

In the Name of God, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

“Among the faithful are men who are true to their covenant who fulfill what they have pledged to Allah. Of them are some who have already fulfilled their pledge, and of them are some who still wait, and they have not changed in the least”. (The Holy Quran, Surah Al-Ahzab, Verse 23)

With his eyes as sharp as Imam Ali’s Zulfiqar Sword and with his steadfast steps, General Haaj Qasem Soleimani had carved a niche in the hearts, made martyrdom his way of life, and immortalized his name forever.

For many years, Sardar Soleimani had very sincerely and bravely fought against evildoers of the world and the embodiments of the devil on different battlefields and fronts and planned successive operations, without any fear and apprehension, in which he participated along with his men and soldiers. He spent his whole blessed life in jihad for the cause of God and this is what made him an international figure with regards to resistance against tyranny and oppression. It was for this very reason that the enemies of Islam and Muslims could not bear to see so much of power, dignity, courage, and bravery, and made the soul of the commander of the resistance, General Haaj Qasem Soleimani heavenly on January 3, 2020.

This great martyr of Islam had been trained by the religion of Islam and the school of Imam Khomeini (ra) and had begun the foundation of his school of thought by serving as a soldier under the command of Imam Khomeini (ra) and the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution such that he acquired the status and creating a school of thought and a front for producing human beings of lofty virtues and values. With faith in God and a special belief in Velayat-

e-Faqih, he believed that everything that was said was true and that God almighty would extend His help and support. His sincerity and obedience to the Valiy-e Faqih had a tremendous impact on his audience, soldiers, defenders of the sanctuaries and warriors of the era of sacred defense and as described by the Supreme Leader “Martyr Soleimani was fully immersed in Islam and Supreme Leader.”

He was a unique military man of action, a unique political thinker, and the mastermind of the region with regards to its security. Simultaneously with attending to his main duties and responsibilities, he attended to other effective and useful tasks in the fields of culture and security. He believed in the alignment of national and transnational interests. In other words, he sought security not only within and around the Iranian borders but looked for it at the cross-border level, and believed that securing each of them would automatically ensure the protection of the rights of the other parts. This attitude shows his functional differences; the differences, some of the results of which can be referred to as discourse building, avoiding threats and establishing a stable order in favor of the country,

forward defense policy, and creating support for diplomatic negotiations.

Sardar Soleimani’s actions within and beyond the borders of the country were the byproducts of an honest, creative, and courageous way of thinking and relying on God Almighty, and having trust in Him. A courageous commander who implemented the ideals and values desired by Imam Khomeini and the Supreme Leader of the Revolution in action. He was a brave and patriotic soldier who did not put down the flag of jihad in defense of the sanctity and the essence of Islam. He also launched another understanding of the concept of Velayat, which was accompanied by the main slogan of resistance and awakening. His mission was to convey the message of the leadership of the revolution with the awakening of Muslim nations to all nations of the world and the Muslims all over the universe.

The greatness of Haaj Qasem’s personality and strategies was such that frightened the enemy and created the worst nightmares for the enemies of the Islamic Republic through his special perception of political issues and his attitude towards them and at the same time with his unique military intelligence. He had realized

that the capabilities of the Resistance Front could bring a humiliating defeat to the United States and the Zionist regime in the Middle East, the world, and West Asia. He was able to thwart the expansionist plans and separatist movements of the enemies and intelligence services of the West and Mossad and succeeded to remove the infamous elements of ISIL (the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) from the Middle East and made the usurping Zionist regime understand that the slogan “from the Nile to the Euphrates”, which it intended to achieve through the proxy war by the ISIL, is a lost ideal that should be sought not in the museum of history.

The assassination of Sardar Soleimani is the most outstanding example of state terrorism in the history of the United States of America. The reason for this importance should be found in the position of Sardar Soleimani as a comprehensive variable at different national, regional and global levels challenging the ideology, discourse, and preferred structure of the US-led hegemonic system. For example, the source of all the challenges that have imposed great material costs on Iran is the confrontation of the structure of the international system with Iran. Changing this structure in order in favor of Iran, including paving the path for the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena, especially at the regional level, strengthening and activating popular movements and groups having an influence on political and military developments in the region were some of the unique qualities of Sardar Soleimani; who was able to change the trend of discourse in the political and ideological sphere in favor of Iran, which was the valuable legacy

of Martyr Soleimani in the international arena, and this was the reason for Haaj Qasem’s greatness and the extreme weakness of the US government.

Martyr Soleimani granted such greatness to the resistance front that will never disappear and this greatness will become clearer in the future. The greatness of the personality of this commander of hearts not only astonished the Iranians, but also the people of the Middle East and even the whole world. He belongs to all the oppressed and freedom-loving nations of the world such that many people of the world mourned his martyrdom and held funeral ceremonies in different cities of their countries before his pure body arrived in Iran and the city of his birth, Kerman. The astonishing display of the participation of millions of people in his funeral sent a message to the US terrorist administration that his message and path has been immortalized.

This issue of Echo of Islam focuses on Martyr Soleimani’s school of thought by including the memories of his companions and fellow-combatants during the course of the sacred defense and during the time of defending the holy shrine. We pray to God Almighty to shower the great martyrs of Islam, especially the living martyr Haaj Qasem Soleimani with His blessings, and we pray for the honorable life of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution and success in leading the Islamic Revolution and the trend of Islamic Awakening.

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