

Imam Khomeini's Message to the Iranian Nation on the Threshold of the First Presidential Elections from the Hospital

*In the Name of God, the Merciful,
the Compassionate*

I just want to talk about two things. First, about my health, which is, praise be to God, not bad. Perhaps my physicians and the Minister of Health fuss over me too much, which I'm not used to.

I am glad to hear that these authorities intend to pay attention to these slum-dwellers in the cities and these tent-dwellers of the cities to whom no attention was paid in the time of the Taghut [former regime of the Shah.] Health facilities which are at the top of the list of all necessities should be so that all people can enjoy these facilities and not so that some people can enjoy excessive health facilities while others have none available to them at all. I hope that the physicians, wherever they might be, and the government and the Minister of Health, and the nation itself will take note of this point, so that these slum-dwellers and the poor, who are among those loved by God will not be afflicted with these problems.

This was one thing - the second thing is that, tomorrow is Friday, 'an auspicious day in an auspicious month, the noble birthday of the honorable Prophet [Muhammad (ﷺ)]. It is auspicious because our nation will achieve another of her wishes: the election of the president. In this respect I have some points to make which if fulfilled would make

me happy, and my ill-health not very important.

One point is that tomorrow all the people should go to the polling stations. Do not be apathetic in face of such an important issue for the country. The destiny of the nation and Islam depends on it. The situation should not arise that a candidate for the post of president gives up, regarding his chances of being elected as very slim, and his friends consequently would not vote. It would be better for those candidates who know they are unlikely to be elected to support whom they think likely to be elected, so that, God willing, enough votes will be achieved and we will not be ashamed because our nation takes no interest in her fate and the fate of Islam. Altogether go to the polling stations!

The other point is that, when you go to the ballot boxes, you should not quarrel. It is the country's interests at stake. Should any of these candidates be elected, he will be serving the country and if he does not, then the nation is present and will depose him. Therefore, do not treat each other in a hostile way. Be brothers to one another. If one should be elected president then help him. You should not quarrel before he is elected president. You should not squabble, and fight with each other tomorrow [the election day.] It should not be that some strata do not participate in the elections. I ask all strata of the nation whether Fars, Turk, Kurd, Baluch, Turkman, Bakhtiari or from the

other tribes in Iran, I beg them humbly, not to act in a way that people abroad will consider you without Islamic courtesy as a people who fight with each other over material matters. The presidency is not something to be considered unimportant. Should the president be good, he will serve the people and should he be bad, he will pave the way to hell.

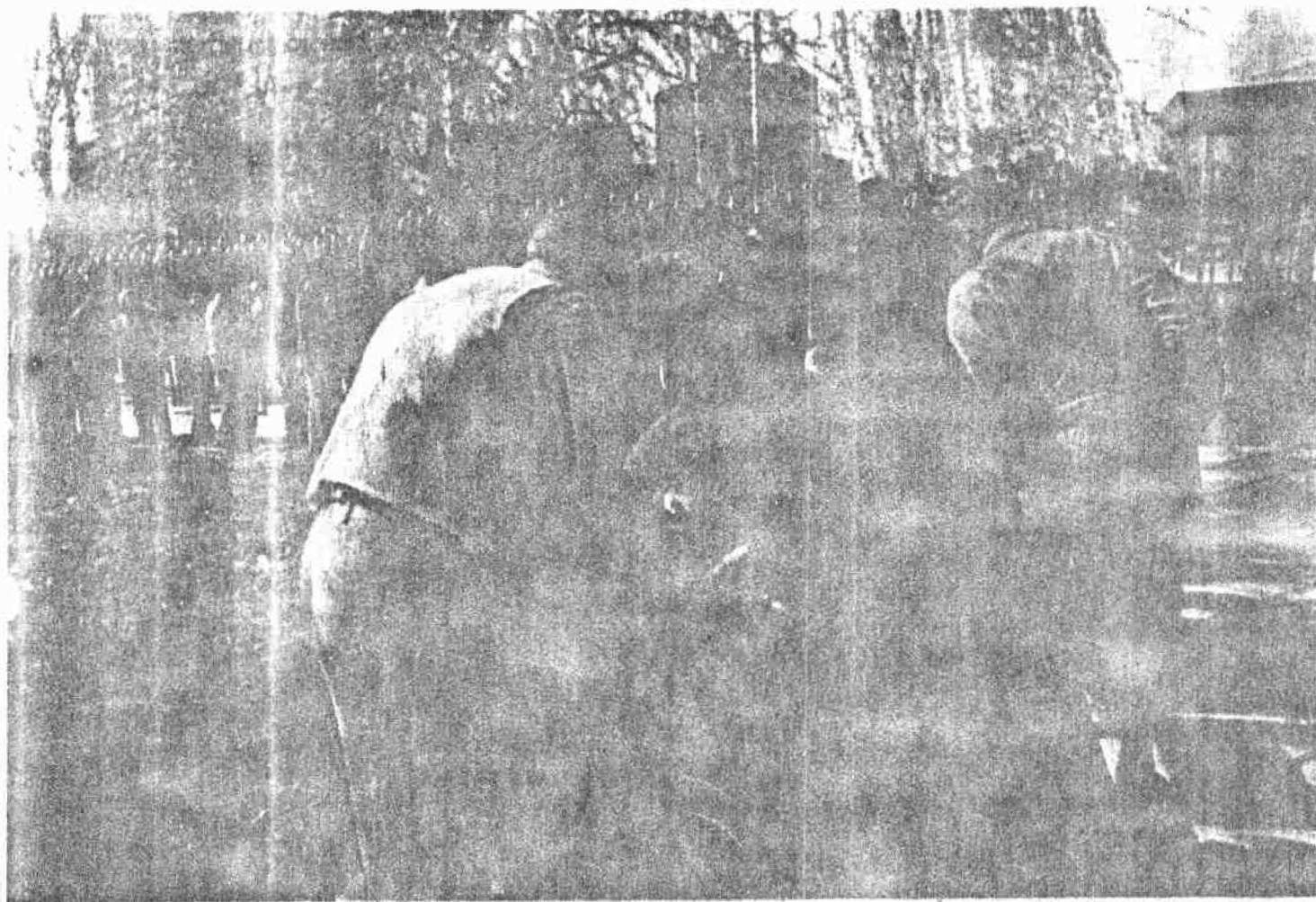
Do not quarrel and fight only for one to gain more votes than the other and thus make me upset and dissatisfied here in the hospital.

Another point is that after someone has, God willing, been elected President -- whoever he is -- the other should not withdraw behind the scenes. The country is your own country. Whether you are a president, a policeman or a talabeh [theological

student] like me, the country is your own country. After the President has been elected, everybody should assist him, all should contribute to his works and help him. Do not withdraw and do not be deterred. Show your growth to the world and that you are brave and able to administer a country together, one as President and the other in another job and so on. Carry out your duties successfully. I am not allowed to speak any more [by my physicians].

I implore God to protect all of you and make you successful.

Ruhullah al-Musavi al-Khomeini
January 31, 1979



Tomorrow all the people should go to the polling stations. Do not withdraw and do not be deterred.

Imam Khomeini