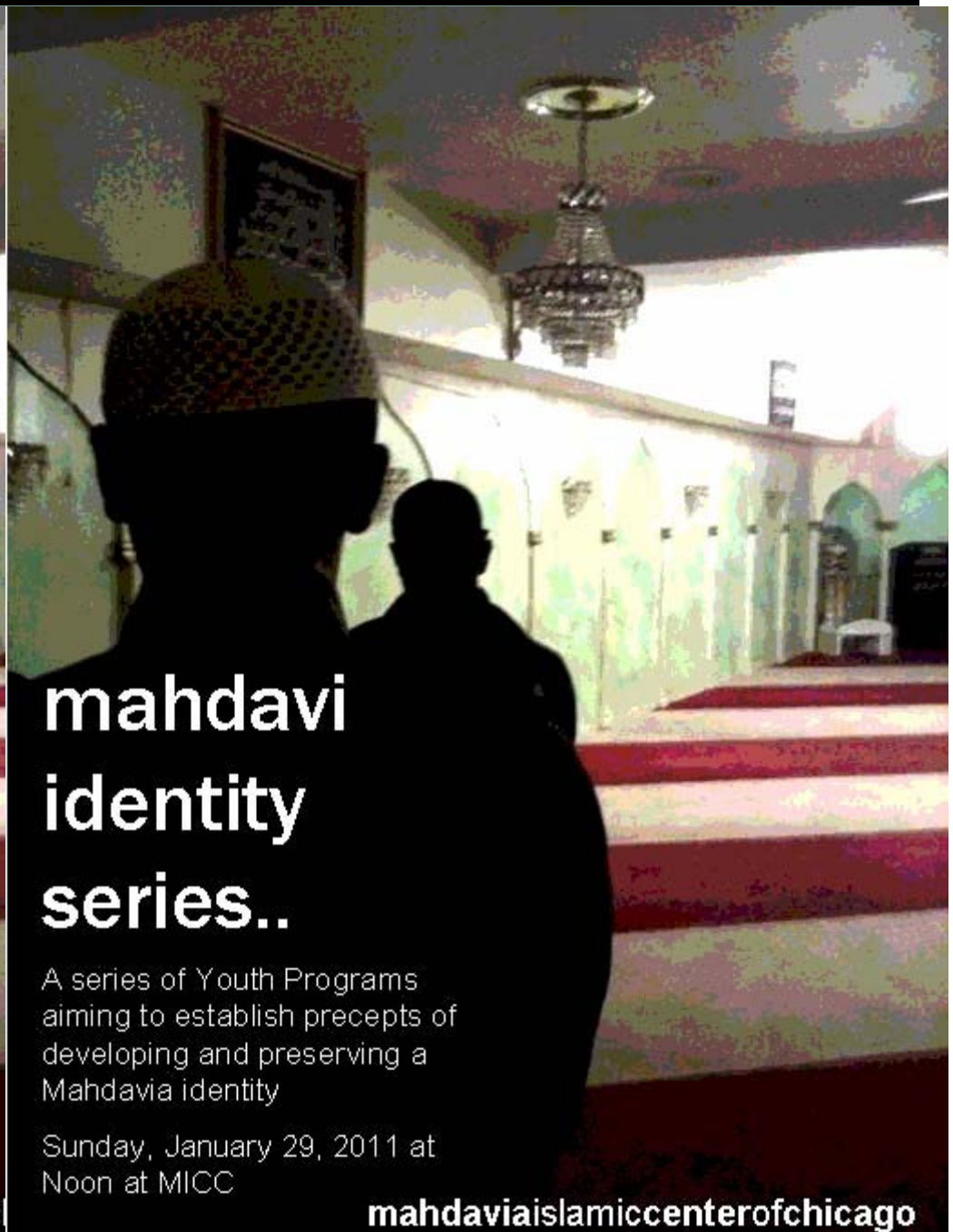
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identity
series..**

A series of Youth Programs
aiming to establish precepts of
developing and preserving a
Mahdavia identity

Sunday, January 29, 2011 at
Noon at MICC

mahdaviaislamiccenterofc

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Concept of Identity



ZUBAIR A. KHAN

Identity



- **Focus on ourselves:**
 - Describe a sense of self
 - Define our affiliations
 - Distinguish ourselves as needed
- **Do not focus on others:**
 - Other's perception of us
 - Stereotypes

Defining an Identity



- **Examples of Identity**
 - Gender - Male
 - Race - Asian Indian
 - Nationality - Indian
 - Age Group - Adult
 - Occupation - Engineer
 - Class - Middle Class
 - Religion - Islam (Muslim), Mahdavi

