

## **Ties between Ashura and Imam Khomeini's Social, Political and Reformative View and Basic Principles.**

--- *Shah Mokhlesur Rahman*

The first month of the HIJRI Calendar is 'Muharram' of which the 10th day is 'Ashura'. The month 'Muharram', especially the day 'Ashura' is very sacred and precious to the Muslims community. In world history Ashura has remained a day to be ever remembered.

The day 'Ashura' of 'Muharram' is the burning evidence of so many ups and downs of world history and of revolutionary tides. Thus this day is of immense significance to the Muslim Ummah and Mankind as a whole. This great day, with a severe jolt, shattered the dreams of those had no faith in Allah, the dishonest and the autocrats. On the other hand, it is a blazing beacon for the virtuous, honest & uncompromising soldiers on Allah's path.

During this month of 'Muharram', Hazrat Imam Hossain(A) was ordered to surrender unconditionally by Yazid's troops and to become loyal and submissive to Yazid. But, the undisputed and uncompromising leader of Islam and truth took a firm promise to keep raised the flag of Islam for justice against injustice, truth against untruth, religion against anti-religion and not to let down the Islam established by his beloved Grand-father in the darkness of oncoming future.

We can see Hazrat Imam Hossain(A) in the field of Karbala in an unprecedented image of endless patience, tolerance and of self-sacrifice. The sight of his family members who were on the verge of death due to hunger and thirst could not deter him from his determination. The tragic death of newly born child Hazrat Asgar could not shake him. The Shahadat of brave Hazrat Kashem, who was his daughter's bridegroom and at the same time his nephew, dressed in wedding ceremonial dress, did not stop him from discharging his duties.

In the field of Karbala on the 10th of Muharram, Yazid's numerous barbaric troops, representing falsehood, were on one side, and on the other side, willing to lay down their lives for truth, were the family of Hazrat Imam Hossain only. Hazrat Imam Hossain drank the tasty beverage of martyrdom caused by the stroke of Khanzar (big dagger) of Shanan Ibne Anas (Sheemar). At the cost of the lives of his entire family he refused to give his allegiance to Yazid who was an enemy of Islam. Thereby, he established victory of truth over falsehood. A poet thus said, "Islam become alive after each Karbala".

Martyrdom are of two natures, one is "Shahadat-e-Sirri" and the other is "Shahadat-e-Zahiri". To embrace martyrdom in a situation where the enemy kills secretly, such as by poisoning, is called "Shahadat-e-Sirri" and martyrdom through death at the hands of the enemy in a battle in the way of Allah (for truth and justice) is called "Shahadat-e-Zahiri". Almighty Allah made glorious Hazrat Imam Hasan(A) and Hazrat Imam Hossain(A) through "Shahadat-e-Sirri" and "Shahadat-e-Zahiri".

Edwar Gibbon in his illustrious book "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" had cited that "In a distant age and climate the tragic scene of the death of Hossain will awaken the sympathy of the coldest reader".

Historically, the tragic chapters of the battle of Karbala, has become a 'sign of requirement on the way' in the ages to come for Muslims.

The founder of the present Islamic Republic of Iran and revolutionary leader Imam Khomeini(R) was inspired by the ideals and sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hossain(A). Through relentless struggle and at the cost of lives of innumerable martyrs, he brought an end to the despotic reign of the Shahan Shah and began the transformation of Iran.

Imam Khomeini(R) was not only acclaimed Iran's religious leader but, enlightened Muslims all over the world immediately accepted him as the Imam of the entire Muslim Ummah.

Both during and after the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian people drew strength from the lessons of Ashura in overcoming the following adversities.

1. They were under the oppressive rule of the late Shah, who was a Fasik and a Munafiq like Yazid, and who demanded total allegiance to himself and wished to impose his brand of Islam.
2. After the Shah's defeat, Kufr forces joined hands and instigated a war by Munafiq Saddam Hossain on the Islamic Republic. Various blockades were imposed and the Mumineen (believers) in Iran found themselves isolated and cut off from essential supplies which was not unlike the situation at Karbala.
3. There were also enemies of Islam within the republic at whose hands many attained "Shahadat-e-Sirri".

Any other leader of the present time under these conditions would have surrendered, compromised, or sought help from others for apparent and short-term welfare of his people.

Hazrat Imam Khomeini(R) did not seek anybody's assistance and he did not surrender. Totally isolated, he sought help from Allah alone. Hazrat Imam Hossain's (A) Shahadat had taught him that death was a far better choice than compromise with Fasiks.



A lesson from Ashura that Truth (Islamic value) must be upheld at any cost and that it shall ultimately prevail over Falsehood (Kufr), has been a guiding principle in framing of social, political and reformative policies after the Revolution.

Almighty Allah has instructed Muslims to "hold firmly the cord of Allah, and be not disunited amongst yourselves". It can definitely be inferred that Hazrat Imam Hossain (A) believed in having only one united Muslim Ummah under one true Islamic leader. In order to remove insignificant differences born out of ignorance, Hazrat Imam Khomeini (R) had declared that each year an unity-week be observed between all Islamic sects.

'Islamic Republic of Iran' is the only country where the state is being run as per Quran and Sunnah, despite all out effort by enemies of Islam to undermine it.

