

We Risked Our Life For Islam

The succession of Prophets and Messengers (peace be on them all) was heavenly and as per the divine order. The count of 1,24,000 Divine Prophets (peace be on them all) is unanimously accepted by the masses and learned scholars alike. Allah the Almighty wished that none should dispute this fact and argue on the Day of Judgment against Him that "There came no one from God to guide us to His path, treading which we could fulfill the aim of creation."

You are very well aware that Prophethood is of two types – Propagative (Tableeghi) and Legislative (Tashreei). The propagative Prophet fulfilled his Prophetic duties of preaching in a town, village or a family and was appointed to guide the people as per the injunctions of the previous legislative Prophet. The series of legislative Prophets (Messengers) is the one that establishes laws of religious legislation across the world through their actions, narrations and silent consents.

From this perspective, the aim of Prophethood is to implement a religious constitution.

Islamic history, though, witnessed horses galloping in the Black Sea. Apart from deserts and oceans, the sound of Azaan was heard even in the forests of Africa and churches of Europe. The horses could be seen ruining towns, trampling the lands of leaders of Islamic armies and causing uproar in the water bodies as well. But divine Messengership and its propagative ways which have been endorsed with completion and perfection, would question every intellectual person if such a way of spreading guidance and divine commands was ever adopted earlier. Prophetic characteristics, even before Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family), were always focused encouraging by guiding through leading a life of justice and equity. If we minutely analyze, advocates of justice would realize that the Messenger of Allah (peace be on him and his family) was the best exemplar of guidance by Prophets and Messengers (peace be on them all).

If man has used tyranny to attain his goal, divine Messengers (peace be on them all) were resilient against them and through their patience, steadfastness, selflessness and sacrifice, did not spare even a moment of their lives to break the upheld necks of these arrogant tyrants.

On one hand is the history of the Prophets, reading which makes us sorrowful and makes us think how, these servants of God who shouldered the responsibility of guidance, calling towards truth and a just life, i.e. to propagate a complete mode of life, would have fulfilled their duties in midst of government, politics, deceit, vested interests, ignorant skepticism etc. collectively opposing them.

A look at the incidents of Prophets Ayyub, Yaqub, Nuh, Ibrahim, Isa (peace be on them) and Janabe Maryam (peace be on her), would compel us to think that had Allah the Almighty not gifted these great personalities the quality of forbearance, these divine guides of humanity would be grossly discouraged. Steadfastness would disappear and patience would give in. These powers stood against the Prophets, came in various disguises, with different conspiracies, carrying poisonous daggers with every agenda fully drowned in the love of this world. The illicit tactics which were used for accomplishing their evil intentions were dark enough to suffocate humanity to death and one would never see the light thereafter.

SHABAAN 1438 A.H.

The wailing of Prophet Yaqub (peace be on him), the excessive patience of Prophet Ayyub (peace be on him), the entire army of the Firaun for Prophet Musa (peace be on him), the brutal murder of Prophet Yahya (peace be on him), the sufferings of Janabe Maryam and Hajra (peace be on both of them), the cross for Prophet Isa (peace be on him) and the catapult for Prophet Ibrahim (peace be on him), clearly announce even with the passage of time and the entire universe despite hearing this voice, is performing those very actions that fan the flames of hatred and help politicians and worldly rulers in word and deed.

Today, the entire world is discussing scientific and technological progress. But this apparent progress has brought along with it the tools of darkness. This is proven by the constant threat of bomb explosions in possibly any part of the globe and every moment is passed in fear of some or the other danger. None can predict the place of the next explosion tearing innocent humans into pieces. Mothers have lost their sons, young men have fallen prey to death and families have been destroyed. Many hard working people have drowned in the ocean of darkness. Ignorant people have used Islam to bring success to the fraudsters leading to a sea of darkness. Mosques were built in Spain and Islamic culture became rampant after victories in Ethiopia and Egypt. The Turks and the adopted the philosophy of Caliphate. All these became the provisions of Islamic conquest which every Muslim of today is proud of and claims:

We gave the call of prayers in the churches of Europe

And sometimes in the burning deserts of Africa

We didn't just leave deserts and seas unconquered

But also successfully rode horses in the Black Sea

If we minutely investigate history and go back in time, we will witness a system which prevailed under the patronage of rulers, kings, landlords and leaders which, apart from a few cultural aspects, bears less similarity with Islamic teachings. Riding on power, politics and evil plans, the conquerors of the Black Sea try to cover it up with Islamic teachings so that people are injected with its poison, every lie is assumed to be true and every oppressive act dons the garb of mercy.

Recently, a preacher with a lengthy beard shouted his lungs out in one of his speeches saying that the Shias claim that their Qiblah is not the Holy Kaabah or Makkah, but Karbala and that the Quran is not their book. Whereas there is no Shia mosque where we do not hear the supplication of "Razeeto Billahi Rabban (I am pleased with Allah being my Lord)" after congregational prayers and even a person praying alone does not neglect this supplication. The preacher should have at least feared Allah for the sake of his beard. Lying is not just a sin but mother of all sins as it kills justice and breeds hypocrisy. It destroys religious culture and inculcates hatred. It brings along with it the flame of enmity and sets truth to fire. This bearded preacher is only an example of other emotional writers who possess similar views.

