Supremacy of God and not Supremacy of the People

by

Ahmed Al Hasan

Translated by the Official Translation Committee
of Ansar Imam Al-Mahdi PBUH

In the name of God, the Abundantly Merciful, the Intensely Merciful

Dedication

To the Vicegerent of God
To Imam Muhammad Ibn al-Hassan al-Mahdi pbuh
To the one oppressed, wronged, whose rights were taken
To my father, the light of my eyes and spirit that is with me
These are words with which I try to comfort you and share your pain
So accept them from me graciously, even if I am unworthy

The guilty shortcomer
Ahmed Al-Hasan
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Preface

These are the last days, the decisive moments, and the days of the inevitable that will degrade some and exalt others. Some people have become so debased that they settled at the abyss of the valley, yet others have begun to rise so much that they have nearly settled upon mountain peaks. Some are intoxicated and confused, not belonging to either group; an ill-mannered crowd that heeds any call.

In these decisive moments—moments of the divine test for the people of the earth—most who claimed to be Muslim or to represent Islam have fallen, in one way or another. Unfortunately, the first to fall were the dysfunctional clerics who began echoing the Satanic saying “the supremacy of the people”, which has long been advocated by the enemies of the prophets, messengers, and Imams pbut.[1,2,3] This time however, it was brought by the greatest Satan.[4] Its glamour appealed to them, and they were enamored by it; he named it “democracy”, liberty, free elections, or any other name these clerics could not reject. It hit them where they were most vulnerable, so they succumbed to it and surrendered to the people of democracy, because these dysfunctional clerics and their followers represent only shells of religion and empty reasoning. For them, religion is nothing but sounds from their lips.

That is how the dysfunctional clerics carried the spear of the greatest Satan and planted it into the heart of Ali, the Prince of Believers pbuh.[5] They reopened the old wound of the elections and Saqifah that displaced the vicegerent of God from his rightful place, and they endorsed the supremacy of the people, which is not accepted by God Almighty, His Messenger, or the Imams

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[1] The dysfunctional clerics are those who have perverted the religion instead of preserving it, which is their duty. They have fallen for worldly desires and are misguided. As a result, they misguide their followers. Practicing clerics, as opposed to dysfunctional ones, are those who have followed guidance from God in preserving the religion. They work by the knowledge they have learned: they practice what they preach–*Trans*.

[2] The “supremacy of the people” is a reference to any system where the leader of a nation or country is elected by people as opposed to being elected by God, and the laws are written by man–*Trans*.

[3] In Shia Islam, the title “Imam” refers to a divinely appointed leader. The Twelve Imams are the spiritual and political successors to Prophet Muhammad–*Trans*.

[4] Satan does not always mean Lucifer, but sometimes, evil in general: "Satan here means evil (and the defect of darkness) and it does not mean Iblis as some imagine. . . . This Satan (meaning evil) is the darkness, which no creation is free from, as the light that has no darkness within is God Almighty." Ahmed Al-Hasan 2010, The Journey of Moses pbuh to the Junction of the Two Seas (English book), 26 and 28–*Trans*.

[5] Ali ibn Abi Talib pbuh is the cousin of Prophet Muhammad pbuhap and the first of the twelve Imams. Among his titles well-known to all Muslims is “Prince of Believers” (Amir al-Mumineen)–*Trans*.

pbut.[6,7] So the dysfunctional clerics approved of the displacement of the prophets, messengers and Imams pbut. These oppressors also approved of the killing of al-Hussain Ibn Ali pbuh.[8]

What has hurt me most is that I do not find anyone defending the supremacy of God on His earth.[9] Even those who recognize this rightful supremacy have given up defending it, because they have found that by defending it, they are fighting against the violent and unmerciful current. What is worse and even more alarming is that everyone acknowledges the supremacy of people and accepts it. Unfortunately, this includes the people of the Quran—save the few who have fulfilled the pledge of God—even though, in the Quran, they read the following:

> {Say, "O God , Owner of Sovereignty, You give sovereignty to whom You will}
> Quran Chapter "The People of Imran" 3:26.

