

“Of the Master of Martyrs...” by Sheikh Abu Yahya al-Libbi

July 31, 2007

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In The Name Of Allah, The Merciful, The Compassionate

All praise is due to Allah, and prayers and peace be upon the messenger of Allah, and upon his family, his companions, and all those who followed him.

O Ummah, May the peace, blessings and mercy of Allah be with you.

Long ago, a poet said, “Killing is destined for us, fighting is for us, and staying behind is for women”, but today we are in an era in which the situation is reversed. It is an era in which men are wearing the veils of women, and are staying inside their homes, hiding in the dark corners of their houses, after they held back from entering the areas, the fierceness of which are entered only by heroes. They are paving the way for the weak women, so that they might do something for their nation, which the previous had refused to do.

Alas, what a pity to see an era in which such weakness has settled, and such feebleness has nestled among its people, leaving them overpowered by cowardice, and forcing their veiled and anklet-wearing women to take the stand of men, and go to the battlefields at the calls of Takbir [the proclamation of the greatness of Allah], and search for a supporter and for the calls for help. They are moved by living faith, live conscience, and hearts filled with exploding volcanoes of fervency for the truth, and flowing rivers of sorrow over a slandered religion, a violated honor, and an insulted Shariah in a country that is corrupted by the dishonest, and controlled by the apostate kuffar; its womanlike men and worshippers of lust.

We all heard about Hafsa University [Jamia Hafsa] in the city of Islamabad in wounded Pakistan, which took a stand that made it worthy of its name as the university of Hafsa bint Umar [one of Prophet Muhammad’s wives], may Allah be pleased with both of them. It took a stand in which chastity and virtue screamed in the face of profligacy, shamelessness, and debauchery, and the voices of pride in faith and in religion were heard decrying and belittling the calls for the sinful modern civilization, and the shameless Western freedom, which is promoted by the advocates of depravity in Pakistan to catch up with the procession of modern Al-Jahiliyyah [meaning ignorance, referring to pre-Islamic times].

Faith called loudly until the ground shook by its echo, and the fragile pre-Islamic like entity trembled.

“Do they then seek judgment of (the days of) ignorance? But who, for a people whose faith is assured, can give better judgment than Allah” Quran 5:50

It is true that the university’s degree might not have a great weight in the world of worldly degrees, which are pursued by many. But this time, and with its honorable stand, its certificate received the highest medals of honor, and earned the highest status, and was recognized, and respected by everyone who loved or hated it, because it is a certificate of righteousness, truth and faith. It is a certificate of righteousness because it uttered the truth and raised the banner of guidance and echoed with the words of certitude, and supported the calls of purity and shouted in the world of deep darkness

“Verily this is My way, leading straight; follow it: follow not (other) paths: they will scatter you about from His (great) path: thus doth He command you. That ye might be righteous.” Quran 6:153

It is a certificate of righteousness because it was motivated by zealousness for the religion, and was moved to rebel by the fervency to support the faith, and was driven by disdain for submission to the promoters of indecency. Despite its weakness, its self-esteem was brought out by its sincere attachment to Islam, and was thrown in the face of the despicable wrongfulness.

“We should indeed invent a lie against Allah, if we returned to your ways after Allah hath rescued us there from.” Quran 7:89

It is a certificate of righteousness because it uncovered the deceitful wrongfulness and removed the fake covers from the black grim faces of its owners and forced them out of their deceptive hideaways to stand in front of everyone, stripped, exposed and humiliated, with nothing to cover them, thrown disgracefully where they belong.

“Those who resist Allah and His Messenger will be among those most humiliated.” Quran 58:20

It is a certificate of righteousness because it sprouted from pure instinct, and sprang from the depth of monotheistic hearts, and rose from the moral constitution of pure souls. It did not wait for permission from a disguised liar, nor a recommendation from a fake adulator; nor recognition or appreciation from a ravaging careless tyrant. The permission and the recommendation and the recognition are all in the noble saying of He who has Grace,

“Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: They are the ones to attain felicity” Quran 3:104

So, good cheers to that group who sought cover under the shadow of lofty manners and jumped on the summit of honor and answered the righteous call with calmness and confidence in the middle of the noise and racket of the calls of corruption and indecency.

You [addressing the women of Jamia Hafsa] answered the call of righteousness without hesitation, and you disobeyed the voice of the unchaste liars; you avoided the manners of the enemy graciously, and you followed the manners that were ordained by your Lord; you gave up their outfits and masquerades and made the Hereafter your ultimate desire. Prosper, oh sister, in seeking gratification, so pray in thanks to the Giver of your blessings.

