

The Right Side of History

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Words of Wisdom

Martyr Khamenei's selected statements

Without a doubt, the role of Lady Fatimah Masumeh (pbuh) in elevating the status of Qom — this ancient, historic, religious city — is beyond question. With her migration, this noble lady caused this city to shine as the primary center of the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt (pbut) during that dark era of tyrannical rule. It became a center from which the lights of the knowledge and teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt radiated to the entire Islamic world, East and West.

From Martyr Khamenei's speech on Oct. 21, 2010



Word for Word

It's true that throughout the blessed lives of the Imams (pbut), over the 250-year period of Imamate, there are many prominent, distinguished points. Each of these deserves to be analyzed, studied, interpreted, and revisited. Nonetheless, the period of the eighth Imam (pbuh) is one of the most outstanding in this regard. The beginning of the Imamate of the eighth Imam (pbuh) started during the overpowering domination of Harun al-Rashid and after the unjust martyrdom of Musa ibn Ja'far in prison. Extreme pressure was brought on anyone who deviated even slightly from the demands of the ruling apparatus. It was in such a situation that the eighth Imam (pbuh) assumed the Imamate.

It's narrated that one of his companions said, "This young man, this son of Musa ibn Ja'far, has taken on this responsibility while the sword of Harun is dripping with blood." But even in those difficult circumstances, this noble figure was able to expound on the bright path of the prophet's way of life and the Quranic and Islamic teachings in the Muslim community and to draw hearts toward the school of the Ahl al-Bayt and the progeny of the Prophet.

Then came the turn of Ma'mun and the story of his determined insistence and pressure to bring that noble figure [Imam Reza (pbuh)] from Medina to Marv, and then to Khorasan, which was the center of Abbasid politics. The details of Ma'mun's demands and those of the caliphate apparatus — what his motive was for this invitation, this pressure, this insistence, and his bringing the eighth Imam — are lengthy. He had evaluated the matter, and that evaluation was purely political. The goal was to consolidate the foundations of power while weakening the movement of the Ahl al-Bayt's teachings and the work these noble figures were doing. That was his policy.

In the face of this shrewd political move by Ma'mun, the eighth Imam (pbuh) designed, implemented, and advanced a well-devised divine plan. This plan was such that not only were the desires of the caliphate apparatus not fulfilled, but on the contrary, it caused the spread and dissemination of the thought and teachings of the Quran from the Ahl al-Bayt to the corners of the Islamic world. That great movement, relying on Almighty God, with divine planning, and with that penetrating, divinely inspired insight ... the eighth Imam (pbuh) was able to turn that hostile scheme of the overpowering, insolent, oppressive political apparatus completely around and to guide in the direction of truth and righteousness. This is a prominent chapter in the history of the Imams (pbut).

Sept. 7, 2014



Memorable Frames



The Ancestral Home

Since his youth, this place held a special meaning for him. The times he came with his father for pilgrimage, the days he went to its library to borrow books, the moments he took the microphone in one of the mosques or courtyards of the shrine to give a speech—this shrine seemed like the place he always had to return to after every event in his life. This shrine was the beginning: the start of a long, winding path. A path that began in Mashhad, stretched to Tehran, Qom, Najaf, Karbala, Iranshahr in Sistan and Baluchestan, Syria, Libya, Algeria, Zimbabwe, North Korea, China, India, Pakistan, returned again to Tehran, and each time came back to Mashhad. And now, everyone await his return to Mashhad one last time. He came here every year. Sometimes for the New Year, sometimes to visit and speak with the owner of this shrine. The martyred Leader carried heavy responsibilities, many of which he could hardly

share with anyone: the weight of leading the Shia, guiding the Islamic Revolution, and directing Iran, all on one man’s shoulders. Yet he was never alone, and every year he would come to the ancestral home, lay down his heavy burdens for a few minutes, spend time in private with Imam Reza, and perhaps each time, leave the shrine eager for the next return. He himself said: “The luminous shrine of Ali ibn Musa al-Reza (pbuh) is a source of countless blessings and, especially for me, is one of the great divine favors.” In the end, even when the enemies of Islam tried to prevent him from returning to the shrine with their bombs, they failed. Martyr Khamenei persisted in his pilgrimages to Imam Reza to such an extent that even martyrdom could not stop him from returning to the shrine in Mashhad. And now, the shrine awaits to embrace his pure body, just as it has hosted his tears and heartfelt confessions all these years.