Therefore, these dysfunctional clerics have broken the fundamental pillar of the divine religion: the supremacy of God and the vicegerency of His guardian. According to the elections or democracy adopted by these dysfunctional clerics, there is no longer a place for Ahl al-Bayt and their remaining Imam Al-Mahdi peace be upon them, the vicegerents of God on His earth.[10,11] In fact, these dysfunctional clerics have gone against the Holy Quran altogether, for in it, God Almighty said, {I am making a vicegerent on Earth} Quran Chapter "The Cow" 2:30.

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[6] Saqifah is significant for being the site of a hasty assembly of some companions of Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, where they decided about the successor to the Prophet right after his death, a controversial decision that is believed to be the origin of the oldest division in Islam between the Shia and Sunni denominations–*Trans*.

[7] The vicegerent, or *khalifa* in Arabic, is the divinely appointed leader charged with the duty of leading people in religious and worldly affairs. The first vicegerent, as stated in the Quran, is Prophet Adam pbuh. The vicegerency is passed through the line of prophets and their successors, and there is always a vicegerent, in every time period. The word *khalifa* is also commonly translated as "caliph" or "successor"–*Trans*.

[8] Al-Hussain Ibn Ali pbuh is the third Imam and the son of Ali Ibn Abi Talib pbuh. He stood up against an oppressive regime during his time. He and his companions consisted of approximately 72 men who faced an army of tens of thousands. Al-Hussain refused to give allegiance to Yazid; what resulted was a massacre that nearly completely eliminated the descendants of the Prophet Muhammad pbuhap. Al-Hussain emerged and endured as a symbol of resistance against oppression, and it is true to this day. Islam was allowed to continue through the lineage of the Imams, because through Al-Hussain's revolution, people were able to understand the oppression that the Imams experienced and support them–*Trans*.

[9] The Supremacy of God refers to a system of government whereby the leader is elected by God, the laws come from God, and this divine law is implemented by the divinely appointed leader–*Trans*.

[10] The literal meaning of *Ahl al-Bayt* is "people (or family) of the house". In Islam it refers to the family of Prophet Muhammad pbuhap and includes the Prophet, his daughter Fatima, Ali Ibn Abi Talib, and the rest of the Imams–*Trans*.

[11] The Mahdi means '"the guided one". It is a title for the divine leader who will appear in the End Times to establish justice and rid the world of evil. For Shia muslims, the Mahdi is the twelfth Imam, Muhammad ibn al-Hassan pbuh (born in 869), who went into occultation in 941 and will reappear in the End Times–*Trans*.

He sent down the constitution and the Law in the Quran, yet those dysfunctional clerics say that the ruler, or the vicegerent, is to be designated by the people through elections, and that the constitution is written by the people. Hence, not only did the dysfunctional clerics oppose the religion of God Almighty, but they have opposed God Almighty and stood beside Satan (may God curse him).

I considered it appropriate to write these words so that no one has any excuse left and the truth is revealed for whoever has eyes to see, even though the truth is clear and unequivocal. I ask God to make these words one of His arguments on the Day of Resurrection against the dysfunctional clerics, their imitators, and whoever followed them blindly, waged war against God Almighty and Muhammad's progeny pbut, endorsed false gods and the tyrant (through their adherence), and displaced the successor Ali Ibn Abi Talib pbuh and the Imams from his descendants pbut.

In the Name of God, the Abundantly Merciful, the Intensely Merciful

Praise be to God, Lord of the worlds.

> {And whoever submits his face to God while he is a doer of good has grasped the most trustworthy handhold. And to God will be the outcome of [all] matters} Quran Chapter “Luqman” 31:22.

What is Democracy?

Democracy is the government of the people by the people. It is achieved through the election of two separate powers, one legislative, and the other executive. The authority, rights, and obligations of these two powers are determined by a constitution or general law, which may differ slightly from place to place, depending on the prevalent societal values and traditions. Despite the fact that this ideology is very old (Plato had written about it thousands of years ago), it was not truly implemented in a form close to the idea suggested by democracy until after the American war of independence. When the American people entered into independence, the majority of them were English and were opposing the occupying country, or mother England.

