

# History

- ❖ Have you ever seen any resemblance of the behavior and conduct of our Prophet, peace be upon him and his holy family, throughout history? His people forced him out of his hometown and fought him mercilessly, despite knowing about his truthfulness, trustworthiness, magnanimity, and moral ethics. But when he overcomes them he sets them free and leaves them to choose whatever religion and way of life they wish.
- ❖ Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, used to advise and guide his people, show them the right path from that of straying, and then leave them to make their own choice.
- ❖ The honorable Prophet, peace be upon him and his holy family, repelled tens of assaults and battles which the people of the book [i.e. the Jews and Christians] launched against him, yet without coercing any one of them to accept Islam.
- ❖ History records that not even in one instance did Allah's messenger, peace upon him and his holy family, coerce a *dhimmi*<sup>1</sup> to embrace Islam, and history is rife with the biography of the Chosen Prophet which has documented minute details about his life.
- ❖ In his great hadith masterpiece of Bihar al-Anwar, the distinguished scholar 'allamah Majlisi,<sup>2</sup> Allah's blessings be upon him, has devoted

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<sup>1</sup> A *dhimmi* is the non-Muslim who lives under the protection of the Islamic state.

<sup>2</sup> 'allamah Majlisi, died 1111AH, is one of the most erudite Shia scholars, who is famous for his compilation of the hadith encyclopaedia of Bihar al-Anwar which is in 110 volumes.

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ten volumes of this work, which total more than four thousand pages, all of which are about Allah's messenger, peace upon him and his holy family, his battles, his ethics and conducts with the Muslims, the infidels and the people of the book... in all you would find not one instance in which Allah's messenger coerced a Christian or a Jew to accept Islam.

- ❖ History narrates to us that Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, appointed a Muslim governor for the city of Mecca, who ruled it according to Allah's laws. Mecca, at that time, was the bastion of polytheism, and given the beauty of what they saw, the polytheists abandoned their own laws which they had inherited and had grown accustomed to, when they saw the benefits and primacy of the laws of Islam.
- ❖ The absolute majority of the people pledged allegiance to Imam Ali, peace be upon him, but despite that he climbed the pulpit to see if there were objectors and if so what were their objections. Do you find anything like this in history?
- ❖ For the first time in history, the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali, peace be upon him, allowed people to freely march and demonstrate their vocal opposition, and also sanction them to express their opinions even in inadmissible matters. This was at a time when the entire world was suffocated by the darkness of tyranny and authoritarianism.
- ❖ Read history for yourselves to find out what the Umayyad dynasty attempted to do with Islam, and what was Imam Husayn's role, and why Allah's Messenger said, "Indeed Husayn is the torch of guidance and the ark of salvation".

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- ❖ The salvation of Allah's religion depended on the blood of Husayn, peace be upon him, and were it not for the martyrdom of Husayn and his family members, there would have been no trace of Islam today. Whoever wishes [to see the evidence for this] should refer to history.
  
- ❖ Read the history and observe the way of Allah's Messenger and that of *amir al-mo'mineen* Imam Ali, and the history of Ahl al-Bayt, peace be upon them all; whatever opportunity they had and the chance they were given, see what they did. The Commander of the Faithful, peace be upon him, was the greatest leader on the surface of the earth, and he ruled the vastest state of the time, but when he was assassinated he was in debt. Have you ever heard that a leader has died who was in debt?<sup>1</sup>
  
- ❖ The leader of the greatest country on earth, Imam Ali son of Abu Talib, peace be upon him, was in debt when he died, and Imam Hasan, peace be upon him, for a long period of time afterwards continued to repay the debts of the Commander of the Faithful. The same was in the case of Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family; he used to receive millions and he used to distribute them amongst the people. Close to his demise, he said: "O Ali! you are the one to pay off my debt..." as Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, was in debt when he passed away, and his hauberk was put up as collateral – as it is well known. These issues need to be reflected upon, we must take these pure and divinely appointed leaders as role models.
  
- ❖ The faithful men and women should not have their faith shaken by the events we see these days, which bring fear in the hearts of some of the faithful. They should refer to the Qur'an, and carefully study its verses

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout history, when leaders passed away they would leave behind fortunes to their heirs. In our times, when leaders leave office or pass away, they normally do so having amassed fortunes. Certainly they wouldn't be in debt. For someone like Imam Ali to be in debt shows one or more of his qualities.