The People Rise Up

Should any event befall this country, Almighty God will raise these people to confront it. The people will be the ones who will stop it.

Martyr Khamenei
Feb. 1, 2006





Opinion

Qom's guiding star

Lady Fatimah Masumah (pbuh) was a woman whose life of devotion, migration, and scholarship made her a revered figure.

Some lives shine beyond the pages of history, becoming spiritual beacons that illuminate hearts across generations. For Shia Muslims, Imamate is a central belief. "Imamate refers to the leadership of religion and the world, the leadership of matter and meanings. Matter refers to the politics and governance of a country, or the governance of a state." "It isn't merely the governance of physical bodies, nor is it just the administration of people's worldly, everyday lives. It's the management of hearts, and it's helping souls and spirits to reach completion."¹ "Imamate means to bring the message of prophets to fruition in the hearts of the people, in their thoughts, and in their actions and deeds. This is the meaning of Imamate." Therefore, "The appointment of the Imams by the Prophet was actually an appointment by Almighty God. It was God's will that individuals who are perfect in spirituality, religion, ethics, and virtue and who possess profound insight, courage, a self-sacrificing nature, and tender human emotions alongside spiritual stability and inner strength be placed in this position."²

Among this family of Imamate was Imam Musa al-Kazim (pbuh), the seventh Imam, and his daughter Lady Fatimah Masumah (sa) – a woman whose life of devotion, migration, and scholarship made her a revered figure. She was the sister of the eighth Imam, Ali al-Reza (pbuh), a radiant lantern kindled by the boundless sun of the

Imamate, carrying its divine light to illuminate hearts and places far and wide. And today, her birthday is commemorated in Iran as National Girls' Day.

Lady Fatimah Masumah (sa) lived during the oppressive rule of the Abbasids, when the Infallible Imams faced immense persecution. Despite the hostility of the era, her life reflected profound piety, scholarship, and loyalty to the Ahl al-Bayt [the Household of the Prophet (pbuh)]. She emerged as a scholar of Islamic sciences and a trusted narrator of hadith. Shia historians record that Lady Fatimah Masumah ranks among the highest transmitters of hadith from her family, giving her the title of Muhaddithah (the one who transmits hadiths).³ History records that her scholarly stature was so eminent that when a group of Muslims traveled to Medina to ask their religious questions from Imam al-Kazim (pbuh) and were unable to meet him, they instead posed their questions to this learned daughter. On their way back, when they encountered Imam al-Kazim (pbuh), they presented him with the written answers she had provided. The Imam kissed the paper and said: "May her father be her sacrifice; she is a scholar without being taught, and a knowledgeable narrator of divine wisdom."⁴

Lady Fatimah Masumah (sa) was a spiritual authority in her own right. Her decision to travel

1. From Martyr Khamenei's speech on March 3, 2002

2. From Martyr Khamenei's speech on December 29, 2007

3. Yūsuf 'Alī Yūsufī, *Shahīdat-e Ghurbat*, pp. 142–143

4. Şālih ibn 'Arandas al-Hillī. (n.d.). *Kashf al-Ja'āli*.

from Medina to Iran's Khorasan to join her brother in the face of political turmoil, is a demonstration of her courage and dedication to the cause of divine truth. However, she fell ill en route and passed away in Qom, where her burial site transformed the city into a spiritual and intellectual epicenter of Shia Islam.

