

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



October 05, 2016

Brussels Conference on Afghanistan

Brussels Conference on Afghanistan is going on in Belgium while the security situation in Afghanistan is getting more serious. The Conference is being cohosted by Afghanistan and the European Union. Representatives from 70 countries and 20 international organization and agencies are also participating in it. European Commission is going to announce new financial assistances to the Afghan government in the form of a state-building contract. The gathering will also provide a platform for the Kabul administration to set out its vision and track record on reform. For the international community, it will be the opportunity to signal sustained political and financial support to Afghan peace, state-building and development. President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Dr. Abdullah Abdullah are representing Afghanistan in the conference.

Currently, it is very difficult to see clear prospects of peace building and development in the country as Taliban have gained control of several districts. According to recent reports, they have taken the control of Kunduz city and Khanshin district in Helmand province. At present, they are in fierce battle with Afghan security forces in Kunduz, Baghlan and Faryab. Moreover, there are no prospects of any peace deal between the Afghan government and Taliban.

On the other hand, development sector is also facing huge challenges. Poverty, unemployment and crimes are widespread and the support and assistance that were meant for the improvement of the sector do not seem to have achieved their objectives properly.

In its first agreement in the margins of the Conference, European Commission signed a State-building contract with Afghanistan on Tuesday. The agreement was signed by the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, and the Afghan Minister of Finance, Eklil Ahmad Hakimi in the presence of President Ashraf Ghani.

This first State-building contract for Afghanistan will provide up to €200 million (\$224 million USD) in direct budget support over a two-year period from 2017 onwards. It will assist the Government of Afghanistan in defining its own strategic development priorities and policies, as outlined in the new Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework.

It is important that the assistance and support that are going to reach Afghanistan in different forms should reach to the people who really deserve it. The best way to judge the effectiveness of the assistance is to observe the changes in the lives of the poor and needy people. If their standards of living remain the same and they keep on suffering from social and economic problems, particularly, from poverty and unemployment, the assistance could not be thought of having served its purpose. If the lives of the people of Afghanistan are observed from the same perspective, it would be difficult to find evident changes and thus it would be difficult to see the outcome of the billions of dollars of in previous assistance.

A large portion of assistance fund was basically devoured by corruption. The ones who benefitted from the opportunity now have luxurious lives while most of the people still suffer because of the lack of basic requirements.

However, European Commission has said that the State-building contract will support more effective budgetary management and the fight against corruption. A robust policy dialogue on reform progress in public policies, the macroeconomic framework, public financial management, as well as on transparency and oversight, will be put in place with the Afghan Government and determine the payments under this contract. Another important factor to consider is that Afghanistan cannot keep on depending on other countries forever. It has to stand on its own and must be able to take advantage of the assistance in a sense that it builds infra-structures and invests in better opportunities. Instead of thinking about how Afghan officials can best present a case in front of international community for more and more support every time, they must spend more time in designing strategies to make the country stand on its own. Self-reliance would be the only way through which Afghanistan can guarantee its survival.

In this regard, the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework will be presented at the main event of the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan. It will provide a credible strategic framework for Afghanistan's development towards increasing self-reliance. And, this self-reliance should not only focus security; rather, the social, economic and political systems should also be kept in consideration.

Moreover, Afghanistan should also ensure that it is able to protect the developments or achievements that are made regarding human rights and particularly women rights. Maintaining the status quo, in this regard, would not be an achievement. There has to be considerable development for bringing women in social and political lives and providing them facilities and opportunities as citizens of the country. National Unity Government does not have great achievements in this respect and it would be very difficult for it to defend itself in this regard. There should be more pressure on the relevant government institutions in this regard to play their better role in the protection of rights of women and improvement in their lives.



Unbreakable Laws of Success

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

There is no doubt that everyone wants personal success and a happy, healthy life as well achieves financial independence. And everyone wants to make a difference in the world, to be significant, to have a positive impact on those around him or her. Everyone wants to do something wonderful and meaningful with his or her life. On the other hand, everyone agrees that success is not a matter of background, color, race and etc. likewise, it's not our family, friends, or contacts that enable us to do extraordinary things. According to psychologist, there are some unbreakable natural laws to get the very best out of ourselves under almost all conditions and circumstances.

