

# MEMORIUM

JUNE 4, 1992

**3rd Anniversary of the Demise of**

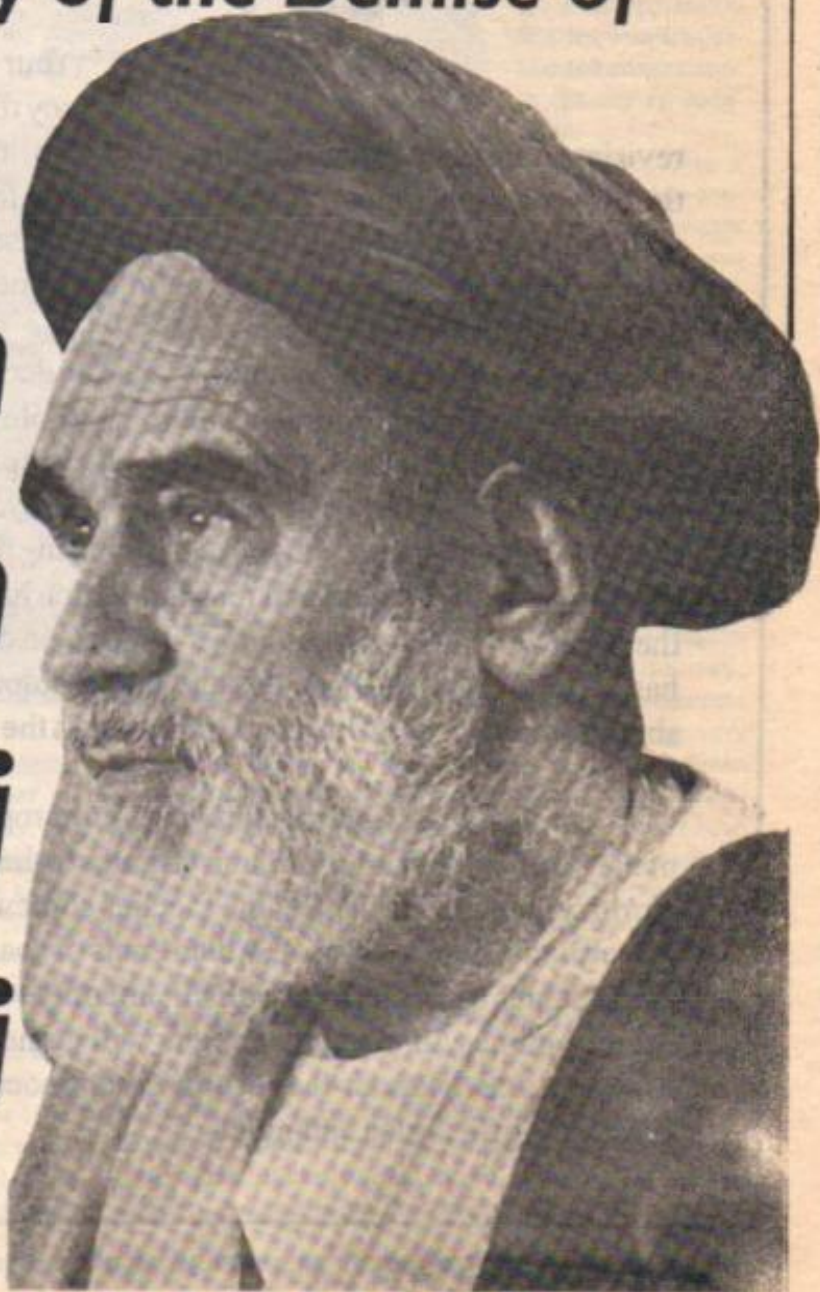
**Imam**

**Ayatullah**

**Ruhullah**

**Musawi**

**Khomeini**





# Imam Khomeini in the Footsteps of the Prophet

Muhammad is but a messenger,  
messengers (the like of whom)  
have passed away before him.  
Will it be that when he dieth or  
is slain, ye will turn back on  
your heel? He who turneth  
back doth no hurt to Allah, and  
Allah will add the thankful".  
(Sura Al Imran, v. 144).

