INTRODUCTION

The following is the translation of the first speech of most revered Hazrat Maulana S. Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi, which he delivered in Urdu after his long critical illness and while, he was still, convalescing. It was delivered during a 'Tablighi Ijtama' of about 1 lac people on 13th June '99 at Nadwatul Ulema Lucknow. The duration of the speech was about 40 minutes. Inspite of the fact that residual effect of the cerebral stroke persisted the speech was loud and clear. After this speech almost all the speakers quoted from Maulana and urged the people to cultivate and strive for the position of distinction.

(Mohsin Jalil Shamsi)

DISTINCTIVE POSITION

OF

MUSLIMS

All Praise unto Allah, Lord of the Worlds. Peace and Mercy be upon Mohammad, the most exalted of the messengers and seal of the Prophethood, on his kin, his companions and on all those who followed him in good deeds sincerely and called the people, upto the day of judgment, to what he preached for.

"In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful"

"O you who believe if you fear Allah He will make for you a distinction and will expiate for your misdeeds and forgive you; and Allah is the Owner of Mighty Grace"

(*Suratul Anfal.....29*)

Congratulations

My friends, my dear ones, the guests from afar and my respectable esteemed and loveable brothers.

The verse from the Holy Quran recited just now was at my request, before I dilate upon that let me congratulate you and compliment all the Muslims, the volunteers and the management and congratulate the *D'aee*, that this huge congregation has assembled on one *Kalima*, one Belief one Faith, one objective and one way of life. Such type of congregation is rarely seen in our country. (May I be pardoned for this disrespect, if any) it reminds us of the gathering at *Arafat*, the gathering at *Mina* and it reminds us of the equality (in Islam). There can be no honour greater than that to be compared with congregation at '*Arafat* and *Mina*, this gathering is that large.

Let me tell you this is not just by chance or accident, I am a student of history and have read history in many languages, I have written books on history and on that basis I can say that such a huge gathering when assembled for a particular cause, sincerity of purpose with conviction and single goal in mind can bring about revolutions in whole of the world. In the

verse just now recited (*Sura 'Anfal*) *Allah's* order is thought provoking, it is a jolting verse, it can revolutionize the whole world, *Allah Tabarak wa Taala* only, is worthy of worship, it is He Who is Master of all and it is He Who created the universe, Who is creator of Jins and human beings. Nothing can happen without His Will. He can bring revolution in countries. He transforms the circumstances, He can free the slaves and enslave the free.

Any thing, which is recited repeatedly, is usually not pondered over deeply. The recitation of *Holy Quran* if recited and pondered over may make the nights sleepless, it does provide stimulus not to the body but to mind and soul. *Allah* Who has knowledge of the apparent and the hidden, Who is Absolute Controller, Who is undoubted Master, Who really is the Worthy of worship. He says;

"O people of faith if you adopt the "GODFEARING ATTITUDE"; This GODFEARING is not an ordinary word. If somebody fears Allah he is known as Muttaqui (God fearing) if somebody wears simple clothes people say he is Godfearing. One who does not do back biting and slander, people say he is Godfearing but TAQWA as per language and definition of Holy Quran has very broad and revolutionary meaning. It can reverse the systems of the whole world. Allah says if you become Godfearing it does not literally mean fear of God it includes the beliefs and the actions, it includes the aims and the way of life, it also includes the morals, the behavior and your dealing with fellow-beings. If you fear Allah, He will elevate you to a position of distinction. From wherever a Muslim would pass by, a God fearing Muslim, a Muslim who follows Sharia, the Muslim follower of the orders of Allah and His Rasool, the Muslim who is wellwisher of humanity, a human being propagating the Will of Allah, a pious person who keeps his eyes low, who controls his tongue, whose heart is void of material gains and greed and whose mind is pure from intrigues and conspiracies when such a Muslim will pass by, the people will indicate 'look! there goes an obedient servant of Allah', when this becomes your distinction Allah will give you a place of honour and a distinctive position (I can not but translate the Arabic word FURQAN as distinctive position because it has various meanings and its translation in any other language is not easy) people will point towards you they will look up to you. Thinking of you at times people will loose their sleep, at other time they will wake up from their slumber. Look! there goes the Muslim, look! Muslims are so pious. They will observe that they do not gaze at other women and men, free mixing with whom (Namahram), is prohibited in Sharia if he finds an object on a thoroughfare, which may hinder the way or may hurt the passersby, removes it. He is the one who does not jostle and push around other people. He moves about with a purpose, with dignity, goes about as well wisher and sympathizer. With such a picture only a few, may be just a family, who could be counted on fingers, if reached an area, time is witness almost whole area embraced Islam just by seeing those Muslims as if swept by a wave. This wave of Islam was in spite of unconcern in spite of material greed, love of beauty and desire for position (prevalent in the society).