Under the subject of Islamic culture, how can a person like Dr. Allamah Iqbal who is considered to be a philosopher, foresighted person, intellectual and a man of knowledge and action be proud of the success of expansion of Islamic boundaries announced with horses galloping in the Black Sea Islam means peace, tranquility, mercy and living a life filled with equity. It is not the temporary sounds of prayers in the burning African deserts or in the churches of Spain. Islam is

SHABAAN 1438 A.H.

identified by the sacrifices of the progeny of the Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family), who sowed the seeds of faith in the most barren hearts.

Rather, these galloping horses tried to put off the true lamps of Islam through their machinations, scheming and politics, but were unsuccessful as these lamps were divinely lit and sent to this world with a divine connection. Hence, these lamps are still glowing. Take a look at Karbala, Najaf, Saamarrah and Khorasan. They are all guarded by weeping eyes as if it were a firm and compact fortress. This wall is getting stronger and stronger by the time. Today, the so called horses are no more or their off-springs are found competing in races, while the battlefields now have guns, bombs, bulldozers, tanks and chemical weapons. The heart-rending calamities inflicted on the lovers and followers of the Ahle Bait (peace be on them) have left their marks forever. The progenies of those who attacked Spain have been ordered to stop the preaching about Ahle Bait (peace be on him) which are fast attracting people.

Today, the world is on a ticking bomb. But when the avenger of the murder of Imam Husain (peace be on him) raises his hands for prayers with the beauty of his feelings for Imam Husain (peace be on him), divine decree steps ahead and kisses his words.

ISIS 'is' today but will turn to 'was' tomorrow and will be only remembered for its barbaric brutalities. Truth, steadfastness in the form of Islamic adornment, will come from the land of Karbala to serve as a canopy for the son of Janabe Fatima (peace be on her). The rays of the sun of Imamate will shine bright. The Imam of the time (may Allah hasten his reappearance) is fully aware of the growing restlessness of those who await him and of the increasing injustice in the world. May Allah hasten his reappearance! Aameen!

Exegesis Of Dua Ahad

(Continued from previous issue)

"And the Lord of the Elevated Throne".

The word 'Lord' has been discussed earlier. Now we shall have a brief discussion on the word 'Kursi (Throne)? In Arabic literature, 'Kursi' is something which a person takes support of or sits on. In the Holy Quran, the word "Kursi' has been mentioned twice. Once in Surah al-Baqarah, verse 255:

"And His throne encompasses the heavens and the earth."

Let us now understand the meaning of "Throne in the light of traditions of the progeny of Muhammad (peace be on them).

Throne refers to the Knowledge of Allah

Hafs Ibn Ghiyaas narrates that I asked Imam Sadiq (peace be on him) about the verse,

"And His throne encompasses the heavens and the earth".

Imam (peace be on him) replied, "It refers to the Knowledge of Allah."

[Al-Tauheed of al-Shaikh al-Sadooq (a.r.), p. 327]

In another tradition when Fuzail Ibn Yasaar (a.r.) {about whom Imam (peace be on him) said that Fuzail is from us Ahle Bait (peace be on him)}, asked Imam (peace be on him) about the word 'Throne, Imam (peace be on him) replied,

"O Fuzail, all things are within the Throne, the heavens and the earth and everything else is in the Throne."

[Ibid]

In the third tradition, Zurarah (a.r.) who is enumerated among the special disciples of Imam Sadiq (peace be on him), asked Imam (peace be on him) whether the heavens and earth have encompassed the Throne or the Throne encompasses the heavens and the earth?

Imam (peace be on him) replied, "Nay! Rather the throne encompasses the heavens and the earth and the Arsh. The Throne encompasses all things."

[Ibid]

In reply to the question of the Jaasaleeq, the Arch-Bishop, Ameerul Momineen (peace be on him) replied,

"The Throne encompasses the heavens and the earth and everything that is between them and whatever is beneath the earth. Allah is aware of all your secrets and hidden things no matter how vocal your discussions may be. The verse, "His Throne encompasses the heavens and the earth" points to this fact.

[Al-Kaafi by Shaikh Muhammad Ibn Yaqoob al-Kulayni, vol. 1, p. 129, H. 1]

The above mentioned traditions clarify that the Throne attributed towards Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, refers to the Knowledge of Allah. When the word Throne or Arsh is used for Allah, it doesn't imply that this Throne or Arsh is like our seats or thrones and that Allah sits on

them, unlike what some people believe that Allah has a body and shall be seen on the Day of Judgment. Allah is purified from such characteristics.

The word 'elevated' is a characteristic of the Throne. As per Arabic literature, "Rafee (elevated)" is a nominal predicate which means an elevated thing. It refers to the Knowledge of Allah. Nobody has the means to scale its heights except those whom Allah has selected. In other words, Allah has granted such heights to the knowledge that He has created which none can ascend except for that personality who proclaimed from the pulpit:

"Ask me before you lose me!"

