

Editor's Note

Ayatollah Haaj Sheikh Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, a Scholar of Profound Knowledge and Virtues

"وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا..."

“Hold fast, all together, to Allah's cord, and do not be divided (into sects). And remember Allah's blessing upon you when you were enemies, then He brought your hearts together, so you became brothers with His blessing.” (Holy Quran, ٣: ١٠٣)

The term “one Ummah” (nation/community) has been used in the Holy Quran in order to encourage Muslims to have unity. The most sensitive issue that the Ahl al-Bayt (as) have emphasized, on the basis of the Quranic teachings and Prophetic tradition, is the unity and integrity of the Islamic Ummah within the general framework of the Islamic world. This continues to be one of the most important issues in today's Islamic world. It was also one of the concerns of the late Ayatollah Taskhiri (١٩٤٤-٢٠٢٠). He was a true follower of the Holy Quran and the school of the Ahl al-Bayt (as), had a global and international perspective, and had respect for the views and opinions of others. Inspired by the Quranic teachings, he dedicated his life to inviting humanity to peace and friendship. Therefore, when he spoke of proximity, it did not mean denying other beliefs and rejecting or accepting them. He emphasized the commonalities among Islamic denominations and believed that all human beings have a common innate-nature and, as a result, share certain common points that allow them to coexist peacefully rather than be at war with each other.

Being bestowed with a prominent personality, which had made him well-known among the Sunni and Shiite communities, Sheikh Mohammad Ali Taskhiri came to be a unique role model in the international arena to the extent that the great Sunni scholars had come to consider the views and opinions of Shiite jurisprudence comparable with the jurisprudence of other Islamic schools of thought. The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution has beautifully stated that: “This mujahid scholar was the voice of Islam and Shiism” and certainly with his demise, the Muslim community has lost a great personality who stood for unity and peace and was a pioneer in the field of proximity among different Islamic schools of thought.

The Noble Prophet of Islam (pbuh) has said:

"مَوْتُ الْعَالِمِ مُصِيبَةٌ لَا تُجْبَرُ وَتُلْمَةٌ لَا تُسَدُّ، وَهُوَ نَجْمٌ طَمِسَ، وَ مَوْتُ قَبِيلَةٍ أَيْسَرُ مِنْ مَوْتِ عَالِمٍ"

“The death of a scholar is an irreparable calamity and an irrevocable loss and the end of a star that sets forever. He then added: It is easier to bear the death of a tribe than the death of a scholar.” (Kanz al-Ummal, Hadith No. ٢٨٨٥٨).

By the same token, Imam Ja'far Sadiq has said:

"إِذَا مَاتَ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْفَقِيهُ تُلِمَ فِي الْإِسْلَامِ تُلْمَةٌ لَا يَسُدُّهَا شَيْءٌ"

“When a true believer who is a *faqih* (jurist), dies, it causes irreparable damage in the Islamic system.” (Usul al-Kafi, ١/٣٨٢; also Concise Mizan al-Hikmah, ٤٥٤).

The efforts of this mujahid and tireless genius, who has left behind valuable and precious works in Quranic, cultural, social, political, and economic fields as well as on the life of the Prophet and infallible Imams (as), etc., are undoubtedly, a clear testimony of the above-mentioned narration. The love for the infallible household of the Prophet (pbuh) was noticeably manifested in the depths of the blessed being of this learned scholar and that had made him extensively active towards the promotion of proximity among the followers of Islamic denominations. By attending and participating in scholarly conferences and seminars abroad, he was able to convey the message of Islam, the Revolution, and the Islamic system with great humbleness and adhering to special moral values. Certainly, his migration (from this world) has caused a big lacuna in the Islamic Ummah, which will not be compensated for very soon.

It is hoped that by following the unifying ideas of this late scholar, we will witness growing compassion, solidarity, and brotherhood in the world.As

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