



Imam Khomeini's Views on Morality

The following excerpts from various speeches by Imam Khomeini illustrate his vast knowledge regarding Islamic ethics. *Mahjubah* is proud to present the words of Imam Khomeini, the Founder and Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. Speaking to a large group of Iranian Muslims, Imam Khomeini advised them:

"The secret of your victory has been first, your firm faith, and second, unity of expression. Preserve these two issues. Consolidate your faith because you are not materialistic creatures.

"Islam only values virtue and piety. Whoever is more pious and virtuous has more value before God."

Regarding morality and the West, he says:

"Do not think too highly of the West. There is no basis for humanity there. It is the West which is eradicating the basis of human ethics. It is the West which is trampling upon human dignity. We imagine that the West possesses everything...but in laws, our laws are richer than those of the whole world.

"Westerners have advanced materially, but they have no spirituality. Islam and other divine schools of thought seek to perfect and construct true human beings."

Concerning the self, Imam Khomeini states:

"The *Jihad* (the spiritual and physical struggle in the cause of Allah) should begin from the 'self'; to fight against the internal satan. This *Jihad* will be the basis of other *Jihads* and struggles.

"The assignment of the Prophet of Islam(S.A.W.) was, basically, for education and training; to recite verses and signs (every science is considered to be a sign) for the people and to purify them and cleanse their 'selves'.

"I hope that you guard yourselves against egoism the same as you are guarding Islam. Do not let your 'self' revolt and commit whatever it wishes. Bring it under the full control of Islam and practice whatever Allah is pleased by.

The most dangerous and the staunchest enemy of human beings is the 'self'. No other enemy is more detrimental than this enemy...Control your 'self', which seeks to have no limits

"With every step taken for acquiring knowledge, you should seek to create a sense of piety, resistance (against satanic desires) and honesty. You should learn and acquire knowledge and, at the same time, purify your 'self' and bring it under your full control.

"That knowledge-bearer who is not as yet purgated and purified will pose more danger than an ignorant person. If an ignorant person is corrupt he will only harm himself, but a corrupt knowledge-bearer will corrupt and contaminate the whole world. Purification is prior to teaching and learning. The Prophet was assigned to purgate, to educate and to prepare the 'selves' and then teach them the Book and Wisdom."

Imam Khomeini also advises Muslims with regard to materialism and the dangers of dependency on this temporary world:

"Loving the world is the source of all mistakes. Any position earned—whether a material position or a spiritual one—will, at some point, be taken away. Those who are rendering services to human beings, those who have high positions and posts, should take heed not to be proud of their positions. All such positions are mortal, but mankind will

be eternal before Allah, the Most Exalted, the Most High.

"There are two sides to human beings. One is a spiritual aspect and the other is material. Human beings should undergo specific training for their material side and also for their spiritual one. If both sides are transformed together, then a true human being will be the result.

"You have to construct yourselves first and then seek to



construct the nation. Self-construction elevates all aspects and dimensions of human beings which the prophets were assigned to train.

Train the scientific side; all its dimensions. Train your ethical aspect; all its sides. Liberation of the 'self' from all earthly ties and dependencies is the root and basis of perfection.

"All of man's miseries and misfortunes stem from dependency on materiality. Departing from all material dependency and giving full attention to Allah, the Most Exalted, the Most High, will elevate people to the lofty position of humanity."

In conclusion, we present Imam Khomeini's views concerning the important role morality plays in a society and revolution:

"One of the blessings of this Revolution has been the spiritual transformation observed in our society. I have repeatedly said that this spiritual transformation witnessed in Iran brought about by this Revolution by the Will of Allah, the Most Exalted, the Most High, has been more valuable and more important than the victory we have achieved, or the fact that we have curtailed the hands of the foreigners and criminals from this country.

"Our Revolution depends on spirituality and Allah...it is the line of spirituality which oppressors and power-wielders are against.

"If you seek to implement the Islamic Revolution and the Cultural Revolution in Iran, first of all, this revolution should begin from your inner self. Your soul should undergo changes.

"Liberty is not happiness and prosperity in and of itself. Independence is not happiness alone.

Material gains alone will not create happiness for a nation. Happiness will consist of all the above-mentioned factors if they are encompassed by spirituality."