Today, after the Hafsa University in Islamabad recorded its stand, and rose with it to the throne of glory, its professors and scholars refused that their stand would be other than the stand of their students, whom they had raised on the meanings of faith and instilled in their hearts strong determination. They taught them to seek excellence, and paved for them paths of sacrifice. They crowned the terraces of glory with a crown that shines over the forehead of history, as they restore by their words and actions a symbol whose depth and meaning can only be understood by those who are characterized by patience, guidance and certitude,

“I do not mind when I am killed if I am a Muslim, and my death were for the sake of Allah; and if Allah wills, He will bless my body if torn into pieces’ [poem]

This is how righteousness and certainty spoke in the past. It refused to back off when matters were related to its faith. This is how truth and conviction should be proclaimed today and every

day. A person should refrain from satisfying the unfaithful person with words that his despicable nature would wish to hear. Such were the religious beliefs contained in the battle of the Lal Mosque, or what is called the Red Mosque, and which is truly red, not red for the sake of embellishment or camouflage, but because it was painted, rather covered, with the blood of the faithful and chaste martyrs. This is how we reckon them, but Allah is the judge, as they took the stance of unparalleled heroes, engraving the pages of history with terrific combat stories that can never be matched. And, as this great mosque used to graduate students and scholars, who appealed for compassion, propagated virtue, and forbade vice, it is today graduating a new class of master scholars, who, after receiving their graduation medals, will be among the ranks of the masters of martyrdom. We do consider them as such, but Allah is the final judge.

At the top of this regiment of lions is the courageous imam and the active scholar, the martyr, the son of a martyred father, and a martyred mother too, as we consider them as such, but Allah is the final Judge, Abd-al-Rashid Ghazi, may Allah bestow His mercy upon them, who spoke the truth at a time of subordination, and exalted faith at a time of submissiveness, and despised he who was evil and proud, who depended on his own strength and relied on his own omnipotence. He would confidently, surely and serenely tell him, ‘You depend on your audacity and conceit, but I depend on Allah.

“Get ye then an agreement about your plan and among your partners, so your plan be on to you dark and dubious. Then pass your sentence on me, and give me no respite.” Quran 10:71

He is the one who said while facing the hardship of the blockade and the menace of the enemy, “I would rather die than give up anything I call for or submit to captivity.” His deed matched his word.

“Avoiding death to him was easy, but the bitter taste of observance, and the rough road of morals returned him to it. He kept his feet firm in the swamp of death and said to it under your toes lies hell.” [poem]

Did not our prophet, may the peace of Allah be upon him, say that the best kind of jihad is telling the truth in the face of an unjust ruler. So what do you say about a word of truth that may be thrown in the face of one of those infidels and unjust? Rather, in the face of a country, its army, its intelligence and its security authorities? The bearer of the truth conveyed it openly and honestly, without flattery or adulation. He announced it in their midst and while looking at the swords of injustice and revenge shining brightly before his eyes. He did not fear them, nor did he pay much attention to them. He endured for the sake of the truth until he attained his wish and met his end. He was killed and his mother was also killed alongside of him, may Allah bestow him mercy upon her. He died trying to shut up all the lying mouths, and silence all the hateful hearts that spread lies and falsehoods, as if he was saying to them:

“Perish in your rage. Certainly, Allah knows what is in the breasts.” Quran 3:119

He was an example for those who fought under him, and became a school for those that will follow his path, Allah permitting, so that their heads remain high and so that the goal they would compete for is the attainment of the highest rank of martyrdom and its most noble status. ‘If you take risk for the sake of an honorable objective, do not be content with anything less than the stars.

“Meeting an honorable death is not more painful than a mundane death.” [poem]

Jabir, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet, may peace be upon him, said:

“The master of all martyrs is Hamzah bin Abd-al-Muttalib (r.a) [Prophet’s uncle] and any man who was killed because he stood up to an unjust Imam [leader] and enjoined for what is right and forbade what is wrong.” [Hadith]

Have the martyrs of the [Red] mosque not satisfied this criterion the Prophet use to describe the master of all martyrs? Isn’t it true that they stood up to a despotic, secular, and despicable tyrant after they saw him dragging the land and the people to the abyss of abandoning Islam and morality and turning them into blind followers and an exact copy of his masters in the East and West in culture, values, creed, and customs? They stood up to him [Pervez Musharraf] and to his agent and dishonorable army and his intelligence apparatus that targets only the weak, in order to say “stop this train of corruption that destroyed the country, and crushed the values and obliterated virtue.” They stood up to them to say that Pakistan will not achieve independence from the worshippers of cows (Hindu India) only to be enslaved by the worshippers of [material] pleasures and the people of sin (the West),

“They are only like cattle, nay, they are even farther astray from the Path [even worse than cattle].” Quran 24:44

They stood up to them to say that Pakistan was not created to be turned into a state that rejects Islam, fights its people, and condemns its commands, and adopts the trash of ideas produced by the minds that were cursed by Allah and are subject to His wrath and made out of them monkeys and swine, for they worshipped false idols, putting them in high esteem, and turned them into the laws of the land and forced the people to conform to them in the name of civilization, and progress. They stood up to them to say that Pakistan was not created to become an ally and a supporter of the patron of the Cross, America and its followers, by chasing the mujahideen, detaining them, torturing the monotheists, and opening its airspace, ports, and land to those infidels, and allowing them to move freely in safety while their weapons massacre thousands of Muslims here in Afghanistan. They stood up to them to say that the mission of Pakistan’s army, which falsely carries the slogan of “Faith, Righteousness, Jihad for the sake of Allah,” is not to defend the Crusaders, carry out their orders without revision or objection, wreck the mosques, besiege the schools or to kill the people in the streets. But the Pakistan Army’s mission is to truly commit, without charlatanism or deception, to the slogan it claims it adopts and carries.