It may be best that I leave it to Martin Dodge, a citizen and scholar of democratic America, to describe democracy with regards to the source of modern democracy. He says:

> Democracy has come because people want to be free. . . . American democratic system did not come by itself; it had to be fought for… Democracy makes the people sovereign . . . it gives us lots of opportunities . . . it makes us individually responsible . . . it provides the way to endless growth."

Then he adds:

> The form of society with which we in America are most familiar is DEMOCRACY. Since most of us have never lived under any other form, we tend to take DEMOCRACY for granted. We forget that DEMOCRACY was a long time in the making. It took many hundreds of years of struggle to establish it. DEMOCRACY has come about because we want to be free. We don't like to be "shoved around." The idea of DEMOCRACY is that the people shall govern themselves. They shall not be "subjects"—the people come first, not "the authorities." Under DEMOCRACY society governs itself for itself. In a real DEMOCRACY, we the people are most important. The government is only as important as we say. If we look back into history we find that this idea has not been practiced very much in the past. People have been ruled by kings, emperors, or dictators. These rulers usually gave to their subjects few rights or privileges and no voice in government. The people had little protection. They could be taxed, arrested, imprisoned, even executed at somebody's whim. DEMOCRACY originated in ancient Greece. But its roots which are most important in our modern world were planted in England about 700 years ago. In

> 1215, King John signed the Magna Carta. He didn't want to do this. It was admission that other people also had power. Rulers and government officials are always reluctant to give up power. Once they have secured it, they want to hold on to it. But Democracy requires that power shall lie with the people. In the case of Magna Carta the English people started the long series of events which finally led to the establishment of democratic power. How slow this process was! It was four hundred years from the date of the Magna Carta until the time that Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634), speaker of the British House of Commons, dared to declare that royal proclamations were contrary to law and therefore not binding. But thus another important step had been taken in the direction of self-government. England became the cradle of modern Democracy, but she did not extend its privileges fully to her colonies in America. Restrictions on the American colonists, instead of killing liberty, increased their desire for it. As we all know, this started a revolution. It resulted in the founding of the world's greatest democracy— the United States of America. Here we have proved the power and worth of democratic principles—expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and in those amendments to the Constitution known as the Bill of Rights. No one believes that we have arrived at the perfect state. But how much of our happiness, our liberty, our progress, our prosperity, Our national health and welfare we owe to our democratic form of government—that is something the reader should thoughtfully weigh. In thinking of DEMOCRACY, keep in mind that our democratic system did not come about by itself. It had to be brought about.[12]

He concludes by saying:

> Thus DEMOCRACY provides the way for endless growth by forever giving its members a fuller life as a reward for their individual efforts.[13]

Any rational and impartial person will admit that the democratic doctrine has defeated all other political doctrines intellectually before actually defeating them politically in Europe and in some countries in South America, Asia, and Africa. This is because all of these doctrines stem from a single reality, which is that authority is exclusively held by a group or individual. This group or individual, and the deviant ideology they normally hold, are erected as gods, legislating and passing laws that the people must implement without objection. It is both ridiculous and deplorable that many dictatorial and fascist ruling regimes today claim to be democratic, organizing fictitious referendums, pledges, or elections in order to demonstrate this. It is the greatest proof that all other ruling regimes have been defeated by the democratic doctrine. It also explains why they took to courting it, and why everyone is claiming to have reached it overnight—or at least to be on the path towards it.

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[12] Martin Dodge, *Know Your Isms*, (New York: Farrar, Straus and Company, 1951), 16-20.
[13] Ibid., 25.

Even the intellectual religious doctrines took to courting the democratic doctrine and claiming to be democratic. Unfortunately, they are like the pigeon that had admired the crow for its bigger size and took to imitating it. It was no longer a pigeon, but it could not become a crow.

I do not see any doctrine today contesting democracy argument for argument, and proposing a well-composed idea worthy of being adopted and ranked as a true ideological contender to democracy, except for the doctrine of the Awaited Reformer. This doctrine is existent in Judaism, represented by Elijah pbuh; in Christianity, represented by Jesus Christ pbuh; and in Islam, represented by al-Mahdi pbuh. The awaited reformer is also found in other religions, without the specification of a particular person.

