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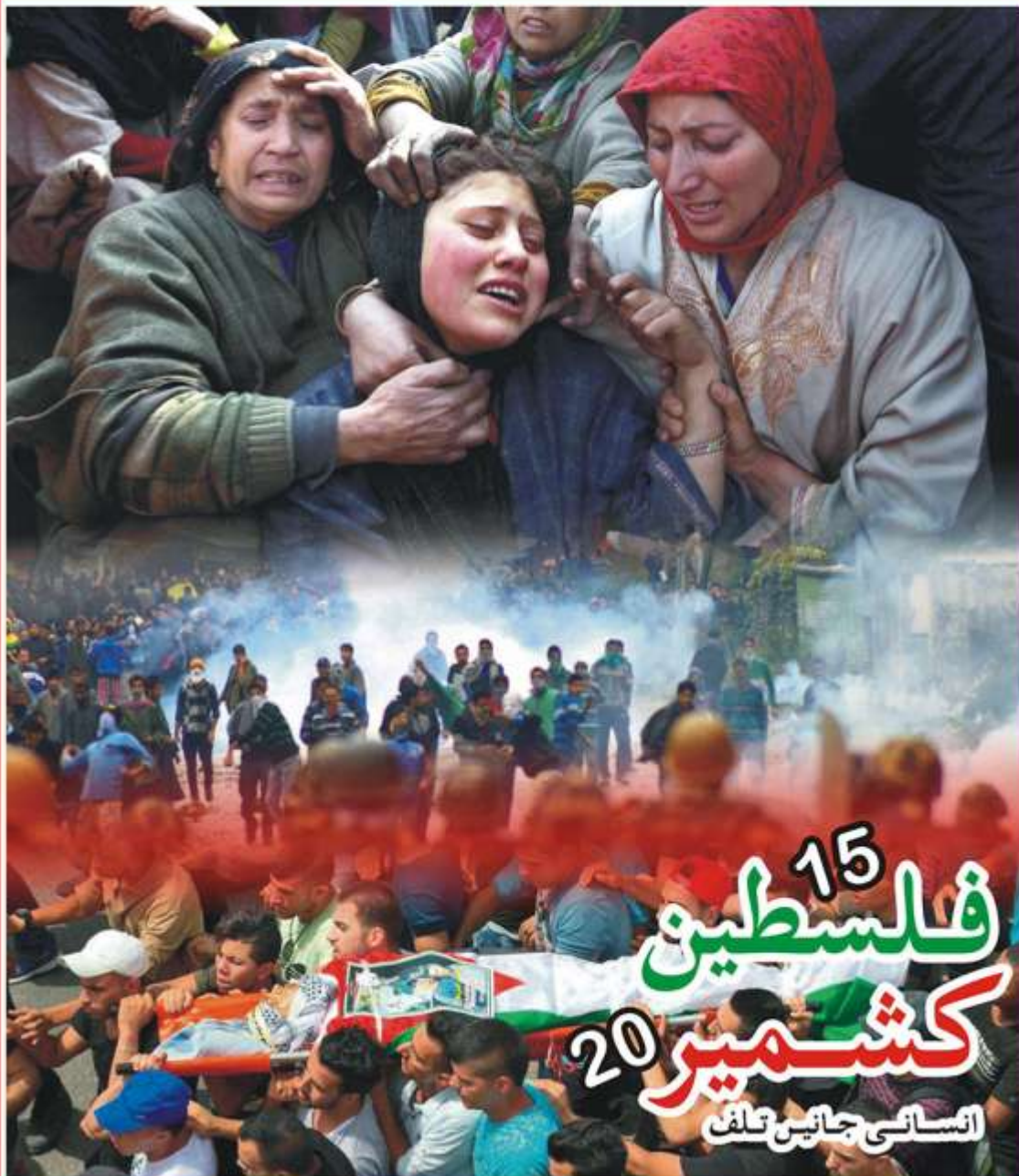
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اللہ کی ولایت مومنین اور متقین پر ہے وہ انہیں تاریکی سے روشنی کی طرف نکال لاتا ہے

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15
فلسطین

کشمیر
انسانی جائیں تلف

Christian and Muslims are all humble before the greatness of Ali ibn Abi Talib:^(A.S) Ayatollah Khamenei

The Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) belongs to all of humanity. He does not only belong to Shia Muslims and Muslims in general. All of humanity is humble and respectful of the greatness and beautiful aspects of Ali ibn Abi Talib (a.s.) except for those people who do not know him. Therefore, you can see that the panegyrics of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) are not only Muslims. Christians also praise the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.); not only Shia Muslims praise him. Besides Shia Muslims, the community of Sunni Muslims, in all parts of the Islamic world, sometimes speak more enthusiastically about the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) than about other great personalities of the early Islamic era. Why? What is the reason? The reason is the greatness of this Imam; the kind of greatness which some people tried to deny throughout the life of that great personality, during several centuries after his demise: but they failed. The brightness of the sun cannot be denied because it is the sun, and it naturally shines and gives warmth and light. Can this be denied? These are historical facts, and even the enemy of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) has acknowledged them. In a meeting with Muawiyah, somebody said something against the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) in order to flatter him. Muawiyah became angry at this person, and he began a statement in praise of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.). Muawiyah used to ask the companions of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.)—those who confronted Muawiyah after the demise of that great Imam (a.s.)—to speak to him about Ali (a.s.), and they would do this. There is a narration which says, Muawiyah sometimes shed tears. These are the astonishing facts about Ali (a.s.)—This is while the enmity of Muawiyah towards Ali (a.s.) is not a secret: everybody knows it. One of the children or grandchildren of Abdullah ibn al-Zubayr—the Zubayr family were against the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.)—asked his father, "What is the reason for the increasing greatness of the household of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.)? He answered, "Yes, it is like this. Whatever his enemies did to hide his virtues, he showed himself as pure gold amid all these hedges of thorns. Whatever his enemies did to gather virtues for themselves, they found out that their efforts made noses feel nauseous like a corpse would—whose appalling smell fills the space moment by moment." This is the way the enemies of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) have spoken about him. Today too, the books of Muslims—whether Shia or Sunni—are full of the Commander of the Faithful's (a.s.) virtues.

At all stages of life, he is our role model. Teenagers who are ten, twelve, thirteen years old can follow Ali (a.s.). They can make him their role model. Why? Because when he was ten and eleven years old, he was the first person to know and accept Islam and follow the Holy Prophet (s.w.a.). The fact that a child, between the age of ten and eleven years old, discovered the truth, stood up for it, and followed it as much as he could, amid all those hostilities and denials, is significant. Young individuals who are between twenty and twenty-five years can also make the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) their role model. Why? Because when he was twenty-three, during the time when the Holy Prophet (s.w.a.) migrated from Mecca to Medina, he undertook the heaviest responsibility during the great migration. The Holy Prophet (s.w.a.) entrusted the dearest members of his household to Ali (a.s.) so that he would bring them from Mecca to Medina. The Holy Prophet (s.w.a.) entrusted him with the duty of giving the people things

which were held in trust: to pay his debts, collect money which the people owed the Holy Prophet (s.w.a.), and join him in Medina. It was he [Ali (a.s.)] who agreed to sleep on the Holy Prophet's (s.w.a.) bed and go face to face with danger on a night when the enemies planned to break into the house and mutilate the Holy Prophet (s.w.a.) with their swords. See how great that Imam (a.s.) was! His behavior can serve as an example for us. When the Holy Prophet (s.w.a.) formed a government in Medina, the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) became his top soldier; he continued to play such a role during the ten-year rule of the Holy Prophet (s.w.a.); that is to say, from twenty-three till thirty-three years old. Whenever the Holy Prophet (s.w.a.) had a problem, Ali ibn Abi Talib (a.s.) was the first person to stand beside him and defend him. During different wars, he played a leading role. During different wars, his sword used to solve the difficult and insoluble problems of the Holy Prophet (s.w.a.). Whenever everyone retreated, he forgot about his life and he advanced. And he did not want anything for himself. Whatever he did was in the way of God, for the sake of God and for rendering services to the Holy Prophet (s.w.a.). When the Holy Prophet (s.w.a.) passed away, the Commander of the Faithful thought that it was his right to be the caliph. And in order to do this, he took action, delivered speeches, and invited the people to accept his caliphate. But, he withdrew when he saw that it was not possible; and when he saw that if he entered the arena and continued to invite the people, the Muslim community would disintegrate. "Therefore, I exercised patience while there was a thorn in my eye and while sorrow had blocked the path of my throat" [Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 3]. For twenty-five years, the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) did not say anything about his right—he regarded it as his absolute right—for the sake of the unity of the Islamic Ummah, the solidarity of the Islamic community and the maintenance of the Islamic government. Are these jokes? Are these things easy to do? These are the things which help an individual conquer the peaks of glory in human history. These are the things which turn an individual into the brightest sun—which never sets—in human history.

