ECHO

A Note by: Dr. Elena Lavian Kashani



The month of Bahman includes days that in my dear country of Iran, are known as the "Fajr Decade" and are dear and beautiful to its believers; the ten days from the arrival of the great leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), to the country after years of exile until the victory of the revolution. The history of the unity and companionship of the people of Iran is rooted in their religious and moral values, and love for the Lord of beauties. The leaders and authorities of the country - our Supreme Leader, presidents, parliament, and above all, a man named Ruhollah Khomeini - have successively guided our people to such beauties as monotheism, unity, being together, loving each other as well dignity, respect, sanctity, freedom, etc. during the four decades since the victory of the **Revolution. For Imam Khomeini** and his family, religion, gender, color, nationality, and creed of people did not and does not matter; what is important is only monotheism, and godliness. Before the revolution, he and his family planted the seed of love and watered it with compassion through their words, deeds, and behavior with the followers of other monotheistic religions. With Jews, Christians, Zoroastrians, Mandaeans, etc... How could it not be so? God created us all to be friends, just like Imam Khomeini was a friend of all real human beings and just as our Supreme Leader has been so; whether during seminarian studies, teaching, prison, presidency, leadership, etc.

The late Imam always spoke

of unity, God, divinity, divine mercy, love, and man's relationship to God; irrespective of their color, gender, or faith. His concern about and compassion for followers of other divine religions was so profound that he repeatedly reminded those who drafted the constitution of the Islamic Republic to keep the rights of religious minorities in mind. He even wrote in his divine-political testament "Religious minorities are respected in Islam, they have rights and their rights are to be respected. Religious minorities have always been respected in Islam, and compassion among the followers of great monotheistic religions is necessary for the progress of humanity" (Sahifeh Imam, Vol. 6, P. 83). "Religious minorities will be free in the future and will live in prosperity in Iran, and we will deal with them very fairly and in accordance with the law. They are our religious brothers ... " (Sahifeh Imam, Vol. 5, P. 401)

Dr. Lavian Kashani (a member of the Jewish community of Iran) is a university lecturer, activist for peace, environment and human rights, religious research scholar, Islamogist, and poet.

