

The following is the translation of an Urdu lecture delivered by Hadhrat Maulānā Abul Hasan Ali al-Nadwi (r.a) in Burma [Rangoon] in the year 1961 before the military coup in 1962 – The year in which the troubles for the Muslims living in Burma began.

My friends! This life is perishable; everything of this life is perishable! One's wealth is perishable, honour is perishable, and rule is perishable. Let the rulers listen! – That this reign of theirs will end! Let the wealthy listen that their wealth is going to ditch them! Let the healthy amongst you listen that their health will not last forever!

The only entity that will remain is the name of Allāh! And the efforts put forth in the path of Allāh! And the sacrifice given for the sake of the Deen of Allāh! And striving and the struggle for the sake of Deen!

This time that is passing now is very precious. In addition, if you take some time off from your work and businesses and inculcate the work of Tablīgh in your lives and for that you put in efforts, then Allāh Ta'ālā in its reward will grant you this country in this world and in the hereafter, He will grant you Jannah!

However, if you desist from this effort, which is your obligation, then REMEMBER that you will not be able to live in this country!

I am not saying all this in the guise of a ruler or a politician but in a light of all that Allāh Ta'ālā has granted the Muslims. I am saying this to you in light that your living in this country will become difficult if you do not comply with His Deen and promote the effort of Deen with steadfastness. Moreover, when such efforts are secured then your businesses and factories will be safe. Remember, the instruments for safety for the Muslims in any country is that they strive and persevere for the sake of Deen and make the Deen so strong, that for that country's inhabitants, Allāh himself takes the responsibility of their safety and Allāh himself will take the responsibility of their assistance and then there will be no problems whatsoever.

Here in this country, Burma the most intelligent work to do, the most important, the foremost work to do and the need of the hour is to put in efforts for the sake of Deen, and this will benefit you ultimately.

Until now, it is a secular state but Allāh forbids if it becomes a Buddhist state. If you do not take care of the Deen then there will be nobody who will come to your help. Moreover,

there will be no direction from where help for you will be forthcoming. Anyways now, the government is impertinent, non-assuming.

In the matter of governance, it is Buddhist, but yet Muslim at heart [meaning a secular government]. But when it becomes a Buddhist state [even in ideology], then for the security of your Deen and imparting Deeni education— All this is your responsibility and a religious duty you need to fulfill, and apart from you, nobody else will be responsible for this religious duty.

This is the need of the hour.

If Allāh has given you any understanding, even if you keep a broad understanding [of Deen], then keeping your eyes open and with a bit of reflection, understand what I am saying; that your living in this country without Islām is not possible.

In these times, the most intelligent thing to do, is to strengthen your Islām and to spread Islām, and to preserve the Iman of the Muslim Ummah and to keep them steadfast, just one time, rise up for this cause, and just one time do this work willingly and immerse yourself in this work wholeheartedly.

That every Kalimah reading Muslim here becomes such a strong Muslim, that the biggest of earthquakes.... the fiercest storm and the most disastrous calamity cannot uproot a Muslim from his place.

Strive to achieve this – reach out and spread throughout the country...reach out to the villages, spread the word of Allāh, *keep* calling upon the words of faith, *keep* calling upon the oneness of Allāh, *keep* calling upon and openly spread the teachings of Islām, advise them that the teachings of Islām need to be adopted.

Make them aware of polytheism, its rituals and how it attracts the wrath of Allāh. Tell them that the death of a Muslim is in adopting polytheism. Tell them that the death of a Muslim is in taking part in polytheistic practices, polytheistic rituals. Tell them that the death of a Muslim lies in emulating the ways of the disbelievers.

Put the hate of disbelief [apostasy] in their hearts, put the hate of idolatry [shirk, Kufr] in their hearts, place the horror of polytheism and idolatry in their hearts.

If you become unwary of this work, then remember I am telling you, I am merely reminding you and I do not know if this talk will be remembered or not, but whoever amongst you now is listening carefully or anyone who remembers – recall my words.

I am not a man who foresees the future; I am not a saint who knows what is going to happen after 10 years. However, this matter is so clear as if when someone who sees dark clouds hovering in the sky with strong winds blowing and he says, it is going to rain, and when it rains – nobody calls that person a saint. Because looking at obvious signs and overcast conditions...even a child would have said the same.

In the same way, I am informing you... that tough times are going to come, for the sake of Allāh, do not give such importance to your worldly work as you have been giving before, and for now, strive for the sake of Deen.

Cry out in favour of the teachings of Islām, and for piety, and for unity in the name of Allāh Ta'ālā. Cry out in favour of the teachings of Islām from one corner of Burma to another. Meet with every single Muslim and explain the difference between Deen and disbelief to him.

Put the hate of idolatry in his heart and in the hearts of the children, and create avenues of learning for children and reach out to such far off places and villages whose names you may never ever have heard of before.

Reach out to every single Muslim even if he might not know a word of your language or who stays by himself all alone in a hut across the banks of a river, reach out to such a person too, plead with him, and enjoin upon him: 'O my brother! You are a Muslim, you have to live as a Muslim and die like a Muslim'.

Make him such a person that apostasy should not come close to him. Make him feel so reassured on his faith as if he is staying in a steel fortress. For this work of Tablīgh, there is still some time left, but I do not for how long, but right now, you still have some time to mend your ways.

Therefore, if you make good use of this time and put in the required efforts, then Allāh willing the seat of Deen will remain here, and not just that, even centres from where the propagation of Deen will take place– may open up. In addition, because of its blessings – your businesses and factories, your respect and your honour, and your women and your children will be protected.