

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



June 11, 2017

## Temperance should be Preferred over Fanaticism

Some people consider the difference in ideologies among different nations and groups of people as vital, because that is the factor which would ultimately define the identity of the social and political groups and the development of different cultures and traditions. Some even claim that these differences are inevitable, and the arguments they have are quite convincing as well as they consider the human natures to be different and even contradicting. However, the matter of discussion is where the distinction and differentiation in ideologies have led human beings. Has it provided them more bliss and contentment or more conflicts and wars?

It is important to note that it is the demand of social and political circumstances that the ideologies formed in different societies by different groups should be different. The problem is not at all to be different; even every individual human being is different from others. The difference in ideologies in fact may give rise to a variety of social groups with variety of social and cultural practices. Nevertheless, the problem arises when the ideologies turn fanatical; when only one's or a group's own ideology becomes true and all the other ideologies become false; and when it becomes the responsibility of the follower of one ideology to change ideas of the followers of other ideologies, forcefully. After any social or political group becomes fanatical, there are possibilities that it would adopt violence for the coercion of its ideas on others, as fanaticism would lead it to such a destination.

Fanaticism is a forceful coercion that one's own ideology, religion, race or nation is always right while all the others are wrong and abhorring them would not be wrong at all. It even convinces many to adopt hostility in the defense of their ideology or the defeat of the others. As hinted above, it has persuaded its holders to take the responsibility of correcting others for they are absurd and must be led to the right direction.

It is important to note that fanaticism cannot be related to a single ideology, as is mostly depicted in modern times. Currently it has become a fad to link fanaticism with Islam and Muslims. However, it would be better to note that fanaticism itself is not an ideology; rather it is the frame of reference through which any religion or ideology is perceived that generates fanaticism.

If Muslims are fanatics, there are certain Hindus, Sikhs and Christians as well, who are fanatics. In addition, it is not very strange to experience extremist atheists in today's society. Even atheists, who do not believe in any religion, can turn belligerent and even fierce in defense of their ideology. Then there are many believers in modern political ideologies who are fanatics. Hence, it can be safely said that fanaticism is not the content of an ideology rather it is the conception of the content and its impacts over human psychology and behavior and eventually his responses.

It can be easily observed in today's world that how fanaticism has turned people violent and even terrorist. The example of our own country Afghanistan can be discussed here without any hesitation.

The terrorists who have been fighting in Afghanistan are mostly the fanatics who believe their religious beliefs to be final and the best, while believe others' as meaningless and worth destruction. Therefore, what they have been doing is evident from the series of their tyrannies where in they kill innocent people through indiscriminate bombings and shootings. Now realize the concept of suicide attack. A suicide attacker is basically a person who believes extremely in a particular ideology and in the falseness of others so much that he becomes ready to blow up himself in order to kill others. This is what fanaticism can teach people; therefore, it is necessary that human beings must stop being extremists and adopt temperance before it is too late.

Temperance, in fact, is the best way to adopt in pursuance of an ideology. Temperance teaches tolerance and cooperation. People with temperate ideology tend to accept others with all their differences and respect them as well. It does not mean to forget one's own identity and mix up with others in order to lose oneself. It basically means valuing the heterogeneity and honoring the basic law of nature that people and groups of people are different and they have different perceptions, beliefs and practices. The modern world is a world that has shrunk because of the advancement of science and technology. People are now closer to each other - as the distances have shrunk because of different means of communication and transportation, different religions and cultures have come closer to one another. It is the time when they have fully come to know about their differences and in certain cases that knowledge has led to conflicts and wars. Therefore, it is better for all the human beings to adopt a temperate approach and try to understand each other instead of abhorring without any reason. Temperance would definitely lead them to find out the similarities among one another instead of finding out the differences and politicizing them. They would be able afterwards to make further developments on the same line and at the end can bind into a single chain of humanity.



