

The Right Side of History



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Words of Wisdom

Don't trust the enemy. This is my unequivocal advice. Don't trust the enemy. You shouldn't trust this or that person's promises for solving the people's problems and building the future of the country. This recommendation is addressed to the officials. Such promises aren't the promises of good people. These are the promises of bad, malicious people. They won't even honor one out of 100 of their promises. You shouldn't forget their acts of hostility. They've been hostile toward us. You've witnessed what the US has done to you under Trump and Obama. Of course, their enmity isn't confined to Trump for one to say that since he isn't there, their enmity is over. No, the US under Obama behaved meanly toward you too. They were mean toward the Iranian nation. The same is true of the three European countries. Those three European countries have demonstrated the worst treachery, and they've shown their mean, deceitful, hypocritical face to the Iranian nation. (Dec. 16, 2020) I've been saying this for a long time that one cannot rely on the words, or even the signatures, of the Americans. Therefore, negotiating with the US is of no use at all. (July 21, 2018)

Excerpts from Martyr Imam Khamenei's speeches



Word for Word

The government of the Islamic Republic cannot interact with the US. Why is that? It is because the US does not fulfill its own commitments. You cannot say that recent actions are just now carried out by the current US government and Trump. No. Even the previous administration—which held talks with Iran... They violated their commitments: they imposed sanctions as well. They [Obama admin.] acted against their commitments, too. The US government always goes against its commitments: this is not their first time around; events from the past confirm this.

Well, it is clear that, at least, the Islamic Republic cannot interact with a government that violates international treaties so easily and later on erases its signature, as if nothing happened, and then says that it wants to withdraw. They signed it with dramatic TV appearances, showing off the signature signing event, just to abandon the treaty. So, for those who kept asking us, many times: "Why are you not negotiating with the US, why are you not working with the US?"—There is an answer to your question! Of course, the US government behaves the same towards many other countries; it behaves the same exact way towards many other governments... Nonetheless, you have all witnessed them easily violate this international treaty. They violated their own signature: they took back their own words and said they do not agree with it. Well, one cannot negotiate with such a [fickle] government. It is not possible to trust, work with or sign an agreement with such a capricious government: this is the gist of the matter... They are like this: the Americans are like this; the US government and the US regime operates like this. This is an experience.

From Martyr Khamenei's speech on May 23, 2018



Memorable Frame



This is the new world order

On June 13, 2019, Tehran found itself at one of the most volatile crossroads in its modern foreign policy history. A year had passed since the United States unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA, and the US President was deploying a strategy of "maximum pressure," subjecting Iran to the harshest economic sanctions it had ever faced. Oil exports were severely restricted, tensions in the Persian Gulf were escalating, and whispers of a potential military clashes were heightening concerns.

It was against this backdrop that the then Prime Minister of Japan, arrived in Iran – marking the first visit by a Japanese prime minister in nearly 41 years. Abe traveled as the bearer of a message from Washington. Having met with Trump just two weeks prior, he came to Tehran on an unofficial

yet highly sensitive diplomatic mission: to act as a mediator and steer Iran back to the negotiating table on Washington's terms. When Abe stated that he was bearing a message from the US President, the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution's response instantly made headlines across global media. He explicitly declared: "We do not doubt your sincerity and goodwill. However, I do not consider Trump as a person worth exchanging any message with and I have no answer for him, nor will I respond to him in the future."

His words thoroughly dismantled Washington's "either war or negotiation" dilemma, delivering a resounding rejection to imperialist pressure. In response to Abe's proposal for negotiations, he added: "What common sense would once again allow negotiations with a country that has thrown away everything that was agreed upon?"

But perhaps the true display of strength in this meeting came when the martyred Leader firmly asserted that Iran could move forward without the US. This defiance was voiced at a time when Western economic think tanks and media outlets were running headlines and counting down the days, predicting exactly how long Iran could survive under maximum pressure.

When Abe, quoting Trump, claimed that negotiating with the US could bring progress to Iran, the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution's response was more than just the rejection of an offer – it was a definitive

declaration broadcast to the entire world: "By the grace of God, we will achieve progress without negotiating with the US, and in spite of the sanctions."

Martyr Imam Khamenei's statements during this meeting garnered immense global attention. Ironically, Trump's persistent threats had only served to highlight Iran's geopolitical resilience and the unwavering resolve of its Leader in the eyes of international public opinion. Countless social media users worldwide recirculated clips and quotes of the martyred Leader's candid responses, analyzing the diplomatic standoff.