The Contradictions of Democracy

1. Dictatorship Disguised as Democracy

This fact is clear in practice. When an ideological doctrine reaches power through a particular party, it will try to impose its political perspective on the country in one way or another. It could be said that the people themselves elected and brought this doctrine to power.

In response, I would say that the people brought this party and its ideological doctrine into power based on what was available in the political arena during the election period. People do not know what will happen afterwards. If something arises from this ruling regime that is harmful to their religious or worldly interests, they cannot stop it. As the saying goes, it has gone past the point of no return.

This is how the likes of Hitler, who wreaked havoc in the land, reached power: through the alleged elections and democracy. If some say that what happened in Germany was due to the immaturity of democracy at the time, it is the same situation in Italy today. A party that had reached power thrust Italy into a rotten war against Islam and Muslims alongside America. The Italian people are currently opposed to this government, and the opposition is calling for the withdrawal of Italian forces. However, this oppressive group insists on maintaining the occupation with the presence of Italian forces in Iraq. Hence, dictatorship and fascism have returned to Italy during this time. Moreover, in democratic Britain, which is the United States' main ally in the occupation of Iraq and aggression toward Islam and Muslims, millions of people have protested in the streets of London condemning this colonial war. Regardless, the British government's decision was not affected. This leads us to conclude that dictatorship is disguised as democracy.

2. The Biggest Democratic Country in the World Practices Dictatorship

Although the regime in the United States appears to be democratic, it still practices the ugliest forms of dominance and dictatorship toward the people of the world. This clearly contradicts the concept of democracy. A regime that holds a solid doctrine must apply it to everyone in every place and time, without exception. However, the United States wants to humiliate and dominate the people of the earth, and treat Muslims in particular with contempt and disdain, because they know that Imam Al-Mahdi pbuh, the Imam of all Muslims, will bring the United States to an end. Furthermore, American Muslims living in the United States suffer from discrimination. Where is the democracy in that?

3. Democracy and Money

Democracy has no place for those who do not have money for propaganda, lies, falsification of facts, and for hiring mercenaries and villains. Thus, the power of money appears in the democratic regime in an unnatural way. Parties and organizations steal the money of the poor and needy, and treason ensues.

In the United States, Jews control the course of the elections through money and achieve a success rate of at least 70% in nominating whoever they want to the helm of governance in the United States, in order to continue American support for the Zionist State.[14] The use of deceptive and false propaganda and the dominance of money in democracy is frequently discussed in American newspapers. In fact, I remember reading an article years ago by an American author who declared that democracy in the United States is just a sham and a meager spectacle, and the true ruler is really deception, fraud, and money.

4. Democracy and Liberty

There is no regime in the world that recognizes absolute liberty; even the democratic regime places constraints on the freedom of individuals and groups. What is the extent of these constraints that diminish liberty? And to what extent can we give individuals and groups free rein to do whatever they want?!

The constraints on freedom within democracy are set up by the people. They certainly make mistakes, and most care only about satisfying their desires. That is why in democracy, constraints are placed over religion, reform, and commanding good and forbidding evil, because within the divine religion there is a law—the divine law—which opposes the written law. Democracy permits excessive desires, corruption, deprivation and wandering into what God has prohibited. Consequently, all societies where democracy is implemented have deteriorated and

[14] The Zionist movement, founded in 1896, sought to establish a Jewish state and advocated for the return of Jews to the Holy Land. This movement led to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1947–*Trans*.

degenerated because the written law protects those who engage in adultery, corruption, drinking alcohol, those who encourage the nudity of women, and other forms of corruption.