Identity Transformation

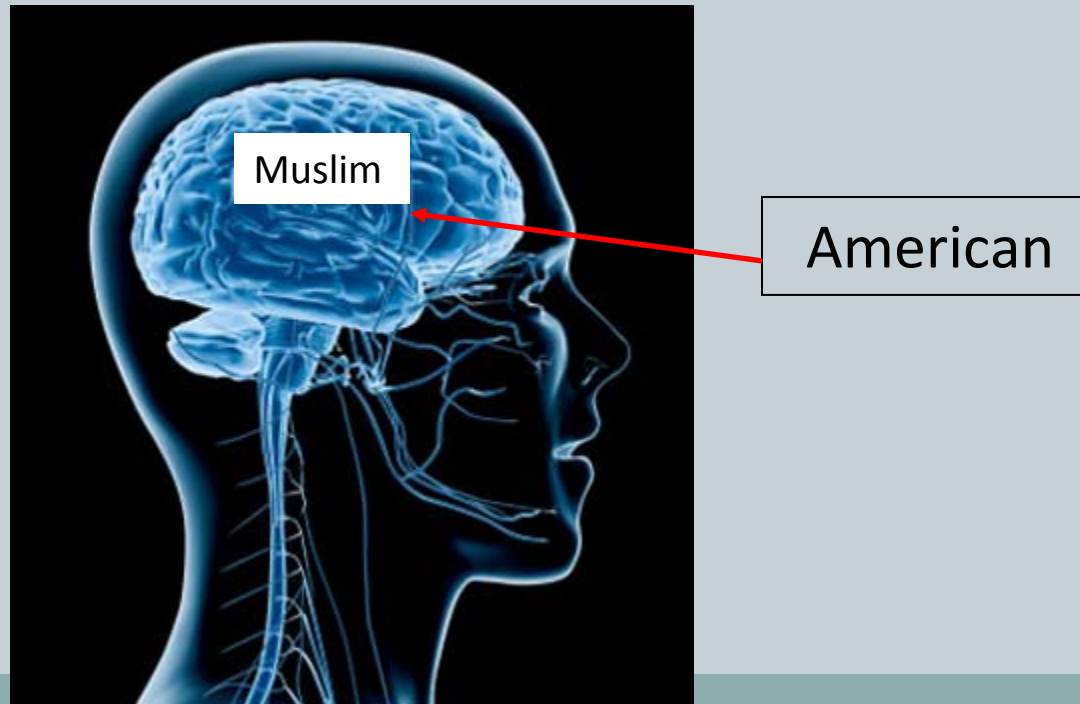


- **Some identities cannot be changed by us**
 - Gender
 - Race
- **Some identities could change over time**
 - Nationality Indian | USA
 - Occupation Student | Apprentice | Engineer
 - Class Lower Class | Middle Class
 - Religion Christianity | Islam

Identity Transformation



- **Intentional**
 - Transformation by choice
- **Unintentional**
 - Response to new circumstances



Development of Identity



- **Assigned Identity: (Childhood)**
 - Told your identity
 - Childhood observations
 - Childhood associations early friends
- **Accept Identity: (Teenage to Adulthood)**
 - Starting to get independent and choose an identity
 - Conscious decision to retain assigned identity
- **Declare Identity: (Adulthood)**
 - Identity has been fully defined and instilled

Which Identity is Important?



- **Obviously: Religious!**
 - Affects the hereafter
- **What is our Religious Identity?**
 - Muslim
 - Mahdavi
- **Is it enough to identify ourselves as Muslim?**
 - No, Mahdaviath is important as well. Let us see why

Intro to Mahdaviath



SHIRAZ M. KHAN

The “Mahdi” figure in Islam



As per Prophetic Traditions(Hadith) we know:

- “Mahdi” means the Rightly Guided or the Promised One.
- Comes from the progeny of the Prophet (PBUH).
- Will have the same name as the name of the Prophet (PBUH).
- The names of his (AS) parents’ will be the same as the parents’ of the Prophet (PBUH).
- Will follow the Prophet(PBUH) without err

Who are Mahdavis



- Mahdavis accept Syed Mohammed Jaunpuri as the Promised Mahdi
- Mahdavis accept that Mahdi (AS) is guided by Allah and therefore is Khalifatullah.
- Mahdavis believe that it is important to adhere to the teachings of Mahdi (AS)

Why we Accept Syed Mohammed Jaunpuri (AS)



- He meets all criteria defined by Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).
- Syed Mohammed Jaunpuri (AS)'s Challenge
 - “Compare my teachings to the Quran and Sunnah; if you find any discrepancies then execute me.”
 - This challenge held true in his lifetime and still holds true today.