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, 2026





Memorial ceremony for the martyred Leader, held on behalf of Imam Sayyid Mojtaba Khamenei at Tehran's Mosalla on July 14, 2026



Opinion

Faded inks

The long-running story of America's broken promises in negotiations with other nations



On December 15, 1890, The Detroit Free Press ran the headline: "Chief Sitting Bull Killed."

Sitting Bull was a Native American tribal leader who had achieved victories against invading white settlers. After one of those battles, he accepted an agreement with the US government and emerged from hiding to return to his community. Instead of honoring the agreement, the government dispatched officers to arrest him, and he and his son were killed during the confrontation.

This pattern was one the Americans inherited from their European colonial forebears and have repeatedly employed from the nation's founding to the present day. From the earliest conflicts with Native Americans to the Monroe Doctrine and repeated violations of

treaties with the nations of Latin America, the United States prepared itself for entry onto the global stage and sought to establish itself as a world superpower. Following the end of World War II and the decline of European imperial powers such as Britain and France, the United States set itself firmly on the path to global dominance. Through military expansion, the establishment of the US dollar as the world's reserve currency, the creation of Western-oriented international institutions, and extensive cultural influence, it confronted nations seeking independence and self-determination.

One of the first major demonstrations of America's ambitions as a global hegemon was its intervention in

Vietnam. Vietnam, formerly a French colony in Southeast Asia, witnessed the rise of Marxist independence movements during the 1950s. Once the Western bloc concluded that France could no longer maintain control, the United States stepped in. After nearly two decades of a costly and humiliating war, Washington sought an honorable exit. Under the Paris Peace Accords, the United States assured its South Vietnamese allies that they would not be abandoned after American withdrawal. Less than two years later, however, Saigon fell to the communist forces of North Vietnam without any meaningful American assistance.

Five years later, in Tehran, intelligence personnel operating under diplomatic cover inside the US Embassy were captured by Iranian revolutionary students. The seizure of the embassy was followed by US sanctions and the freezing of Iranian financial assets. One year later, in Algiers, Iranian and American officials reached an agreement providing for the release of the hostages, the lifting of sanctions, the unfreezing of Iranian assets, and a US commitment not to interfere in Iran's internal affairs. Once the hostages had been released, however, Iran found itself with little in return. The promised sanctions relief never materialized, Iranian assets remained frozen, and the United States continued to interfere in Iran's domestic affairs. Following the agreement, the United States also used its intelligence capabilities to assist Iraq's Ba'athist military in an effort to alter the course of the 8-Year War.

The 1990s began with the collapse of the Soviet Union and increasing US pressure on former Eastern Bloc states such as Yugoslavia and North Korea. In 1994, the United States reached an agreement with North Korea to limit its nuclear weapons program. Under the arrangement, North Korea would halt plutonium production, while the United States would normalize relations and provide nuclear reactors and fuel. North Korea fulfilled its commitments but, after waiting years without seeing the promised benefits, ultimately resumed its nuclear weapons program in 2002 to restore its deterrent capability.

Perhaps the most prominent African example of what is described as American and Western breach of commitments occurred in Libya. In exchange for normalizing relations with Muammar Gaddafi's government, the United States and Britain secured the dismantlement of Libya's missile and nuclear programs. Despite Libya's complete surrender of its nuclear equipment and reductions to its missile capabilities, US sanctions remained in place. During the Arab Spring, the United States supported anti-government forces and carried out military operations against Libyan government positions, contributing to the overthrow and killing of Gaddafi and the country's subsequent fragmentation.

A similar pattern, according to this account, occurred twice with Iran over the past decade. After Iran agreed under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to reduce and restrict significant portions of its nuclear activities, the United States, through repeated obstacles and violations of its commitments, prevented Iran from obtaining meaningful sanctions relief and the expected economic benefits. Ultimately, in 2018, the current US president unilaterally withdrew from the agreement. The same pattern was repeated during the Third Imposed War, which began with the assassination of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the presidents of Iran and the United States to bring the conflict to an end over an agreed period. Yet the United States, by failing to fulfill its obligations—including ending the war in Lebanon, releasing frozen Iranian assets, lifting sanctions, and establishing mechanisms for compensation—also violated this agreement. These episodes demonstrate that negotiations with the United States are not merely ordinary diplomatic engagements, but rather a colonial instrument used to buy time, foster distrust toward the negotiating country among other nations, sow internal divisions within societies, and facilitate the continued application of the traditional "carrot-and-stick" approach to foreign policy.



