



The Sirat Initiative  
Annual Conference Program  
Four Year Curriculum  
2023 – 2026



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# Annual Conference: Our Mission

The Sirat Initiative's annual conference is a youth-driven platform for substantive and meaningful engagement with the Islamic tradition for Muslims across the United States. The conference is rooted in the spirit of revival—centering the values and sacred teachings of the Islamic tradition as *the viable pathway* (i.e. *ṣirāṭ*) for addressing the salient challenges that confront our community, and ultimately for earning the pleasure of God, the Exalted.

We seek to frame the discourse between the Islamic tradition and the circumstances of the modern world by inspiring Muslims to immerse themselves in the sacred *wisdom* rooted in Revelation and exemplified by the Messenger of God and his purified household:

Indeed, God grants wisdom to whomever He wills, and he to whom wisdom is granted has been granted an abundance of good. [al-Qur'ān 2:269]

By seeking that '*abundance of good*' in the Providence of God, we aim to motivate and empower Muslims—young and old—toward fostering a constructive Islamic identity in their communities—one that is anchored in the profound depth and multivalent beauty of the Islamic tradition.

To that end, the conference serves as a landmark annual event where attendees gather and collectively experience a holistic paradigm of Muslim spiritual life, including congregational prayer, communal meals, social functions, features of Islamic arts and culture, and more. It will offer a robust and engaging roster of programs for all members of the family, each featuring a variety of qualified speakers and scholars who will share their insights and wisdom, illuminating the hearts and minds of wayfarers along the path to the Beloved.

Over the next four years, we shall endeavor to fulfill this mission under the overarching theme of A Return to Tradition...



# A Return to Tradition

*This is the tradition of God [sunnata llāhi] with those who passed before,  
and you will find no alteration in God's tradition. [al-Qur'an 33:62]*

While the term tradition (from the Latin *traditio*) conveys the meaning of 'that which has been transmitted,' the notion of tradition implies more than simply the passing down of beliefs and customs from one generation to the next. At the heart of tradition is the manifestation of the sacred through prophecy and revelation, and the unfolding and elaboration of that sacred message to guide human beings back to their Origin and Source. As such, tradition encompasses all dimensions of religious and spiritual life, from a vertical (or inward) orientation toward the Absolute, to horizontal (or outward) continuity where the presence of the sacred permeates all aspects of the social order, from religious rites and rituals to family, culture, and social life.

Tradition is like a tree, the roots of which are anchored in the splendor of revelation and prophecy, and whose trunk and branches are a blossoming forth of the sacred order. At the heart of this tree is *ad-dīn*—a complete embrace of the Divine Reality that translates into a holistic orientation about the sacred in all aspects of life. The trunk of the tree is the *sunnah*—the sacred Prophetic model that inheres to and is inseparable from tradition. And the branches and blossoms of the tree are the *silsilah*—the golden chain extending from the God to Jibrīl to the Prophet to the Imām who recapitulates all meaning and beauty back to the Origin and Source.

Seeking a *return* to tradition is not nostalgia for the past or longing to revive an age that has gone by. It is, rather, a nostalgia for the sacred—a desire to *recover* a holistic orientation about the sacred that is wholly absent from the modern order—an order in open revolt against the sacred, and one that embodies the betrayal of tradition, the desacralization of the world, the rein of quantity over quality, the de-sanctification of man, and ultimately, the embrace of human subjectivism, desire, and 'progress'.

Over the next four years, the annual conference will endeavor to articulate the traditional Islamic worldview as *the last religion* and only viable alternative to the modern worldview in which we are entrenched, as well as a balm and remedy for the convergence of crises and ailments that plague modern man. Each year, the conference will be characterized by a motif that represents a specific emphasis within the overarching theme of A Return Tradition:

Year I (2023): *Recovering the Sacred*  
Year II (2024): *The Splendor of Revelation*  
Year III (2025): *The Seal of Prophecy*  
Year IV (2026): *Walāyah: The Path of Initiation*



# Recovering the Sacred

‘For traditional man as for traditional society, the *sacred* is equivalent to a *power*, and, in the last analysis, to *reality*. The sacred is saturated with *being*. Sacred power means reality and at the same time enduringness and efficacy.’ [Mircea Elaide]

The polarity between the traditional and modern order can otherwise be expressed as a polarity between the sacred and the profane—an opposition between *real* and *unreal*. The abyss that divides these two modalities of experience (or indeed, these two *worldviews*) sets up two distinct modes of being, each representing vastly distinct positions that man occupies in the world.