Allah has given human being the power to impress and receive impression. I can say as student of history, as one who knows human psychology and as a counselor, that in spite of the dark deeds, infidelity and idol worship, intemperance, worship of wealth, barbarism and injustice, it is due to this factor of receiving impression the inherent element for reform and adopting what is good, that this world is not shattered and ruined. Let me open up my heart to you, to this huge assembly, to persons who have come from afar, who have come to listen to a talk on Allah and His Rasool, who have come in this Tablighi Ijtima, Allah only knows I may or may not get this chance of addressing such a congregation, which is motivated and is ready to assimilate. There can be no better chance to tell you that the element of acceptance

of impressions for betterment in man is the secret of the existence of this world and it is for this fact that world is still vibrant. *Allah Tabarak wa Taala* who created this world knows that man still has got that element, of taking lessons, getting a feeling of remorse, the desire for improvement and gain from his experience and *INSHA ALLAH* you will do the same by doing *Tablighi* work, follow the principles of *Tabligh* and you will make *Jamaats* and tour whole of the country.

I am going to tell you which no other person may say, I do not have any misconception about them but I am fearing that they may not say after all they are human beings. In the country you are living, you should live a life which should bestow up on you what is known as *FURQAN*, 'the Distinct Position'. Your distinctive position should be so impressive so that it changes the belief of the people around, their behavior and morals their outlook, their feelings, their emotions, their relations and their dealings should change. Such a large population of Muslim live in a country and remain without carving a definite impression is not believable.

Allah Tabarak wa Taala who is knowledgeable of the overt and the hidden who is the Creator of the Nature says 'IN TATTAQULLAHA YAJALLAKUM FURQUANAN' " If you will, fear Allah He will bestow upon you a distinctive position, a novel quality" that will change the beliefs of the people, their morals, their relations will improve, the people will become ALLAH-FEARING. Such a large population of Muslims have not brought any revolution, any change is the sad proof that we have not followed 'IN TATTAQULLAH' fully.

If you follow 'INTATTAQULLAH' fully and fear Allah and live as per teachings of His messenger and act as per 'Sharia' and the Holy Quran, the outcome will be 'YAJALLAKUM FURQANA'. You will be bestowed with a "Position of Distinction" the people will consider you an object to be emulated, people will come towards you and you will be an ideal for the people's life. It will be an uncontrollable flow, which you will not be able to control and you may not withstand the pressure leading to the propagation of Islam. The whole life there after will change for good. Materialism, moral dissipation, thirst for power and pelf, of position, worship of authority, of politics these social maladies will be lessened if not erased totally. It will be difficult for people to hold on to their misbeliefs, their desires and their yearn for unfair gains. Seeing the Muslims, Muslims with typical Islamic characteristics, the Islamic faith, the people will be attracted towards Islam. Great national leaders, known politicians, reputed writers, eloquent orators, poetic speakers, will not be able to stick to their beliefs, their ideas their leadership and their politics. Unfortunately this is not happening! Why? Please ponder over and see yourselves that our own life is not as per Islamic mould. Therefore to bring a change in the world around us, first of all our Faith must be correct, our dealings must be right, our goals and aims must be right. These should be different and distinct. The people should notice that a Muslim removes any hindrance from wherever he passes by and is always helpful. The difference in your material desires, your natural human weaknesses should be apparently lesser than the rest. 'He is a Muslim' should be indication enough to ascribe all the above qualities to a person, so addressed. It is a historical fact that handful of such Muslims wherever they reached have revolutionized and changed the nations.

Just think where was the peninsula of Arabia, the place of advent of Islam and where was Spain and where in people in countless masses accepted Islam. Think of Turkey, think of Algeria, of Morocco and of West Asia where Islam reached and was accepted and Islam is

still the way of life, with the exception of Spain where a systematic annihilation of Islam and the Arabic language, was carried out under a conspiracy for which the Muslims are also to be blamed.

If you consider, the distances on land and passage of time, the differences of languages, the ideas, the ways of thinking, the up bringing and the training, you will realize that these are as wide apart, as earth and sky, yet nations after nations embraced Islam, impressed by the character shown by the Muslims, by their *Dawah* and *Tabligh* by setting an example in their dealings, there behaviors and there true Islamic practice and then compare the present day position of Muslims. I urge upon only you, who are present here, in this congregation, that let us adopt the life of a true Muslim and start from today practising the Islam in totality and as per the orders of *Allah*:

'If you fear Allah'

and

'This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you and chosen for you Islam as your religion'.

