

“...Humble towards the Believers...”

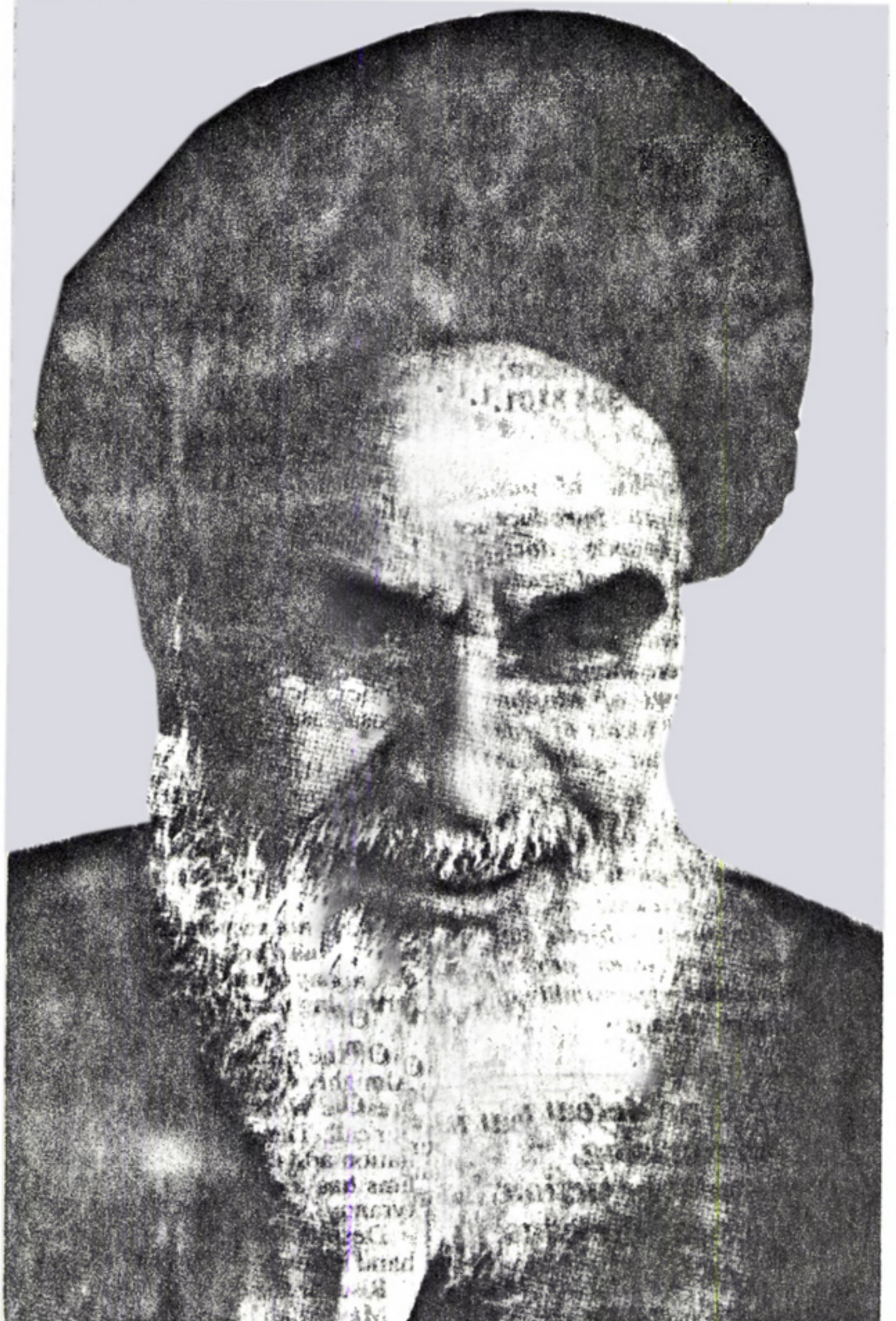
When I compare the state administrators of today with those of the past regimes, such as Qajarid dynasty, or even with those during the reign of Reza Shah and that of the Shah's, I cannot but truly acknowledge the considerable differences which are quite noticeable in our administrators as well as our envoys abroad. We all know the mentality of the past civil authorities of this country. On the strength of this improvement the affairs of the masses were entrusted upon our own people. This brought an end to the despotism of villains and ruffians.