5. Democracy and Religion

Undoubtedly, the divine religion has a view that is very different than the democratic view. The religion of God only recognizes the appointment made by God {I am making a vicegerent on the earth}, who is the Mahdi pbuh. It also recognizes the divine law in our Islamic era (the Quran). As for the Jews, they recognize Elijah pbuh and the Torah; as for the Christians, they recognize Jesus pbuh and the Gospel. If this is the case, then how can a Muslim, Christian, or Jew claim to believe in God and to accept His supremacy, represented by the Mahdi pbuh and the Quran, or by Jesus pbuh and the Gospel, or by Elijah pbuh and the Torah, and at the same time accept the supremacy of people and democracy, which refutes the divine religion's foundation and God's supremacy on His earth?

Those who accept democracy and elections have no connection whatsoever to the divine religion, and have disbelieved in all religions and in God's supremacy on His earth.

6. Democracy from Cradle to Grave

When the course of democracy begins in a given country, tens of political parties and movements may be established. However, since deception, falsification, lies, defamation, propaganda and money are the true rulers of the country, with time, all of these parties are dismantled. Most of the time, only two main parties remain in the political arena. In fact, the final and bitter end is the dominance of one of these two parties at the helm of leadership. Consequently, dictatorship returns with the name “democracy”. Indeed, the two oldest democratic countries are the clearest example of this, as they are experiencing the final stages of democracy. These two countries are Britain, where the Conservative Party and the Labor Party dominate, and the United States, where the Republican Party and Democratic Party dominate. At this stage, these parties are fighting to achieve absolute dominance of leadership, as democracy goes through stages of eliminating the weak. Thus, people are moving from democracy to dictatorship. In fact, the dominance of two parties and two ideologies at the helm of leadership is in itself dictatorship, when we consider the ideological compatibility between the two, and the absence of any true ideological opposition. Of course, this is notwithstanding the scenario in which no setback occurs after a group of democratic advocates takes over the helm of governance and dismisses the other parties, thus changing from democracy to dictatorship overnight.

In this regard, the Greek philosopher Plato said that among the callers for democracy and the protectors of the people, he who is their most violent and most crafty stands out. So he

exiles the wealthy or executes them. He cancels debts, and divides the lands and provides protection for himself from the evil conspiracies. The people become happy with him and he seizes authority for himself. And in order to empower himself and distract the people from himself and perpetuate the need for him, he announces war with his neighbors after having made peace with them so that he can focus on fulfilling his wish from within. He beheads every competitor or critic, eliminates every virtuous man, and draws a group of mercenaries closer to him. He gives generously to the poets whom we exiled from our city, so they praise him with compliments excessively. He demolishes the structures and starves the people in order to feed his guards and entourage. Thus the people realize that he switched from freedom to tyranny, and this was the original government (the same as the previous one).[15]

I will settle for these few contradictions, though there are many more within democracy.

The Ideological Opponent to Democracy: The Doctrine of the Awaited Global Reformer

All divine religions acknowledge the supremacy of God Almighty. However, for the most part, people have always rejected it and refused to acknowledge it. There are only a few exceptions, such as the nation of Moses pbuh in the era of Saul, and the Muslims in the era of Prophet Muhammad pbuhap. However, as soon as the Prophet pbuhap passed away, they went back to rejecting the supremacy of God and acknowledging the supremacy of the people through the elections and the Saqifat Bani Saeda that displaced the successor Ali Ibn Abi Talib pbuh.[16]

Today, everyone pushes for the supremacy of people and elections, whether they be clerics or the general public, even though the great majority of them admit that the vicegerent of God on His earth is the man of truth. But this admission remains a weak ideology, overpowered in the internal struggle between the apparent and the hidden.

Thus, people, especially the non-practicing clerics, are living in a state of hypocrisy that keeps them awake at night and makes them falter blindly. This is because they know that God is the truth, that the supremacy of God is the truth, and that the supremacy of people is false and opposes God's supremacy in His land. Yet they do not stand by the truth, and instead support falsehood.

These are the clerics of the End Times, the most evil clerics under the sky. Trials have emerged from them and will come back to them, just as the Messenger of God pbuhap has said about them:

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[15] A.H. Waterfied (Translator), *Plato, The Republic* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

[16] Saqifah is significant for being the site of a hasty assembly of some companions of Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, where they decided about the successor to the Prophet right after his death, a controversial decision that is believed to be the origin of the oldest division in Islam between the Shia and Sunni denominations–*Trans*.

