

The Lessons Muslim Ruler Ought to Learn From Imam Ali (AS)

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

"People are of two groups. They are either your brothers in faith, or your equals in humanity."

These immortal words were expressed a millennium and four centuries ago to his governor of the then Christian-majority Egypt for full respect of human rights by the only person who ever established the administration of social justice in history.

Ever since, only a handful of rulers of the vast Muslim world had aspired to emulate the model of Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) but never succeeded because of human frailties, despite their sincere respect for Prophet Muhammad's (SAWA) cousin, son-in-law, and vicegerent, whose virtues of wisdom, valour, magnanimity, and justice have been hailed by scholars and laymen alike, including non-Muslims.

The above-quoted phrase is part of a lengthy Epistle of Instructions to Malek al-Ashtar, a paragraph of which reads:

"Be it known to you, O, Malek, I am sending you as governor to a country (Egypt) which in the past has experienced both just and unjust rule. Men will scrutinize your actions with a searching eye, even as you used to scrutinize the actions of those before you, and speak of you even as you did speak of them. The fact is that the public speaks well of only those who do good. It is they who furnish the proof of your actions. Hence the richest treasure that you may covet would be the treasure of good deeds."

Preserved in the famous book "Nahj al-Balagha" (Highway of Eloquence) this epistle, among others was publicly commended in 2002 by the then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as an ideal model for governance which deserves to be embraced by modern-day rulers.

The Late Annan's confession that Imam Ali (AS) was "the fairest governor who appeared in human history," does not exalt the transcendental personality of the Prophet's Successor, neither does the Lebanese Christian author George Jordac's work "Ali the Voice of Human Justice" (after comparison with Socrates, Aristotle and the French Revolution), nor does the following tribute of British historian Edward Gibbon in his book "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire":

"He united the qualifications of a poet, a soldier, and a saint: his wisdom still breathes in a collection of moral and religious sayings; and every antagonist, in the combats of the tongue or of the sword, was subdued by his eloquence and valor. From the first hour of his mission to the last rites of his funeral, the Prophet was never forsaken by a generous friend, whom he delighted to name his brother, his vicegerent, and the faithful Aaron of a second Moses."

Imam Ali (AS) is incomparable and no one can aspire to attain his position. Even the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (AS), who practically set Iran on the path of Imam Ali (AS), used to consider himself as a mere pupil of the Ethereal School of the Prophet's Vicegerent.

It means the crisis-stricken Muslim countries have much to learn from the life and teachings of Imam Ali (AS) and his model government of social justice.

Tomorrow on the 21st of Ramadhan Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Yemen, the Caucasus republic of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, and parts of India, will be observing a holiday with commemorative processions on the martyrdom anniversary of the person who never differentiated on the superficial basis of race, language, colour of skin, and beliefs, who ordered regular payment from the public treasury for destitute Christian, and whose sense of justice was so supreme that he is on record as saying:

"By Allah even if I am given all the domains of the seven climes with all that exists under the skies in order that I may disobey Allah to the extent of snatching one grain of barley from an ant I would not do it. For me the world is lighter than the leaf in the mouth of a locust that is chewing it."

Let us earnestly hope that the Muslim World by earnestly treading the path of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and Imam Ali (AS) will resolve the problems and strive to build a solidified Ummah capable of defending Islam from the plots of its enemies, especially the US and the illegal Zionist entity.

Presidents Tebboune, Raisi Call for United Muslim Front



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, left, and his Algerian counterpart Abdelmadjid Tebboune meet on the sidelines of the GECF gas summit in Doha, Qatar in February 2022.

TEHRAN -- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi says Muslim nations should strengthen cooperation and form a united front against the occupying regime of Israel to support the Palestinian people.

"Iran and Algeria have close and common positions on regional and global issues, especially on the issue of Palestine and the rights of the oppressed people of this country," Raisi said in a phone conversation with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Tensions have been running high since Tuesday night, when dozens of heavily armed Israeli forces stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound before firing tear gas and stun grenades into the Qibla prayer hall, where hundreds of men, women, elderly people, and children were staying overnight

to pray. Some eyewitnesses said rubber-coated steel bullets were also fired.

Zionist forces then beat worshippers with batons and riot guns, wounding many, before arresting them.

Within less than 24 hours, the regime's forces staged a second attack against the Palestinian worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

In response to the Israeli aggression on Al-Aqsa, more than 30 rockets were fired towards the occupied territories from southern Lebanon on Thursday, with the occupying regime targeting Gaza and positions of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas in Lebanon.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi hailed growing relations between Tehran and Algiers and expressed

hope that the two sides would promote relations, particularly in the trade and economic sectors.

The Algerian president, for his part, said the oppressed Palestinian people are suffering from savage acts of the Zionist regime during the holy month of Ramadan.

Tebboune expressed hope that the Palestinian people would be saved from the Zionists' oppression in cooperation with Muslim countries.