After twenty years, when the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) was fifty-seven or fifty-eight years old—when he was in older in age—the people came to him and firmly insisted that he should accept the caliphate. They said, "You should come and you should accept it. We will not stop asking you." The Commander of the Faithful did not accept their offer at first, but when he saw that many people from the entire world of Islam—people from Egypt, Iraq, and Medina, including the outstanding personalities, al-Muhajirun and al-Ansar—came and firmly said: "Oh Ali, no one except for you can manage this community and solve these problems," then he said "Alright, I accept the caliphate," and he accepted it. Since the moment that he accepted this responsibility and until the time when his holy head was slit, while he was praying, he did not stop—not even for a single day or hour—safeguarding the right and the truth from which Islam emerged. No considerations, no fear, and no weakness prevented him from carrying out his responsibility. "That men may stand forth in justice" [The Holy Quran, 57: 25]. The prophets entered the arena for administering justice. They entered the arena for helping the people get close to God and enforcing divine rules among the people. This is the mission of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) as the executor of the Holy Prophet's (s.w.a.) will and as the Islamic

caliph. He did not retreat, even for a second, on treading this path. He was not negligent in moving forward. His old friends broke off their relationship with him. Those who had extravagant claims became unhappy and they separated from him. They waged wars against him in order to overthrow him. Those who used to praise him in the past turned into his mortal enemies.

But the criticism of these people did not at all influence the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.). "I am one of the people who is not intimidated by the criticism of faultfinders" [Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 192]. He continued the path in a steadfast way until he was martyred. "He died by assassination in the mosque at Kufa, death occasioned by his own generous fairness." This is the character of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.); these are the outward qualities that we can see. See how amazing they are: how delicate, beautiful, and astonishing his virtues are.

Now we call ourselves Alavis and Shias of Ali (a.s.). If we say the name of Ali (a.s.), but we do not follow his path, this is of no value. There were some people during the time of that great Imam (a.s.) who expressed their love for him, but who refused to do what he wanted. The Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) treated them without mercy. They were involved in corruption, and he administered divine punishment upon them. They said blasphemous words, and he put them to the sword.

When a number of people saw the greatness of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.)—we are inferior before this greatness—they said that he was a "god." When we see a great individual, we compare him to a "god." We cannot believe that our great and omniscient God can create such a great individual. But we make a mistake by saying such things. During the time of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.), some people made this mistake by saying that he was a "god." The Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) ordered all of them to be killed; he did not show mercy towards them; he did not stand in a ceremony with them; he did not say that they are his supporters or that they are exaggerating; he did not do any of that. They abandoned the path of monotheism and fighting against polytheism; they became apostates, and they did not repent. The Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) ordered that divine punishment is inflicted upon them, and he killed all of them.

The Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) is like this. If we imagine that just because we praise the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) in words or just because we love him in our hearts, Allah the Exalted and the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) himself will forget about our wrongdoings and our deviation, we should know that this is not the philosophy of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.). The philosophy of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) is treading on the path of God. A Shia Muslim is a person who follows the path of the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.). Now an individual may make a certain mistake or commit a certain sin; this is a different issue. This individual should repent. But the philosophy of the Commander of the Faithful does not at all allow us to pin our hopes on our relationship with the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) and minimize the seriousness of our deviation from the path of God. The significance of what the Commander of the Faithful (a.s.) did lies in the fact that he did not forget about people's rights, justice, and preserving the path of God just because of certain considerations. Jul 28, 2007

Imam Ali^{a.s}; the door of Knowledge

According to Ali (a.s) knowledge is better than wealth, for knowledge guards you while you have to guard wealth. Knowledge increases actions, but wealth gradually decreases as it is spent. Let me conclude only with this hope that we all will take oath that we will lead our life according to the guidance of Prophet Mohammad (s.a.w.w), Moula Ali and his companions.



