



Our speech for 2017

What brings us here together is the fear about our identity! Losing identity is like spirit losing! Whoever loses his identity; he is ultimately stripped from his roots, origins and becomes a lost meaningless object. The key to maintain the identity is learning the Arabic language. Who loses his language, will gradually lose the identity.

Imam Jaafar as-Sadiq ^(Peace be upon him) said:

“Learn Arabic, for it is the word of God, in which He Spoke to His creation.”



In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God, may peace and blessings be upon our prophet Mohammad, his noble family and companions...

Dear parents, students and distinguished respected guests from department of education... We are delighted and honored to meet you and have you all gathered here... You are very welcome.

What brings us here together is the fear about our identity! Losing identity is like spirit losing! Whoever loses his identity; he is ultimately stripped from his roots, origins and becomes a lost meaningless object. The key to maintain the identity is learning the Arabic language. Who loses his language, will gradually lose the identity.

Imam Jaafar as-Sadiq ^(Peace be upon him) said:

“Learn Arabic, for it is the word of God, in which He Spoke to His creation.”

And as it has been said in the spoken language:

“who forgot his origin has no ancestry.”

Last year, we have discussed in details our action plan as well as our targets on which we founded our association and our school HOODAN-NOOR (the speech is in your hands), we will quickly review -so that we will not stretch the speech- the most important thing stated which was the commandment of the scholar, Sheikh Mahmoud Merhej (may Allah mercy be upon him) where he talked about thirty-six years ago here in Sydney - Australia.

His commandment is summarized in seven points as follows:

- 1) Our feeling toward this hospitable country Australia, which is our second homeland and the first for our children and grandchildren.
- 2) Our duty toward Australia.
- 3) Our duty toward our community.
- 4) The plan of action that will help us to do our duty toward our community.
- 5) What happens if we don't work according to this plan of action?
- 6) What is the result of our negligence to that plan?
- 7) What are we supposed to do?



We raise the banner to the one who made this commandment, which is a roadmap for us to proceed the path according to its basis, guided by our scholars ancestors, headed by those who are still alive among them, who are having the same concern, working in word or deed to maintain the Islamic Alawite identity, as we are listening very carefully to what Sheikh Tammam Ahmad (may God protect him) said:

“Brothers , refer back to what rescue your history, literature and your identity, otherwise! If we struck with some loss, our children will be swallowed by this loss, and will be murdered by this chaos...”

We are working very hard and exerting great efforts aiming to develop an Arabic language curriculum that suits the capabilities of our students in accordance to the existing teaching system in Australia. Despite our busy life schedule, we are also working to improve our culture, scientific and professional skills.

Few months ago, our dear mentors Mrs. Sonia and Mrs. Naamet have completed a course in teaching a second language provided to us by the department of education. Further, last Sunday, I have completed a tutorial course in the university of Sydney in which I delivered a presentation that enables me to obtain a diploma in teaching languages. These academic courses are part of Australian government support for communities and schools that preserve the diversifying of languages, traditions and cultures. The government here is supporting us in our journey and offers to preserve our identity as well as our language and this is something we appreciate and thank them for. What left for us is to take a good care of ourselves and cooperate together in order to protect this precious treasure: identity and language.

As you all know dear, we will not be able to make a remarkable change without parents' support and cooperation outside the classroom. Such as, mentoring their children assignments at home, urging them to speak Arabic language, remind them constantly of their religious duties and reciting the supplications we provide them with, perform prayers they have learned as constant and fundamental part in each religion class. Some parents are doing that, following up their children and have already noticed drastic changes demonstrated in their behaviors which made them proud of them and of us.

Our children are our responsibility, as we are responsible for securing the food, drink, clothes, sleep, etc. We are also accountable to God for the trust performance towards them in terms of discipline, refinement, education, nurturing so that they can serve as role model in ethics, politeness, faith and well manners.



Prince of believers Ali bin Abi Taleb (AS) said:

“Indeed you are more in need of acquiring good manners than you are of acquiring silver and gold.”

He ^(AS) also said:

“The best thing that parents can bequeath to their children is good manners.”

Next year, Insha'Allah, we will work on setting up extensive activities outside the classroom to revive the spirit of social communication among the students and parents. We hope this will have a direct and effective contribution in preserving the identity and language.

Dear attendants, I think we are at HOODAN-NOOR school, have done well in making the students love their language, aspire to learn their religion, culture and history... When I asked who wants to be a teacher with us here! Many of them have raised their hands, though we know that the path is long as we still have to exert huge efforts and sacrificing much time till we attain the desired result.

The success is only through God Almighty; praise be to God, Lord of all, peace, mercy and blessing of God be upon you all.



Sleiman Mouin Harbouki (Abu Iskandar)

17/12/2017