Ameerul Momineen (peace be on him) said in the Sermon of Shiqshiqiyah:

"My relation to the Caliphate was akin to the axle to the grinding mill. A flood of knowledge was flowing through me and no flying bird had the ability to reach me (no intellect could comprehend the profundity of my knowledge or the reality of my existence)."

Woe upon the love of this world and the love of fame due to which people deprived Ameerul Momineen (peace be on him) of the apparent Caliphate and left the entire Muslim nation in the darkness of misguidance and ignorance.

"And the Lord of the swollen ocean"

The word 'Bahr' means an ocean or a sea, its plural is 'Abhur' or 'Buhoor' or 'Behaar'?

'Bahrun Masjoor' refers to that heavenly ocean which is below the Divine Empyrean, Ameerul Momineen (peace be on him) says,

"(It is) an ocean in the heavens beneath the Divine Empyrean."

[Behaar al-Anwaar, vol. 55, p. 107, H. 54]

Zaid Ibn Wahab narrates that Ameerul Momineen (peace be on him) prayed as follows:

"And the Lord of the swollen ocean... that which encompasses the worlds..."

[Behaar al-Anwaar, vol. 97, p. 37, H 36]

And it shall be filled on the Day of Judgment.

[Tafseer of Ali Ibn Ibrahim al-Qummi (r.a.)]

"And the One who sent down the Torah and the Bible and the Psalms"

The word 'Munzil' is the nominal subject of Baab If'aal which means the One who sends down. Allah the Most High, sent down Divine Books for the guidance of people. He sent down 104 divine books. Of which four are very famous, Torah, Bible, Psalms and the Holy Quran. In this supplication, the Holy Quran is mentioned in the next line, probably due to its importance and its position.

"And the Lord of Shade and Heat"

Both words are related to sun, illumination or light. A place where, the presence of sun, illumination or any light have no direct impact or shelter is sought due to its blazing heat is known as 'Zillor shade.

The word "Zillis derived from the root z-1-1 and in Arabic grammar it is termed as Muzaa'af i.e. those verbs which contain a repeated root alphabet. This root and its derivatives appear in the Holy Quran 35 times.

'Haroor' (heat) indicates towards an exaggeration which means something which contains a lot of warmth or is very hot.

Both terms have been used in a verse of the Holy Quran, Surah al-Faatir verses 1921:

"And the blind and the seeing are not the same. And neither darkness nor light. And neither shade nor heat."

Here Allah, the High asks a question, 'Are shade and heat similar to each other?' In Arabic grammar this is called rhetorical question (Istefhaame Inkaari) which means a question which has a very clear and evident answer in itself. Here the answer is 'No' and it is a very evident and logical conclusion that these two are not the same but contrary to each other. This will be further explained as follows:

"And neither shade nor heat"

Ibn Abbas says that shade refers to the shade of Ameerul Momineen (peace be on him) in Paradise and heat refers to the Fire of Hell for Abu Jahl (may Allah curse him).

What is interesting is that this narration is present in the Books of Ahle Tasannun and it is narrated from Ibn Abbas.

In this regard, it would not be inappropriate to mention the name of one of the chapters of Behaar al-Anwaar. Allamah Majlisi (a.r.) in his august book from volumes 23 to 27 has discussed the topic of general outlook on Imamate. The 37th chapter of the 24th volume is as follows:

Surely the Imams (peace be on him) are (as per Quran) "Sweet Water", "the Abandoned Well", "the Strong Fortress", "Sky", "Rains", "Shade", "Fruits" and all things which are beneficial for mankind due to their knowledge and their blessings. "And (the One who) sent down the Great Quran and the Lord of the Proximate Angels and the Prophets and the Messengers."

The mention of the Holy Quran separately as compared to other Divine Books points to its greatness.

Just like Allah the Almighty has chosen a few of His creation for Himself like the House of Allah (Baitullah) i.e. all mosques are the houses of Allah especially the Holy Kaaba, the Soul of Allah (Ruhullah) is the title of Prophet Isa (peace be on him), the Self of Allah (Nafsullah) is Ameerul Momineen (peace be on him), etc. Similarly, among the angels, Allah has chosen four angels and has called them the proximate angels. Who are these proximate angels?

Imam Kazim (peace be on him) narrates on the authority of Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family) that he said:

"Surely Allah, blessed and high be He, has chosen four from everything and from among the angels, He has chosen Jibraeel (peace be on him), Mikaeel (peace be on him), Israfeel (peace be on him) and the angel of Death."

(Al-Khisaal by al-Shaikh al-Saduq (a.r.), vol. 1, p. 225 H. 58; Behaar al-Anwaar, vol. 6, p. 144, H. 14]

Before we move on to the next statement of this supplication, we would like to remind the readers of the following:

There are some discussions and traditions regarding the creation of proximate angels which are beyond the scope of human intellect. But it doesn't mean that we reject these discussions just because we are unable to comprehend them. One who makes such a claim is actually claiming that he is aware of the lineages, positions and matters of all creations of Allah the High whereas such a claim is not possible for anyone except those whom Allah the Omniscient has granted knowledge. There is a famous saying in Arabic literature which means that "Not knowing something doesn't mean that it doesn't exist." Now let us look at a tradition which relates to the creation of the proximate angels.

Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family) says:

"When I ascended to the heavens during Me'raaj, we reached a river where Jibraeel (peace be on him) said to me: O Muhammad! Cross this river by the blessings of Allah. Surely Allah has illuminated your eyes and has assisted you in what is before you. For surely, this river is such that no proximate angel can ever cross it neither any appointed Prophet. It is such that I dive into this river daily and when I come out of it and shake my wings to dry them - Allah creates a proximate angel from each drop which falls from my wings."

[Al-Amaali of al-Shaikh al-Saduq (a.r.), p. 354, Majlis no. 58]

The last two words of this statement "Prophets and Messengers" - Anbiyaa (Prophets) is the plural of Nabi and Mursaleen (Messengers) is plural of Mursal. Nabi is that divine emissary who has been given news. Nabi is either been derived from the Arabic word 'na-ba-a' which means news and refers to that person who has received Divine News or it is derived from the Arabic word 'na-ba-wa' which means excellence or loftiness.

As per traditions there were 313 Messengers (Rasool) and 1,24,000 Prophets (Nabi). Among the Prophets there are five great (Ulul Azm) Prophets and they are: Prophets Nuh (peace be on him), Ibrahim (peace be on him), Moosa (peace be on him), Isa (peace be on him) and Holy Prophet Muhammad al-Mustafa (peace be on him and his family). A question arises here that Prophet Adam (peace be on him) was the first Messenger and the father of all mankind then why is he not included among the 'Ulul Azm' or the Greatest Prophets? The reply to this is found in the teachings of Ahle Bait (peace be on them):

Jabir narrates that I asked Abu Ja'far Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (peace be on him) regarding the verse,

"Certainly We took the covenant from Adam in the beginning but he forgot and We did not find certitude (Azm) in him."

[Surah Ta Ha: Verse 115]

Imam (peace be on him) replied: (Allah implies) that We took the covenant from him regarding Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family) and the Imams (peace be on him) after him (peace be on him and his family) but he overlooked and forgot it because he was not certain that such a thing would occur. It is not possible for everyone to understand the position of Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) and his progeny (peace be on him), such a thing requires a special bestowal

from the side of Allah and the bestowals of Allah too are not similar for everyone. Just as there are differences in the positions of the Messengers (peace be on them), similarly there are differences in the grades of the bestowals from Allah as well.”

In the light of other traditions, this certitude was regarding the reappearance of Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance) and due to this lack of conviction he was deprived of this great position of 'Ulul Azm' Prophethood. We should beseech Allah the Almighty that we do not get separated from the path of Ahle Bait (peace be on them) even for a moment or else we will be completely destroyed. May Allah hasten the reappearance of our Imam and include us among his companions and helpers.

Aameen! O Lord of the worlds!

(to be continued in the next issue Inshallah)

Inclinations Of Reappearance

People from all strata of the society today are distraught by the rampant growth of terrorism. It has made our lives miserable and has forced communities out of their homes, villages, cities to other habitats. Everyone is dejected and terrified.

It appears that super powers of today also are greatly unsuccessful in ending this menace or are feigning the inability to control it to boost the sale of their weapons. This terrorism is found in Islamic countries and so called Muslims are massacring fellow Muslims. The assassin screams 'Allaho Akbar' before killing someone and the irony is that the victim also proclaims "Allaho Akbar". The former is glad being a so called 'brave soldier and the later pleased with martyrdom.

Islam is being disgraced and ruined at the hands of Muslims. It seems terrorism is on the prowl to completely wipe out Islam. The ongoing oppression and acts of cruelties in Islamic countries has rendered the masses helpless and as a direct consequence of these misdeeds, they will be forced to take refuge in non-Muslim countries. Sooner or later, they will fade away in those un-Islamic societies and culture in such a way that there will be no trace of Islam. Islam will be destroyed at the hands of terrorism. Muslims will perish after migrating to non-Islamic countries and in this way, the last religion sent by Allah will cease to exist. The disbelievers and the polytheists will be successful in implementing their ulterior motives.

Divine light is being attacked by acts of infidels

This lamp not get extinguished by their weak blows

If none has created this earth and it has come into existence on its own, or if there was a creator before and there's none now or if he is helpless or incapable now or is unconcerned about this world, then all the fears of world destroying one day are true and the end will be nothing but evil.

However, if this world has a Creator who is Omnipresent, All Powerful and All Capable, is it possible that He will let the world ruin like this and watch its destruction silently and forget what He had promised in the Holy Quran?

The freewill and respite granted by Allah the Almighty to His creation cannot be construed as Allah's weakness or helplessness. Rather it is Allah's way of examining His creation. He allows them to fulfill their desires. When they finish their life span, Allah will bring them back in such a condition that they will be burdened by their sins and the only recompense for them would be the extremely painful chastisement of Hell. This respite emboldens them to commit sins which in turn cause their hearts to die. The blessing of seeking forgiveness is not for dead hearts. The few remaining days of life will end soon and what will remain forever is severe retribution.

No matter how grave the situation is in this world, one should not consider the situation as beyond Allah's control. The entire creation (of which this universe is merely a speck) is under Allah's command and whenever He wishes, He will fulfill his promise. He has not declared a particular time to bring His promise to fruition. It is Allah's promise and most definite and certain.

