

# Shura

Monthly Taleem Focus Slides  
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# Consultation by Holy Prophet ﷺ

- The institution of Shura is based on Quranic injunction to believers that they should consult each other in important matters

وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ ۖ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ

And consult them in matters of administration; and when thou art determined, then put thy trust in Allah. Surely, Allah loves those who put their trust in Him. (3:160)

- Examples of consultation with companions exist throughout the life of Holy Prophet ﷺ
- Consultation at battle of Badr about what to do with the prisoners of War
- At the battle of Uhud when Holy Prophet ﷺ consulted sahaba whether to fight within the city or go out
- Consultation about how to call Muslims to prayer
- Sometimes he consulted with everyone and sometimes with just a few

# Consultation by Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>

- Following the example of Holy Prophet ﷺ, Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> also consulted with companions on important matters.
- Although the Shura, as we know today wasn't formally established till 1922 but the first Majlis-e-Mushawarat of Jama'at Ahmadiyya took place at the occasion of first Jalsa Salana in 1891

Another important purpose of this Jalsa is that members should come up with valuable suggestions for creating better religious understanding among the people of Europe and America (Majmuah Ishtihahrat Vol 1. Page 340)

- Since the Jama'at was still small so Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> used the occasion of Jalsa Salana for consultation instead of holding separate sessions
- The first proposal was to establish a committee of Ahmadis and non-Ahmadis to record the numerous signs with which Allah was continuously blessing Jama'at. This proposal is recorded in the book Heavenly Decree (آسمانی فیصلہ)

# Formal Establishment of Majlis-e-Mushawarat

- In 1922 Hazrat Musleh Ma'ud<sup>ra</sup> formally established Majlis-e-Mushawarat as an institution to be held annually.
- First Shurat was held in Talimul Islam high school on April 15-16, 1922 with 52 delegates from outside Jama'ats and 30 representatives of Central Departments
- Later Jama'at auxiliaries such as Khuddamul Ahmadiyya started holding their own Shura but their decisions are only limited in scope to their internal matters
- In 1983, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV<sup>rh</sup> expanded the Shura to every country whereas previously it was only held in Markaz (i.e. Qadian, Rabwah)

After Khilafat, Majlis-e-Shura is the most important institution in the Jama'at, for the two have been mentioned in the Holy Quran and in them lies the life of Islamic order. That is why I am stressing the importance of Majlis-e-Shura all over the world, and I am also endeavoring to keep an eye on them so that if and when some fault is observed, it is immediately rectified, so that no wrong tradition is passed on from us to the next generation. (Friday Sermon 30 April 1993)

# Difference between Shura and Worldly Parliaments

- Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II<sup>ra</sup> says  
“Our procedure and our method of deliberation is not based on the principles that govern worldly parliaments and consultative bodies, for their aim is that every party should protect its rights and demand them from the government. We do not come here to ask for our rights for they were specified for us even before our birth...” (Report Majlis-e-Shura 1925 Pg 2)
- He further says  
“We have gathered here by the grace of God, so that we should think of ways for spreading the light and the truth which God Almighty has sent for the guidance of the world. We are also here to deliberate upon any material, social or political issues that arise in this context, not because we wish to gain personal benefits but because we wish to benefit mankind at large”. (Report Majlis-e-Shura 1920 Pg 1)
- Recommendations of Majlis-e-Shura are just that, recommendations!
- Khalifatul Masih<sup>aba</sup> who is guided by Allah can accept, modify or reject a recommendation of Shura
- We hold on to the “rope of Allah” (3:104) to protect us from self-harm and act as our “safety” (24:56)

# Proposals

- The proposals of Majlis-e-Shura are gathered from the local chapters as well as national office holders
- Any local proposal must be discussed and voted upon by the local chapter
- National Amila deliberates upon the proposal to either accept them for discussion, deem them administrative in nature or reject them completely
- All proposals are forwarded to Huzoor<sup>aba</sup> who can change the decision of National Amila
- Accepted proposals are then assigned to sub-committees in Shura for detailed discussion
- Reports from sub-committees are discussed and voted upon by the full Shura and forwarded to Huzoor<sup>aba</sup> for his consideration
- Once again the recommendations of Majlis-e-Shura can be rejected by Khalifatul Masih<sup>aba</sup>

# Other Important Matters

- Shura also reviews and approves the annual income and expense budget of the Majlis
- Shura holds elections for Sadr Majlis every two years
- A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 7 names are presented
- Each member votes three times
- The results are forwarded to Khalifatul Masih<sup>aba</sup> who can select someone with lesser votes or even someone whose name was not even presented
- Observers present in Shura with the permission of Sadr Majlis cannot vote in Sadr elections, give comments or vote on proposals
- Shura members are elected for a full year and can be called again for consultation if needed

# Some Traditions of Shura

- Members are expected to continuously engage in durood, istighfar, and prayers
- Delegates always address the chair when speaking instead of arguing among themselves
- Delegates are expected to reference Quran and Hadith when making a point
- One should not insist on one's opinion. It should be presented with humility
- When asked to stop, delegates should stop right away
- Delegates should judge a point based on merit and never agree or disagree based on who is speaking
- Delegates should stay succinct and not be repetitious
- If a point has been made already then it does not need to be repeated
- Members should sit according to their region and Majlis
- An elected delegate cannot miss Shura or any of its sessions without permission from Sadr Majlis.