In the past the true representatives of our people would not involve themselves in the affairs of their fellow-countrymen on any large scale, nor would they be permitted to do so. Or perhaps, they were unwilling to implicate themselves in the overwhelming corruption of the ruling class.

One of such circumstances, for instance, was the election for the Majlis (Assembly). Virtually all the people stayed away from the parliamentary elections, because the governments had never cared for them. During Qajarids the groups of the influential tribal heads and big landowners and what-nots had the control of state in their hands. This trend was more conspicuous during the time of Reza Shah, which was characterized by the presence of his personal aids here and there. Therefore the overall situation was marked by a general submission and indifference towards the society; hence, they would not assert their rights. A group of officials perpetrated outrageous crimes against the masses in all corners of the country without giving the public a chance to protest. During the Qajarids, in particular, a selected number of people, such as viceroys and the government ministers, were granted

very large feuds. For example, the government would donate a whole province to a favoured person in return for his good services, though against a fee, but with an express right allowing the favoured person to rule his domain as he pleased. In

other words, the favourite was entitled to buy a geographical region from the central government on the understanding that upon the purchase he would be empowered to run the affairs of the province in question, much to his own taste. By rights he



was the ruling master of the people of that province with an assurance that the protests of the people, if any, would not incriminate him whatsoever.

Today, I witness a tremendous change in those traditions. Today, our president, our prime minister, our cabinet ministers and the rest of the officials themselves are from the masses. They have not emerged from a special level of the society, nor are they from the miscreant influentials of the past.

Our government administrators, today, like our president are either from the rank of our theological students or from the community of small businessmen. Their outward appearance speaks of their modest social status. Some of them are simple students of theology as well as other fields of learning, but they are currently acting as our ambassadors abroad. Others used to be students of colleges, or small businessmen in bazaar, or teachers of colleges who have now assumed other responsibilities to perform.

We must appreciate this social condition to the utmost. We should

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seize upon this opportunity which is available to us. We must make every effort to attend to the needs of our people in the service of Islam.

In the past regime, I am sure, seldom did anyone have a chance to visit one of our embassies abroad. Nonetheless, we were fully aware of what went on in those places. Now the situation has altered considerably. This I know for a fact, but I must warn that the change must be a radical one. A new order must be established and sustained so that it can be

perpetuated by our successors. A visitor to our embassies must notice a foreign embassy with a difference, in contrast with other embassies, even unlike the embassies of other Muslim states.

Nowadays, not only do we have to carry a responsibility for today, but the order we establish must be capable of being handed down to our future generations to whom we would be answerable. We have the responsibility of being concerned not only for our own time, but equally about what would be happening in the future. We have a duty and a

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moral obligation to establish such a new order in our embassies that they could not easily be disregarded by our successors. Our commitments are to set ourselves on a head-on collision course with the practices of the old regime.

In the past, the civil authorities who used to ransack and loot the people periodically and harass the masses with the brutality of savage beasts, were as meek as galley-slaves towards the visiting foreign agents. The reason was a simple one; they did not enjoy the backing of their own people and thus depended heavily and solely on one person, namely the Shah of the time. I remember, once a British ambassador to Iran, seized the then Prime Minister of Iran by the collar, howling at him that why did he not obey the commands of the representative of the British government? But today not even the head of state of any foreign country is capable of treating even ordinary people in such a manner, let alone ambassadors.

Therefore, we must not miss the opportunity of safeguarding such a divine order for the generations to come. Our first and foremost duty

must be to ensure a safe transition of this system to future recipients intact. This order must be so firmly established that even a probable future malicious successor may not be able to deface it. The wolves are prowling everywhere looking for an opportunity to encroach upon us for their own ambitions. We must make an effort to impress the foreigners with an exemplary humane manner, lest they may wish to duplicate our attitudes, rather than permit ourselves to fall under their spell. Once we have successfully introduced the people to the merits and virtues of our ideological principles, and once we have demonstrated the value of our new social and political system in our host country, we can then rest assured that we have made an impression on their minds, thereby, we have exported our revolution. This is what we, actually, mean by the exportation of our revolution. We expect of our ambassadors to act with a view to be appealing to the governments of their host countries, as we expect of our people to behave in a manner worthy of the Islamic identity which may appeal to other

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people. Knowing that we are working for God, I do hope this great new order will be established by us, and that as the founder of this new system we will be having a share in the good deeds which will, ultimately, be fulfilled by our successors.

May peace and the mercy of God and His blessings be upon us all. ●

*Imam Khomeini
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