Even if a day is left for this world, Allah will prolong it to such an extent that a man from the progeny of Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family), who will share his name and agnomen, will rise and fill this earth with justice and equality as it would be fraught with injustice and oppression.

[Muntakhab al-Asar, p. 153]

It is for this reason that the end result of this earth will be justice and equality and by no means devastation and destruction. The Holy Quran has foretold us about the bright future of this world.

i) While revealing the news of the caliphate of Prophet Adam (peace be on him), Allah declared, **“Verily, I’m going to appoint a Caliph on the earth.”** At that moment the angels asked Allah, **“What! Will you appoint those on the earth who will spread mischief and shed blood?”**

[Surah Baqarah (2): Verse 30]

This means the angels knew the actions of the progeny of Prophet Adam (peace be on him).

Allah the Almighty did not reject the assertions of the angels, but said: **“Surely I know what you do not know.”** It means you all see Qabeel, Firaun, Hamaan, Namrood, Bani Israel, Abu Sufiyan, Yazeed, Muwaiyah, Bani Ummayah, Bani Abbas, Daaesh, Taliban, Al Qaeda, the imperialistic powers and all their stooges, etc. while I see the government of the Mahdi of Aale Muhammad al-Hujjat Bin al-Hasan al-Askari (may Allah hasten his reappearance) in the last era. It implies that it was known that there would be injustice and bloodshed on this earth but its end will be justice and equity.

ii) When Firaun and his followers caused destruction on the earth, Allah said: **“We And certainly We wrote in the Book after the reminder that (as for) the land, My righteous servants shall inherit it.”**

[Surah Anbiyaa (21): Verse 105]

The tone of this verse clearly indicates that the rule will be over the entire earth and not just a specific part of the globe. This reality is stated in verse 128 of Surah A’araf. Prophet Moosa (peace be on him) gave glad tidings to his followers:

“To Allah belongs this earth and He grants it to whomsoever He pleases, but the hereafter will be in the hands of the fearing-ones.”

In Surah Noor (24), verse 55, Allah explains it in detail:

“Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good that He will most certainly make them rulers in the earth as He made rulers those before them, and that He will most certainly establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them, and that He will most certainly, after their fear, give them security in exchange; they shall serve Me, not associating aught with Me; and whoever is ungrateful after this, these it is who are the transgressors.”

Allah has made five promises to the faithful and righteous servants in this verse and in the last part He has revealed the fate of disbelievers.

First Promise.

They will be appointed as His representatives and caliphs on earth just as those in the past. In Holy Quran we find the accounts Prophets Dawood and Sulaiman (peace be on them both). Allah, Himself will appoint His representative on earth and it will not be done through selection, a council or general consensus. This appointment is destined for the people of belief and righteous actions.

Second Promise

These divine representatives will establish a rule of a religion with which Allah is satisfied. The religion which is most loved by Allah the High will be declared as the universal religion based on which the governing rules will be framed. Allah has explained this religion in detail – the one which He will be satisfied with in the Holy Book.

He says in Surah Maedah (5), verse 3: **“This day have I perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and chosen for you Islam as a religion; but whoever is compelled by hunger, not inclining willfully to sin, then surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.”** ,

According to the interpreters of Holy Quran 'Chosen' and 'Satisfied' are almost synonymous. This verse was revealed at Ghadeer Khum after Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family) announced the Wilayat (mastership) and caliphate of Ameerul Momineen Ali Ibn Abi Talib (peace be on them both).

The Islam of Ghadeer

Mastership and Imamate of Ahle Bait (peace be on them) will be established officially on the earth. Of the 73 sects in Islam, only the Islam of Twelver Shias will be official. When the shining sun of Ghadeer will emerge from the shadows of occultation, all other lamps will be doused and all stars would disappear. The Mastership and Imamate of Ahle Bait (peace be on them) will radiate on the horizon. Every nook and corner of the earth will be illuminated through its luminosity. Communism, imperialism, constitutional monarchy, democracy, oligarchy, aristocracy, dictatorship, every kind of government will be obliterated. It will be the divine leader appointed by Allah who will lead Allah's chosen religion on His earth. It will be an era when Allah's religion will be the only rule in His land.

Third Promise

The third promise is a result of the first two promises. When a divine leader appointed by Allah the Sovereign will govern the land based on Allah's most-liked religion, the third promise will be its consequence viz. “we will most surely turn their fear into security.” Insecurities like hunger, struggles, inflation, war, terrorism, racism, bigotry, nuclear warfare, physical and cold wars, personal disputes, anxiety, diseases, human right abuses, etc. exist because the world is not governed by the divinely appointed ruler or Islamic laws. The world today belongs to Allah but is ruled by others. When Allah's rule will engulf the world, fear will be eradicated. When a person shuns the path of moderation, the consequences will be dire. When justice and equality are forsaken, fear and insecurity grip the society.

There are three forms of diseases: Mental, spiritual and physical. Mental illness results in subjugation for which poet Allamah Iqbal once said: “Poverty teaches a hunter to prey.”

