

Islamic
Republic



of Iran

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Imam's Address to the Guests

*In the Name of Allah, the
Beneficent, the Merciful*

On the occasion of this great celebration, which is in fact a great Islamic festival, I extend my congratulations to all Islamic nations and oppressed people throughout the world. I offer my congratulations because this Revolution, which does not belong to Iran alone, is different from those revolutions which have taken place in other countries throughout the world. The revolutions which have taken place in different countries have merely entailed the transfer of rule from one power to another or one tyrant to another or worse. Examine this [issue] for yourselves.

Observe the revolutions that have taken place in the world or the coup d'états that occur or have occurred daily. They are nothing more than revolutions staged to deceive the people where one power is overthrown and another power similar to or worse than the first is brought [to power]. Either the nations undergo no particular changes, or the situations become worse.

Examine the French Revolution and the Soviet [October] Revolution. See what existed before these revolutions and what exists now. Were these nations affected in any way? Did these revolutions really have the good of their nations in mind — or were they all merely the result of force and pressure?

The Revolution in Iran, besides being an important, overwhelming revolution was a revolution which took



place within the hearts and minds of the people. It was a movement of all strata of the nation towards Islam — an Islam which, during this era and particularly in recent times, had been consigned to oblivion. It consisted of little more than a series of empty rituals that had no significant effect on the nation or other nations.

But, through the Will and Grace of God, the Exalted, the Most High, this nation was spiritually transformed. The youth reverted from their previous

[corrupt] state and adopted Islam, understanding what true Islam should be and what their responsibilities were. Following this [transformation] the Revolution was realised.

If this had not taken place, the Revolution in Iran would have been like one of the other revolutions. What took place here and what we consider to be among our many miracles, is an inner revolution. This inner revolution was the reason for the Revolution itself, and gave rise to [the nation's] Islamic awareness, directing their attention towards God the Exalted, the Most High. It's presence during all times was responsible for initiating the uprising which later led to revolution and then victory.

You observe that the presence of the nation and its obedience [to God's Commandments] is increasing day by day. This is not because of the Revolution but because of this inner revolution. The Revolution has become manifest here, there, and everywhere — but it was this inner revolution that emerged in this land which could not have been without the favors of God, the Exalted the Most High.

We have nothing ourselves; whatever has happened has been through His favor. It was through His favor that this Revolution of the conscience arose and transformed the nation from its previous state — of which they are all aware — to the present state which you now observe. This also brought the Revolution to victory, but we must take a closer look at [the reasons for] this victory: the people's inner revolution. Until the cause is realized, the Revolution will be no more than a mere transferral of power from one [command] to another and the situation will be the same as it was before.

These dear visitors who have come from abroad—for which I thank them—must take note of these gatherings in which they are now taking part. Where in the world, at this particular time, can you find such an assembly in which a simple farmer takes his seat alongside the President, or a laborer alongside the Prime Minister, or any other authority? There is no differentiation between the President and the Prime Minister and

the simple farmer. Where else but in the Islamic Republic of Iran can you find such a gathering?

Where can you find a place where the President sits side-by-side with a simple farmer? In most countries you will observe that the presidents are kept secluded and they do not have contact with ordinary people. They do not consider the people as human beings, they only see themselves.

We witness the pervious [Iranian regimes] and I myself witnessed from the time of the Qajar rule to the rule of Reza Khan and that of his son. I was here and saw what the government did to the people from the small towns. The people were distant from those who governed a village or a district, and the only thing they could see from afar was their cortege. Whenever they [rulers] went out, they had almost no contact with the people; instead, they relied only on their bayonets.

The same situation exists in the world today. In other words, the situation is such that if an assembly convenes, the prime minister sits in one place, the farmer in one place and the president in another; or, to put it in another way — the scholar sits in one place and the layman another. But here [in Iran] this is not the situation. And this is [one of the factors] towards the realization of our victory.

I thank God that I am an individual, a servant of a nation, which has experienced spiritual development. This development was indeed God-inspired. It is even impossible for one person to bring about such a transformation in another person — from a life of sin to a life of servitude, knowledge and struggle against disbelievers (*kufar*). If all of us had united to enlighten that people in such a way, the task would have been impossible. For this is a spiritual matter which is under God's command; just as everything is under His Command.

This development is a unique development in the world. If you were to examine the history of any government or nation you could not find a similar case. Our [visitors] who have come from abroad must take note of this,

so that they can help train and transform their nations. They must not go to talk with those in power. They must understand the language of the nation and speak to the nation. If they wish to liberate themselves from the heavy burden of crimes and injustice, they must awaken the nations.

