

In the name of Allah, the most Compassionate, the Merciful.

IMAM KHOMEINI AND ISLAMIC AWAKENING

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“Call unto the way of your Lord with wisdom and good exhortation, and reason with them in the best way. Lo! Your Lord best knows who go astray from His path, and He knows best those who are rightly guided.”¹

Allah created this universe and all that is in it for his own glory and that He desired to get Himself acquainted with others. The creation of all these things demonstrates His glory, His love, grace, power, wisdom and goodness. He wants everyone to bow before Him to worship only Him. He sent man on the earth with His own Law which we call Religion.

Religion is to guide man, to elevate his moral nature, to open for him inexhaustible treasure of sound thinking and right action and to launch him into wide horizons of truthfulness and goodness. In other words, religion is to acquaint man with God as well as with himself and the rest of the universe. Man is the great link between religion and politics. In the former it involves his spiritual, ethical and moral

¹ Quran: 16:125

consideration while in the latter it concerns him and his material well being.

And to enforce His Law in the form of religion, He chose Islam as the best religion, "INNADDEENA INDALLA HIL ISLAM." He sent a large number of prophets and in the last the Head of Prophets, the Last One (be peace upon Him and His progeny) and revealed to him His message through His Holy Book, wherein He declares,

“He it is Who sent His apostle with guidance and the religion of truth, that He might cause it to prevail over all religions though the polytheists may be averse.”^۱

And to spread Allah’s message and “DEEN” the prophet and his God chosen Successors (Caliphs) withstood every type of enmity and problem and even made the supreme sacrifices with only one aim to enforce Allah’s DEEN in its real spirit.

History has witnessed that Muslims have always been oppressed by the agents of Satan and its satanic forces at large. But time has produced Sages to rescue the oppressed. And one of the eminent Sages of the History of the world is the Great Sage of the era is Hazrat Imam Khomeini, who echoed the call of awakening and uprising against oppression in the world. Without the least doubt the awakening of Muslims worldwide especially in the Muslim states and their return to the message of the Holy Quran have been inspired by the thoughts and actions of the Late Imam.

The self-belief, confidence and yearning for independence of the Muslim states, make us recall what the Late Imam had said: the voice of

^۱ Quran: Toba: ۳۳.

the great Revolution of Iran reverberates around the world. A month before the victory of the Islamic Revolution in ۱۹۷۹, a reporter asked Imam Khomeini in Paris, “Do you think that Iran’s events might be felt in Turkey? The Imam answered that the sacred movement of Iran is Islamic and hence it is natural to feel its impact every where in the world.

The victory of Islamic revolution of Iran by Imam Khomeini showed to the oppressed nations of the world that with trust in God, steadfastness and reliance on the dynamic teachings of Islam, one can overcome the most powerful regimes. Yahya Abdul Aziz Jammeh the former Gambian president referred to the Islamic revolution as the finest model for all Muslim states for liberation from the yoke of colonialism.

Imam Khomeini by reviving the practicability of Islam and its laws in Iran actually invited the ummah to rediscover its identity so that the hegemony of the foreign powers in the economic, political and military fields could be broken. He said, Hopefully Muslim world would comprehend their problems and by forging solidarity on the basis of Islam get rid of colonialists. The basic option is that the Muslim nation and the government should try to get rid of the intellectual dependence on the West and strive to regain their culture and originality. He thus promoted scientific self sufficiency and self reliance without depending on foreign powers.

The Islamic movement of the Iranian people with its emphasis on the spirituality and spread of Islamic culture breathed moral and spiritual identity into Muslim societies. Members of scientific board of Iran’s Imam Husain University Dr. Hasan Ali Akbari says, despite the west’s

efforts to ignore Imam Khomeini's thoughts, today world nations have become better aware of the Imam's prophetic words.

Today more and more nations are demanding the end of Israel as is evident by the slogans of the people of Egypt and other countries. In other words the current of awakening is the real demand of humanity. This current needs a brave and scholar standard barrier and Imam Khomeini initiated this movement in the world. The Imam's words stemmed from the genuine precepts of Islam and natural language of human being. Any person with common sense who ponders over Imam Khomeini's words will naturally be inspired by them.

The campaign against oppression for restoration of the dignity of self respect of nations and regaining of their rights were all inspired by Imam Khomeini. We keep alive the path of Imam Khomeini which according to the present leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyyed Ali khamenei is ever lasting truth.