At the time of Lady Fatimah Masumah's (sa) migration to Iran, the political climate was extremely volatile. Ma'mun came to power after a civil war with his brother Amin, which weakened the Abbasid caliphate and created factional tensions among Abbasid loyalists and the broader Muslim populace. To stabilize his rule, Ma'mun sought to appeal to various groups, including the Shias, who were influential in regions like Khorasan. So, he forcibly summoned Imam Ali al-Reza (pbuh) from Medina to Khorasan in an attempt to consolidate his fragile rule by naming the Imam as his successor. This move was widely perceived as a political maneuver rather than a genuine endorsement of the Imam's spiritual authority. By doing this Ma'mun aimed to legitimize his rule by associating it with the revered Infallible Imam who held significant support among the Shia community and other groups dissatisfied with Abbasid rule. The Imam's reluctant acceptance under duress created discontent among Abbasid loyalists and posed a direct challenge to the political status quo.

Against this backdrop, the migration of Lady Fatimah Masumah (sa) and other family members of the Imam (pbuh) from Medina towards Khorasan was deeply significant. Their migration symbolized solidarity with

the Imam and was perceived as a quiet but potent act of defiance against the Abbasid regime. The arrival of Imam Kazim's (pbuh) descendants in Iranian cities like Qom and Shiraz strengthened the Shia presence there, laying the foundations for what would become one of the greatest centers of Shia learning in later centuries.

Contemporary scholars have affirmed the vital role of Lady Fatimah Masumah's presence in Qom in shaping the city's future. What was once a quiet town, transformed into a renowned center of scholarship thanks to her blessings. As Ayatollah Khamenei has accurately noted:

"Without a doubt, the role of Lady Fatimah Masumah (sa) in making Qom what it is, and in elevating the grandeur of this ancient, religious, and historical city, is beyond dispute. This noble woman, this young girl nurtured in the lap of the Prophet's Household, through her journey alongside the supporters, companions and friends of the Imams (pbuh), her passing through various cities, and her sowing of the seeds of knowledge and Wilayat among the people along the way – and then arriving in this region and her settling in Qom – caused this city to shine as a primary center of the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt (pbuh) during that dark and oppressive era of tyrannical rule. It became a stronghold from which the lights of knowledge and the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt (pbuh) were transmitted across the eastern and western regions of the Islamic world."

Lady Fatima Masumah's shrine is more than just a monument. It is a sanctuary for seekers of divine proximity. Millions visit each year

to recite her ziyarah (visitation prayer) – a supplication that reflects both reverence and deep theological recognition. This was the very place where the Islamic Revolution of Iran was founded. Her shrine was and continues to be the spiritual support for thousands of fighters who were martyred defending the Islamic government in Iran, and are now fighting against imperialism in West Asia region. It was also the place where prominent figures, such as Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, studied Islam and internalized its teachings, and changed the course of history.

A feminine ideal beyond time

Lady Masumah (sa) was honored with many titles: al-Ḥamīda (the praised one), al-Taḥiyyah (the pious), al-Rashidah (the wise), al-Raḍhiyyah (the contented), al-Marḍhiyyah (the one with whom God is pleased), al-Ṭāhirah (the pure one), al-Siddiqah (the truthful one), and Ukht al-Reza (the sister of al-Reza). These weren't honorary – they were reflections of a character that inspired both reverence and emulation. Her very title, Masumah (the pure one) was granted by her brother, Imam Ali al-Reza (pbuh), highlighting her spiritual stature. She is often compared to Lady Fatimah al-Zahra (pbuh), the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), not just because of her lineage, but because she embodied the same virtues of modesty, strength, and spiritual insight.

Why National Girls' Day?

In a modern world that often measures worth by appearance or material success, the celebration of Lady Masumah's birth as National Girls' Day is a cultural reminder of

what truly defines dignity. She commanded no army, and held no political positions, yet through her faith, she changed the trajectory of a city and the hearts of generations.

