

She was prepared to face the horror of the Karbala massacre, malnutrition, captivity, loss of the precious veil, become the leader of the caravan of widows and orphans and become the defender of Islam

threatened by the dark forces of Yezid.

And that is what she did. She showed the world that evil shall be defeated and that might is not right by the martyrdom of Imam Husain

and her great sacrifices. Hazrat Imam Husain and his sister Hazrat Zainab (PBUH) both saved Islam to see it thrive and prosper through centuries till date.

## Unity and Harmony:

### In the Light of Imam Khomeini's Vision and Principles

by *Hujjat ul Islam Syed Ahmad Khomeini*

In his struggle against the forces of evil, Imam Khomeini greatly stressed upon unity amongst the Islamic nations for the success of the Divine Revolution. The Imam places high those people who surrender their identity to the identity of the whole and thus become part of the Ever Shining Light. They are aware of and have knowledge of things other mortals do not because of their high spiritual positions.

The Imam states, in his book "Chehel Hadees", that great Divine Messengers and Messages all have Divine Aims which form the basis of progress and helps to eradicate evil. But the greatest aim is to bring about Unity and Harmony in thought, spirit and deed. If any community achieves this and works together to protect and promote both individual and community good, they shall surely

reign supreme over the world.

He calls upon the Muslims of the world to unite as unity is much preferable to disharmony which eventually weaken the roots of religion and create chaos in society.

The Imam describes unity as God's first and greatest blessing and advised Muslims never to forget this great blessing and to practise and protect it by obeying God. Unity is pleasing to God while disharmony is Satan's tool.

All the Prophets have internalised the Divine Message of Unity and so should all Muslims. But it is not enough to unite on some matters alone, rather all should walk upon the Righteous Path united together. It is unity alone that shall result in success of Muslims against the foes of Islam. He calls the struggle and strife for unity a religious duty and so the responsibility of Muslim scholars,



teachers and learned people and rulers is greater.

The Imam believed that the subject of Unity is expansive and to identify and understand all its aspects he worked long and hard. His call for unity was not restricted to Iranians alone but to all the deprived peoples of the world. He gave a call to unity to fight against polytheism and atheism to protect Islam.

Within the geographical boundaries of a nation, unity between all castes, classes, races etc. is the first step towards social harmony. Be they professors, personnel of the armed forces, intellectuals, government servants, politicians, justice department officials etc. he wanted them to unite and it is this unity that bought success to the Islamic Revolution. He was strictly against racial, communal and geographical thinking and wanted unity be-

tween cultural, political and social groups.

The Imam knew that without the right setting and atmosphere, unity shall be impossible or atleast, weak. The elements were (1) individual and spiritual development (2) thoughts of freedom, perseverance and finding common grounds (3) belief that only unity can solve tangled political and social problems (4) guarding against those who seek to create mischief and endanger unity (5) using of logic and principles to foster and promote unity (6) trying to end intellectual conflicts between educational institutions Islamic theology and universities (7) identifying common interests and sorting differences of opinion in basic issues through dialogue and debate (8) propagating Islamic social, political, religious practices that promote unity - like namaz-e Juma'a, Hajj, etc. (9) making Muslims aware of their glorious past and reasons for present decadence (10) striving for cultural independence from the west and becoming self reliant (11) recognising one's foes (12) jihad and martyrdom (13) eradicating detrimental beliefs and practices that have crept into religious life and become an integral part of religion and culture, also eradicate biases (14) creating unity in the words and deeds of

those calling for unity.

Oneness/unity means answering the call of the leader for unity and obeying even if it means going against ones established customs. An example of which is the way the Iranians rose to the call of Imam Khomeini.

The Imam said that in the struggle of right versus wrong, awareness, unity and recognition of duty and true Islamic identity shall bring Muslims from present backwardness and darkness into progress and light. For example: his support to the Palestinians and his protest against Salman Rushdie's "Satanic



harmony. The learned personalities and scholars should do it.

He warns the leaders of Muslims states hostile towards brother Muslim states that instead of being united they enter into pacts and agreements with anti-Islamic nations. This is harmful for them, for fellow Muslims and for Islam.

**Muslims have so much in common, one *namaz*, Prophet, *Quran*, *Qibla*, *Kalima*, *Sunnat*, *Hajj* etc. then why this conflict? All these can prove to build and strengthen harmony. The learned personalities and scholars should do it.**

Verses" both issues united the Muslim world.

It is indeed sad that the people of the Prophet who preached unity, inspite of being gifted with every resource and unique geographical advantages is in constant conflict within itself allowing the anti-Islamic west to exploit them.

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Instead, the Imam says, let us enter into a pact to promote love and brotherhood with fellow Muslims instead of with America and Israel whose aim is to destroy Islam.

The writer declares that by obeying the Imam the people of Iran are willing to unite and live in harmony with the governments and people of other Muslim nations and strive for peace and harmony.