

## **Hojjat al-Islam Mahdi Imanipour, Deputy President of Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, Islamic Culture and Relations Organization**

Ayatollah Taskhiri was an innovative and mujahid jurist at the forefront of the Islamic Revolution. He was a source of honor and repute for Shiism in the world.

I believe commemorating the personality of Ayatollah Taskhiri is a move in the direction of the “Second Phase of the Revolution” Statement with regard to the fulfillment of Islamic unity and the formation of a new Islamic nation and civilization. Therefore, commemorating this personality is not simply to glorify him but to keep alive the memory, views and thoughts of a learned scholar.

Good-naturedness, sincerity, humility, mastery of scholarly topics and, more importantly, mastery of the Arabic language and literature, making presentations eloquently and making direct contacts with Muslim scholars were some of the characteristics that had made Ayatollah Taskhiri a popular figure. Of course, the sincerity of words, being open to criticism, and mastery of Quranic subjects also added to his popularity, and as a result, many Sunni scholars recognized him as a popular Islamic personality.

The Supreme Leader referred to him as the eloquent voice of Islam and Shiism; a title that he truly deserved. This is because he was a good representative of Islam and Shiism in various forums, both within and outside the Islamic world, and defended Islam and Shiism in all its aspects with his eloquent and articulate way of speaking.

Ayatollah Taskhiri was overwhelmed with determination in carrying out his responsibilities and tirelessly traveled around the world in order to promote and foster the proximity of Islamic denominations through face-to-face contact with Muslim scholars.

His effective activity as the founder and the first president of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, the Secretary-General of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought as well as his scholarly activities in international forums, especially the International Fiqh Academy of Jeddah, as the representative of Shiite jurists, and dozens of other activities in various fields require long discussions on which books should be written.

Ayatollah Taskhiri’s responsibility in the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought was a shining chapter in the activities of this pious scholar. The same person who was a staunch defender of the Ahl al-Bayt (as) was also a herald and a flagbearer of Islamic unity in the world, and this had thwarted the efforts of the enemies toward creating division in the Islamic world and causing a rift among Islamic organizations.

I remember a meeting had been organized by the leader of the Russian Muftis in Moscow, which was sponsored by the Qataris, and Ayatollah Taskhiri had been invited from Iran. When the Qatari scholar was called to the podium for the inaugural speech, he said: “I do not allow myself to give the opening speech where Ayatollah Taskhiri, a great personality of the Islamic world, is present” and he requested Ayatollah Taskhiri to give the inaugural speech.