Teachings of Mahdi (AS)



- **Our Imam's Core Teachings:**
 - “Mazhab-e-Ma Kitabullah, Wa Ite-Bae Rasulullah” (Our religion is the book of Allah (SWT), and to follow His messenger Prophet (PBUH)).
 - The above preaches absolute compliance to the Shari'ah.
 - **Example** of Mahdi (AS) emphasis on performing Salah as prescribed by Shari'ah.

Teachings of Mahdi (AS)



- **Our Imam's Core Teachings:**
 - Ishq-e-Ilahi (Ardent Love of Allah).
 - The primary mission of Mahdi AS was to bring the servant of Allah closer to Allah.
 - Created awareness of Allah (SWT)
 - Taught us Dependence on Allah alone
 - Emphasized **Talab-e Deedar-e Khuda**

Allah's Command of Deedar-e-Khuda



○ Surah Kahf (Ayah 110):

- ✦ “..So whoever would hope to meet with (see) his Lord – let him do righteous work and not associate in the worship of his Lord anyone.”

○ Surah Kahf (Ayah 28):

- ✦ “And keep thy soul content with those who call on their Lord morning and evening, seeking His Face; and let not thine eyes pass beyond them, seeking the pomp and glitter of this Life; nor obey any whose heart We have permitted to neglect the remembrance of Us, one who follows his own desires, whose case has gone beyond all bounds.”

Mohammed (PBUH) and Deedar-e-Khuda



- We learn the following from Hadith of Jibrail:
 - **Islam**
 - ✦ Testifying existence of Allah (SWT).
 - **Iman**
 - ✦ Believing in the existence of Allah (SWT).
 - **Ihsan**
 - ✦ A state in which you have attained absolute certainty of the existence of Allah (SWT). [Deedar-e-Khuda]

Mahdi (AS) and Commandment on Deedar-e Khuda



- With Allah's guidance has made it Farz.
- When you accept Mahdi-e-Maud (AS) as Khalifatullah (Caliph of Allah), you follow all of his teachings.
- This is the essence of Mahdi (AS)'s teachings which are the Teachings of Ihsan.

Mahdavis vs. Other Muslims



- **Mainstream Islam**

- Ultimate goal is to achieve salvation (Jannah).
- Focus on ibadat to earn sawaab.
- Other Muslims do not accept Syed Mohammed Jaunpuri(AS) as the promised Mahdi, and are still waiting for him (Sunnis).

- **Mahdaviath**

- Also Believe in achieving Jannah. However, our ultimate goal is to be blessed with Deedar-e-Khuda (Vision of Allah (SWT)).
- Puts focus on ibadat for the sake of Allah (SWT) alone.

The Identity of Mahdavis



MANSOOR K. SYED

By Aqeeda



- **Mahdavis believe:**
 - Syed Mohammed Jaunpuri is the Promised Mahdi.
 - Mahdi (AS) did not bring a new religion, but reinforced Islam and focused on Vilayath (Sainthood).
 - A Murshid's guidance is necessary in the path to Allah (SWT).
 - Strive to achieve the highest level of practice (Ihsan)
 - The 27th night of Ramadan is the night of destiny/power (Lailatul Qadr). This night was revealed on our Imam Syed Muhammad Jaunpuri Mahdi Mau'ood (AS).

By Practices



- **By our distinct practices:**
 - Desire to seek the vision of Allah (SWT)
 - Follow the 7 Faraiz-e-Vilayath (Obligatory)
 - Have the concept of a Diara (Camps)
 - Say "Allah Diya" when giving others something
 - Read Tahyital-Wudu prayers
 - Ask for forgiveness and forgiving everyone on 10th Muhurram (Ashura)
 - Mahdavis do not offer Nafil prayers; instead we spend the time in Zikr (Constant remembrance of Allah (SWT)).

Develop and Preserve the Identity of Mahdaviath



- **Assign Identity: (Childhood)**
 - Told you are a Mahdavi
 - See Mahdavia practices being done by people surrounding you
 - Associate with other Mahdavis
- **Accept Identity: (Teenage to Adulthood)**
 - Learn what it means to be Mahdavi
 - Put what you learn into practice
- **Declare Identity: (Adulthood)**
 - When asked, you declare (without any hesitation) that you are a Mahdavi

Action Items and Conclusion



SHIRAZ M. KHAN

Recommended Mahdavia Text



- **“Al Qaul Al Mahmood – An Introduction to Mahdavia Beliefs”** by Hazrath Syed Ali Yadullahi
 - <http://khalifatullahmehdi.info/books/english/Al-Qual-Al-Mahmood.PDF>