After the 'Ten Days Of Dawn' ceremonies in which we have all sat and discussed what needs to be done, do not forego the issues. If you do, we will never be able to accomplish anything. We must never content ourselves with the present situation; we must always strive for future improvement.

You, who have come here from various parts of the world, are personally witnessing the state of this nation. You have seen and heard propaganda plays against this nation which are found in the cities you have travelled to and will travel to in the future. God willing, you will see whether [this transformation in our nation] has occurred through the use of force or whether it was willful. Foreign propaganda sources claim that this nation was forced to undergo [this transformation]. What power could force such a transformation on a nation? It is God who has created such a favour in their hearts.

You [visitors] must go and divinely inspire your nation; awaken your nations. Make them aware that the world is under the domination of a handful of oppressors, that billions of oppressed human beings are under a hegemony of a small oppressive group. Unfortunately the adverse publicity of the foreign propagandists has been so profound during the past centuries that they made us believe we could not stand up against these powers. They had caused us to fear these powers through their ominous propaganda.

When a certain matter arose, if one foreigner was assigned to impose a directive, the [entire nation] would submit. Other great powers were also initiated by the foreigners; so much so that when, for instance an ambassador of Britain said something, it would have been impossible for his sultan to act contrarily. This was due to these propaganda act-

ivities.

God, the Exalted, the Most High, has transformed Iran in such a way that should a president [of another country] arrive here, people would not observe the usual protocol. This is because of the spiritual development which has occurred. If people respect the president it is because he is a human being.

It has been claimed and continues to be said that Iran is isolated. They claim that both our nation and government are isolated from other nations and governments.

If they mean that we are isolated before other nations, the reverse is obvious. But should they mean that we are isolated before other governments; today there is not a government which expects Iran to submit before OPEC. Yet the U.S., the Soviet Union and France are submissive; they themselves are isolated.

There is much propaganda such as this being spread and a certain number of people tend to believe the claims. Of course, in the past, many more people believed in such propaganda, but today the number of people in Iran who believe this propaganda has decreased considerably as the majority of the people recognize the [deceitful] propaganda tactics.

What I wished to say to these [foreign guests] is: Don't just come here and then return to [your countries] and remain silent. Observe everything. Go and see for yourselves the prisons here. Observe the conditions of the Iraqi war captives and the situation of the general populace. Go and observe our farmers in remote villages. Compare the situation now with that of the past, while we are now faced with the opposition of nearly all governments.

During these few years since the victory of the Revolution and also during this war initiated by the U.S., you can observe what this nation has done. This is because this government is a popular one which emerged from among the people. Where in the world can you find a simple tradesman who has become a Prime Minister or a farmer, for instance, that has assumed another high position?

Where in the world can you find a theological student who has become president? This nation is a unique example for the world. This is because the people have become transformed as they are part of this very [nation].

Do not remain silent; go and transform your people. Tell them about the situation in Iran. Stand up to the mass media; they want to push Islam. They are not concerned with us they are only concerned with Islam. This power does not belong to us; however, and if we were left to ourselves even for one day we could not survive. Our power is the power of Islam. Go and tell [the nations] that they cannot defeat the power of Islam. Object to those who are promoting deceitful propaganda about Iran's movement. When you move among the people do you see the masses walking freely in the streets? Or are they in fear of being killed? Have the women in Iran been totally removed [from the social political and economic arenas] or are they alongside their male counterparts?

Do you want the women here to be totally 'liberated' and do whatever they like? This is contrary to the transformation which has occurred among our women; it is contrary to the transformation which has taken place in our country and nation. Do not be mere spectators and return to your countries and remain silent, then come again next year for [these same ceremonies]. If this continues for another hundred years, these ceremonies would have absolutely no value.

Go among your people and others. Do not think that this task of [informing and transforming your nations] is impossible. You can see what has already occurred. Do not think that Iran was like this in the beginning; it was not like this. This nation has endured so much pain, sacrificed so many of its youth and has made many other self-sacrifices, and it continues to do so. This was due to the fact that the nation became aware, and took a step towards God - and God, the Exalted, the Most High, bestowed

His favours [upon the nation]. Awaken your nations. Whoever you may be, wherever you go, discuss the issues. Do not think about what your government would do if you discuss such issues. In any event, you will be more greatly respected if you do. If you are exiled or imprisoned, your prominence shall increase. Is it this world which you desire, or do you strive for God? If you strive for God, you must not be afraid.

