

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



August 01, 2016

The Responsibilities of the People

People living in a society may differ in individual qualities but they are quite similar in social qualities since they belong to the same circumstances. Their personal problems may be different from each other but their social problems are same to a certain extent. That is why an individual effort or struggle might be relatively easier to do and in the same way it is easier to pursue one's thoughts and reach to the destination but it is not that easy when one society as a whole comes out on its way to its destiny. All the individuals are responsible for the development of the society equally though removing all the personal differences and gathering at a single ground is quite hard and almost impossible as everyone tries to be heard more than any other person and wants his ideas to be followed which, no doubt, brings hurdles in the way to prosperity. To escape these hurdles we require a system that could be acceptable for all members and wherein all the members have are fully aware of their roles and status and they have the full understanding of the responsibilities that they have to perform; not a society, wherein, all the problems are related to the leaders and the leaders are held responsible for all the issues and deficiencies.

It is really weird to find people blaming only the leaders for all the disorder and problems in the society. Before blaming the leaders for all the misdeeds it is important to consider some of very important questions - Have we ever bothered to see around ourselves and know the problems deeply? Have we every tied to bring about developments in the society? Have we ever been quite responsible to play our roles? Have we every thought to keep the social matters above all other concerns? Have we ever considered over working for the society selflessly? Have we ever looked over our duties towards the society beyond our rights? Have we ever recognized our own tendency and things we can do for betterment? And have we ever learnt to have a critical view over our actions as and ask ourselves about the mistakes that we commit without much consideration? Or we have only found the easiest way to put the entire burden over leaders' shoulders? It is important to note that all the leaders whom we hold responsible for having done nothing and for all harms to the society, belong to the same surroundings we have and they have become leaders because we have made them so. Without the will and cooperation of the people, leaders would never become leaders. It is also imperative to consider that when we ourselves escape our duties, why shouldn't the leaders do the same, as they are human beings as well? When we have never considered the evil to be eliminated from the roots and deconstruct the old useless system; how can we think to build anything new? How come we expect the leaders to be different from us when they are the products of the same corrupt society? I am afraid we don't have the complete privilege to criticize them when we have never seen into our own collars. It is necessary to understand that the leaders may be able to give just a guideline to follow and ultimately it is the people themselves who have bring about changes. Renowned scholars and thinkers in human history have utilized most of their energy in discussing how the leaders should be, but it is now time when human beings need to discuss that how the subjects should be as the human society is becoming more and more democratic and the in democratic setup the role of the subjects become more important than that of leaders as democracy is the government of the people. The will of the subjects basically get transformed into elections that choose the leaders to govern the country. Most of the institutions in democratic setup are people centered, not autocratic where the leaders alone take decisions; therefore, it is important in such setup that how the subjects are, and what sort of role they play. If the subjects are aware, active and cooperative, a democratic setup is bound to be successful. Our society can never go forth if we rely only on some representatives to do it. Unless we, all the common members of the society, try to support them, we will not face success in life. Let us leave blaming the leaders only because they are not wrong alone; we are their partners of equal shares of evils and let us promise to use up our energy and strength all together for a common cause and purpose and a broader perspective of mass well-being. Let us substitute the old ideas with the new ones in order to go with the pace of developed and civilized world. Let us not only talk about our rights but speak up for our duties as well to have a better society. Let us all be active to play our role to fill the gap between leaders and the common people. Let us think beyond our personal interests to coup with the changing mood of the entire world.

We are As Strong As We Are United, As Weak As We Are Divided

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Usually the political literature in Afghanistan is full of harsh self-hatred words which are not good practice for national unity and shaky democracy of this country. There are some model nations in the world when they face the threat of terrorist attacks; instead of blaming one and other, they have each other's back. They understand that terrorist is entirely the common enemy of all culture, all races and all peaceful people. The worshippers in France, Norway in some part of Egypt protect every place of prayer, no matter what religion or race they belong to. Christians guard the mosques as Muslims pray and Muslims return the favor by protecting churches during Sunday services.