Subjugation is the only result of oppression. It presents the most dangerous consequences in human society under which terrorism is gaining strength. This signals the arrival of a Divine Revolution.

Fourth Promise

The fourth promise is a result of the first three. When hearts of men will not fear others, they will worship only Allah. They worship others out of fear - fear of governments, people around them or even poverty. In that era all paths leading to polytheism and hypocrisy will be closed. Since human intellect will reach its zenith, none but Allah will be worshipped. Thus, egos will be put to rest and there will be no place for hypocrisy. It will just be sincere worship.

How eloquently the Holy Quran has described it in Surah Noor (24), verse 55:

“They shall serve Me, not associating aught with Me...”

'Nothing will be associated with Allah's worship. Under the leadership of the Imam of the monotheists, leader of worshippers, chief of the God-fearing ones, pillar of sincerity, beloved son of Imam Ali Ibn Abi Talib (peace be on them both), cherished one of Fatima Zahra (peace be on her), Yusuf of Ahle Bait (may Allah hasten his reappearance) al-Hujjat Ibn al-Hasan al-Askari – there will be such worship regarding which Ameerul Momineen Ali Ibn Abi Talib (peace be on them both) says:

“Surely a group worships Allah out of greed (for reward) and this is the worship of traders. Another group worships Allah out of fear and this is the worship of slaves. (Third) group worships Allah out of gratitude and this is the worship of the free ones.”

[Nahj al-Balaagha, p. 510, H. 237]

This exceptional advice will be implemented in the government of Imam-eZamana (may Allah hasten his reappearance). At that time the tree of creation will be laden with fruits. The concept of **“And I have not created the jinn and the men except that they should serve Me”** [Surah Zaariyaat (51): Verse 56] will then be fulfilled. There will only be fruits of sincerity on the tree of creation.

The pen obviously falls way short of describing the serenity and spirituality of this golden period but it will be an era when the angels will get an answer to their question of why Allah sent down humans as His representatives on earth. The interpretation of “I know what you do not know,” will be apparent. It is for a day like this that He had appointed humans as representatives on earth.

Fifth Promise

Sinner is a synonym for a transgressor, the one who opposes justice. One who repents and abstains from sins is a just person. One who sins is a transgressor. Another reality of a transgressor is that he is out of fold of religion. Holy Quran, in Surah Maaedah (5), verses 44 to 46, has termed those who do not act according to the rules framed by Allah as disbelievers, oppressors and transgressors.

These verses first talk about the disbelief and then the transgression. As they don't believe in Allah's promises and reject it, they have been referred to as disbelievers and as a result, are out

of the realm of religion. A tradition from Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family) indicates thus:

"One who denies the rise of Mahdi is a disbeliever."

[Isbaat al-Hudaat, vol. 5, p. 277; Lisan al-Mizaan, vol. 5, p. 130; Al-Qaul al-Mukhtasar fi Alaamaat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar, p. 56)

Thus, those who don't believe in Allah's promises are disbelievers and are out of religion.

Hence it is worth paying attention that not only should we strongly condemn all forms of sins, evils and terrorism, but also reform our character, readiness, thoughts, hearts, minds and consciousness to answer his call. Inshaa Allah!

Establishment Of Islamic Culture

Every individual prays for the early reappearance of Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance) after every prayer and every salutation. The holy advent of Imam Zamaana (may Allah hasten his reappearance), traditions and signs of his reappearance are discussed extensively in various gatherings. However, we shall briefly discuss about the transitional period between his reappearance and his universal government and the period when he will enforce divine laws. Hence, it is necessary that we throw some light on this transitory period for which every Shia child, youth and elderly should be prepared.

The Era of Examination

In this era, the political aspirants and opportunists will be separated from the selfless and sincere ones. As soon as the news of reappearance of Imam (may Allah hasten his reappearance) spreads, evil forces will rise as storms. The armies of powerful politicians and rulers will come to the fore with all their might. The mighty magicians, fraudsters and artists will stand against him like a wave. In short, it is enough to say in the light of traditions that when Imam's sword will be unleashed with all its grandeur, the armies of its opponents will be made to bite the dust at all places. One has to be thoroughly prepared to be a part of the army of Imam Zamaana (may Allah hasten his reappearance). It is not difficult but not easy as well. The question is how should one prepare for this?

Certainty

To be in the army of Imam Zamaana (may Allah hasten his reappearance) every individual will have to assess his level of certainty.

Knowledge

After obtaining knowledge from the gatherings of scholars one has to take account of his own self.

Action

There should be a strong bonding between knowledge and practice.

Harmonious Thinking

Every person in the community has to be like-minded, united in character and behavior. Otherwise, a person can be deceived and behavioral and social problems will arise, all of which cannot be discussed here but at least we should be aware of it. When the rule of Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance) will dominate, the legislative and administrative laws will be established on the basis of the Noble Quran. The capacity and the potential of every individual in that era, its management and organization cannot be mentioned here as it will be a totally different realm and it is difficult to mention their characteristics.