The Law of Cause and Effect: it means that everything happens for a reason and there is a cause for every effect. This is the "Iron Law" of human destiny. This law says that we live in a world governed by law, not chance. It says that everything happens for a reason, whether or not we know what it is. Every effect, success or failure, wealth or poverty, has a specific cause or causes. Every cause or action has an effect or consequence of some kind or another, whether we can see it, or whether we like it or not. This law says that all achievement, wealth, happiness, prosperity and success are the direct and indirect effects or results of specific causes or actions. What this means is that, if we can be clear about the effect or result we want, we can probably achieve. It is proved by others who have accomplished the same goal, and by doing what they did; we can get the same results. The most important expression of this universal law is that, "Thoughts are causes and conditions are effects." Put another way, "Thought is creative." Your thoughts are the primary creative forces in your life. We create your entire world by the way we think. All the people and situations of our life have been created by our own thinking. And when we change our thinking, we change our life. You become what you think about most of the time. It is not what happens to us but how we think about what happens to us that determine how we feel and react. It is not the world outside of us that dictates our circumstances or conditions. It is the world inside of us that creates the conditions of our life. Specifically, it is the way we think about our financial goal that largely determines our financial conditions.

The Law of Belief: Whatever we truly believe, with feeling, becomes our reality.

This law says that we always act in a manner consistent with our beliefs, especially our beliefs about ourselves. Our beliefs act like a set of filters that screen out information that is inconsistent with them. We do not necessarily believe what we see but rather we see what we already believe. We reject informa-

tion that contradicts what we have already decided to believe, whether or not our beliefs, our prejudices, are based on fact or fantasy. This is especially true with regard to financial goals. The best belief that we can develop within ourselves are that we are destined to gain a big success financially. When one absolutely convinced that his financial success in the making, you will engage in the behaviors that will make it come true. The worst beliefs you can have are "Self limiting beliefs" Whenever we believe ourselves to be limited in some way.

The Law of Expectations: Whatever we expect, with confidence, becomes our own self-fulfilling prophecy. We are always acting as a fortune-teller in our own life by the way we think and talk about how things are going to turn out. When we confidently expect good things to happen, good things usually happen to us. Wealthy people expect to be rich. Successful people expect to be successful.

Happy, popular people expect to be happy and popular. And our expectations are largely under our control. Expect the best of ourselves and stay positive. Imagine that one has unlimited abilities and that he can accomplish anything that he puts his mind to. Imagine that our future is only limited by our own imagination, and that whatever we accomplished up to now, it is only a fraction of what we truly capable of achieving. Imagine that our greatest moments lie ahead and that everything that has happened to us up to now has merely been a preparation for the great things that are yet to come.

The Law of Attraction: we are a living magnet; we invariably attract into our life the people and situations. This is one of the great laws that explain much of success and failure in business and personal life.

It says that everything we have in our life we have attracted to ourselves because of the way we think. We can change our life because we can change the way we think. When we develop a burning desire for financial success and think about it all the time, set up a force field of positive emotional energy that attracts people, ideas and opportunities into our life to help make our goals into realities. Look at our financial life today and see how it harmonizes with our thinking. Take full credit for all the good things in our life. They are there because we have attracted them to ourselves.

Finally, studies show that the foundation of success lay in the inside world of human not outside. So need to explore success in our own world. The aforementioned are some of unbreakable laws that play important role our morality and for gaining a successful life. The rest of these laws may continue in the next articles.

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The Revolution of Karbala

By Hujjatullah Zia

The Holy Month of Muharram is celebrated annually as a religious ritual in Islamic societies to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Husain (A.S) - the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) - and his devoted companions who embraced death to free themselves from the chain of slavery. Their blood was spilt in the burning desert of Karbala, a city in Iraq, about fourteen centuries ago when they refused to pledge allegiance to the corrupt regime of Yazid.