Unity is the act of joining together and working together as a communion unit in order to achieve common goal. When all the people of a nation join together and work collectively for the well being of the country, it is called national unity. This feeling of national unity is crucial to lead the nation towards progress and prosperity and this feeling of national unity helps strengthen the nation and promotes peace and prosperity. Where people are united, they can put efforts in elimination of vices like corruption. It gives people sense of security for they are able to know each other better and understand each other's sensitivity. Unity promotes co-operation and opens opportunity to excellence.

People residing in Afghanistan, somewhat, belong to different castes, religion and ethnic groups. This diversity of caste, colors, religions, languages and cultures is our own identity. They are like different flowers in a garden. The beauty of the garden lies in the varieties of its flowers and fragrance. This is the unique feature of Afghanistan. Whatever caste, creed, culture and customs we follow, we are all Afghans the beautiful flowers of the same garden, Afghanistan. We should think that the progress of the country is in our own progress while its misfortune is the misfortune of every Afghan Citizen. According to national and international law, the first important principle of peaceful life is equity and equality regardless of their race, language, culture, color, religion and gender.

Unfortunately, all of these recognized important values are more similar to a dream rather than a reality in Afghanistan, as some of the leaders and heads still play with words and believe as if they are the superior child on this land. Anyway, we have to cross these barriers and cultivate a new culture of communion and real unity beginning from all coaching and cultural centers in new Afghanistan. The new generation should reach this understanding that we are as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided. If they keep on dividing into different unities, it will end up as a collection of monkeys throwing nuts at each other out of separate trees. Then like always, the name of Afghanistan

will stay top in the world at list of all black things.

Any unity which does not have its origin in the multitudes is tyranny. In fact, Unity in diversity is a concept of "unity without uniformity and diversity without fragmentation that shifts focus from unity based on a mere tolerance of physical, cultural, linguistic, social, religious, political, ideological and/or psychological differences towards a more complex unity based on an understanding that difference enriches human interactions." "Unity in diversity" is a popular motto within and among nation states, and also in political and social movements. But the deep feeling of unity is not formed by motto or speeches it is beyond words and also concepts.

More importantly, building a great united nation largely depends on its heads and leaders. We have to remember to vote for a leader who unites, not divides, a leader who encourages diversity, not racism, a leader who is recognized not unknown, a leader who strongly determined against terrorism, opium and corruptions, a leader who says what they mean, keeps their word and does not lie to their people. We need to choose a leader who supports the true freedom of speech, not censorship a leader who will not only bail out banks and airlines, but also families who compelled to moving to other countries, a leader who can prioritize the big national issues, not like kids playing with sub-issues, a leader who is strong, confident and Intelligent, but not sly and the One who understands the needs of all citizens equally -- not only a specific tribe. Finally the leaders and heads must be selected on the basis of Meritocracy criteria not traditional consideration so that he can unite entire unities and remove the name of Afghanistan from all shameful things.

To contribute the national unity, all citizens are responsible to abandon the notions of 'otherness' and embrace 'togetherness'. also learn from other developed nations how to live peacefully and learn that Allah is one, the one sun shines to all equally, the goal is one and we have one country with one common interest and common troubles. We cannot achieve something if we are not united.

The world is no longer white, black, yellow and brown etc. Through love, tribes have been intermixing colors to reveal a new rainbow world. And as time passes, this racial and cultural blending will make it harder for humans to side with one race, nation or religion over another. Therefore, practical wisdom should be used to abandon any cultural, social, religious, tribal, and racial beliefs leading to disunity. This is the only way to evolve as equal Afghan citizens. Segregation is a word of the past. Only unity is synonymous to victory if there is no unity, no victory.

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Doubling Down on European Energy Efficiency

By Paul Hofheinz

At the COP21 conference in Paris last December, world leaders made a binding pledge to set national targets, including energy-efficiency benchmarks, for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. Now, the European Commission is nearing a moment of truth: Will it set ambitious but attainable energy efficiency targets that will force individuals and industry to make real changes? Or will it bend to political pressure and set meaningless targets that will be reached anyway, with no any additional effort?