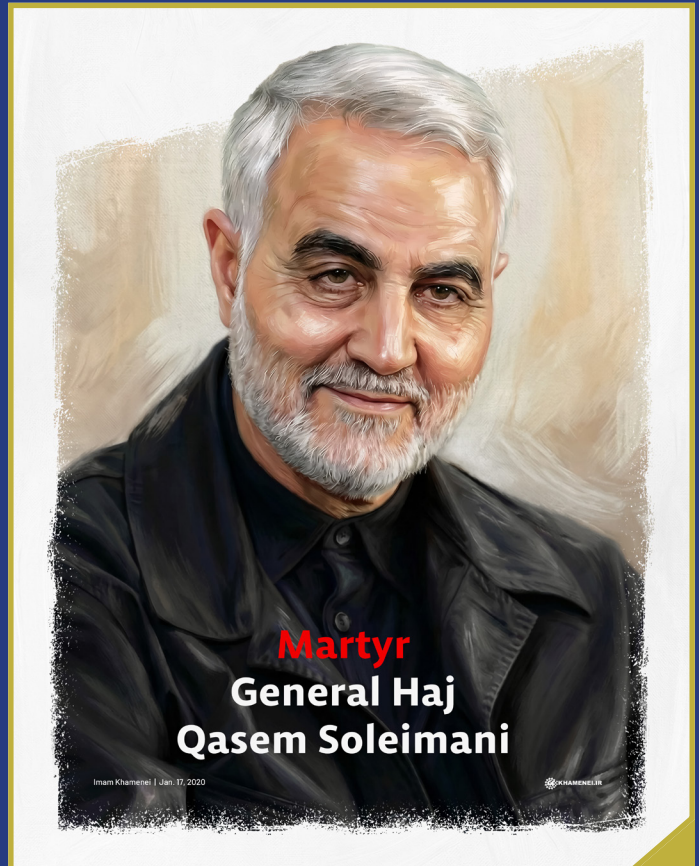
A Moment with Caravan of Martyrs

Martyr General Haj Qasem Soleimani

In the rugged highlands of Rabor, in Iran's Kerman province, a child was born in March 1957 who would one day become one of the most formidable figures of his era. General Qassem Soleimani grew up in modest circumstances, working alongside his father in construction before taking on a role with the Kerman Water Organization. The Islamic Revolution of 1979 changed the course of his life, as it did for so many, and he joined the newly formed Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps — a decision that would define his destiny.

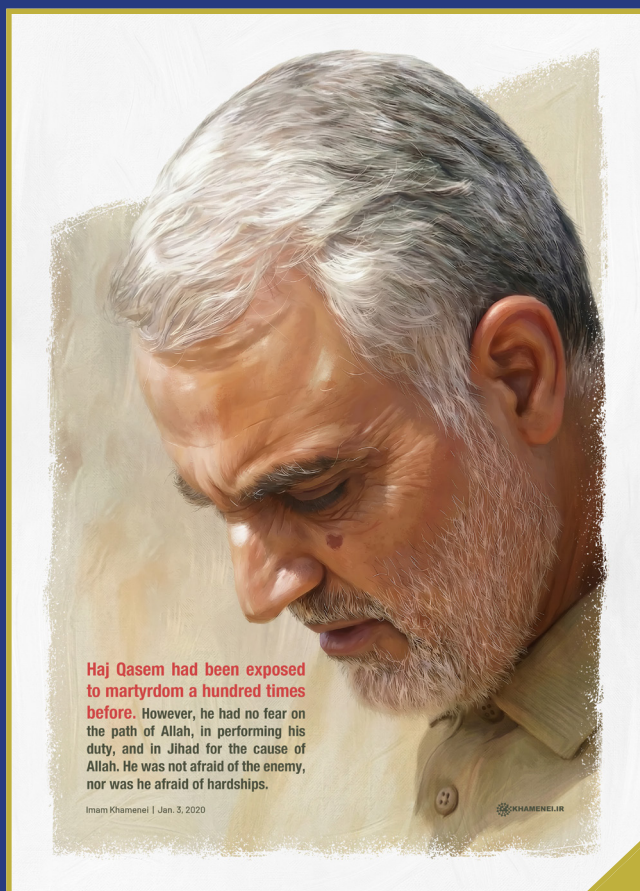
With the outbreak of the 8-Year Sacred Defense imposed by Saddam's regime, General Soleimani was sent to the southern fronts, where his leadership quickly became indispensable. By 1981, he had been appointed commander of the 41st Division of Tharallah — a division that would become legendary for its bravery. He commanded forces in some of the most decisive operations of the war, playing a key role in shaping the course of the conflict. When the guns fell silent in 1988, General Soleimani returned to Kerman, only to find new challenges awaiting at the eastern borders. His success in maintaining security in the region caught the attention of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and marked the beginning of a new chapter in his service.