For traditional man, the entirety of the natural order is capable of revealing itself as a manifestation of the sacred. Inasmuch as he exists in the world, he seeks to sanctify himself—to seek the greatest degree of proximity to God possible, because in doing so, traditional man attains sanctification, and ultimately, *being*. Embracing the sacred provides traditional man with an *orientation*; it situates him (and, indeed, all of traditional society) in relation to the Divine, creating a consecrated realm within the vast expanse of the world wherein traditional man orients himself and charges the vital functions of human life. His profound nostalgia is always to inhabit a sacred world in hopes of attaining transcendence.

Modern man, on the other hand, refuses transcendence. He perceives the world as a profane realm, and the vital functions of human life as devoid of sacrality. Whether it is the endeavor of education, work, marriage, or raising children, these vital functions can never become sacraments or means of transcendence. He regards himself as the sole subject and agent of history, and reduces reality to a set of relativistic propositions that ultimately lead him to doubt the very meaning of existence. The sacred is the prime obstacle to his fulfillment—in order to *make himself*, he must desacralize the world. He will not attain freedom until he has killed the last god and rendered his own ego a deity. His is a tragic existence, set in fierce opposition to the vestiges of tradition against which he rebels.

But to whatever degree modern man resents tradition and seeks to desacralize the world, his endeavor of a profane life never totally succeeds. Whether he concedes it or not, the modern world still descends from a traditional order, and he can never totally outstrip his heritage. Modern man is, by definition, *against tradition*—he is made by opposing his forbears and emptying himself of the sacred. And though modern man has succeeded in transforming the world and toppling the traditional order pursuant to the demands of technology and ‘progress’, the fragments of tradition remain, transmitted and etched, both within the margins of pages and within the margins of our souls—our primordial nature.

It is precisely those fragments of tradition, which endure all around and within us, that we seek to rediscover. By *recovering* a sense of the sacred, both within and without, we can restore a cosmological valence to the world, and reorient ourselves in relation to the Divine.



# The Splendor of Revelation

﴿وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تِبْيَانًا لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ﴾

﴿..and We revealed (tanzīl) unto you the Book as a clear explanation of all things—  
as guidance and Mercy and glad tidings for those who submit﴾

(Sūrat an-Naḥl, Verse 89)

At the heart of the Islamic tradition lies *Revelation (tanzīl)* — a profound and divine illumination that is the foundation of Muslim faith and religious life. Revelation, as manifested in the Noble Qurʾān, embodied in the person of the Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ, and elucidated by the Ahl al-Bayt عليه السلام, is not merely a historical record but an enduring wellspring of timeless wisdom and a means to discerning the most profound truths of our existence.

*Revelation* is the divine message that connects and guides man unto his Creator, piercing the veil between the material world (*dunya*) and the eternal truths (*al-ḥaqāʾiq*). Revelation serves as the animating spirit by which Muslims comprehend the nature of their own creation, the purpose of their existence, the guiding virtues by which to live, and ultimately, spiritual counsel along the path to salvation. This Revelation is not confined to words on a page; it is a call to remembrance (*dhikr*) — a continual returning-back unto the Absolute.