## Hekmatyar's Run-up on the Ground of Hezb-e-Jamiat

By Dr. Farid Khorosh

It is likely that with the participation of Ahmad Zia Masoud - the former Special Representative of the President of Afghanistan in Reform and Good Governance - in Friday's demonstration and setting up tents for sit-in in Kabul's crowded street, which has created headache for people, leads to negative consequence for both Hezb-e-Jamiat and demonstrators.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar made a strong statement. Besides accusing the demonstrators in struggling to climb Presidential Palace, he said that he would neither agree nor let anyone dismantle the current administration. He asked if there was any alternatives or if they were able to protect a military checkpoint.

He also put blocking the road under question emphasizing that no one could gain the power by force and all Afghans have the right to express their demands but not through blocking streets.

Hekmatyar pointed out that changing or reforming would be possible only through democratic ways and added that he would never be the presidential candidate for the upcoming election if there was hundred per cent chance for his victory. Regardless of his own belief in democracy, Hekmatyar articulated what the international community and the US expected to hear from him. Afghan government paid considerably to bring Hekmatyar to the peace process.

Although it will be too early to predict Hekmatyar's high objectives, the government's struggle for bringing him seems to be fruitful. He backed the government in the very right time. His support comes as the militants have intensified their attacks and an upsurge in political and factional dissatisfaction put pressure on Ghani's administration.

His support will change the political balance. In fact, he consolidated his state in supporting the current administration and his decision to play a role in the political setup.

In the complicated game broke out with a massive suicide attack in Kabul, Ghani and Hekmatyar seem to have upper hand. On the other hand, the demonstrators and Hezb-e-Jamiat sustained the harm, since Zia's presence put both the impartiality of the demonstration and Hezb-e-Jamiat under question. So, the ground was paved for his newly arrived rival Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who appeared as a strong proponent of Afghanistan's political administration so as to consolidate his political position for the government and international

community. The surprising paradox is that Hekmatyar, taking into consideration the current situation, presented himself as the "administration's proponent" with a small move despite fighting for 16 years against the government. On the contrary, he showed his former rival Hezb-e-Jamiat as the "administration's opponent" despite having half of power in the government within 16 years.

Ghani and Hekmatyar's victory will be more noticeable when Ghani refused the removal of the National Security Advisor and top security officials demanded by demonstrators.

It seems that Hezb-e-Jamiat Islami does not enjoy integrity and unity nowadays. Whether to stay in the government's body or not, a strong disagreement has emerged among the party's leader. The leaders of Hezb-e-Jamiat also understand the fact that as long as the administration is taken under the US's wing, their political boycott will neither trigger sadness nor gratitude.

To one's unmitigated surprise, journalists, cyberspace users and even some politicians focused on the words of citizen and citizenship explained by him. The cyberspace was replete with satire following the Hekmatyar's interpretation of citizen, which outweighed the main subject and channeled the public attention to minor issue. To be honest, this was the less significant part of the conference.

The important topic was when he said, "I don't let anyone dismantle this administration". This sentence, which changes his warmonger stance into a peaceful one, will create fear and anxiety. The enigmatic message of this sentence codified by literature of Mujahedeen's period will be understandable by Hezb-e-Jamiat.

After all, blocking the roads and difficulties created by the tent-dwellers for Kabul residents act as a double-edged sword which will hurt the demonstrators, too. The voice of simple citizens raised against suicide attacks, explosion, insecurity, unemployment and political game is also being raised gradually against blocking roads in Kabul city.

The energy for protest seems to be waning and the demonstrators look disappointed. Despite the high ambitions stated in first days, the tent-dwellers for sit-in lack an effective management and there are no more than 20 to 30 persons in the tents. It is believed this low number without a strategic plan will be able to change the administration.

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## May China-Kazakhstan Relationship Fly High Toward our Shared Aspirations

By Xi Jinping

Continued from Yesterday

We need to develop programs that help bring our people closer. We will work more actively to promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges. We should promote mutual understanding and mutual appreciation between our people through the establishment of cultural centers in each other's country, the joint operation of institutions of higher education and the exchange of films, television programs and literature works. China will encourage more visits of its citizens to Kazakhstan for tourism so that they will see for themselves the unparalleled beauty of this "Uly Dala Eli," the land of the great steppe.