In 2000, General Soleimani was appointed commander of the IRGC's Quds Force — the elite branch tasked with advancing



the Resistance Front's interests beyond Iran's borders. He was a natural choice: a man deeply familiar with the region's complexities, its people, and its tribal dynamics. His experience on multiple fronts had given him a rare understanding of asymmetric warfare and the political terrain of West Asia.

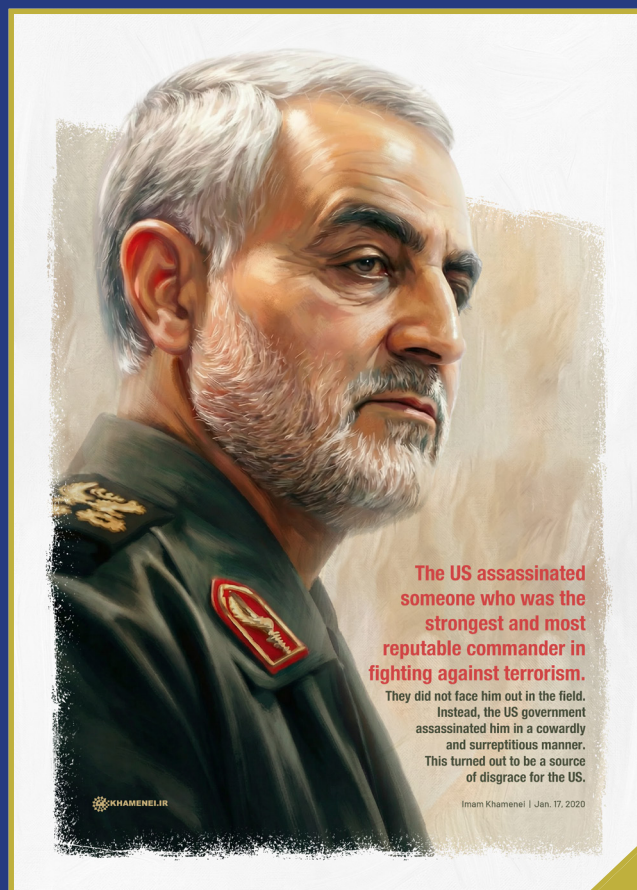
For nearly two decades, General Soleimani moved quietly across the region, offering support to nations and movements resisting foreign occupation and oppression. He played a decisive role in defending Iraq's sovereignty after the 2003 invasion, helping to organize and coordinate the resistance against foreign forces. American commanders would later admit that he was the most influential figure in Iraq during that period, orchestrating military and political strategy with remarkable precision. He eluded capture and assassination attempts



for years — a testament to his foresight and operational genius.