Succeeding his father as self-styled caliph, Yazid urged Imam Husain (A.S) either to pledge loyalty to his caliphate or will lose his life. Imam Husain (A.S) said that a glorious death was far more honorable than an inglorious life. He protested against the Yazidi regime and believed that one who pledged allegiance to a cruel king; s/he would be responsible for all the harms and misdeeds perpetrated by the regime. The Yazid's regime was infamous for violating the Islamic tenets - established by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) within 23 years. The Prophet appeared like a guardian angel in the Arab Peninsula when the people were deep in inhumanity, moral corruption, violence and bloodshed. For instance, giving birth to a daughter was a disdain and women had no rights and liberty. Tribal structure, superstitions and wrong traditions held strong sway and no one dared talk against them. The system of slavery was prevailing and women were treated no more than a slave. Human rights and dignity were ignored and only the aristocrats were held in respect. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emerged to humanize the society through fighting wrong traditions and establishing a school of humanity, in which the individuals' dignity and their rights to life, liberty and property were respected and protected, women were not treated as inferior creature, the one with greater virtue was introduced a godly person irrespective of his/her race, color or caste. He established a code of life replete with humanity, virtue and moral values. He suffered severely and encountered countless challenges in ameliorating the wrong traditions and fighting moral turpitude. Following his sad demise, however, many caliphs controlled the society and sought to continue peace and brotherhood the same as Prophet (PBUH) did. When Yazid inherited the throne - though he was neither supposed to come to the throne nor deserved it - he trampled upon the religious sharia and deviated from the right path. Therefore, Imam Husain (A.S) revolted against his dictatorial and corrupt regime.

Imam Husain (A.S) believed that if Yazid was to rule the society, the school of his grandfather, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), would be disintegrated and the Islamic tenets would be metamorphosed and introduced wrongly to the next generation - as they have been done so presently.

Feeling the threat posed to Islamic tenets by the Yazid's regime,

Imam Husain (A.S) departed to Kofa but stopped by Yazid's men in Karbala. He was said to pledge loyalty or would be killed there. Imam Husain (A.S) was along with his family and companions - brought them to portray a heroic revolution and color it with the blood of close members of his family and devoted men. His sister accompanied him to pronounce his epic revolution to the world and let his blood oozes from the heart of history every year around the globe, mainly in Islamic societies, to send the message of freedom and bravery. Subsequently, Imam Husain (A.S) denied to accept the cruel regime and resorted to sword despite knowing that he would be killed since thousands of people stood against his small caravan.

Imam Husain (A.S) said that the reason behind his revolution was to revive the Islamic Sharia and Prophet's Sunnah. He led the revolution to uphold the rights and dignity of mankind and revitalize the ethical code which was moribund. He was aware of the fact that if he shook hands with Yazid, he would be condemned by the history and if he denied it, his revolution would teach the lesson of humanity, heroism, and liberty to the world.

Consequently, his and his companion's blood was spilt in the blazing desert of Karbala without an iota of mercy. His death, however, enlivened his personality and human characteristics and he was known as hero, by history, who fought against the real villain. History witnesses the deathless soul of Imam Husain (A.S) and the victory of his blood over sword. The messages of his revolution are to choose a manly and honorable life and let your soul never succumb to your physical needs, desires and lusts. In a nutshell, he sacrificed his life to protect humanity and divine messages and to protest against any evil and devils. He preferred an honorable death to a dishonorable life as he said, "The glorious death is far more honorable than inglorious life."

Mahatma Gandhi about Imam Hussain (A.S) said that "I learnt from Hussain how to achieve victory while being oppressed." He also said that "If India wants to be a successful country, it must follow in the footsteps of Imam Hussain (A.S).

English historian and member of parliament, Edward Gibbon, said about Imam Hussain (A.S) that "In a distant age and climate the tragic scene of the death of Hussain will awaken the sympathy of the coldest reader." Now, it is the Muslim Ummah not to only mourn over the tragic aspect of Karbala's revolution but also learn the lesson of humanity and free themselves from evil, fight against corruption and moral turpitude and raise their voice against cruelty. Moreover, they will have to respect the rights and dignity of mankind and revolt against carnage and insurgency. Since this holy revolution has transcended the historical and geographical limitations, it is hoped that it will implant a strong sense of humanity around the globe, mainly in Islamic societies.

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