-to see in what situations Almighty Allah succored the Muslims, and how He gave them victory.

- ❖ Almighty Allah succored the Muslims in situations in which victory looked impossible according to rational calculations. But despite that the Almighty blessed them with victory; one of the most important of those situations, was the battle of the Confederates (al-Ahzab).
  
- ❖ At the dawn of Islam, the Almighty promised the faithful victory, but the hypocrites and the sick-hearted belied Allah and His messenger when they saw the Confederates (al-Ahzab), and said: [Allah and His Messenger promised us nothing but delusion].<sup>1</sup> Today, we are being subjected to the same test; so do we doubt Allah's promise of victory to the faithful, or do we stand steadfast on our faith believing in Allah's promise, without a negative doubt?
  
- ❖ Poverty almost became extinct during the reign of the Islamic government, to the extent that when the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali, peace be upon him, saw one poor man, he was shocked, as he considered that an unacceptable phenomenon which does not fit with the Muslim society and the Islamic system of government. Thereby, the imam orders that the pauper man receives salary to enable him to lead a comfortable life, even though he was a Christian. Therefore, Imam Ali ensured that there will not be even one instance of manifestation of poverty and destitution in the Islamic country. It is for the people, including the Muslims, to know that the government of Islam overcomes poverty, and elevates the standard of living for the poor and destitute – not only for Muslims, but also for the non-Muslims who live under the rule of the government of Islam.

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<sup>1</sup> The Holy Qur'an, 33:12

- ❖ The Islamic governments used to last longer, because of the mutual bond between the people and the government. The head of government never needed “secret service” and “presidential guards” and suchlike to protect him from the people.
- ❖ Abu Dharr al-Ghifari was a young polytheist, so what was it that made him embrace Islam? What did he see that made him become a Muslim and exemplary human being? And how great and numerous are the perpetual reverberations of his influence?
- ❖ There are hundreds of eminent Shi’a scholars who are the fruit of the endeavours of Abu Dharr, Allah’s blessings be upon him, since they found Abu Dharr the most truthful, and became truthful like him, and henceforth they strived, progressed, and achieved great ends.
- ❖ History does not register before Islam, nor do civilizations report since the dawn of Islam, until today, any social security system as comprehensive and wide-ranging as that practiced in Islam.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ In the so-called “apostasy wars”, which were waged against some of the Muslims under the pretext of “fighting the apostates”, the conducts which Khalid ibn Waleed practiced were totally contrary to the teachings of the noble prophet, peace be upon him and his holy family, and the teachings of Islam. The conducts perpetrated by Khalid ibn Waleed included: killing the Muslims by throwing them from high palaces, burning them alive, mutilating them and cutting their limbs, and throwing them down the wells. This is when the noble prophet, peace be upon him and his holy family, prohibited the mutilation of even a dog.

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<sup>1</sup> In his work, *Politics at the very heart of Islam*, ayatollah Sadiq Shirazi cited the declaration by Prophet Muhammad “whoever dies and leaves behind a debt, then I would be responsible for that.” This is the nature of the social security system in Islam that the author is referring to.

- ❖ When Khalid ibn Waleed raided the Judhaymah clan of the al-Mostalaq tribe, [which was for no justification except for personal tribal revenge,] Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, dispatched the Commander of the Faithful (*amir al-mo'mineen*) Imam Ali, peace be upon him, to address the issue and compensate them. For everyone killed in that raid, Imam Ali gave the compensation (*diyah*) of the killed to his heirs, the compensation for every fetus miscarried as a result of fear or physical blow, he compensated the owners of any property damaged and items or wealth lost, he also compensated the owners for any cattle fetus miscarried, with broken or lost harnesses and leashes also compensated for. Imam Ali, peace be upon him, made monetary compensation to the women who were frightened and distressed in the course of the raid, and so too the youngsters were compensated for terror they felt. Also those who did not know what they had lost in the course of the raid were compensated, even the dogs' drinking vessels which were broken or lost were compensated for. After all that, they were given money to be contented about Allah's messenger, peace upon him and his holy family. Does history, even in the world today, find anything like this humane conduct, in which even the fright of women and children are compensated for?
- ❖ The Umayyad rejected everything that Islam brought forth right from the outset; beginning from their master Abu Sufian, who is well-known for his infamous declaration he made amongst his inner circle, [long after the Prophet] "I swear by that which Abu Sufian swear by, there is no Paradise and no Fire". Then came the turn of his son Mo'awiyah, the founder of the Umayyad dynasty, who was relentless in character assassinating Allah's messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family.
- ❖ On one occasion he confided to one of his companions when he heard the call-to-prayer (*adhan*) mentioning the name of the messenger

