

*Staying True to You..*

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*“..’tis the season...”*

- Springtime is the season for high school prom’s and graduation ceremonies.
- These functions are largely of a social nature, where students can mingle, relax and have fun with their friends in a casual environment.

# *Anatomy of a Prom: what is it about?*

- The prom is held annually to celebrate the completion of high school. In some schools, there is a junior (after grade 11) and a senior prom (after grade 12). In others, it is only held at the end of twelfth grade.
- In most cases, it is expected that teens will go with a date. It is an evening of music, dancing, drinking (in some cases), and can even involve drugs.
- It is socially expected for girls to dress in formal evening gowns. It is not uncommon for girls to spend thousands of dollars in preparation of this event.

# *The Value of an Education*

## **CULTURAL VALUE:**

Recently published in a newspaper,

“ As far as social functions go, the high school prom is probably the most important event of a high school girl’s career. “

## **ISLAMIC VALUE:**

The pursuit of education is a right given to women with the advent of Islam. As Ahmadi Muslim women, we have the privilege of gaining an education, so that we may learn practical and valuable life skills.

# *Your Role and Responsibility*

- As Ahmadi Muslims, we have taken a solemn oath to represent and practice the TRUE and PURE teachings of Islam.
- In order to stay true to our promise, and to earn the love of Allah Almighty, we must make every effort to abstain and refrain from impure and vain practices.

# *Essence of Purdah*

- The setting of a high school party is a mixed gathering, where boys and girls are free to mingle and socialize.
- In order to preserve chastity and promote modesty of both men and women, Islam forbids such gatherings where the genders are not segregated.
- One does not fulfill the requirements of purdah merely by covering oneself modestly. In essence, purdah extends beyond physical appearance to your mind, senses and thoughts. Thus, in order to fully observe purdah, we must abstain from participating in such events.



# *Keeping company with the righteous*

- Allah Almighty has promised that wherever pious people gather with pure intentions and are engaged in remembering Allah-those gatherings are blessed with the company of the Angels.
- Therefore, it is our duty to search for those special gatherings where Allah Almighty sends his blessings down upon us.
- We should also be vigilant about who are our friends and whose company we keep, academically and socially.

# *But I just want to go out with my friends...*

- What's wrong with the prom if all it is, is going out with your friends to celebrate?
- Of course you want to be with your friends, you have built bonds and friendships over the years and you want to spend time with them, but you have to ask yourself,
  - what kind of time do you want to spend?
  - how does being in their company truly benefit you?
  - or does it harm you?



## *It wont affect me...*

- Every activity that we choose to pursue and engage in has to be beneficial for us, if we are to earn the protection and help of God.
- If our activities provide benefit to us, or to society in some way, undoubtedly we will have the protection of God, and the results of that activity will be blessed.
- But if we choose to participate in activities Islam does not allow, we will be deprived of the blessings and in turn, God will be displeased with us.

## *It wont affect me...*

- Think about the purpose of such events; high school prom is a social ritual that is replete with peer pressure: to look good, to be noticed and to be popular.
- UnIslamic acts are committed at such events: music, dancing and mixed-gender socializing.
- Even if you do not actively participate in these activities, you are still accountable for being present there.

# *The Holy Qur'an*

- The Holy Qur'an: “Verily, Allah is with those who are righteous and who do good. “ (Chapter 16, Verse 129)
- In his Friday Sermon, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) spoke about the Qur'anic teaching of doing good, and keeping company with those who are righteous. He said, “ those who adopt purity and righteousness and are afraid of evil, they have God's support and protection.” (22 April 2011)

# *Embracing your Identity*

- As mentioned previously, these events are social rituals of Western culture.
- We must be very careful to refrain from adopting western cultural rituals that conflict with our Muslim values and beliefs.
- Ahmadi girls must embrace their Muslim identities and celebrate their individuality with confidence and high level of self-esteem.
- We are the followers of the noble Prophet of Allah, Prophet Muhammad (sa) and should always represent the true Islam we inherited from him.

# *Hadith of the Holy Prophet (sa)...*

“Whoso imitated another people (leaving the way and tradition of his own community and people) will be considered one of them.” (Abu Dawud)

- Regarding this hadith, Hadhrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad (ra) writes, “this means that when you abandon your own rituals and seek to look like others, it will be understood...(that) you have yielded to them in mental slavery.
- Furthermore, he writes, “desire to seek resemblance with others comes from a sense of inferiority complex” (Forty Gems of Beauty, p121)



# *The Spirit of Obedience...*

- As Ahmadi Muslims, we are blessed with a unique treasure that Allah Almighty has bestowed upon us. That is the blessing of Khilafat. The Khalifa is the directly appointed representative of Allah Almighty on Earth.
- Time and time again, our beloved Hudhur (aba) reminds us to remain obedient to Allah, and develop a closer relationship with Allah Almighty so that He may accept us.
- In order to earn the pleasure of God, we must make every effort to refrain from unIslamic activities and shun evil and impure practices.
- That is the spirit of obedience that Ahmadi girls must portray at every step of their lives.



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