By pondering over such discussions, the condition of the world post reappearance of Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance) becomes evident. Since we have not seen it we can only imagine it superficially just as we imagine the bounties of hereafter. The real picture of paradise will be clear when, by Allah's Will and intercession of progeny of the Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family), we shall enter it. Similarly, the real picture after reappearance

will be clear only after its occurrence. Nevertheless, it will be a different world altogether. The skies and the earth will be at their places but their conditions will be different. Those who died before reappearance will be brought to life again. They will be unable to recognize this world and will witness themselves in a completely different world.

A few important peculiarities of reappearance are given below:

Perfect Intellect

One of the reasons for the destruction and loss of this world is ignorance from its aim. People are unable to find the root cause of the problem. Shrewd people deceive the masses easily. When Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance) will reappear, intellects of the people will be perfected. Imam Muhammad Baaqir (peace be on him) says:

"When our Qaim rises Allah shall place His hand over the heads of His servants due to which their intellects will be perfected and their understanding will be completed."

[Al-Kaafi, vol. 1, p. 25, H. 21]

The root cause of our problem is love of this world due to which our intellects are reined by desires. Desires have overpowered our intellects. Post reappearance, intellects will be freed from the clutches of desires, they will be perfected and the foundation of evils will be destroyed. As per Ameerul Momineen Imam Ali Ibn Abi Talib (peace be on them both) one of the reasons for raising Messengers was perfection of intellects.

[Nahj al-Balaagha, Sermon 1]

The Holy Quran also addresses the people of intellect at various places. It converses with the heedful. Hence, with reappearance, the aim of Messengers (peace be on them all) will be fulfilled and the Holy Quran will get its audience.

Science

Today, developed nations are called progressive on the basis of science and technology and are ruling the world through it. The youth of today are under their control and everyone is smitten by technology which enslaved them. Imam Ja'far Sadiq (peace be on him) has narrated the condition of science and technology after reappearance thousand years ago (please note that the words of Imam are as per the people of that era hence it is an indication. The true picture will be unveiled when Imam will reappear).

"When our Qaim will reappear, Allah shall extend the (power of) hearing and sight of our Shias to such an extent that there would not be any obstacle between them and the Qaim. He (may Allah hasten his reappearance) shall speak to them and they will be able to hear and see him while he would (still) be at his place."

[Al-Kaafi, vol. 8, p. 241, H. 329]

Ears will listen to him and eyes will see him directly. There will not be a need for any modes of communication i.e. seeing and listening will not be on telephone, radio or television. In fact, technology will be so need a means to communicate. In another tradition, Imam Ja'far Sadiq (peace be on him) says:

"Surely, in the time of the Qaim, a believer who will be in the East will be able to see his brother who is in the West and in the same way the one who is in the West will be able to see his brother in the East."

[Behaar al-Anwaar, vol. 52, p. 391, H. 213]

Knowledge

All this progress and perfection will not be on the basis of miracles but due to advanced knowledge. "Ignorance is the key to all evils while knowledge is the basis of all goodness".

In the time of reappearance of Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance) knowledge will reach to such heights as cannot be imagined today. Imam Ja'far Sadiq (peace be on him) narrates in a tradition

"There are twenty seven parts of knowledge. The knowledge brought by the Messengers till date is two parts and people do not know anything apart from them. When our Qaim (may Allah hasten his reappearance) will reappear he will manifest the other twenty five parts and make it common among the people and include the earlier two parts as well. Hence all the twenty seven parts will be known to people."

[Behaar al-Anwaar, vol. 52, p. 336]

It is worth noting that all the progress in the world is a result of only two parts of knowledge and that too, one cannot claim that the two parts have been used in their entirety. Possibly, only a fraction of the two parts have been used by humanity to ascend such heights. Imagine the state of the world when the other twenty five parts will be revealed!

When intellects will be perfected, knowledge will be at its peak and thoughts will be purified. Then Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance) will propagate monotheistic knowledge and mastership of Ahle Bait (peace be on them) without whose light the ambience of the Noble Quran and supplications are unexplainable. According to traditions, people will flock in groups to mosques to teach the Holy Quran and Islam. Religious classes will be widespread.

Needlessness from Sunlight

The radiance of Imamat and Mastership of Hazrat Wali-e-Asr (may Allah hasten his reappearance) will be so intense and bright that people will be needless of sunlight.

Mufazzal Ibn Umar narrates that I heard Abu Abdillah Imam Ja'far Sadiq (peace be on him) exclaim:

"Indeed when our Qaim (may Allah hasten his reappearance) rises, the earth shall beam with the light of its Lord and people will be needless of sunlight..."

[Behaar al-Anwaar, vol. 52, p. 330, H. 52) Apart from providing light, sun is also the epicenter of energy and the focal point of the solar system. After reappearance we will neither need the light of the sun nor its energy, and it will no longer be required as the center of the solar system. All of these will be through the medium of the radiance of Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance). The Holy Quran announces:

"And the earth shall beam with the light of its Lord".

[Surah Zumar (39): Verse 69]

It refers to radiance of Imam-e-Asr (may Allah hasten his reappearance). The entire world for Imam (peace be on him) is like a palm of a hand and nothing will be concealed from him.

