

QURAN SCHOLARS IN THE FACE OF DESPOTISM

THANKS BE TO GOD WHO RAISED THE PEOPLE OF KNOWLEDGE WHO CLEARLY STATED THE TRUTH, AND PRAISED THE ONES WHO "CONVEY THE MESSAGE OF GOD, FEAR HIM, AND DO NOT FEAR ANY ONE BUT GOD." PRAYERS AND PEACE BE UPON OUR PROPHET WHO SAID: "HAMZAH BIN 'ABD-AL-MUTTALIB, THE MASTER OF MARTYRS AND A MAN WHO WENT TO AN UNJUST IMAM, HE ORDERED HIM, CAUTIONED HIM, THEN KILLED HIM." REPORTED BY AL-HAKIM WHO IS HASAN.

THESE GREAT STANDS (TN: "MUWAQIF," OFFICIAL OPINIONS OR POSITIONS) CALMED THE CHESTS AND DELIGHTED THE SOULS, BOTH INSIDE THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AND OUTSIDE. BY THESE STANDS, THE NATION'S SCHOLARS AND ITS TRUTHFUL PREACHERS STATED THE TRUTH, AS A PART OF THEIR DUTY TO INFORM AND BE WATCHFUL FOR THE NATION'S INTERESTS. THE SCHOLARS USED PUBLIC SERMONS, STATEMENTS, AND TAPES, WHICH HAD VERY LARGE DISTRIBUTION - THANKS TO THE SUCCESS GRANTED BY GOD - NOT ONLY INSIDE THE ARABIAN PENINSULA, BUT IN ALL OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD. THUS, THEY UNVEILED THE STANDS OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAD ATTEMPTED TO COVER THE TRUTH AND ELIMINATE THE CONSCIENCE OF THE NATION. TO THAT END, THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS USED ALL THE WITCHCRAFT POWERS IT HAS AND THE FULL DECEPTION POWERS OF THE MEDIA TO JUSTIFY ITS SHAMELESS STANDS AGAINST ISLAM AND ITS PREACHERS, WHILE SUPPORTING THE UNBELIEVERS AND THEIR GUARDIANS.

THE OPINIONS OF THE SCHOLARS AND PREACHERS HAVE RAISED THE HEAD OF THE UMMAH HIGH TO FACE THE DESPOTISM OF THE RULERS AND THE INJUSTICES OF THE GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION TO THEIR PREVIOUS STANDS IN THE GULF WAR AND WHAT THEY HAD PROCLAIMED IN THE ADVISORY MEMO AND OTHERS, THE SCHOLARS AND PREACHERS TOOK ANOTHER GREAT STAND ABOUT THE YEMENI ISSUE. THEY UNVEILED THE TRUTH, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD ATTEMPTED TO HIDE. THE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO JUSTIFY ITS SUPPORT FOR THE APOSTATE COMMUNISTS AFTER ITS TRUE POSITION WAS EXPOSED. WE EXPLAINED THESE FACTS IN OUR STATEMENT NO. 4.

TO TELL THE TRUTH, WHAT THESE COURAGEOUS STANDS ACHIEVED IN A DEEP PUBLIC DIMENSION AND IN THE SCOPE OF LARGE POPULAR SUPPORT IS WORTHY OF PRAISE AND APPRECIATION. THEY ACTUALLY ANNOUNCE THE FAILURE OF ALL THE APPROACHES THAT THE GOVERNMENT USED AGAINST THIS SELECTED GROUP OF THE NATION'S CHILDREN. THE GOVERNMENT MADE DISTORTED, MISREPRESENTED, AND FABRICATED STATEMENTS, IN WHICH THE REGIME TOLD LIES AGAINST THEM (TN: THE INNOCENT, PERSECUTED PEOPLE). TO TIGHTEN THEIR CONDITIONS, THEY WERE DISMISSED FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT POSITIONS, THEIR FREEDOM WAS TAKEN AWAY, AND THEIR RIGHTS WERE TRAMPLED.

SIMILARLY, THESE TRUTHFUL STANDS CONFIRM THAT AMONG THE NATION'S SCHOLARS, THERE ARE STILL - THANK GOD - THOSE WHO TAKE STANDS LIKE THOSE TAKEN BY THE ANCESTOR'S SCHOLARS, AGAINST THE INEQUITABLE GOVERNMENT AND THE RULERS OF DEBAUCHERY. THESE ARE THE STANDS OF IMAM MALIK, IMAM AHMAD AND AFTER THEM, THE SHAYKH OF ISLAM: IBN TAYMIYYAH, AL-'IZZ IBN-'ABD-AL-SALAM, MAY GOD BLESS THEIR SOULS, AND OTHERS, WITH WHOSE STANDS GOD PRESERVED THE NATION'S RELIGION AND CREED.