At the time of Prophet Muhammad's (SAWA) death the nascent Islamic state did not extend beyond the borders of the Arabian peninsula. In the capital, Medina, the small Muslim community was plunged into incredulity. Some refused to accept the fact the Prophet of God could actually pass away. After Muhammad's (SAWA) companion Abu Bakr recited the above verse, Umar ibn al-Khattab who had been most vehement in not accepting the death of God's Messenger, said it was as if he were hearing the verse for the very first time.

Then as now, 1360 years later, the verse is appropriate for reminding us that every person eventually passes from this earth. Of course, when Imam Khomeini did so, the West and Israel heaved an audible sigh of relief and all kinds of scenarios were prematurely and very inaccurately written for the demise of the Islamic Republic itself. Then nobody knew that three years later in Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, the denial of the ballot box to the

Islamists is the only thing preventing Islamic republics from sprouting in all those countries.

The reality of the next life was always a part and parcel of the message of Imam Khomeini. He talked about it during 40 years of teaching in Qom, and never forgot it during 16 years of exile. What made him so exceptional during his 10 years as the supreme leader of the Islamic Revolution and Islamic Republic of Iran, is that he reintroduced the long dormant spiritual values inherent in the religion of Islam into the arena of international politics and statesmanship.

The simplicity and profoundness of his message literally shook the kings and rulers on their thrones.

The world of statesmen joined against Iran. The world of the downtrodden loved to hear from him. He was known as the "idolbreaker" because he exhibited the fearless characteristic of resolution, as did Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.), in opposing all manner of idolatry and proclaiming the message of the One God.

The Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) died before his message and followers burst out of Arabia in what was to become the most rapid and far-reaching expansion in the annals of history. God had revealed to him that the Muslims would eventually overwhelm both the Roman and Persian empires, the superpowers of the day.

When the Iranian nation buried Imam Khomeini on Tuesday, June 6, 1989, they totalled 60m. When the Prophet died, there were but 140,000 Muslims





gathered round himself over the previous 23 years of his mission. Today the Muslim community worldwide numbers 1b.

What was astounding about the personality of the Imam, is that so called Muslims, Zionists and Christians felt their vested interests so threatened they all made an alliance against him. With no organizational apparatus worth the name, his strength of character and clarity of message made its way into far-flung villages throughout Africa and the Middle East. His reputation alone made him a political factor from Morocco all the way across Asia to Indonesia. He revived the concept that Muslims everywhere constitute one nation with one purpose: the realization of Islam.

That idea naturally put him on a collision course with the contemporary superpowers. Destroying the Islamic Republic became the leading foreign policy objective of the U.S. Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd were the cutting edge of the ongoing conspiracy. Interestingly enough, in this same period, Islam has become the fastest growing religion in America.

With respect to the other superpower, the Soviet Union, the Imam's ideas about his northern neighbor took an unexpected turn at the end of his life. President Mikhail Gorbachev was the only head of state to have been a personal envoy from Imam Khomeini.





The message conveyed just five months before his own passing, explicitly fore-told of the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union (see box on this page). At the time, all stripes of pundits and politicians scoffed at his words. Now, there are not enough hours in the day for the western, particularly American political leaders, to deal with the economic, military and political fallout surrounding the dismemberment of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Witness U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's frenzied tour of the Central Asian Muslim republics, aimed at stemming Iranian influence in those parts of the old Persian Empire hived off by Czarist Russia in the early 19th century of swallowed by the USSR in the mid-20's.

Lastly, the Imam's eternal advice to the world of Islam is captured succinctly in a verse that fittingly mentions the "Idol Breaker" immortalized in the Qur'an: "And strive for Allah with the endeavor which is his right. He hath chosen you and hath not laid upon you in religion any hardship; the faith of your father Ibrahim (is yours). He hath named you Muslims of old time and in this (Scripture), that the Messenger (Muhammad) may be a witness against mankind. So establish worship, pay the poor due and hold fast to Allah. He is your protecting Friend. A blessed Patron and a blessed Helper".  
(Sura Al-Hajj, v. 78).