of Allah, saying, “I swear I would not rest until I bury that name”. Mo‘awiyah’s son Yazid went even further and expressed publicly by declaring:

*The Hashim were frivolous with the reign, As there was never any divine revelation made ...*

And then he ordered for a table to be set for gambling and drinking wine, in full view of the public.

- ❖ Yazid, son of Mo‘awiyah, used to drink wine and commit indecent and despicable acts, just as his father Mo‘awiyah used to do. Like his father Yazid used to do these discretely; for example he used to go to a village called Hawarin to indulge in his acts. However, after the killing of Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, Yazid believed that he had eradicated all obstacles, and he had realized the aspirations of his father and grandfather, and so he started to practice those conducts in public, while at the same time claiming to be the caliph or successor to Allah’s Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family. In this way he attempted to distort the image of Islam, and this was the first of many steps the Umayyad took to oppose and undermine Islam in order to eliminate it altogether.
  
- ❖ It is truly unfortunate that you see one who is viewed as a scholar considers Saladin as an “Islamic leader”, though even his admirers from amongst his religious sect admit that in one incident he burnt an entire city, and more than fifty thousand of its inhabitants, which included women, children and old men, perished.
  
- ❖ Admirers of Saladin and those who promote and glorify his personality report that he killed nearly one million human beings for nothing other than that they were of a different viewpoint to him.

[For more on the criminal conduct of Saladin see endnote #6 in the endnotes section beginning on page 243.]

- ❖ If we review and survey the shining aspects of human history, we will find that the law of Islam is the best one for quality society management in various domains. Islam has the wise politics, as well as the sound economics, and low crime-rate to an extent the like of which world's history has not seen from the time of the ancient civilizations until today, and indeed nothing close to that.
- ❖ History records numerous examples of events that show Islam's mercy and humaneness. At a time when the pre-Islamic *jahiliyah* wars brought destruction and death of tens of thousands of people, however, the total number of victims of all the eighty-or-so battles fought during the reign of Allah's Messenger's government was not more than fourteen-hundred, and that is on both sides. Needless to say, all the battles the Prophet engaged in were purely defensive.
- ❖ Under the leadership of the commander of the faithful Imam Ali ibn Abu Talib peace be upon him, the greatest country on the face of the earth, which comprised tens of the countries according to today's map and had implemented the laws of Islam, was not accustomed to the existence of begging paupers. This was until the Imam, peace be upon him, noticed this odd phenomenon once during the entire of his reign. He was shocked to see this and denounced it by saying, "What is this?!" History never recorded such an event again until the end of his reign.
- ❖ The shiny and radiant history of the biography of the Holy Prophet and the Commander of the Faithful, peace be upon them, during their rule, is full of numerous examples, which indicate that they endeavored to provide social justice for all, and not to wrong even one of the minorities, even the enemies of the state, or the enemies of the Head of State, or the hypocrites.