> A time shall come upon my nation when nothing from the Quran remains except for its calligraphy, and nothing from Islam remains except for its name. They are labelled by it while they are the people furthest from it. Their mosques are well-built while they are ruins of guidance. The clerics of that time are the most evil clerics under the sky. Trials have emerged from them and will come back to them (Bihar Al-Anwar [The Sea of Lights] Vol. 52, 190).

It is as if they have not heard the saying of the Prince of Believers pbuh, "Do not turn away from the path of guidance just because the people who take it are few."[17] And it is as if they have not heard the saying of the Messenger pbuhap, "Islam began as something strange and it will return as something strange. Blessed are the strangers."

By God, they have heard these sayings and understood them, but they grew fond of this world and its glamour appealed to them, so they gathered around a corpse and ate from it, exposing themselves. They were at their wits end, with no choice but to pursue the world through religion. Those claiming to be clerics of the Shia Muslims had no choice but to violate the sanctity of the Prince of Believers pbuh, and to add a fresh, new wound to his wounds and an ulcer that made his heart bleed.[18] Thus the imams of misguidance, the dysfunctional clerics, have brought back the calamity of Saqifat Bani Saeda the same way it happened the first time, and paved the way for breaking the rib of Fatima Al-Zahra pbuh a second time.[19] This time, however, it is being done to Imam al-Mahdi pbuh, for it is a day like the day of the Messenger of God pbuhap, and a lineage like the lineage of the Messenger of God pbuhap. Yesterday, it was Ali pbuh and his son, and today it is the Mahdi pbuh and his son. Is there a reasonable person who will save himself from the fire, escape from the grip of the Qurayshi disbelievers of this present time, and fortify himself by supporting the vicegerents of God?[20]

Do not let Satan (may God curse him) deceive you and cause you to sanctify the dysfunctional clerics who are waging war against God and His messenger and perverting His

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[17] *Nahjul Balagha* [Peak of Eloquence], commentary by Muhammad Abduh (Cairo: Matbaat al-Istiqamah, n.d.), Vol. 2, 181; *Al-Gharat* [The Raids] Vol. 2, 584; and Muhammad Ibn Ibrahim al-Nu'mani, *Al-Ghayba* [The Book of Occultation], (Qom: Nashr al-Madyan, 2005-6), 35.

[18] Shia Islam is the second-largest branch of Islam. Unlike Sunni Muslims, they hold the belief that just as a prophet is appointed by God alone, only God has the prerogative to appoint the successor to his prophet–*Trans*.

[19] Fatima al-Zahra pbuh was the closest daughter to Prophet Muhammad pbuhap and was the wife of Ali Ibn Abi Talib pbuh. She was the only child of Prophet Muhammed to have children that survived into adulthood. After Abu Bakr was elected as leader at Saqifah, Ali Ibn Abi Talib refused to give him allegiance. Abu Bakr sent a group to force Ali to swear allegiance, and they were refused permission to enter the house by Fatima. One of them then forcefully pushed the door open, crushing Fatima against a wall. This broke her ribs, causing her to miscarry her unborn child. She died a few months later due to her injuries–*Trans*.

[20] The Quraysh, a Meccan tribe, had strongly opposed the message of Islam and fought numerous battles against the early Muslims. With the conquest of Mecca the Qurayshi tribe converted to Islam, although those who staunchly opposed did so reluctantly–*Trans*.

Shariah.[21] Refer their sayings and actions to the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet and Ahl al-Bayt pbut, and you will find that they are worlds apart from the Messenger and the Quran.[22] You should curse them as the Messenger of God pbuhap did, and renounce them as the Messenger of God pbuhap did when he said to Ibn Masud:

> O Ibn Masud, Islam began as something strange, and it will revert to being strange as it was in the beginning, so blessed are the strangers. The people from the descendants of our followers who will witness that time [of the appearance of al-Mahdi pbuh] should not associate with their communities, nor walk in their funeral processions, nor visit their sick. They will claim to be following your Sunnah and pursuing your call while their actions contradict yours, and they will die following a religion different than yours. Those people do not belong to me nor do I belong to them. . .
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> O Ibn Masud, there will come a time upon the people where a person still adhering to his religion is like one holding ember in the palm of his hand, for in that time he must either be a wolf or else be eaten by wolves. O Ibn Masud, their clerics and jurists are shameless. They are the most evil of God's creation and so are the people who follow them, visit them, deal with them, love them, accompany them, and counsel with them. God will enter them into Hellfire deaf, dumb, and blind, and they will not return. {We will gather them on the Day of Resurrection [fallen] on their faces—blind, dumb and deaf. Their refuge is Hell; every time it subsides We increase them in blazing fire} Quran Chapter "The Night Journey" 17:97. {Every time their skins are roasted through We will replace them with other skins so they may taste the punishment} Quran Chapter "The Table Spread" 4:56. {When they are thrown into it, they hear from it a [dreadful] inhaling while it boils up. ✶ It almost bursts with rage . . .} 67:7-8. {Every time they want to get out of Hellfire from anguish, they will be returned to it, and [it will be said to them], "Taste the punishment of the Burning Fire!"} 22:22. {For them therein is heavy sighing, and they therein will not hear} 21:100.
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> O Ibn Masud, they claim that they follow my religion, my Sunnah, my method and my jurisprudence, but they renounce me and I renounce them.
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> O Ibn Masud, do not accompany them, and do not trade with them in the markets. Do not show them the way, and do not offer them water. God Almighty said:
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> {Whoever desires the life of this world and its adornments, We fully repay them for their deeds therein, and they will not be deprived therein} Quran Chapter

[21] Sharia, Sharia Law, or Islamic Law is the religious law forming part of the Islamic tradition–*Trans*.
[22] The word Sunnah is an Arabic word meaning "tradition" or "way." For Muslims, Sunnah often means "the way of the prophet" or "the way of God"–*Trans*.

“Hud” 11:15. God Almighty said, {Whoever desires the harvest of the Hereafter,We increase his harvest for him. And whoever desires the harvest of this world, We give him thereof, but there is no share in the Hereafter for him} Quran Chapter “The Consultation” 42:20.

O Ibn Masud, my nation will be subject to a great deal of hostility, hatred, and disputes from these people who are the most despicable among this nation in their worldly life. By the One who sent me in truth, God will make them sink into the earth and will transform them into apes and pigs.

[Ibn Masud] said, “The Messenger of God then cried, and we cried because he cried. We asked, “O Messenger of God, what makes you cry?” He pbuhap replied, “[I cry] out of mercy for the miserable ones. God Almighty says: {And if you could see when they are terrified but there is no escape, and they will be seized from a place nearby} Quran Chapter “Sheba” 34:51, [referring to the clerics and the jurists].

He pbuhap then said, “O Ibn Masud, whoever acquires knowledge seeking this world through it, and preferred the love of this world and its adornments over knowledge deserves the wrath of God, and he will be at the lowest level of hell along with the Jews and the Christians who rejected the Holy Book of God. God Almighty said,

{When there came to them that which they recognized, they disbelieved in it, so the curse of God is upon the disbelievers} Quran Chapter “The Cow” 2:89.

O Ibn Masud, God has forbidden paradise to whoever learns the Quran for the sake of this world and its adornments.

O Ibn Masud, whoever acquires knowledge and does not apply it will be brought on the Day of Resurrection blind, and whoever acquires knowledge for show and reputation, seeking this world with it, God will take away his blessings, make his life difficult, and entrust him to himself. Whoever God entrusts to their own selves perishes. God Almighty said:

{So whoever hopes for meeting his Lord should do righteous work and not associate anyone in the worship of his Lord} Quran Chapter “The Cave” 18:110.

O Ibn Masud, let your companions be the pious ones and your brothers be the pious and ascetic ones, because God Almighty said in His Book,

{Close friends that Day will be enemies to each other, except for the pious ones} Quran Chapter “The Ornaments of Gold” 43:67.

