



The Sacred Defense and Its Spiritual Outcomes

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قُلْ هَلْ تَرَبَّصُونَ بِنَا إِلَّا إِحْدَى الْحُسَيْنَيْنِ وَ نَحْنُ نَتَرَبَّصُ بِكُمْ أَنْ يُصِيبَكُمُ اللَّهُ بِعَذَابٍ مِنْ عِنْدِهِ أَوْ بَأْيَدِنَا فَوَيْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ عَذَابِ اللَّهِ إِنَّهُمْ يَكْفُرُونَ

Say: “Do you await for us but one of two most excellent things? (Martyrdom or Victory) And we await for you that Allah will afflict you with punishment from Himself or by our hands. So wait; we too will wait with you”. (The Holy Quran, Surah Al-Taubah, Verse 52)

One of the main tasks of the manager of an organization is decision-making. Every man-

ager usually faces such situations in which he has to make an important decision. Decision-making is the main pivot of management on which the other pillars of the management process rely.

Some administrative and management experts such as Herbert A. Simon, have considered decision-making to be synonymous with management. One of the places

where decision-making plays a decisive and key role in the battlefield and the war front.

Keeping in view the personal characteristics and ideological foundations of the decision-makers with regard to their role in designing and preparing the required conditions and the forces functioning under their commands during the eight years of Iran’s sacred defense (against

the uncalled-for invasion) - the aim of which was to protect the Iranian territories and the honor of the Iranian people - it can be concluded that the defensive battles of the Islamic Republic of Iran against Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist war machine, which had been fully equipped and supported by the arrogant powers of the world, were value-oriented in essence rather than merely being a move to defend the country and the ruling system.

Value, literally, means price, merit, beauty, and virtue. Value has a special meaning in different aspects of human life such as society, economy, culture, religion, law, ethics, etc. In their broadest sense, Islamic values are those that are desirable and useful from the viewpoint of the holy religion of Islam. However, at times, Islamic values are essentially of special connotations, i.e., these values have been recognized as lofty and outstanding from the ethical point of view. Therefore, the spiritual and cultural factors that prevailed among the Iranian combatants - within the framework of Islamic values - during the course of the sacred defense denote the values adorned and demonstrated by these combatants of Islam during those days. These values included a strong belief in God Almighty - both in words and in action - adherence to Islamic principles, abiding by the principle of *Ve-layat-e Faqih*, having faith in

the Day of Judgment, having faith in their own power and capability, being duty-bound, obedience to the teaching of the Holy Prophet of Islam (pbuh) and his household (Ahl al-Bayt), selfless participation in advancing the goals of the sacred defense, having a spirit of self-sacrifice, being inspired by the spirit and the culture of the incident of Ashura, and, finally, being inspired by unity and empathy.

The story of eight years of Sacred Defense is the story of a golden and honorable era in the history of a nation that adhered to patience, dignity, unity, and empathy and, thus, brought about victory, security, and honor for the Islamic Republic of Iran and resulted in great achievements for this country. Some of the most important of these achievements have been political stability, mass mobilization of the brave people of Islamic Iran, and sacrifices made by the military fighters; all of which reflect upon the spirit of national unity and the collective commitment of Iranians to protect their homeland and national and ideological capitals. As a result, those who had their greedy eyes on this country's treasures realized that they could not defeat the martyrdom-seeking nation of this land through force and deceit.

Regardless of their religious affiliation, Iranian people - from different religions and denominations - joined hands and confronted the aggres-

sive enemy and the martyrs of the imposed war - Shiites, Sunnis, and even members of religious minorities - stood side by side and back to back against the enemy; reflecting upon the sense of patriotism on the part of the people of Islamic Iran.

Undoubtedly, the fierce resistance put up by the Iranian people against the full-fledged aggression of the enemies of Islam and Iran in defending the Islamic values will prove to be the great heritage of this land that will shine in the history truth-oriented struggles of civilized and freedom-loving nations of the world. The resistance shown by the people of Islamic Iran, which arose from the spirit of unity and faith, was formed under the guidance of the Great Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (ra), and resulted in the revival of a constructive school of thought and the Islamic awakening movement of in the world.

The Sacred Defense of the Iranian people in various political, military, social, cultural, etc. fields could upset the usual world equations and undermine the materialistic analyses of the secularists. This great event will undoubtedly be remembered by the Iranian nation who have left behind values such as honor, dignity, and the spirit of epoch-making for the future generations of this country and as a unique and dignified legacy.