Familiarize the people with God, with Islam and with Islamic ethics, until you achieve results. Our nations, too, will continue to grow and develop as long as it retains the spirit of those who tread the path to Karbala. Should there be, God forbid, a wavering or hesitation [in their resolve], the very same issues of the past or even worse would return. Even the leadership similar to that in the past, or worse, would again take command.

If you wish to be human, you must adopt human values. You must not strive merely for your [daily sustenance] but for dignity, humanity and God. If you wish to strive for God in a fruitful way, you must abandon selfish motives. Satan will not leave the human being alone for a moment and has sworn to God that he will constantly strive to prevent man from achieving his high aims... *save Thy single-minded slaves among them* (Qur'an 38:83)

You are faced with such a sworn enemy. Go and fight him in your countries. Inform the people about this enemy of the inner self who, by working to destroy our consciences, makes us susceptible to other more-worldly evils. Should you destroy that enemy, then Islam would be established among you, and unity and fraternity could be realized. Your heart emptied of fear of love for the world; would enable you to accomplish miracles.

I hope that God, the Exalted, the Most High, will bestow upon the Muslim nations and the wronged and oppressed of the world, spiritual power by which they can overcome the tyrants and followers of Satan.

And I hope that [these guests] who have come from various cities and have taken the time to attend [these celebrations] in Iran pay close attention to the issues here [in Iran] and relate them to their own nations - to be the couriers of the message of this nation for their own countries, to convey the fervour of this nation's movement. They should describe the situation which now exists in this nation to their own countries.

We do not consider Iran alone as our country; we consider all Islamic countries as one, and indeed it should be this way. If we are given the opportunity to confront all the world tyrants, we shall. We do not differentiate between Ethiopian Muslims and Muslims here [in Iran], Islam does not recognize such differences. All are the same, and the differences can only be in piety.

You, too, advise your nations not to listen to the deceitful propaganda of the world mass media. Do not listen to their words.

They want to separate you from Islam. They want to tell you that Iran which strives to act in the name of Islam, is the worst place to be from the aspect of oppression. They claim that due to the atmosphere of repression the lives of the people in the streets are endangered by the revolutionary guards.

Make the people understand that these are just tactics which isolate Islam. This propaganda is not against me or those like me, but against Islam.

You witnessed what happened following the visit of our president to Pakistan and the great reception the Pakistani nation gave him. A paper, a book a treatise was published and then the counter-propaganda campaign was launched all because of a certain religious proclamation [*fatwa*] that was issued. May God curse this Khawjeh Nasir. What were his motives? He is of those pro-American clergymen in Pakistan who upon seeing such an event [the reception of the Iranian president], became frightened lest Islam take roots in [Pakistan] as it did in



Iran. Therefore he published such a book.

At any rate, all of us have a great obligation towards the continuation of the Revolution, and there is much in the way of fulfilling this obligation. Everyone has a role to fulfill, from the government, President and Majlis Speaker to the simple farmer and labourer. Everyone, from whatever part of the country, has an obligation. These obligations do not belong to one or two. Each and every person has a definite obligation for preserving the Islamic Republic of Iran. The most incumbent issues of the world are more important than prayer, for they deal with the preservation of Islam. Prayer is a ramification of Islam and the duty of all.

There is no difference between Turks and Persians or a person from Sistan or Baluchistan. It is an obligation for the whole world to uphold the Religion of Truth. It is a Divine injunction for the whole world and the first of all incumbent obligations. But since non-Muslims have no faith in Islam, they claim that Islam has made incumbent what does not apply to them. But Muslims must uphold their convictions, and that is why the Muslim in Africa has the same obligation to preserve the Islamic Republic. For it is from here, God willing, that its profound implications shall reverberate, as they already have throughout the world.

Already the situation of the world has undergone great change. Now they are searching - in the U.S. too - for an Islamologist to find out what is going on. They think that hearing a few stories about Islam will put the matter to rest.

They cannot understand the spirituality of Islam. They were searching for something and imagined that the matter would be settled should a war or other event take place during the course of history of Islam. Now they are trying to discover about what actually took place in Iran. They think that by going to see for themselves, they can understand. But the fact is that they can never understand these issues because they deal with spirituality.

Their eyes can see nothing but the glitter and the glamour of this world.

If we were, God forbid, a people who put ourselves above others our arrogance would be more decadent than theirs. Because we are in an Islamic country should we have such an ethical view at this time, we would be more decadent than them.

May God help us succeed in acting according to the code of Islam; and may He grant victory to our Islamic combatants and all the Muslims who struggle against oppressors. God willing.

May the peace and mercy of God be upon you.