The latter approach was taken in 2014, when European leaders agreed to improve energy efficiency by 27% before 2030. The European Council was applauded at the time for its leadership. Nobody bothered to mention that global energy efficiency was already likely to increase by around 35% on its own by 2030.

The COP21 agreement has given Europe a second chance to set an example and become the global standard-bearer for energy efficiency. Environmentalists, business leaders, and academics are awaiting new targets from the European Commission, which will most likely be established in October, in a forthcoming revision to the Commission's Energy Efficiency Directive.

So, what would be a meaningful target? If European leaders are serious about their COP21 commitment, they should embrace a 70% reduction on 2010 consumption levels by 2030 - more than double the European Council's 2014 target.

A 70% reduction is ambitious, but not impossible. There is both an economic and an environmental case to be made for it. Economically, countries that reduce energy consumption also increase productivity, simply because using less energy costs less money. While implementing energy-efficiency measures may require heavy initial investments, these outlays will be offset by future productivity growth, which is the only way developed countries can sustainably improve living standards over time.

The environmental argument for an ambitious target is not that we need to "save the Earth." But we do need to save the climate in which humans have evolved and prospered. Energy efficiency around the world is increasing at roughly 1.5% per year, which is a welcome development and a sign

that 30 years of forward-leaning environmental policies have had some effect. Global energy consumption, however, is rising at around 3% per year, implying that we're still digging our hole deeper, rather than filling it in.

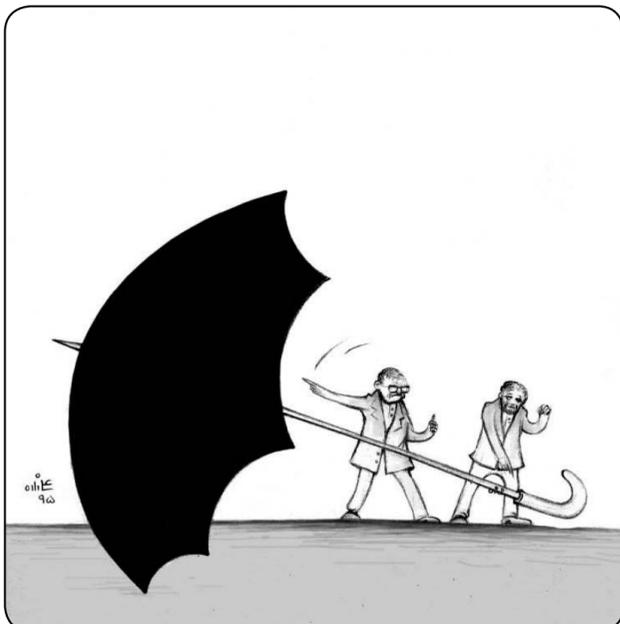
Six of the world's largest economies - China, the United States, Russia, India, Japan, and the European Union - remain the biggest polluters. But most growth today comes from developing countries that now participate in the global economy. Even if these countries make significant strides in reducing emissions, they will be the polluters of the future, at least in the near term.

Globalization has increased life expectancy and improved living standards in many poor countries. But it also poses new environmental problems that will require ambitious solutions. Seen in this light, a 70% improvement in energy efficiency is the minimum Europe - and the world - can aim for to reach real sustainability at current levels of global growth. Fortunately, this is all within our grasp. A 2015 study published by Ecofys, Quintel Intelligence, and the Lisbon Council concluded that Europe already has the technologies available to double current energy-efficiency levels without sacrificing economic growth. These include heat pumps, smart grids, LED lighting, and energy-efficient household equipment.

So why aren't these technologies being implemented already? The reason isn't that industry is holding Europe back; on the contrary, European industry's environmental footprint has improved considerably in recent years. Rather, the principal energy consumer in Europe is individual households, where energy efficiency can be tripled in the coming years with the right political leadership, sufficient investment, and long-term commitment from Europeans themselves.

This takes us back to the Energy Efficiency Directive, where this work should begin. The European Commission should set "moon-shot" standards that push us to higher achievements than we once thought possible. If Europe can double its energy efficiency by 2030, Europeans will look back and wonder how they ever lived differently. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

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