Her example reminds us that greatness is not always loud. Sometimes, it walks quietly with God, radiating strength that does not dominate, but elevates. For young Muslim girls around the world, she offers a timeless standard – one that doesn't fade with fashion, but grows with faith.

Islam itself honors girls with profound reverence. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, "Whoever has a daughter, raises her well, and does not favor his sons over her, God will admit him to Paradise." ⁵ This teaching, alongside Fatimah Masumah's example as a scholar and a spiritual exemplar, underscores that girls are cherished as bearers of divine potential, capable of spiritual greatness equal to any man. Her life inspires Muslim girls to pursue knowledge and piety, knowing their worth is celebrated in the eyes of God.

Lady Fatimah Masumah (sa) is a window into a theology where women are not peripheral, but central to spiritual and communal elevation. Her shrine remains a lighthouse for hearts that are in search of the truth, her supplication a bridge to divine mercy, and her legacy a lesson in courage, knowledge, and unwavering devotion. For millions worldwide, she is Qom's guiding star and the spirit of a legacy that still illuminates the way towards God.

5. *Mustadrak al-Wasā'il*, Vol. 15, p. 118



Choose the Right Side of History



Supporters of the Resistance in Paris honored the memory of the martyrs of Iran — particularly the children of Minab — as well as the martyrs of Lebanon.



A Moment with Caravan of Martyrs

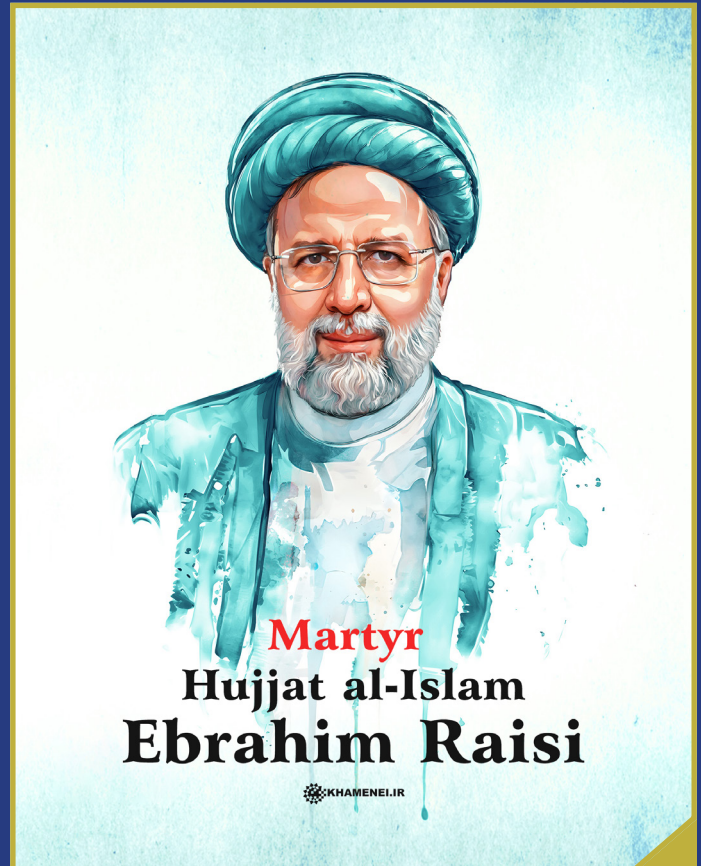
Martyr Hujjat al-Islam Ebrahim Raisi

«Martyr Raisi was the complete embodiment of the characteristics of an official in a divine government. With tireless dedication, he served the people, and he defended the dignity, honor, and credibility of the Iranian nation. This path and this approach offer a great lesson for all of us officials, for the youth, and for future generations. He possessed a humble and God-remembering heart, a frank and truthful tongue, and tireless, continuous action. His heart overflowed with compassion for the people. He was constantly concerned with fulfilling the heavy duties he carried.»¹

Martyr Ebrahim Raisi was born in Mashhad on December 14, 1960 — the city of light, the city of the eighth Imam. From the very beginning, he grew up in the shadow of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (pbuh), and that sanctuary would remain the center of his life, his identity, and ultimately, his eternal home.

