

Factors of Building Countries

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds Who says in His Noble Quran "And say, "Do [as you will], for Allah will see your deeds, and [so, will] His Messenger and the believers. And you will be returned to the Knower of the unseen and the witnessed, and He will inform you of what you used to do." I bear witness that there is no god deserved to be worshipped but Allah; and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger who says in his noble Hadith: "If the Final Hour comes while you have a palm-cutting in your hands and it is possible to plant it before the Hour comes, you should plant it." May Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him, his family, Companions and upon those who follow his guidance to the end of Judgment.

Undoubtedly, loving, defending and pushing countries forward to achieve progress are from the most important and sublime teachings of Islam. For this reason, a true believer feels great honor for his genuine belonging to his country, his hard efforts to build it and his diligent work to realize its progress and flourish. In truth, the civilizational and scientific progress realized by any country is the produce of sincere people whose hearts are full of loving their countries, thus exerted their utmost to work hard and enormously benefit their people and countries. Our beloved Egypt, in actuality, deserved this, if not more, because it is the heart of the Arab and Muslim countries. Not only that, but it is also the shield and the sword of the Nation and its strong fortress that shoulders the responsibility of combating terrorism and facing challenges. That is why defending it and working hard to achieve its progress and advancement are but religious and national duties, since it is the cradle of all civilizations and divine messages; it is the country whose mention is recorded in the Quran altogether with

security and safety. Allah, Most High, says: "Enter Egypt, Allah willing, safe [and secure]."

Impressive are truly these lines of poetry composed by Salah Al-Din Al-Safadi:

Whoever sees the land, its countries ... and people of different kinds and races

Yet sees not Egypt nor its people ... actually sees not the world nor its peoples

There is no doubt that progress, advancement and flourishing secure the dignity and honor of the Ummah, as well as showing respect for it by others. Yet, building countries is never realized by mere words, dreams, or wishes; rather, considerable efforts should be exerted in this regard, as well as making use of the factors of buildings and the reasons for achieving progress and advancement.

Being aware of the challenges is one of the most important reasons in this regard. In truth, being aware of the value of your country and the challenges it faces as well as the surrounding dangers require that we should be aware of the size of challenges we face, because without realizing these challenges, we cannot put successful solutions for them.

Undoubtedly, the topic of being aware of the value of the country, the legitimacy of the national country, the necessity to support its resistance, and working to achieve its progress and advancement are all among the most important cornerstones for building a strong country. They are also the most important pillars that support belonging to countries and preserving its fortunes.

Also, awareness of the importance of countries necessitates that we should correct the misunderstandings that terrorist and extremist groups tried to implant in the minds of people, taking into account that these groups based their ideologies on the attempts to cut off the relations and shattering trust between peoples and their rulers and officials, even though the teachings of religions call for honoring rulers of just characters. In this regard, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) says: "Glorifying Allah involves showing honor to a grey-haired Muslim and to one who can expound the Qur'an, but not to one who acts extravagantly regarding it, or turns away from it, and showing honor to a just ruler." Not only that, but Allah, the Almighty, also makes the just ruler among the seven kinds of people who will be protected from the scorching heat of the sun on the Day of Resurrection by His Throne; Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Seven people Allah will give them His Shade on the Day when there would be no shade but the Shade of His Throne (i.e., on the Day of Resurrection): And they are: a just ruler; a youth who grew up with the worship of Allah; a person whose heart is attached to the mosques, two men who love and meet each other and depart from each other for the sake of Allah; a man whom an extremely beautiful woman seduces (for illicit relation), but he (rejects this offer and) says: 'I fear Allah'; a man who gives in charity and conceals it (to such an extent) that the left hand does not know what the right has given; and a man who remembers Allah in solitude and his eyes become tearful." The just ruler, as you see, tops the list of the seven.

One of the most important foundations of building countries is to sacrifice for its sake. True nationality is not a matter of chanting with slogans or reiterating words; rather, it is a way of life that seriously considers the challenges facing the country, that feels sorrowful for its

pain and happy upon realizing its goals, and that is all-ready to sacrifice for its sake.

Defending, protecting and sacrificing for countries are national and religious duties upon every one living on their lands and sheltered with their heavens; that is to say that loving countries is not confined to feelings and emotions only; rather, it should be practically translated into hard work and good behavior beneficial for the individual and the society. Therefore, sacrifice for the sake of countries is a must so that they should remain strong. Belonging to countries requires that all their citizens should feel proud of them and unite to preserve them, because stability of countries is one of the ultimate objectives of the Sharia that aim at constructing the earth and promoting the status of religions and enabling people to practice their rituals. Thus, Jihad is legislated in Islam only to defend countries and ward off injustice and aggression. For this reason, Allah, Most High, promised those who sacrifice their souls for His Sake in defense for their countries with higher ranks " Indeed, Allah has purchased from the believers their lives and their properties [in exchange] for that they will have Paradise. They fight in the cause of Allah, so they kill and are killed. [It is] a true promise [binding] upon Him in the Torah and the Gospel and the Qur'an. And who is truer to his covenant than Allah? So rejoice in your transaction which you have contracted; and it is that which is the greatest attainment."

