

Leadership Tested Before and After

Question:

How is it that, among so many scholars and politicians, Ayatollah Sayyid Mojtaba Khamenei is introduced as the Leader?



The Imamate of the Ummah: A Divine Tradition in the Furnace of Trials

Almighty God, according to His enduring tradition, grants the lofty station of imamate and guidance of the Ummah to servants who have proven their worth in the crucible of severe and successive trials. As He said regarding Abraham, the Friend of God, peace be upon him: "And when his Lord tested Abraham with certain words, and he fulfilled them, He said: 'Indeed, I am appointing you as an Imam for the people.'"

This noble verse clearly expresses the truth that imamate is not a position given to anyone easily or without prior preparation. Rather, it is the result of successfully passing through the "words" and difficult divine trials.

This divine tradition has also been manifested in the life of His Eminence Ayatollah Sayyid Mojtaba Khamenei. He passed through the various stages of these great trials, one by one, with dignity and success, until divine will came to rest upon his imamate over the Ummah.

1. Anonymity and Unassuming Jihad in the Field of Action:

The first, and perhaps most difficult, test for one who would later become the standard-bearer of the Ummah's guidance is to live in anonymity and act sincerely without any expectation of name or reputation. During the Sacred Defense, he entered the battlefield not as a well-known figure, but as an anonymous, self-sacrificing soldier ready to lay down his life.

This sincerity in anonymity and sacrifice in concealment showed that his devotion to God was far removed from any form of self-display or pursuit of fame. This, in itself, was the first step in proving his truthfulness in the claim of servitude.

2. Simplicity of Life and Refraining from Taking Advantage of the Position of Leadership:

Among the most difficult tests for those who occupy positions of power and leadership is the temptation to make use of material facilities and benefits. During the years of his noble father's leadership, despite having access to economic, welfare, and administrative opportunities, he never used this position for personal or familial benefit. His life always proceeded along the path of simplicity and contentment, and he never sought for himself facilities beyond those of an ordinary citizen. This refraining from benefiting from the public treasury and from his father's position demonstrates deep piety and a practical commitment to justice: a piety that purifies the Imam of the Ummah from any attachment to the world and material things, and makes him worthy of guiding society materially and spiritually.

3. Patience in the Face of Hostilities and the Arrows of Accusation:

The worldly-minded and the sworn enemies of Islamic Iran have always deployed their rancor against him in the form of accusations, political doubts, and media falsehoods. Yet his patience and magnanimity in the

face of these assaults showed that bearing the heavy burden of the imamate of the Ummah is possible only for one who remains, before the fierce winds of enemies, as steadfast as a mountain.

4. The Final and Great Trial: The Martyrdom of Loved Ones:

Perhaps the heaviest test is losing loved ones and relatives on the path of divine ideals. The martyrdom of his father, mother, wife, sister, and other close relatives was a furnace that purified the gold of his being and made it shine even more brightly. Patience in the face of these great calamities shows a spirit that, for the imamate of a nation, must pass beyond even such worldly possessions and be in complete submission to the divine will.

Alongside these trials and tests, capacities and opportunities were made available, and his effort and sincerity in making use of these opportunities made him prepared for the imamate of the Ummah.

a. Scholarly Jihad: Seriousness, Precision, and Tireless Effort Until Reaching the Summit of Ijtihad:

Alongside his field and political struggles, scholarly jihad was also a great and decisive test. He devoted many years of his blessed life, with indescribable seriousness, astonishing precision, and round-the-clock hard work, to learning the sciences of the Household of Muhammad, peace be upon them. Without using his position to seek scholarly shortcuts, he passed through the difficult stages of study and research step by step, enduring the hardships of seminary life,

until he attained the lofty summit of ijtihad.

This tireless perseverance on the path of knowledge and jurisprudence reveals a spirit that, in order to provide intellectual and religious guidance to the Ummah, must spend years kneeling before the Book and the Sunnah, and must quench the thirst of seekers of truth from the ever-flowing spring of knowledge.

b. Thirty-Seven Years of Accompanying the Wali al-Amr of the Muslims:

His moment-by-moment and wholehearted accompaniment of the martyred Leader for nearly four decades was not a simple form of companionship, but rather a kind of covenantal solidarity in hardships and heartfelt unity. In the role of a trusted adviser and a compassionate son to the martyred Leader, he was always present by his side, without seeking self-display or official positions. This sincerity of intention and distance from the pursuit of power was itself a great test, showing that love for Wilayah and the Revolution was not for attaining rank, but for fulfilling one's duty.

And now, the realization of the divine tradition has become manifest. After succeeding in such trials and afflictions, he has taken on, as the Imam of the Islamic Ummah, the leadership of the system of the Islamic Republic in order to realize the teachings of religion and elevate the word of "Allah."