- ❖ At a time when the world throughout the east and west was being crushed with oppression and vice for centuries on end, the Muslims were the greatest and most powerful nation on the face of the earth – and this was according to the rate and prevalence of the teachings of the Qur'an amongst them and their adherence to them.
- ❖ Observers of Islamic history recognize that there is something distinctly evident in the history of the *ma'soom* Imams, peace be upon them, which is farsightedness and meticulousness in thought. Their teachings were not limited to their time alone, but they took into account the time and circumstance of hundreds of years ahead in providing direction and guidance for the Shi'a leadership and management and the roadmap for them.
- ❖ [During the prolonged period of infighting between the Umayyad and the Abbasid dynasties, the persecution of the Shi'a and the Ahl al-Bayt were lessened to some extent, and thus] Imams Baqir and Sadiq, peace be upon them, used the opportunity, as far as they could, to protect the lives of the Shi'a on the one hand, and, on the other, endeavored to teach and disseminate the correct Islam, which ultimately reached us.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The opportunity Imams Muhammad al-Baqir and Ja'far al-Sadiq had to promote and disseminate the teachings of Ahl al-Bayt, peace be upon them, was greater than any other one of the divinely appointed *ma'soom* Imams ever had. For example, it is reported that Imam Sadiq, peace be upon him, used to have four thousand students attend his lectures at any one time. It is reported that more than ten thousand used to narrate from the al-Sadiq on various issues of the teachings of Islam. Imam Muhammad al-Baqir is the fifth and Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq is the sixth of the twelve *ma'soom* Imams divinely appointed to lead the Muslim Ummah after Prophet Muhammad,

- ❖ If scholars make a careful examination of history, they will find that most of the Jews, Christians, Zoroastrians, and polytheists who embraced Islam during the era of the *ma'soom* Imams, peace be upon them, were the students of Imam Muhammad al-Baqir, or Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq, or the *ma'soom* Imams after them, peace be upon them all.
- ❖ Imams Muhammad al-Baqir and Ja'far al-Sadiq, peace be upon them, brought about a massive scholarly tidal wave that preserved Islam intact.
- ❖ Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq, peace be upon him, trained and educated more than four thousand scholars and hadith narrators, and those four thousand scholars learned the real Islam from a *ma'soom* Imam and went about teaching and disseminating it in every town and village throughout the vast Islamic country.

History has recorded that the judges who had been practicing law for many years differed in their judgment when issuing a verdict for a thief. This was because they had not come across a theft case before hand, so that they would be familiar with the Sharia verdict for it. This happened for the chief judge of the time Ibn Abu Dawood. He gathered the scholars, jurists and judges in the presence of Imam Muhammad al-Jawad,<sup>1</sup> peace be upon him, to address the issue.<sup>1</sup> This proves how perfectly the Islamic law ensures a happy and prosperous life for mankind in all aspects.

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Peace be upon him and his holy family. The Shi'a Islamic sect are also known as the Ja'fari sect, as the Shi'a take the bulk of their jurisprudential guidance from the teachings of Ja'far al-Sadiq. The leaders of the other four Islamist sects were direct or indirect students of Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq, peace be upon him.

<sup>1</sup> Imam Muhammad al-Jawad is the ninth of Prophet Muhammad's twelve divinely appointed successors.

- ❖ By the Grace of Almighty Allah upon the entire Islamic Ummah and the wounded Iraqi nation in particular, the “tyrant of the time” was removed and the masses have the great blessing of the freedom to visit the holy shrines, in particular the shrine of Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Sha‘ban. It was on the occasion of 15<sup>th</sup> of Sha‘ban [1410AH/1990AD] that the honourable nation of Iraq offered thousands of victims in the cause of visiting Imam Husayn, peace be upon him. It is imperative to commemorate the oppressed victims of the Sha‘ban uprising who stamped their support and succour for Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, with the blood of their hearts. They eternalised the ideals of bravery, chivalry, and sacrifice for Iraq and history. We also commiserate the victims’ grieved families, and this great nation, whose honour and magnanimity history has witnessed.
- ❖ My elder brother, the late Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Shirazi, may Allah elevate his station, used to continuously emphasise through his lectures, writings and poems to pay particular attention to Allah’s laws that have been practically forgotten; on issues such as the one Ummah, brotherhood in faith – thus there is no difference between various races and nationalities – consultation on matters of concern such as management of the country, the Islamic freedom, pluralism, and suchlike.
- ❖ My elder brother, the late Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayni Shirazi, may Allah elevate his station, was a manifestation of the holy hadith by Imam Sadiq, peace be upon him; “**scholars are the Prophets**”

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<sup>1</sup>The scholars and jurists all had different and conflicting views on nature of the matter, and ultimately Imam al-Jawad, peace be upon him, presented the answer which convinced all.

**heirs**". One of the manifest qualities of prophets is that they employ all their energies and resources in Allah's cause, and do not care about any of this world's pleasures of life for that cause. Our late brother too, from his early age, adopted such policy; he devoted and dedicated all his energies and abilities to the cause of the Almighty Allah, and never cared about anything in the world which would be to the detriment of that cause – rather it was the complete opposite.

