

## Ayatullah Taskhiri's Message

On the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Hazrat Fatima Zehra (PBUH), which is celebrated as International Women's Day, the Chairman of the Culture and Islamic Relation Organisation Ayatullah Mohammed Ali Taskhiri issued a message to the women of the world especially the Muslim women.

Ayatullah Taskhiri, while extending his sincere greetings on the occasion, asserted that the Almighty has selected the model of good and bad person from amongst the women. The Holy Quran presents Asiya as an example of a good lady and the wives of Hazrat Nooh and Hazrat Loot as the examples of bad persons. But good ladies feel proud of following Hazrat Zehra, who is the leader of the world's women and posses such qualities which are essentially supposed to be emulated by all.

He further recited a verse from the Holy Quran, which proves that men and women are the source of completion for each other. He further described the significant qualities of Hazrat Zehra (PBUH) which converted her into such a model woman whose acts and action should be emulated by all.

Hazrat Fatima, while delivering her most important speech, praised the almighty in a most commendable manner and also reminded the Muslims of their duties and responsibilities after the death of her father Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) whose *shariat* was not limited to his life time

but is to be followed till the day of resurrection.

He further said that Hazrat Fatima during her childhood remained with her father in Mecca and Abu-Talib valley and tolerated all kinds of inhuman and barbaric behaviour of the enemies of Islam. In her young age, she was married to Hazrat Ali, who had dedicated his life to the Divine cause and had continued his struggle in the way of the almighty till he breathed his last. Besides, Hazrat Zehra shouldered the responsibility of protecting Islam from the enemies and imparted necessary training to her sons and daughters about the ways and means of protecting Islam.

Ayatullah Taskhiri further asked the Muslim women, who are the true followers of Hazrat Zehra, to safeguard Islam from deviations and misconceptions all over the world. He further said that Muslim women all over the world, especially in Afghanistan, are being subjected to various kinds of inhuman oppressions and humiliation due to the misunderstandings about Islam and human problems. These Muslim women will not be liberated from the oppressive rulers unless the women of the world extend their helping hand to them.

Continuing, Ayatullah Taskhiri said that the present age is the age of cultural invasions. The expansionist elements are actively engaged in snatching the deep rooted faiths and confi-



dences of the worlds nations with the aim of replacing the real Islamic models with the new westernised ones. Islam is the main target of such cultural attacks and invasions as enemies have a better idea of the capabilities of Islam. They are using the idea of liberation and freedom of women for their own benefits by imposing the western culture on the Islamic society, which could be possible only after detaching the Muslim ummah from their exalted models. This can be verified from the Beijing and Cairo declarations.

Ayatullah Taskhiri further reminded the Muslim women of their important duties and obligations during such a sensitive period of time and asked them to be more vigilant and alert. He further asked them to know of their justified rights conferred on them by Islam in order to give a befitting reply to the enemies of Islam and also to defeat their nefarious plans and designs against Islam and Islamic society which permit the Muslim women to participate in all kinds of social, economic, cultural and political infrastructures of the society in adherence with the tenets and principles of their esteemed religion. □