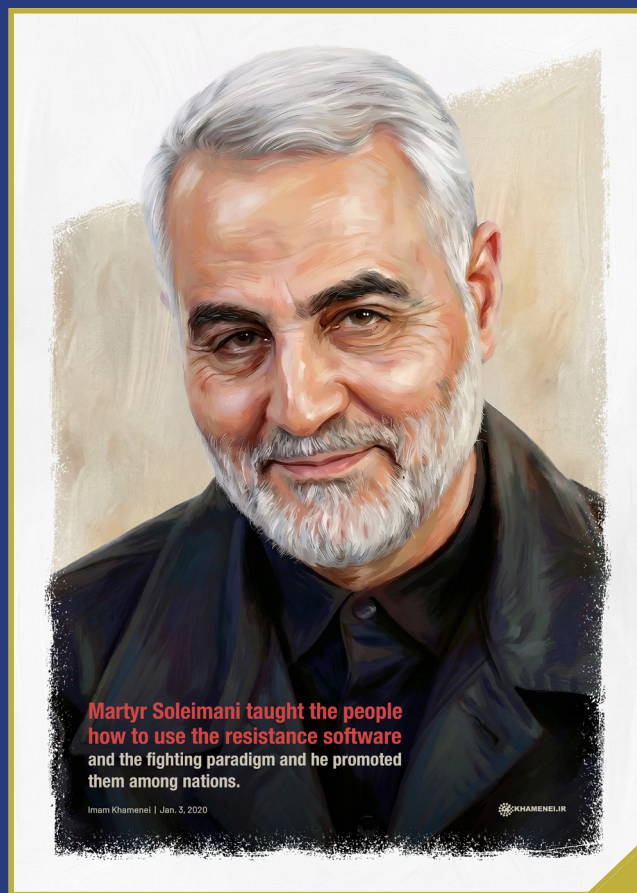
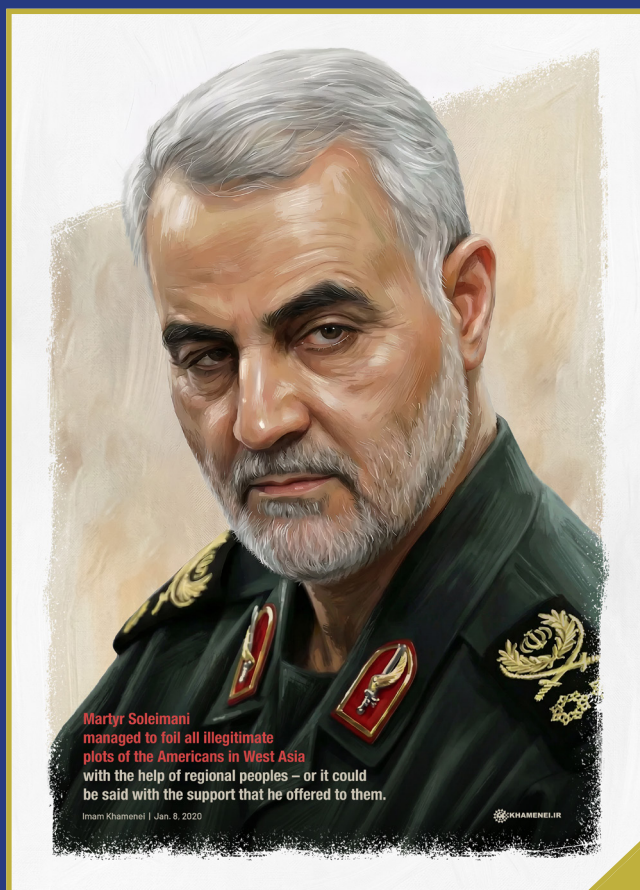
When the Takfiri terror group Daesh swept across Iraq and Syria in 2014, General Soleimani once again answered the call. He traveled to the frontlines, helped organize fractured Iraqi forces, and mobilized the Popular Mobilization Forces, coordinating a multi-front campaign that would eventually break the back of the terrorist group. He was credited with directing the defense of Baghdad, the liberation of Tikrit, and the strategic victory in Aleppo — often operating from positions so close to the frontlines that his presence alone was said to lift the morale of fighters and terrify the enemy. He became the invisible pillar of the Resistance Front, uniting Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon's Hezbollah, and Palestinian factions in a common struggle against a

common enemy. He was, as many described him, the embodiment of resistance. His enemies, however, were not idle. For years, American and Zionist officials had openly called for his assassination. But it was the terrorist criminal Donald Trump — then serving his first term as president of the US — who ultimately gave the direct order to assassinate him. In an act of state terrorism that shocked the conscience of the world, Trump personally authorized the drone strike that targeted General Soleimani's convoy near Baghdad International Airport in the early hours of January 3, 2020. Alongside him was his comrade Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, along with several other companions. The man who had long stood as a towering figure of resistance was finally met with the martyrdom he had always prayed for —



a moment of triumph, not tragedy, at the hands of the most criminal and arrogant regime on earth.