- We need to deepen our security cooperation. We will implement the vision for common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. We will continue to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism, drug trafficking and transnational organized crimes according to law and jointly safeguard the cyber security. We should put in place bilateral security mechanisms for the Belt and Road cooperation to ensure the security of the oil and gas pipelines and other large cooperation projects undertaken by our two countries. We will protect the legitimate rights and interests and the personal and property safety of our citizens and companies.

- We need to strengthen our cooperation at the international and multilateral levels. We will enhance communication and coordination under such multilateral frameworks as the United Nations (UN), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and maintain timely exchange of views on international and regional hotspot issues. China supports Kazakhstan's greater role in international affairs in its capacity as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2017-2018 term. Another important item on my agenda in Kazakhstan is to attend the SCO annual summit in Astana.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the SCO Charter and the 10th anniversary of the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighborhood, Friendship and Cooperation of the SCO Member States. Over the years, the SCO member states have been firmly committed to the purposes and principles enshrined in the two important documents. We have never failed to honor and promote the "Shanghai Spirit" featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development.

As a result, the mutual trust among the SCO member states is stronger and solid progress has been made in SCO cooperation in all areas. All this has contributed significantly to regional stability and prosperity.

The SCO finds security cooperation extremely important and has put in place cooperation mechanisms on combating terrorism, separatism, extremism, drugs and transnational crimes. The member states have held joint counter-terrorism drills on a regular basis, and worked actively to address hotspot issues. All these efforts have helped to maintain regional security and stability.

The SCO member states have implemented in earnest the Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the SCO Member States and the Development Strategy of the SCO

Until 2025, and steadily moved forward cooperation in such areas as trade, investment, connectivity, energy, finance and agriculture. The SCO has also worked actively to deepen member states' exchanges in culture, education, youth, health, science and technology, environmental protection, tourism and sports. Such endeavors have helped to boost economic and social development in the member states and enhance friendship and cooperation.

As the rotating chair of the SCO, Kazakhstan has contributed significantly to the organization and its development. At the upcoming Astana summit, heads of the member states will make a number of important decisions on deepening cooperation in all fields and completing the organization's first membership expansion. These decisions will reinforce the organization's position for future development. China will succeed Kazakhstan as the rotating chair upon conclusion of this summit. China stands ready to work with Kazakhstan and other member states and build on the Astana summit to further strengthen the organization so that it will deliver more tangible benefits to people in this region.

The Expo 2017 Astana, the first of its kind in a Central Asian country, will be opening soon. Its theme "Future Energy" is very much in line with global trend toward a green, healthy and sustainable economic growth and highly compatible with China's initiative on a green Silk Road.

China supports Kazakhstan in hosting a successful and distinctive Expo. The China Pavilion will showcase state-of-the-art technologies such as an "artificial minisun" using nuclear fusion and a high-speed rail cockpit simulator. Our pavilion aims to promote a green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable way of life and production, and demonstrate China's vision on green development. I wish the Astana Expo a complete success!

Under President Nazarbayev's outstanding leadership, Kazakhstan has maintained social harmony and stability and achieved rapid economic growth since its independence. The Kazakh people are living better and happier lives. Thanks to the steady growth of its aggregate national strength, Kazakhstan now ranks among the world's 50 most competitive countries, creating the "Kazakhstan miracle."

Going all out in its third modernization drive, Kazakhstan is pressing ahead with its new economic policy of the "Nurly Zhol," the "Strategy-2050" and its social modernization. The Kazakh people are making great strides towards the "Kazakh dream" of national renewal and prosperity.

The Chinese people are also making unremitting efforts to achieve the country's "two centenary goals" (i.e., to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects when the Communist Party of China celebrates its centenary and turn China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious when the People's Republic of China marks its centennial) and realize the Chinese dream of great national rejuvenation.

The Kazakh and Chinese people, closely bound by our shared aspirations, are joining hands to make their dreams a reality.

I do believe that as long as we stay true to our goals and work closely together, the China-Kazakhstan relations will fly high toward our shared aspirations and usher in an even better future!

President of the People's Republic of China



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