FARHAN IRSHAD

To him is all gratefulness, and to him are all thanks, he is creator of all worlds and lord of might and mercy. Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (s), the most beneficent, the most glorious, and his Ahl-ul-bayt (his kins). Thanks to Allah that has made us his followers, the followers of Ali (a.s.) and the kins of Ali, on whom the noble Quran states: These are my Ahl-ul-bayt, my devotees and my supporters, keep away all kinds of dirt (and sins) from them and purify them in the best form of purification. (Surah Al-Ahzab, ayah 33). peace and blessings be upon the head of last Prophet's Ahl al-bayt, the door of knowledge, with endless piety and patience, measure of justice, the best Gazi, and the father of the orphans, son-in-law, successor and brother of Hazrat Mohammad (s.a.w.w), and finally our first Imam Ali Ibn Abi Talib (a.s) and his pure progeny. I shall try to give as much information as I can about Ali Ibn Abi Talib, recognized by Islam and all schools of thoughts agree upon Ali as sinless Imam and believed to be direct descent from the Prophet (Phuh). It is not so easy to give detailed information about Ali (a.s.), son of Abu Talib, son-in-law and first cousin of Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon him), spouse of Hazrat Fatima (s.a), grand lady of this world and the hereafter.

Abil Hadid al-Mutazali, example of faith and justice, scholar of Ahl-Sunna, in his book "commentary on Nahjul-Balagha" (Sharhu-Nahjul Balagha) has used an invaluable sentence to this end: "Oh Ali, what can I say before your personality? Your enemies have hidden your courtesy because of their malice to you, while the friends have hidden because of fear. Yet, your courtesies are never-ending..." Character of Maula Ali (a.s.) is perfectly defined in a short sentence: "Ali (a.s.) is non-recognizable and non-definable". (ANA MADINATU'L-ILM WA ALI BABUHA FA-MAN ARADA'L-ILM FAL-YA TIL-BAB). I am the city of knowledge and Ali is its gate; so whoever desires knowledge, let him enter the

gate.

This profound hadith, (saying of the Prophet) recorded by Muslims of every theological school, shows the unique place given by Prophet Muhammad to Hazrat Imam Ali a.s who, married to the Prophet's daughter, Bibi Fatim (S.A) was also cousin to the Holy Prophet: Abdul Motalib was their common Grandfather. Imam Ali (A.S) did not fail the Prophet in this position of gate of the Prophet's knowledge as evidenced by the vibrant spiritual traditions descending from him in the esoteric practice of Islam in Sunni and Shia followers. Prophet Muhammad s.a.w.w ensured that his legacy would be continued by the formal institution of Hazrat Ali at Ghadhir-e khumm and also by his many traditions, Sunna. He said to Ali, 'you are from me, and I am from you (anta minni wa ana minka)' and more sayings: Ali 'is as my own soul (ka-nafsi.)' And 'Ali is with the quran and the Quran is with Ali. They will not separate from each other until they return to me at the (Paradise) pool (Al-Howzi Kausar). This transference of the Prophetic nature to Imam Ali is not only in the following of his words and deeds, the sunna, but also of his spirituality, his inner nature, that soul connection that every Muslim aspires to, and Hazrat Ali a.s became the foremost exemplar.

Ali a.s birth in the Kabbah is the unique in the history of the world. Neither a Prophet nor a divine saint was ever blessed with such honor. He was brought under the care and affection of the Holy Prophet. So many years in the company of the Holy Prophet had kept him so close and inseparable that he was one with him in character knowledge, self sacrifice, bravery, kindness, generosity, oratory and eloquence. Ali a.s was in the shadow of Prophet (s.a.w.w) from his very infancy. The Holy Prophet has said of Ali (A.S) "Oh Ali you are my brother in the world as well as in the hereafter (dome's day), I am the city of knowledge and Ali is the gate. Nobody knows Ali except me and no body knows me except Allah. If you want to see the knowledge of Adam, the piety of Nooh, the devotion of Ibrahim, the awe of Moosa and the service and miracles of Esa look at the bright face of Ali (A.S).

