

Bitavhati Madinkha d'Maninaye
THE MANINAYE WORLDWIDE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE
"To Promote the Unity of the People of the Religion of Light"

Email: woc@manichaeen.org Web: www.Manichaeen.org/woc

22 July 2012

On the Subject of Various Means of Sharing the Message of Light

To our dear brethren of the Religion of Light, Shlama!

In a message given on the evening of July 21, 2012, the Prophet Mani has said: "If you wish to share the Message of Light with others, first one needs to develop appreciation for the Truth; second, one needs to become wise in the Message of the Gospel; third, one needs to cultivate love for all living beings.

"One can not effectively share the Message of Light with others if one does not have an appreciation for the Light and Truth of God revealed in both ancient and modern times. One can not effectively share the Message of Light if one does not have knowledge of the Message within the Gospel. Even a basic knowledge of the Truth in the Gospel, the basic beliefs of the Faith, is sufficient for one to share gems of the Truth with others. One must cultivate loving kindness for all living beings in order to effectively share the Gospel with others. True compassion is required for all loving beings no matter what their individual situation may be in life.

"The Message of Light not only gives hope to humanity for the future, but also gives strength to each soul which has the propensity to hear and apply its Glorious Message in their every day lives. Each devoted servant of the Message of Light has the responsibility of sharing the Gospel with all souls."

There are various means to do accomplish this divine service in behalf of all humanity. Some may speak to individual members of their family or to their friends, others may assist in the translating, publishing and distribution of the various publications provided by Brethren or from the Manichaeen Publication Society, while others fulfill their responsibility by visiting nursing homes, hospitals, or prisons. Still, others may find additional effective means in which to share the Message of Light such as setting up information booths or book stalls at certain public events, hosting a seminar, sharing through the use of the Internet such as with a Web

site or through the many different social networks that were not available years ago. The point is to share the Message in whatever means we are able according to our abilities and within the laws of the land in which we live. Our Spiritual Patriarch said, "There is no such thing as alternative service; rather, any form of sharing the Message of Light is full service in behalf of humanity."

When we have the opportunity to distribute the various publications with others, it is very important to keep in mind that we only use the publications that have been produced by our fellow Manichaeans Brethren and approved by the Manichaean Publishing Trust.

When we find ourselves living in a dangerous area or neighborhood, or when there is political and civil strife where we reside, the conditions are obviously not going to be the most ideal for us. At times we may find it very difficult to share the Message of Light in the public. In such situations it is necessary for us to practice discretion. There are other times when persecution presents itself and bars us from doing any public work in behalf of the Message of Light. Discretion is always necessary in every situation.

Each Disciple of Mar Mani should also not waste too much energy on those who show signs of refusing to hear the Message and those who have clearly stated they do not wish to hear it. In such cases, we simply move on with the knowledge that we have done what we can. We should pray that the individual will have a softer heart and his ears may be open to hear the Message at a later time. However, it is imperative we always bear in mind that we should never attempt to force the Message on anyone, and never use fear tactics as some other religions have done in order to gain adherents. In other words, one would never say to someone, "If you do not accept this message and believe in it, you will go to hell." The Spiritual Patriarch has condemned this form of teaching and has said that it has no place among genuine Manichaeans Brethren. The Spiritual Patriarch said, "The purpose of sharing the Message is not out of any desire to gain adherents to the Religion of Light, but rather to give hope to those who have ears to hear the Truth."

Over a period of time, when enough interest has been shown by an individual we should encourage him or her to dive deeper into the Glorious Message of Truth by sharing with us in studying the Karuzuta (Gospel). Eventually, you may find yourself establishing a Study Group among like minded individuals who are hungering for more knowledge and experience of fellowship within the True Light. A Study Group can be established in our home, or in a local park that is quiet and peaceful or other location that is convenient to all the students involved. As mentioned above, there are times we may find ourselves in situations that do not permit us to share the Message in the public. If one has access to the Internet, online study groups may be the best means of conducting group or individual learning.

For additional information, please refer to the following recent letters from the Organizational Committee:

On the Subject of Isolation and Persecution (13 July 2012)

On the Subject of Authentic Literature and Web Sites (20 June 2012)

Know that our prayers are always with you as you continue to strive in the Work of the Kingdom of Light on earth.

May Il-Ya bless you in all your efforts to advance the pristine Message of Light to all the nations.

On behalf of the World Teacher and the Bitavhati Madinkha d'Maninaye,
your brothers, in sincerity,

The Maninaye Worldwide Organizational Committee

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