(S.V....4)

or

'O ye who believe! enter into Islam wholeheartedly: and follow not the foot steps of the Evil One: for he is to you an avowed enemy'.

(S.II...208)

Allah Taala urges, O People! who have accepted the Faith enter Islam wholly and enter to obey unquestioningly, the Arabic word *kaaffa* encompasses all, literally, mentally, practically, collectively and legally, it is a word with a varied and vast meaning. It applies to the people who are entering Islam and also applies to what they are entering in. It expresses cent per cent Muslims enter hundred percent Islam, it shows no laxity, hundred per cent Muslims should enter hundred percent (complete) Islam.

The inheritance and shares must be distributed correctly, rights and obligations must be fulfilled, the rights of parents, the rights of wife, the rights of husband, the rights of brothers, the rights of relatives, the rights of your fellow citizens and the rights of your country which are on you and your duty to the country all these are to be honoured and fulfilled. *Allah* said that first enter Islam fully with all the attributes of a Muslim then be mindful and do not be misguided by Satan. You have an example in the life of the messenger, follow the exemplary simple life and strong character of the messenger.

My dear brothers, in spite of my physical weakness I say it with conviction that you go back with a firm resolve that "I will practice Islam fully and I will lead such a life as to leave an impression on the whole environment, on people around, on whole of the neighbourhood, town and cities." The people will then be compelled to say, that such is the life of a Muslim, where others falter a Muslim remains steadfast, where others tend to weaken a Muslim remains balanced, where others go astray a Muslim follows the right path, where other sell

their conscience a Muslim remains unmoved and nobody, no government no political party, no individual whatsoever powerful or wealthier he may be, can buy the conscience of these Muslims. Neither beauty nor grace nor lure of power and position can weaken these Muslims. *Allah* has created and bestowed upon them the gift of their *Deen*. Had our character been as per the dictates of Islam whole country would have benefited. Whenever and wherever this has happened, the people around, even the enemy has accepted that their way of life (*Deen*) is true. They are the men of principle; they are kind and charitable. They believe in the life here after and they are the righteous.

Whatsoever Islam is left not only in this country but anywhere in the world it is because of the example and the sample presented by its seers. At times only single personality has changed the whole country. Here in our country Hazrat MoinUddin Chishti (RA) came and millions embraced Islam. Similarly Syed Ali Hamdani (RA) went to Kashmir and majority there accepted Islam. So let us moud our life in that pattern then as *Allah Taala* has said "*Yaj allakum furqana*" He will bestow upon you that promised Position of Distinction. People will make you their ideal, they will make you the symbol of goodness, they will listen to your words, they will look towards you (for guidance), they will say these are the Muslims of such a true belief, these are their (correct) actions, these are their emotions these are their desires and such high are their standards (which are to be emulated).

Take this message from here. Let me remind you that your life should be Distinctive for which there is no appropriate word than FURQAN. You depart from here with a resolve in your heart that you will mould your life in such a way that people will look up to you, you should become an example to be taken for change, then the people will come towards you, to learn, to get benefited from you, only then ISHAALLAH this Ijtima will be a success, it will be revolutionary. Such a big gathering assembled in the name of $Allah\ Ta'ala$, I repeat, deserves felicitation. It is just not an ordinary occasion that for Dawah such a huge gathering has assembled. We thank $Allah\ Ta'ala$ and feel cherished and honoured, even the soul of the founders of Darululoom must be feeling happy at the assembly of such a big congregation.

The need of the hour is that your life be revolutionized. The revolution should not be individual and for self but collective and overt so that the people are impressed and moved. The change should be concerning your belief, your morals your actions your dealings, your decisions and your efforts. Your life in every way should become a beacon, a guiding light and it should become the means for *Dawah*. It should become a magnet, a magnet attracts a lifeless piece of iron, and human beings are not lifeless. Can a Muslim, full of Islamic Life, not become powerful enough to attract an other human being, the people, and the civilization?

The power of attraction of a Muslim is thousand times more than most powerful of the magnets. If you do not have that power you do not have the magnetism, you have to generate that power and you should build that magnetism.

May *Allah Tabarak wa Taala* bestow us the power and the will to become a true Muslim, in our desires, in our morals in our daily routine and in our plan and aims.

"I close my message with the Praise of Allah who is the lord of the Worlds."