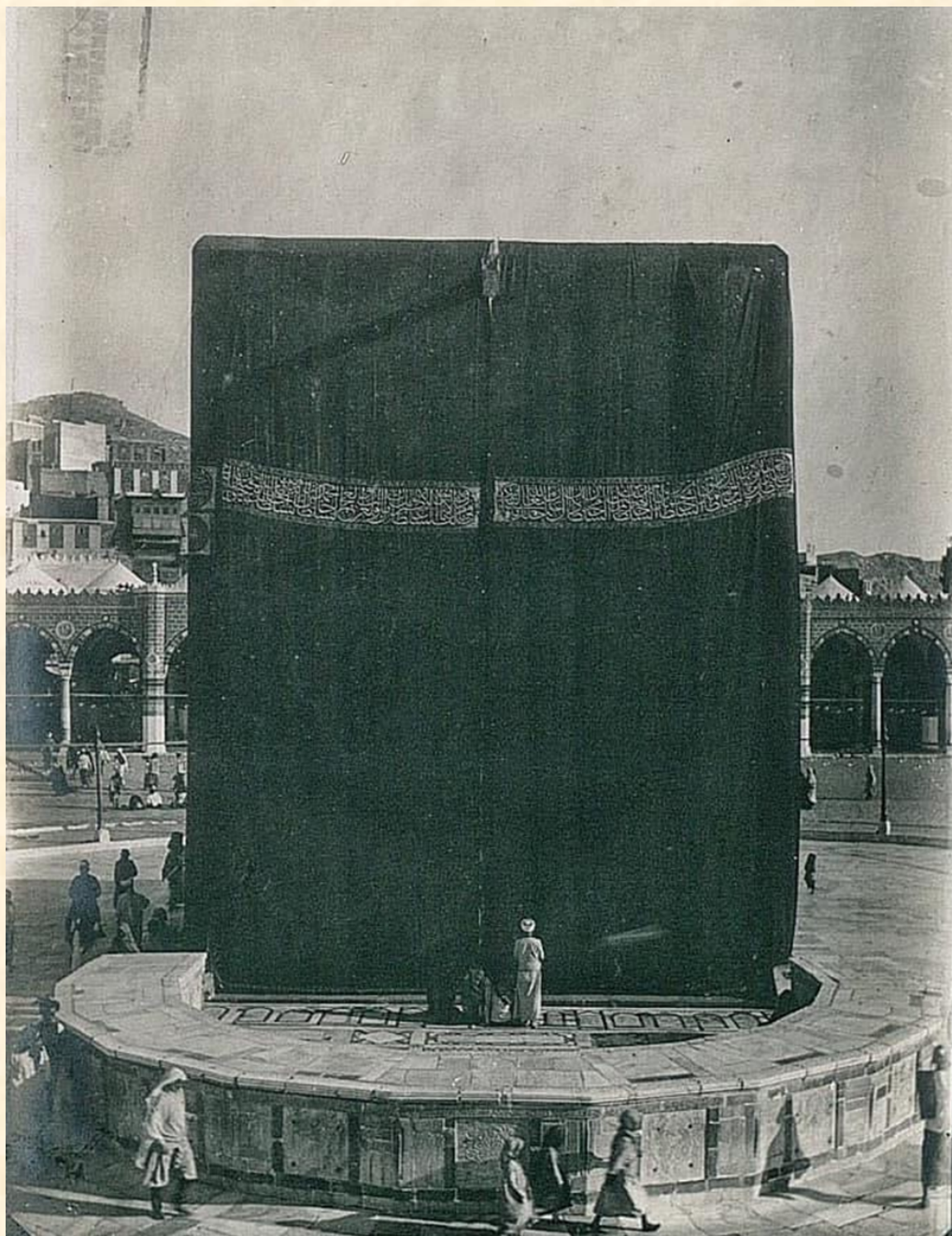
At the core of this year's theme, *The Splendor of Revelation*, is the understanding that the Noble Qurʾān is not merely a book — it is a sign and symbol of Truth, and a lasting source of spiritual renewal. The waters of revelation are deep — each sūrah and āyah serving as a window into the Divine, an invitation to contemplate, to reflect, and to immerse oneself in the ocean of God's Wisdom. This act of remembrance (*tadhakur*) and contemplation (*tadabbur*) is a polishing of the heart that serves as a compass for all who seek to attain the Pleasure of God.

This year's Conference program will emphasize the splendor and multivalent nature of the Noble Qurʾān as it invites believers to engage with the depths of its wisdom and to manifest those learnings in all aspects of life. In a world of somnambulance (*ghaflah*), where materialism and the pursuits of desire overshadow spiritual aspirations, this theme calls for a re-engagement with the Divine Word, seeing in it the power to awaken and transform hearts, minds, and societies. Amid the multiplicity and darkness of the modern world, we seek refuge in the light of Revelation as a sacred paradigm of guidance and spiritual renewal.

Join us, that together we may rediscover the awe and majesty of the Divine Message and rekindle the light of revelation in our hearts.

# The Seal of Prophecy

[Synopsis will be published for the 2025 Conference]



# Walāyah: The Path of Initiation

[Synopsis will be published for the 2026 Conference]