Different writers and thinkers have recorded the influence of the Islamic revolution in their journals and Papers. I do quote certain important writers: (Translation)

“The establishment of Imam Khomeini in Iran provided a new spirit in the Islamic world and bestowed upon it a new political and cultural style in a very short span of time, which could have never foreseen.”^۴

“The Supreme Leader of Islamic revolution, undoubtedly, is the real inventor of Islamic movement that boosted the morale of every

^۴ Monthly Islam and West.... Issue ۷۸.

Muslim to live with honor and respect. This revolution was above all nationalistic perceptions and was free from any such effect.⁴

“Imam Khomeini conquered the heart and soul of thousands of people across the world and succeeded in becoming their beloved leader.”⁵

“Imam Khomeini gave a new meaning of life to thousands of people and showed them a ray of hope against oppression.”⁶

On ۱۷/۱۱/۱۹۷۹ Dr. Marwin Zionis, a teacher in an American University, affirmed in an interview with Risalat News Agency that the impact of Islamic revolution has reached Middle East and is a real provocator of many Islamic and political movements.

Internationally, the initial impact of revolution was immense. In non Muslim world it changed the image of Islam generating much interest in Islam. There were speculations that the revolution might change the world balance of power more than any political event. The Islamic republic positioned itself as a revolutionary beacon under the slogan “neither East nor West” i.e. neither soviet nor American, and called for the overthrow of capitalism, American influence and social injustice in the Middle East and the rest of the world. Revolutionary leaders in Iran gave and sought support from non Muslim causes in the third world, e.g, the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, IRA in Ireland and anti apartheid struggle in South Africa.

⁴ Prof Kartson Cople, (The Face of Islam.....۶۷)

⁵ (Geo political Iran....Fowler).

⁶ (The Leader of Philippine Movement.)

In the Middle East and Muslim world particularly in its early years it triggered enormous enthusiasm and redoubled opposition to western intervention and influence.

The revival of Islamic culture

The Islamic revolution by and large affected various Islamic societies and germinated the seeds of love and respect for safeguarding the SIGNS OF ALLAH, their cultural heritage. The youth felt the importance of religious teaching and organized numerous seminars to spread the message of Islam and to replace the English culture with it.

The world now feels a thirst for the real Islam

Man today, being away from spirituality feels tiresomeness amongst the illusions and mirages of the mortal world and is in search of a spiritual power that could sail his boat across the ocean of chaos and confusion which could bring him into the light from the darkness.

“Allah is the guardian of those who believe. He brings them out of darkness into the light.”[∨]

Imam Khomeini felt this urge of the masses and thus he said, “The world has now a thirst for the real Islam.”[^]

[∨] Baqra, verse No ۲۰۷.

[^] Saheefa-e-Noor , Part ۲۰, page ۳۳

Before the revolution, most of the philosophers and thinkers were of the view that Islam like Christianity is an out-dated and old-fashioned religion which has no relevance in the modern times. A German philosopher Beagle said, “From historic point of view Islam has lost its effect on the society.”⁹

But the Islamic revolution proved that Islam is beyond any historical perception and is a real and alive religion of Allah, Who has vowed to retain and protect it Himself.

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ
(حجر، ٩)

Iran revolution brought worldwide consequences and proved to be an effective force for acquiring freedom from the chains and clutches of colonialism of the west. Islam was thought to be a religion to only practice prayer and fasting. (SAUM-O-SALAAT). But it was the result of this revolution that really revolutionized the ideology of not only Muslims but others also realized the just-political aspect of Islam. The revolution showed the way to reign the masses with perfect equality, justice and fraternity without violating the fundamental rights of human being.

To protect the busy and officious humanity in the filed of education and science from any misguidance and to provide him the facility to follow the valuable school established by the Holy Prophet and his successors, Imam Khomeini gave a solid and concrete concept

⁹ Monthly Parto, ٨,٢, ١٣٨٣, page ١٧٦.

so as to quench the thirst from the ocean of knowledge of Divine Sciences.

It is the need of the hour to follow the foot steps of Imam Khomeini to attain our respect and dignity back and to live with a mind that is free of fear of any else than Allah.

May the soul of the Great Sage of the era rest in peace in Jannah.