Ali (A.S) was the ocean of knowledge, master of the masters. He was the person who didn't receive any institutional or formal education. He was taught and guided only Prophet (S.A.W.W) of Islam. Since Allah has inspired the Prophet with science of Quran and Islamic principles. Muslims considered that the Prophet is the one who has only knowledge of all sciences. They were worried because there was no enough time to learn from him, so he openly said to Muslim Ummah:

"ANNA MADINATU'L-ILM WA ALI UN BABUHA"

This is due to the fact that Ali lived with prophet, learned all his knowledge and was the only companion who was able to answer al, questions concerning all issues. He was the authority whom all the companions used to refer while he didn't have to ask anyone about any issue.

Ali (a.s) gained all his knowledge directly from the Prophet by spending much more time with him. Moreover Ali (A.S) was different from all those who achieved knowledge just to freeze it in their minds and be rewarded by it. He believed that knowledge wasn't sought for serving his own interests but for the sake of Allah who owned the whole knowledge. Since Allah wanted Ali (A.S) to teach people this knowledge, Ali (a.s) called on people to ask him even when he was about to meet the death. He used to say: ask me before you lose me"

Ali worked on educating people on Islamic knowledge that is clear through his speeches in Najul balagah. The Imam (a.s) took advantage of every opportunity to make people aware of all the issues surrounding them.

According to Ali (a.s) knowledge is better than wealth, for knowledge guards you while you have to guard wealth. Knowledge increases actions, but wealth gradually decreases as it is spent.

At the end, Let me conclude only with this hope that we all will take oath that we will lead our life according to the guidance of Prophet Mohammad (s.a.w.w), Moula Ali and his companions.

Author hails from Lalbertal area of Budgam and is English teacher at Imamia public school Lalbertal Budgam Kashmir.

Eco-friendly Electric Buses to be introduced in Srinagar Soon

Srinagar Smart City proposes to introduce Eco-friendly Electric Buses in Srinagar City under the Srinagar Smart City mission. A formal request to this effect has been made by Farooq Ahmad Lone, Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited to Managing Director, JKSRTC wherein M.D, JKSRTC has been requested to submit the DPR (Detailed Project Report) regarding the proposal. The proposal has been made under the pan-city projects in urban mobility component of the Srinagar Smart City. The introduction of electric buses has been approved as Convergence Project between J&K State Road Transport Corporation (JKSRTC) and Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) for which provision of Rs 19.88 crores has been proposed under the Smart City funding for the purpose

spread over a period of two years. The electric buses are expected to ply on city roads soon as electric buses are being introduced as an electrification of passenger transportation and are being promoted to reduce the levels of air pollution caused due to the conventional buses. Electric buses are battery driven which are electrically charged at designated charging stations. These also offer zero-emission, quiet operation and better acceleration compared to the traditional buses. With energy consumption of about 1.2 kWh/Km the cost of operation of these buses is also low compared to the traditional diesel or CNG run buses. Meanwhile, Managing Director, State Road Transport Corporation Mir Afroz told that SRTC has already placed an order for procurement of 40 electric buses under FAME scheme of Department of Heavy Industries Govt of

India. "Under this scheme the GOI will bear 60% of the cost of the bus and the State Govt will contribute 40%. These buses are expected to be on roads within next 4-5 months", he said. (KNS)



3rd Year of Publication

Srinagar



WILAYAT TIMES

Weekly

The Student of Govt Middle School Patwar Budgam Kashmir namely Adil Ali Rather is suffering from acute leukemia (Blood Cancer) and is undergoing treatment at SKIPS Soura. He belongs to poor family and cost of treatment is huge which is beyond the reach for his family. Kindly help him to save the precious life.

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A 10 years old boy Mujtaba Ali from Noori Pora Magam District Baramulla Kashmir is suffering from a kind of tumour and is undergoing treatment at Max Super Speciality Hospital Phase 6 Chandigarh. He belongs to poor family and cost of treatment is nearly Rs.15 lacs which is beyond the reach for his family. Kindly help and pray for him to save the precious life.

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