In a phone call with his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad earlier in the day, Raesi said the world order is changing in favor of the resistance front and against the global arrogance and the Israeli regime.

"The crimes of this regime are a sign of its weakness and desperation and it is proof that the future is bright and promising for the resistance front," Raisi added.

Iranian Delegation to Visit Saudi Arabia Soon

TEHRAN -- Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said here Monday an Iranian delegation will soon visit Saudi Arabia to pave the way for the reopening of diplomatic missions between the two countries, adding that talks were also underway with Bahrain.

In his weekly presser, Kanaani confirmed that a Saudi delegation visited Tehran on Saturday and that a Saudi team would soon be dispatched to Riyadh in order to restore diplomatic ties, in line with a China-brokered deal.

A Saudi delegation arrived in Iran on Saturday to discuss the reopening of diplomatic missions, two days after a landmark meeting in between their foreign ministers in Beijing.

In a joint statement released fol-

lowing the meeting, both sides agreed to reopen their diplomatic missions within the next two months as well as flights between the countries. Saturday's meeting is likely the first of several aimed at reopening the embassies in Riyadh and Tehran, as well as the consulates in Jeddah and Mashhad.

Kanaani stated that two Iranian delegations had also been sent to the Bahraini capital of Manama for talks, without elaborating on further details. Last month, Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian expressed hope that the two countries would work towards normalization of ties.

Bahrain cut ties with Iran in 2016, in solidarity with Saudi Arabia which closed its embassy in Tehran.

The UAE also sided with Saudi Arabia seven years ago, cutting ties with Iran as a show of support with the Kingdom. Kanaani said that UAE-Iran ties "are moving forward" particularly after Tehran last week named its first ambassador to Abu Dhabi since the fallout.

The recent normalization of ties has been welcomed by analysts as a step forward to resolving the war in Yemen. Media reports on Saturday said the Saudis and Yemenis have agreed to a six-month truce.

Kanaani added that Iran hopes a "sustainable ceasefire" could be implements in war-torn Yemen "thanks to the new circumstances in the region."

"Since the beginning of this crisis, the Islamic Republic of Iran ...

(Continued on Page 7)

Shamkhani Tells Armenian Counterpart: Tensions in Caucasus Will Benefit No Country

TEHRAN -- Iran's top security official says tension and conflict in the Caucasus region benefit no country, while indicating Iran's opposition to any geographical change in that region.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani made the remarks in a meeting with the visiting Secretary of Armenia's Security Council Armen Grigoryan in Tehran on Sunday.

"Any geographical change in the South Caucasus region is a tension-building measure, which will play into the hands of the

enemies of regional security and stability," Shamkhani said.

Iran's top security official added that continuous dialogue and interaction must replace any "hard approach" to ending regional challenges.

His remarks came against a backdrop of decades of tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Karabakh region on the border between the two countries. Karabakh is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

In 2020, the second Karabakh war broke out, killing more than 6,500

(Continued on Page 7)

The Holy Qur'an

If they could find a refuge or cave or a place to enter into, they would certainly have turned thereto, running away in all haste. And of them there are those who blame you with respect to the alms; so if they are given from it they are pleased, and if they are not given from it, lo! they are full of rage.

The Holy Qur'an (9:58)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:05
Evening (Maghreb)	18:53
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:37
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	04:10

Iran Blasts U.S. Deployment of Sub to West Asia

TEHRAN -- Iran on Monday lashed out at the U.S. after its rare move to disclose the deployment of a guided missile submarine in the Middle East over the weekend, amid heightened tensions and Israeli violence in the region.

In a series of tweets that marked the Islamic Republic's first official reaction to the USS Florida's presence, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani hit out at the U.S. for "warmongering and propagating instability and conflict in the West Asia region."

The deployment is a sign of Washington's "struggle to gloss over its decline in the world, as new regional equations are likely to shape a new order and eliminate the need for military forces from outside the region," Kanaani said, in an apparent reference to last month's China-brokered deal that ended a seven-year rupture in Saudi-Iranian relations.

A Saudi delegation arrived in Tehran over the weekend to discuss reopening the kingdom's embassy following a meeting in Beijing on Thursday between the foreign ministers of both countries.

As Saudi officials met with their counterparts in Tehran, the Florida — capable of carrying as many as 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles — began transiting the Suez Canal from the Mediterranean Sea on Friday.

(Continued on Page 7)

Ramadhan Day-to-Day Applications

20th day

“اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِي فِيهِ أَبْوَابَ الْجَنَّةِ، وَأَغْلِقْ عَنِّي فِيهِ أَبْوَابَ النَّارِ، وَوَفِّقْنِي فِيهِ لِتِلَاوَةِ الْقُرْآنِ، يَا مِيرِلِ السَّكِينَةِ فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ.”

"O Allah, open for me in (this month) the gates of paradise and close the gates of hell. Give me strength to recite the Qur'an. O One Who brings satisfaction to the hearts of the believers."