MOREOVER, THE FACT THAT THE UMMAH ADOPTED THESE POSITIONS CONFIRMS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE REFORMING CHANGE HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE NATION. IN ADDITION, THE HOLDERS OF THESE STANDS ARE THE LEADERS OF THE REFORM. THEY WERE PREPARED FOR THIS TASK BY THE NATION, WHO PLACED ITS HOPES ON THEM - AFTER GOD - AND THEY DELIVERED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NATION CONFIRMED - BY RALLYING AROUND THIS SELECT GROUP OF SCHOLARS AND PREACHERS - THAT THE DISAGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT A TEMPORARY ONE, NOR IS IT WITH A SELECT GROUP THAT IS ISOLATED FROM SOCIETY. RATHER, IT IS A DEEPER AND MORE INCLUSIVE DISAGREEMENT, WHOSE SUBJECT IS THE CREED, THE SHARI'A, AND THE PARTIES AND SUPPORTERS OF THE REGIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE THE UMMAH, HEADED BY THE SCHOLARS AND REFORM PREACHERS, AND COMPOSED OF MERCHANTS, TRIBAL LEADERS, THE MILITARY, GUARDS, SECURITY, THE EDUCATED AND ELITE, AND THE REMAINDER OF THE POPULATION.

IF THIS SELECT GROUP (TN: OF SCHOLARS AND PREACHERS) IS THE ONE WHO HEADS THE RANKS TODAY, IT IS DUE TO THE TRUST THAT THE UMMAH PLACES IN THEIR SINCERITY AND COMPETENCE. IT IS ALSO DUE TO THE BELIEF OF THE SCHOLARS AND PREACHERS THAT THE UMMAH WILL NOT DISAPPOINT THEM AND WILL NOT ABANDON THEM AT ANY PRICE.

MOREOVER, IT WAS BY RETURNING TO THESE SCHOLARS AND PREACHERS AND ACCEPTING THEIR EDICTS THAT THE UMMAH ALLOWED THE SHARI'AH EDICTS TO BE ISSUED IN THE COUNTRY. THE UMMAH BECAME FREE OF ANY RULING GOVERNMENT CONSTRAINTS AND ESCAPED ITS AUTHORITY AND CONTROL. THIS HAPPENED AFTER THE LATTER LEFT THE RULE AND JURISPRUDENCE OF GOD.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PRAISE THESE GREAT STANDS WITH WHICH THE SCHOLARS CONFIRMED THE RISE OF THE PEOPLE, HOLDING TRUTH OVER THE DESPOTISM OF THE UNJUST, AND DESPISING THE POWER OF THE DESPOTS. THEY PREFER WHAT THE ALL MERCIFUL (TN: GOD) HAS OVER WHAT THE POWERFUL (TN: MAN) HAS, DEFYING THE OPPRESSION AND ITS WEAPONRY, WITH AN UNSHAKABLE FAITH AND FEARLESS CREED. THEN, YELL TO HIS FACE "NEVER SHALL WE REGARD YOU AS MORE THAN THE CLEAR SIGNS THAT HAVE COME TO US, OR THAN HIM WHO CREATED US! SO DECREE WHATEVER YOU DESIRE, FOR YOU CAN ONLY DECREE (TOUCHING) THE LIFE OF THIS WORLD." (TN: QURAN 20:72).

WHAT CAN HURT THESE STANDS, AFTER THAT? LET THE UNJUST CONTINUE TO STATE THEIR THREATS AND PROMISE PUNISHMENT. THESE DESPOTIC SHATTERED APPROACHES HAVE PROVEN THEIR LACK OF USEFULNESS IN EVERY BATTLE BETWEEN THE FAITH AND THE DESPOTISM.

OUR VENERATED SCHOLARS AND OUR RIGHTEOUS PREACHERS, WITH THESE STANDS, YOU HAVE FOLLOWED THE RIGHT PATH WHICH THE PROPHETS - PRAYERS AND PEACE BE UPON THEM - HAVE FOLLOWED BEFORE YOU AND THE VIRTUOUS AFTER THEM. GO THEN, WITH THE BLESSING OF GOD, AND LET THE SERVANT OF THE DINAR AND THE ONES WHO SOLD THEIR RELIGION FOR A LIFE OF POWER BE MISERABLE.

BY FOLLOWING THIS PATH, YOU HAVE ANSWERED EVERYONE WHO BROKE THE LAW, AND YOU CALLED UPON THOSE WHO WERE FORCED TO STAND DOWN, THOSE WHO WERE IMPRISONED BY EXCUSES, AND THOSE WHO ACCEPTED THE TRUTH WITHOUT PROOF. THIS ALSO INCLUDES ANYONE WHO HAS AS LITTLE AS AN ATOM OF PROTECTION FOR GOD'S SAKE, AND FERVOR FOR THE NATION, TO JOIN THE MARCH FOR CHANGE AND REFORM. ALL OF THIS, IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE TRUTH AND THOSE CALLING FOR IT, AND PRESENT IT AS A SACRIFICE FOR THE RELIGION ALONG WITH MAKING IT AVAILABLE TO OTHERS. AT THAT TIME, THE ONES WHO PRACTICED INJUSTICE WILL KNOW WHAT WILL BECOME OF THEM.

DATED: 11/2/1415 AH
CORRESPONDING TO 19 JULY 1994 AD

ON THEIR BEHALF:

USAMAH BIN MUHAMMAD BIN LADIN