They confronted them to tell them that our Muslim people in Pakistan, the people of virtue, compliance, purity, humility, and zeal, have no room for the people of prostitution, impudence, libertinism and lewdness, who would like for indecency to spread among the believers. They confronted them to tell them that Pakistan is a Muslim nation and its people are Muslims, and it [Pakistan] should be ruled by Islam, enjoy [life] under the umbrella of its just Shariah [Islamic law], to have the banner of monotheism fluttering in its skies, and the banners of secularism and the cross rolling in its mud; and if it is not, then below the ground is better than above it [death is better than life]. Because of that, they rose, resisted and were killed, and they have become truly martyrs as we count them and Allah is the final judge.

“Among the Believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allah. Of them some have completed their vow [of obtaining martyrdom], and some [still] wait: but they have never changed [their determination] in the least.” Quran 33:32

It was as if they were offering their lives one by one, and plunging into the sea of death one after

the other, and finding excuses for themselves before Allah, as the fragrance of faith and longing for paradise is going through their emotions, they repeat in the voice of a man leaving his will:

“Brother if you shed tears over me and wet my grave with them in reverence, use them to light the candles’ residues, and to guide you [the lit candles] toward a time-honored glory; nothing is more generous, no better gift to be bestowed upon and no liberality is greater.” [poem]

Allah willing, their pure and chaste blood that they offered freely, will be prominent landmarks to guide the rambles, and a flowing spring to irrigate the tree of Islam in Pakistan. The banner that they were loyal to will be received by those who follow their footsteps, follow their example and imitate their actions, to finish building an edifice that they established with their remains. This is how the procession of truth will continue.

“If one moon [light] is abating or fading, another one will show on the horizon shining.” [poem]

A situation like this, which can not be overstated, should not just disappear with the wind and melt in the oceans of lies. This is Allah’s Sunnah.

“And say not of those who are slain in the way of Allah. “They are dead.” Nay, they are living, though ye perceive [it] not.” Quran 2:154

“Oh Martyr with whom Allah forever carried the battle of justice, you will always be a banner, a leader of the symbol and a troop for sacrifices. We did not forget you have taught us the smile of the believers in the face of death.” [poem]

Oh people of jihad in Pakistan, oh lions of sacrifice, and oh you seekers of martyrdom and the Houris of paradise, man dies only once. You should then seek the meadows of martyrdom, which are not available in your country; rise in a way that Allah will see in you what pleases Him; mobilize to remove this apostate and corrupting tyrant; put an end to his secular tyrannical rule; and attack the strongholds of his demeaned army, the dens of his filthy intelligence, and the centers of his pre-Islamic-like regime. You should follow the example of your neighbors; the heroic people of Afghanistan, who with their steadfastness, strong will, persistence, and with their strong dependence on Allah have made their country a grave for arrogant and powerful empires and forced them out humiliated and defeated. Along with those empires, the people of Afghanistan crushed all the dishonored agents, and you should do likewise.

You should know that the tax of humiliation that will be paid by the people of Pakistan by their surrender, subordination and humiliation at the hands of this apostate government is many times greater than the tax of glory, which they will pay generously and willingly to glorify the religion [Islam], to install the Shariah, protect the faith, and liberate themselves from worshipping human beings and delight in worshipping the Lord of all beings.

Justice will not be won by begging, rights are not attained by pleading, and oppression will not be lifted by imploring, but with tough determination, high-minded aims, serious work, and continuous sacrifices, by overcoming difficulties and with the willingness to take risks.

“The greater the peoples’ determinations are, so will be the rewards, and the pathetic people will not be able to achieve the smallest of things, but the great people will achieve great things.” [poem]

Best of all and more beneficial to you is the Almighty Allah's saying:

“Go ye forth, [whether equipped] lightly or heavily, and strive and struggle, with your goods and your persons, in the cause of Allah. That is best for you, if ye [but] knew.” Quran 9:41

We plead with Allah to accept the martyrs, elevate their rank in Jannah, free the prisoners and the subjugated, care for the wounded, cure the sick, grant the families of all those serenity and reward them. He is benevolent and generous. And our final supplication is praise be to Allah, Lord of all creation.

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Libi 16 Rajab 1428
July 31, 2007