and will bring you closer to Allah.**

# Friends – Company of the Righteous

## **Your Responsibilities as a Friend**

- Be a righteous friend yourself by being a good example and source of spiritual progress for others.
- Standing up for what is right and not coming under peer-pressure.

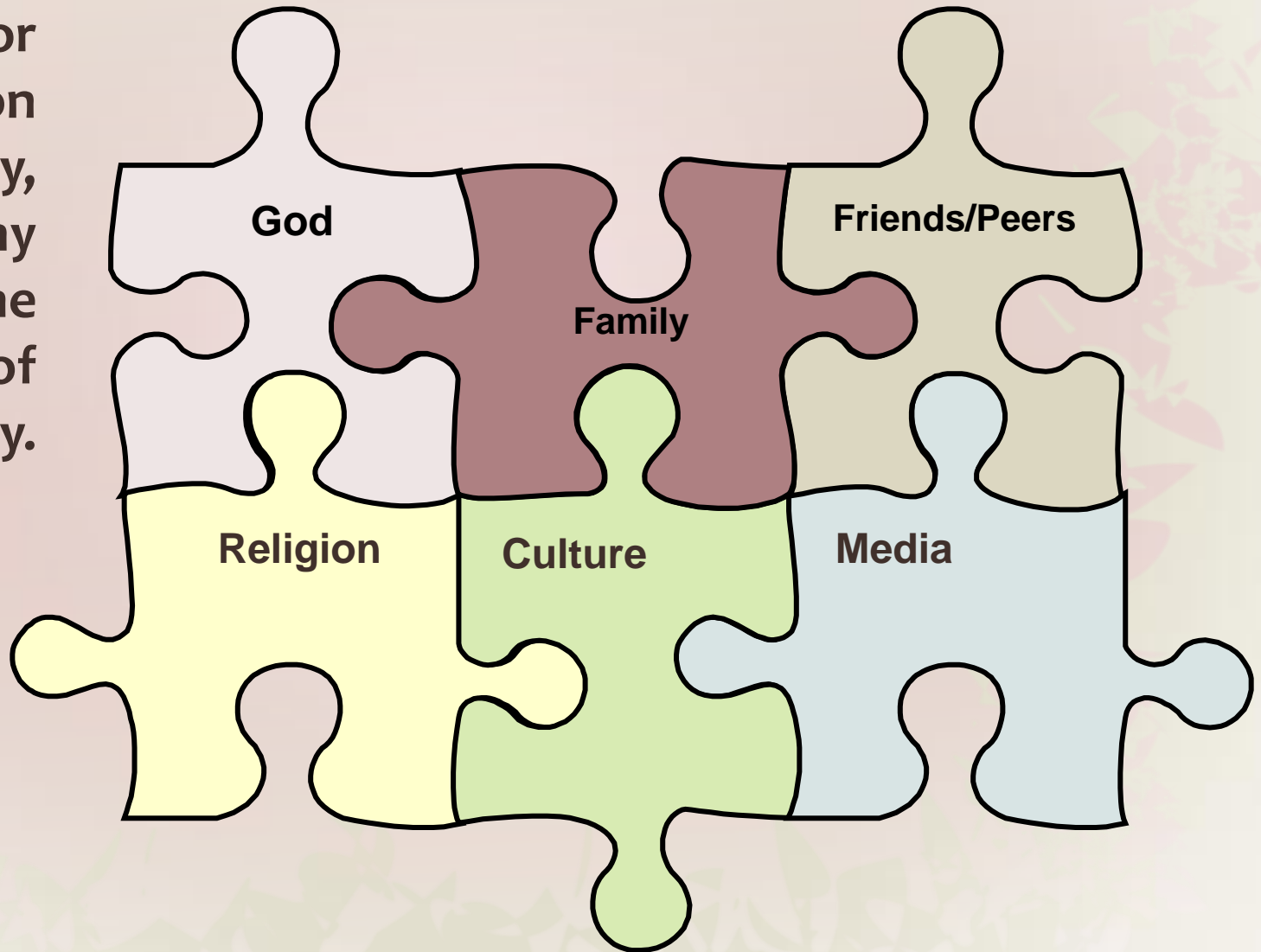


# Discussion Question # 2

✿ Define a good friend and a bad friend in terms of spiritual progress and moral support and emotional well-being?

# Influence of Media

**Media has a major influence on youth today, unlike any other in the history of humanity.**



# Discussion Question #3

What types of social problems does the observance of Pardah prevent?

# Media Influence – On Female Self-Perception

- ✿ Standards of beauty have become so unrealistic
- ✿ Resulting in various social problems:
  - ✿ **Materialistic mentality**
  - ✿ **Eating disorders**
  - ✿ **Objectification & exploitation of women**
  - ✿ **Crimes against women**
- ✿ Our focus shifts from God to meeting superficial ideals

# Media Influence (cont'd)

- ✿ **Materialism:** Over the course of a lifetime, the average woman spends nearly half a million dollars on beauty and hair treatments alone.
- ✿ **Eating Disorders:** Result from poor self-image and self-esteem. Only 2% of Canadians consider themselves beautiful. 47% of girls (Gr. 5-12) want to lose weight.

**Both problems result from the projection of unrealistic standards of beauty.**

# Media Influence (cont'd)

- ✿ **Exploitation:** Women are presented in revealing clothing to sell products. Dress-code for women in certain workplaces purposely designed to attract the attention of male customers.
- ✿ **Crimes against Women:** One in three teenagers has experienced violence in a dating relationship. Every two and a half minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted.



# *Pardah* as our Protective Buffer

**The Holy Qur'an states...**

O Prophet! tell thy wives and thy daughters and the women of the believers that they should draw close to them portions of their loose outer coverings. That is nearer that they may thus be **distinguished** and not **molested**. And Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful. (33:60)

***Pardah...***

- *Distinguishes Muslim woman as pious and modest.*
- *Prevents women from being molested or assaulted.*
- *Is a form of mercy from Allah.*

# Become Socially Responsible Persons

- ✽ **Being true to you** - acting upon the beliefs & moral values you claim to follow.
- ✽ **Being true to others** - Having the courage to:
  - ✽ **Enjoin good** (ex. honesty, modest living, humility)
  - ✽ **Forbid evil** (ex. dishonesty, excessive living, arrogance)
- ✽ **Being true to society** – bringing everyone closer to Allah.

# As Young Ahmadi Women...

- ✽ The purification of society and future generations rests in your hands.
- ✽ Develop a sincere bond with Allah and turn to Him only.
- ✽ Find strength in your bond with Him to battle all the obstacles that come your way.
- ✽ The road ahead isn't easy, it requires a constant and consistent effort – i.e. Jihad.
- ✽ Today it is only the women of Ahmadiyyat, the true Islam who can change the plight of humanity and of womankind in particular.

**WOMEN ARE THE KEY TO PURIFYING SOCIETY!**

***Jazakamullah Ta'ala wa Ahsanal Jaza***