One of the most important factors and pillars of building countries and civilizations is hard and precise work. Islam highly appreciates the value of work and even considers it an act of worship, if not better in rank. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) described it as Jihad in the Cause of Allah. Ka'ab ibn 'Ajurah narrated that a man passed by the Prophet

(PBUH) and the Companions saw that he was active and diligent, which is why they said, "O Messenger of Allah, had this hard work been in the Cause of Allah?!" The Prophet (PBUH) replied, "If he had been working to seek the provision of his little children, he is in the Cause of Allah; if he had been working to seek the provision of his aged parents, he is in the Cause of Allah; and if he had been working to seek the provision of his own self to protect it from evil, he is in the Cause of Allah. Yet, if he had come out for showing off, he is in the cause of the Satan."

So, both religion and nationality requires exerting our utmost, to work hard and to produce, especially when we take into account the fact that our religion urges us to work hard and to be diligent. Allah, Most High, says: "[He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed - and He is the Exalted in Might, the Forgiving;" and " O you who have believed, when [the adhan] is called for the prayer on the day of Jumu'ah [Friday], then proceed to the remembrance of Allah and leave trade. That is better for you, if you only knew. (٩) And when the prayer has been concluded, disperse within the land and seek from the bounty of Allah, and remember Allah often that you may succeed. (١٠) But when they saw a transaction or a diversion, [O Muhammad], they rushed to it and left you standing. Say, "What is with Allah is better than diversion and then a transaction, and Allah is the best of providers." (١١)" Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Nobody has ever eaten a better meal than that which one has earned by working with one's own hands. The Prophet (PBUH) of Allah, David used to eat from the earnings of his manual labor."

In this connection, we stress that the religion of Islam not only asks us to work, but also to perfect this work. Allah, the Almighty, says:

"Indeed, We will not allow to be lost the reward of any who did well in deeds." Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also said: "Allah loves when one of you does a work to perfect it."

One of the most important factors of building countries and civilizations is science and good will. Building needs science, experience and specialization; it is not a matter of hobby. Investigating the Quran and the Purified Sunnah leads to the conclusion that they both highlight the importance of the availability of efficiency, sufficiency and trust. Telling us about Prophet Joseph (PBUH), Allah, the Almighty, says: "[Joseph] said, "Appoint me over the storehouses of the land. Indeed, I will be a knowing guardian." Also, He, Most High, tells us about the daughters of Prophet Shu'aib who said to him about Prophet Moses (PBUH): "O my father, hire him. Indeed, the best one you can hire is the strong and the trustworthy."

That is why Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) warned us against assuming powers for inefficient people, stressing that this is one of the signs that the Final Hour's Coming is imminent "When the power or authority comes in the hands of unfit persons, then wait for the Hour (Doomsday.)"

For this reason, he (PBUH) used to employ his companions according to their knowledge, efficiency and ability to shoulder the responsibility; that is to say that neither nepotism nor kinship nor love have nothing at all to do in that regard. Abu Dharr (Allah be pleased with him) said: " said to the Prophet (PBUH): Messenger of Allah, will you not appoint me to a public office? He stroked my shoulder with his hand and said: Abu Dharr, thou art weak and authority is a trust and on the Day of Judgment it is a cause of humiliation and repentance except for one

who fulfills its obligations and (properly) discharges the duties attendant thereon." He (PBUH) also said to Abd Al-Rahman Ibn Samurah: "Abd Al-Rahman, do not ask for a position of authority, for if you are granted this position as a result of your asking for it, you will be left alone (without God's help to discharge the responsibilities attendant thereon), and if you are granted it without making any request for it, you will be helped (by God in the discharge of your duties).

This is my speech to you; and I seek Allah's Forgiveness for me and for you

.....

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; I bear witness that there is no God deserved to be worshipped but Allah; and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger. May Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him, his family, companions and those who follow his guidance to the Day of Judgment;

Muslim brothers:

Seriously considering the moral and behavioral values is one of the most important cornerstones in building countries. In truth, any country or civilization that is not founded on values and moral carry for sure the seeds of its collapse since its very inception.

From the Islamic perspective, morals are of cardinal importance, because they enable Muslims to attain higher ranks, and make his good deeds heavy in the balance on the Day of Judgment. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Nothing is heavier on the believer's Scale on the Day of Judgment than good character. For indeed Allah, Most High, is angered by the shameless obscene person." Also, when he (PBUH)

was asked about the major characteristics that lead to Paradise, he said: "Fearing Allah and good morals."

For this reason, he (PBUH) set good morals as the criterion of perfect/imperfect religion, saying: "The most perfect man in his faith among the believers is the one whose behavior is most excellent" and "Fear Allah wherever you are, do good deeds after doing bad ones, the former will wipe out the latter, and behave decently towards people."

Good morals urge people to be characterized with good characteristics like mercy, loving the good for others, seeking to achieve people's benefit, and achieving the public benefit of the country and its citizens, away from selfishness, because our purified religion is mainly based upon loving and wishing good for others, not on greediness, misery or selfishness.

Justice is one of the cornerstones of building countries and civilizations. In actuality, countries are founded on justice that never differentiates among people in rights and duties, which is the Command of Allah "Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded." They said: "Allah, Most High, grants succor to the just country, even it may be of disbelievers; yet He, Glory be to Him, does not grant succor to the unjust country, even it may be of believers; because had this country been of true believers, it would not have been content with injustice."

I invoke Allah to secure our country and to guide our leaders to what achieves the benefit and progress of our Ummah