The success of Islamic revolution in Iran on 11th February, 1979, was a blazing beam of light amidst darkness. On that day, the deeds and the era of dark night had come to an end. The historic Islamic revolution of Hazrat Imam Khomeini(R) has been deemed to be an earthquake of great nature. Hazrat Imam Khomeini (R)'s Islamic revolution was not nourished by vehement nationalism, he sought the freedom of the whole mankind. He remained stable like mountain towards his policy and faith and was not ready bow his head to anybody other than the Almighty Allah.

At the inspiration of the Imam a programme named 'Jihad' (religious war) was implemented wherein the students and teachers of Schools, Colleges and Universities had participated. Moreover, "Mustajafin Foundation" was formed with a view to help the distressed peoples through the fund of "Pahlavi Foundation" which was established at the grabbed properties and the captured companies by the royal family. For the welfare of Martyr's family, 'Martyrs' Foundation' and 'Revolutionary Foundation for Lames' for the treatment and comfortable living by the crippled revolutionists had been established.

Hazrat Imam Khomeini (R), as per Islamic Law had ensured the right and status of women in the society. The women, in response to Imam's call had participated in the works to build up the country after following the 'Pardah' or "Islamic Hijab (Veil)" system. It is a significant event in the history of Iran.

"Neither the East nor the West, only the Islam is the greatest" this revolutionary slogan was an extra-ordinary achievement of Hazrat Imam Khomeini (R). This slogan strikes fear in the hearts of the evil superpowers of the world. Sabotages, bombardment, economical boycott or anything else could not shake him a bit from his stand. Each blow he equally knocked back. He announced after the revolution that, "So long the slogan of "La Ilah Illallahu Mohammadur Rasulullah" was not chanted or voiced all over the world, our struggle would be continued. Wherever the struggle of oppressed against the oppressors, we are there".

The events on the day of 'Ashura' shows that an Islamic leader should strive to ensure that Muslims are subject to true Islamic Laws and principles which can never be compromised. In this spirit, under the leadership of Hazrat Imam Khomeini (R), a bold decision was taken that, in the absence of the Twelveth Imam, a Muslim nation could be governed by "Rule of Islamic Jurisprudence".

Hazrat Imam Khomeini (R) was such a flag carrier who by carrying the flag of "la Ilaha Illallahu Muhammadur Rasulullah" like his ancestors, the perfect Islamic voice of Hazrat Mohammad (SM) sounded and re-sounded all over the world. He recovered the lost dignity of the insulted & oppressed Muslims and unveiled the inhuman customs of the East and the West. He was the lamp of hope to the deprived and the oppressed.

An Islamic state has to implement Allah's rules and regulations in the world. Under the leadership of Imam Khomeni(R) activities of Iran started on this basis which is a peoples' representatives' government subject to the fact that sovereignty belongs to Rabbul Al-Amin only. The position of 'Rahbar' (way finder) or Wali Fakih in the Islamic Republic of Iran is very significant.

As stated earlier, the battle of Karbala was mainly between the upholders of true Islam and the Fasiks. Therefore, recognition and establishment of real Islamic values was always a goal of the ancestors of our Holy Prophet (SM).

Similarly, Hazrat Imam Khomeini (R) formulated social, political and reformative policies on these principles. Western school of thought was eradicated from the disciplines of social sciences at educational institutions. Steps were taken to minimize influence of western culture on Iranian society. Western definition of democracy was discarded and peoples representation in the government was ensured under the Islamic system.



## SUMMARY

Since the dawn of time, there has been continuous struggle between truth and falsehood. Some defenders of truth (Islam) have made enormous sacrifices.

Around 1400 years ago, the beloved Grandson of Allah's Messenger Hazrat Muhammad (SM), Hazrat Imam Hossain (A) had left a mark on history as no man had ever done before. The day of Ashura reminds us of his glorious Shahadat and the victory of Islam.

In our time Hazrat Imam Khomeini (R), being inspired by the spirit of Ashura, launched a successful struggle against forces of evil and reestablished Allah's laws in Iran. In the process, man was freed from bondage to man.

The Islamic Revolution in Iran has struck terror in the hearts of global oppressors by opening the eyes of the oppressed in the world.

Imam Khomeini (R) said "Islam is the main cause of fear for the world exploiters of the East and the West. Because Islam is such a power which possess the ability to unite Muslims of the world under the monotheistic flag. Only Islam can curtail the hands of the world's criminal from the Muslim states & its oppressed peoples. Only Islam can place before the world a divine and lofty philosophy".

"We will perform our duties as directed by Allah and as reward whatever success He provides us in this world or the hereafter is in His discretion". ----- Imam Khomeini (R).

"The Holy Quran enjoins unity of people and the great Imams too have called for Muslims towards unity. Basically urging towards Islam is the urging for unity". ----- Imam Khomeini (R).

"Mischievous makers in some of the Muslims countries have created quarrel among the 'Shias' and the 'Sunnis' and they are neither 'Shias' nor 'Sunnis' rather they are the tools of Imperialists who want to snatch away the Muslim states from us". ----- Imam Khomeini (R).

The time has come today for Muslims to unite under one banner of Islam and to strive in the way of Allah.

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