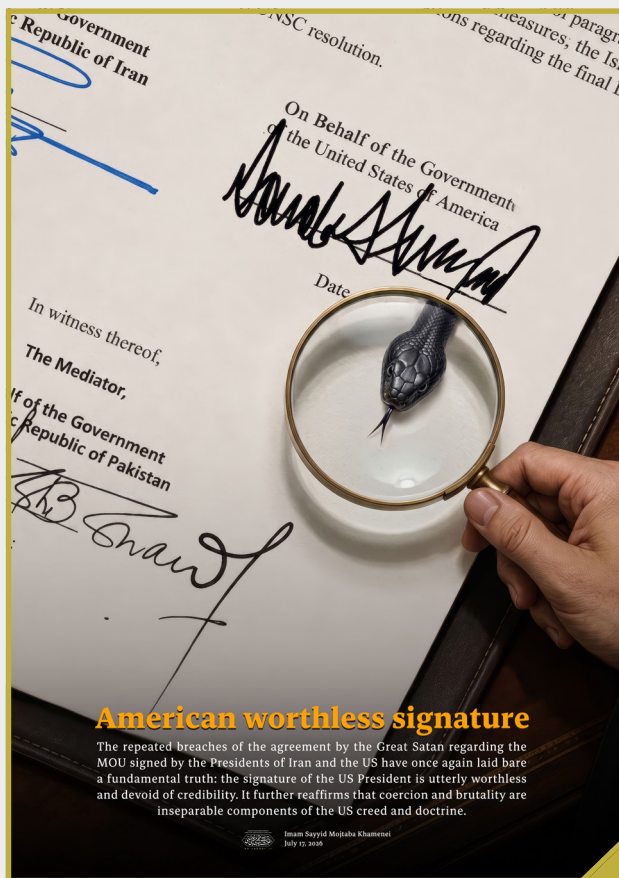
The news of his martyrdom sent a shockwave across the world. In Iran, millions poured into the streets to mourn him. His body was carried through Ahvaz, Mashhad, and Tehran, where the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution offered prayers over his coffin and paid his respects to the martyred commander. He was then laid to rest in



his birthplace, Rabor, surrounded by the rugged mountains that had shaped him. His legacy, however, was not buried. Martyr Soleimani was more than a commander. He was a symbol — of defiance, of sacrifice, of unwavering faith in the cause of the oppressed. He belonged to no single nation, but to every soul that refuses to bow to tyranny. His life was a jihad, and his martyrdom was a crown.



Narrating the Art



Since the founding of the US government, duplicity and the breach of commitments have been enduring features of its foreign policy. Throughout its history, the US has entered into agreements with numerous countries and governments. However, when it comes to honoring its commitments, it has repeatedly broken its promises and violated the agreements it has signed.

The most recent example of this pattern in American foreign policy is its violation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the presidents of Iran and the US. Although the agreement was formally concluded by both presidents, the US failed to uphold its obligations and did not remain faithful to the agreement even for one day. This, once again, demonstrated the unreliable, untrustworthy, and treacherous nature of the US. As our Leader, Imam Sayyid Mojtaba Khamenei, has stated: "The signature of the US President is utterly worthless and devoid of credibility. It further reaffirms that coercion, totalitarianism, and brutality are inseparable components of the US creed and doctrine."

This breach of promise and violation of commitments has not come without consequences for the US. Thus far, the powerful hands of the Iranian Armed Forces have destroyed American assets in the region, including military personnel, costly military equipment once regarded as unbeatable, and, above all, the image of military invincibility that the US had sought to cultivate over decades.

"So should anyone aggress against you, assail him in the manner he assailed you, and be wary of Allah, and know that Allah is with the Godwary" (Quran, 2:104)



I learned from him that ...

Faith must always be accompanied by knowledge, as spiritual self-building requires a foundation of rational and logical understanding, meaning that true faith is not merely an internal belief but a continuous action reflected in human morality and character. When faith aligns with reason and intellect, it liberates individuals from all forms of fear and despair, keeping them steadfast upon truth during adversity and serving as the bedrock for social justice, because without deep-rooted faith, neither inner peace nor external intellectual revolution is possible. Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei's philosophy combines this spiritual self-discipline with political resilience, teaching that true fulfillment comes from a simple life dedicated to worship, family, and society. Furthermore, he advocates for steadfastness against oppression, urging believers to rely on deep faith, unity, and technological progress, as he believes a nation's sovereignty depends entirely on its intellectual and scientific independence. Consequently, he strongly urges the younger generation to equip themselves with the weapons of knowledge and wisdom to tackle modern challenges, asserting that an Islamic society cannot truly progress materially or spiritually until faith and modern science are fully integrated, ultimately showing humanity the path to a dignified life where devotion to God and social responsibilities move forward hand in hand.

Saima Rizvi



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