In time, he became the Custodian of Astan Quds Razavi (the shrine of Imam Reza), serving from 2016 to 2019 with humility and devotion. Beyond this, he held other significant responsibilities — he was the 8th President of Iran, the 7th Head of the Judiciary, and a member of the Expediency Discernment Council and the Assembly of Experts. He was also a devoted student of Martyr Ayatollah Beheshti, whose path of service and justice he sought to follow throughout his own life.

Throughout all his years of service, one quality stood above the rest: his unwavering attention to the poor, the needy, and the oppressed. Whether as custodian of the shrine, as head of the judiciary, or as



president, he never forgot those on the margins. During his presidency, he launched numerous initiatives aimed at lifting the burden on the most vulnerable families, expanding social welfare programs, and visiting deprived areas across the country to see their struggles firsthand. He was known for traveling to remote villages and impoverished neighborhoods, listening to the people, and ordering swift action to address their needs. For him, serving the oppressed was not a political slogan — it was the very essence of his duty as a servant of the Islamic Republic of Iran and as a servant of Imam Reza. In the history of the Islamic Republic, only two presidents have been martyred while in office. The first was Martyr Mohammad Ali Rajai. The second was Ebrahim Raisi — a man whose entire life revolved around Imam Reza. He was martyred on the birthday of Imam Reza

1. From Martyr Khamenei's speech on May 20, 2025

— as if the Imam himself had called his servant home on the holiest of days. And today, he rests where he always belonged: inside the very shrine he once served. Pilgrims who come to pray now pass by his resting place, the resting place of a man who dedicated his life to their service. Mashhad gave him birth, the shrine gave him purpose, and on the birthday of the Imam, the shrine received him back forever.



Narrating the Art



difficult challenges aimed at its destruction and annihilation. But to the world's astonishment, all these efforts by Western hostile forces — despite the damage they have caused to the structure of the Islamic Revolution — have been in vain, as none have ever been able to achieve their goals. From its very first year, the Islamic Revolution has encountered various catastrophes: riots, coups, assassinations, and wars. Yet it has strongly managed to stay on its rightful path. The reason for this success and steadfastness has been nothing other than pure faith in God and in His divine promises. The Iranian people have made a decision to help God's cause. And the Almighty, in return, has fulfilled His promises in the Quran as a reward for their resistance, efforts, and steadfastness. They know that with God's help, no force or power can bring defeat or loss to this nation. And so they have stood firm and resisted steadfastly on this path, with one name shining in their hearts: Allah.

As our martyred Leader noted: "If the path you are traveling, the work you are doing, and your direction are helping God — helping God here means helping His religion and divine values — if you move in this direction, you will be victorious, and God will help you."

When a movement is based on reliance on the holy existence of Allah, victory will surely follow, because God has guaranteed and promised this victory in the holy verses of the Quran.

Since its emergence as the new governing system of Iran, the Islamic Republic has faced countless



A Word to My Martyred Leader

اسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

I'm from South Africa. I never knew Imaan Khamenei before, but getting closer into Islam is wanted to know more about because where I live, the speaking about Iranians and Imaam Khamenei is almost forbidden. My curiosity grew more..I wanted to know the real Shia and Imaam Khamenei. not the propaganda I grew up with.

I befriended ppl on Twitter (now X) and quietly studied words and actions on the Shia and Iran and the more I read, the more I started loving the ppl of Iran. My late father always warned me about propoganda and told me to think for myself. When I came across videos of Imaam Ali Khamenei, the more my love and respect grew for him. A humble man who could have own castles but chose to love humbly. My admiration grew for this noble, humble leader. When I heard the news of his martyrdom, I cried so much. but also know that Allah chose Imaam Khamenei to be a martyr because of who he was. Allah took him as Shaheed..what an honor. SubhaanAllah.

From Shenoo



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