- ❖ Amongst the things worth mentioning, as we observe the occasion of the anniversary of the passing away of Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayni Shirazi, are the matters he used to be continually preoccupied with. These were the causes and tragedies of the Muslims throughout the world, whether they were in Muslim countries or in other than them, especially the dark decades the wounded Iraq went through, the tragedies of Palestine, Afghanistan and the like.
- ❖ The late Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayni Shirazi, may Allah elevate his station, used to prepare for the day the oppressed Iraq would find a way out through his books, communiqués, meetings with various sections of the nation of Iraq such as scholars, academics, politicians, businessmen, and the like.
- ❖ This is how another one of the many pages of continuous tragedies was turned, and Almighty Allah brought about some of the hopes, through the fall of Iraq's tyrant. The prayers of the tortured in the depth of the dungeons, and those of bereaved mothers, widows and children were answered. And the holy shrines that were desecrated throughout the dark history were avenged.
- ❖ After the arrest of the tyrant Saddam, while I thank Almighty Allah for His Grace for this great blessing which has included the entire oppressed Muslim nation of Iraq, rather the entire Muslim Ummah, or

even all of humanity, I beseech Him to complete this blessing by eliminating all sequels of the great tragedy, which has lasted for many long decades, and end it with the bright and happy dawn for the future of this patient nation. I congratulate all, inside and outside the country, the seminaries, the academics, the loyal tribes, the professionals, workers, businessmen, and all others on the occasion of this victory for this oppressed nation.

- ❖ The explosions which targeted the holy shrines and the innocent organisers of the Husayni rituals in the holy cities of Karbala and Kaḍimiyah, as well as others, in the holy month of Muharram [1425AH/2004AD], and on the day of Ashura in particular, and desecrated the holy sanctuary of the shrines of the holy Imams; namely Imam Husayn, Imam al-Kaḍim,<sup>1</sup> Imam al-Jawad, as well as the shrine of al-Abbas<sup>2</sup> peace be upon them all – the focal-point for the hearts of hundreds of millions of Muslims – represent a continuation of the movement of [the cursed tree in the Qur'an]<sup>3</sup> which is embodied by Yazid, Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad, Omar ibn Sa'd, Shimr ibn Dhil-Jawshan, and their ilk.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Imam Musa al-Kaḍim is the seventh of Prophet Muhammad's twelve divinely-appointed successors.

<sup>2</sup> al-Abbas is Imam Husayn's half-brother who showed utmost devotion to his leader and brother Imam Husayn, who was killed in Karbala along with all other companions and supporters of Imam Husayn, peace be upon them. In the holy city of Karbala, the shrine of al-Abbas is in the vicinity of the shrine of Imam Husayn, peace be upon them, and is the Mecca for the Shia devotees throughout the world, who annually converge on the holy city in tens of millions.

<sup>3</sup> The Holy Qur'an, 17:60

<sup>4</sup> Yazid, the son of Mo'awiyah, was the tyrannical ruler of the time who ordered the killing of Imam Husayn because the latter did not pledge allegiance to Yazid. Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad was Yazid's governor in Kufah, Omar ibn Sa'd was the head of the army despatched to Karbala, and Shimr

- ❖ The martyrs and the injured in the explosions which targeted the holy shrines, and the organizers of the Husayni rituals in the holy cities of Karbala, Kadimiyah, and others locations, in the holy month of Muharram, represent the movement of the [goodly tree]<sup>1</sup> which is embodied in Imam Husayn, al-Abbas, Ali al-Akbar, al-Qasim ibn al-Hasan, and their likes peace be upon them all.
- ❖ The wrongful attacks in the holy month of Muharram against the innocent participants in the mourning procession in the city of Quetta in Pakistan, and others like it, represent a continuation of the movement of the Umayyad [the cursed tree in the Qur'an].
- ❖ History has proven that sectarian commotions have all ended in failure for all sides, and have resulted in the waste of energies, loss of golden opportunities, and they give the common enemy the chance to hunt in murky water.

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ibn Dhi'l-Jawshan was the one who beheaded Imam Husayn, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his holy family.

<sup>1</sup> The Holy Qur'an, 14:24