He or his companions will not need an aircraft or any other means of transport to travel. Mufazzal Ibn Umar narrates from Imam Ja'far Sadiq (peace be on him) that the companions of Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance) will be seen traveling on clouds.

[Behaar al-Anwaar, vol. 52, p. 368, H. 153]

The clouds with their thunder and lightning will be subservient to them. They will travel whenever and wherever they want.

Production and Prosperity

In that golden era, all doors of mischief and atrocities will be shut. There will be no oppression or blood shed anywhere in the world. Imam Ja'far Sadiq (peace be on him) says and each sentence of this tradition is worth pondering:

"When the Qaim (may Allah hasten his reappearance) rises, he will rule with justice. During his time, injustice will be wiped out and roads will be safe due to him. The earth will produce its treasures and every due will be restored to its deserving person..... He will judge between people with the judgment of Prophet Dawood (peace be on him) and Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him and his family). At that time, the earth will reveal all its treasures and show its blessings. People from among you will not find anyone to accept alms or donations because all believers will be excessively affluent."

[Behaar al-Anwaar, vol. 52, pp. 338-339, H. 83]

Black marketing, business that have been destroyed, prices that have escalated are all a result of unjust decisions. To say that the earth will manifest its treasures implies that agricultural produce will be at its peak. All the hidden treasures of earth will be unearthed. All minerals will be available for use whereas currently, only oil reserves are apparent. What would be the economic condition when all treasures will be manifest? There will be no poor in the world, be it India or African countries; not only will hunger and poverty alleviate but due to perfection of intellect and knowledge, people will be satiated enough to accept any charity.

When poverty and hunger will cease to exist and intentions will be satiated, the incidents of theft and burglary would end automatically. Roads will be so safe that women will come out of their houses with jewelry but none will harm them.

Equal and Just Distribution

Today, one of the reasons for poverty and inflation is not only less cultivation but unjust distribution too. The masses are dying of hunger while food is rotting in warehouses. Abu Saeed Khudri narrates from Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family):

"I give you glad tidings of Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance). He will be sent to my nation when people will be in dispute and concussions. He will fill the earth with peace and justice as it would be full of tyranny and oppression. The dwellers of heavens and earth will be pleased with him and the people in earth will distribute wealth correctly."

Someone asked: What does correctly mean? He (peace be on him and his family) replied: "Equally between the people."

"Allah will instill lack of need in the hearts of the nation of Muhammad (peace be on him and his family) and will stretch His equity so much so that a caller will call, 'Who has a need for wealth?' And no one rises from the people except one man..." Later even this man would return it feeling ashamed about it but it will still be granted to him.

(Behaar al-Anwaar, vol. 51, p. 92]

It is clear from this tradition that even people of heaven will be satisfied with this government and his rule will not be limited to earth but skies as well. It is quite possible that knowledge and science advance to such levels that people from the earth reach the skies to administer things there. Wealth, money and property will be in abundance, distribution will be even, there will be neither any wastage nor misery. There will be no favoritism in distribution. One important thing is that people will be trained so that none will wish for more than his requirement. These are fruits of having an infallible leader.

Development of Cities

In that era, all cities will be vast and populated, with large mosques. Imam Ja'far Sadiq (peace be on him) says:

"He will construct a mosque in the outskirts of Kufa which will have a thousand doors and the houses of Kufa will be connected to the river of Karbala."

[Behaar al-Anwaar, vol. 52, p. 330, H. 52]

Today, the distance between Kufa and Karbala is approximately 70-80 kilometers. One can imagine the vastness of a city spread over 80 kilometers.

The System of Development

The walls of mosques in that era will be small, there will be no minarets and mosques will resemble the ones build during the time of Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family). Today a lot of emphasis is laid on decorating mosques whereas they should not be decorated with expensive stones rather embellished with piety, religiousness and remembrance of Allah the High.

Roads will be wide up to the extent of sixty meters each. There will be no windows opening towards or drains on the street. There will be no balconies facing the road.

It can be concluded that people will be concerned with the rights of others in that era. Even the water from a person's house will not fall on public places while we observe today that people usurp property of others and construct their own houses.

In that era, human etiquette will also progress along with intellects such that the aim of sending Holy Prophet (peace be on him and his family) wherein he said "I have been raised for the perfection of best morals" will be achieved. During that time, not only humans but the nature of animals will also change. A lion and a sheep will live together harmoniously.

It is worth pondering that so many changes and advancements will not be miraculous and instant that people will witness these changes overnight. The actions of people will lead to

SHABAAN 1438 A.H.

these. Intellect will be perfect, thoughts will be pure and knowledge will be at its peak. Everyone will be abundant in intellect, knowledge and thoughts and hence, there will certainly be a change in the etiquette and manners of a person. When the goodness of knowledge and intellect will be made clear over evil, people will themselves adapt to goodness and distance themselves from evil.

This was just a minor exhibit of the golden era after reappearance. However, there is a world of difference between reading and witnessing it. May Allah give us the opportunity of seeing the holy visage of Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his reappearance) and may we be a part of the revolution of that era! And if death overtakes us, may Allah enliven us again so that we may witness the radiant face of the son of Fatima Zahra (peace be on her)!

Aameen, O. Lord of the worlds!