> O Ibn Masud, know that they see good to be evil and evil to be good. Because of that, God put a seal on their hearts. None of them can be a witness to the truth nor can they establish justice. God Almighty said:
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> {Establish justice and be witnesses for God, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives} Quran Chapter "The Women" 4:135.
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> O Ibn Masud, they claim merit for their ancestry and wealth. . . ."[23]

This is the state of those dysfunctional clerics according to the Messenger of God pbuhap, because they claim to be Muslims and Shia but at the same time they approve of the displacement of Ali pbuh and treat him unjustly. May God's curse be upon every misguided and misguiding person who appointed himself as a leader for the people, an idol and god to be worshipped instead of God.

What is important for the general public is to avoid following the dysfunctional clerics because they approve of the supremacy of people, elections, and democracy that America (the greatest Antichrist) has brought forward. The people should acknowledge the supremacy of God and follow Imam al-Mahdi pbuh. Otherwise, what will people say to their prophets and Imams? Is it hidden from anyone that all divine religions acknowledge the supremacy of God and reject the supremacy of people? There is no excuse for anyone to follow these clerics since they have gone against the Quran, the Messenger and Ahl al-Bayt pbut, and distorted the jurisprudence of God Almighty.

These are the clerics of the End Times who will wage war against Imam al-Mahdi pbuh. Is there an excuse left for any of their followers, after they have followed Satan (may God curse him) and advocated for the supremacy of people, even though all divine religions acknowledge the supremacy of God Almighty?! The Jews await Elijah pbuh, the Christians await Jesus pbuh and the Muslims await the Mahdi pbuh. Will the Jews then say to Elijah, "Go back, we have elections and democracy, which are better than the divine appointment"?! And will the Christians say to Jesus pbuh, "O you, the ascetic who rides a donkey, wears wool and eats so little, go back. We have elected presidents who enjoy this worldly life in all possible ways from what is allowed and what is prohibited, and they suit our wishes and desires"?

Will the Muslims, especially the Shia, say to Imam al-Mahdi pbuh, "Go back, son of Fatima, our clerics have found the best solution: democracy and elections"?! Will the ones who imitate the clerics of End Times say to Imam al-Mahdi pbuh, "Our clerics found that the truth resides with the *Shura*, the *Saqifa,* and elections."?![24]

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[23] Sheikh Ali Al-Yazdi Al-Haeri *Ilzaam al-Naasib* [Binding the Enemy (of Ahl al-Bayt)] (Najaf: Dar Al-Numan, 1971) Vol. 2, 151-52.

[24] Shura here is a reference to the same event that happened at Saqifa. The word translates as "council". In Islam it is recommended that all decisions be made in consultation with others, unless it is a matter in

Will they eventually say that the people at the *Saqifa* were right, and that the Prince of Believers Abi Talib pbuh is a fanatic?! What will they say? How will they solve this contradiction they have stepped into?!

I will not say to these clerics—and I name them as such based on the prevailing opinion about them, for I do not consider them clerics—anything other than what the simple Iraqi person would say "is it religion or a mockery?", for you have made it a true mockery.

We, the Shia, reject Umar bin al-Khattab because he advocated the *Shura* and elections, and you, the clerics of the End Times, are acknowledging the elections.

So what has changed?![25]

Anyway, the current Torah and the current Gospel both acknowledge the supremacy of God on His earth and not the supremacy of people, and both are divine books that represent irrefutable evidence for Jews and Christians. The Western theorists of democracy have worked hard to refute the texts that acknowledge the supremacy of God within the Torah. Some of these theorists even claimed that distortion of the texts was rather likely, as Baruch Spinoza did in his "Theologico-Political Treatise" in an attempt to dispose of the texts which confirm the supremacy of God on His earth and reject the supremacy of people.[26]

The Quran, however, acknowledges the supremacy of God and rejects the supremacy of people from beginning to end. We are not interested in the faulty understanding of those who seek to distort the words of God as they please in order to defend a certain person or a certain belief of that person. That person is corrupt and his belief is false, and the corruption is clear and can be recognized without much effort.

Let us go through the verses that support the supremacy of God on His earth:

1. {Say, "O God, Owner of sovereignty, You give sovereignty to whom You will and You take sovereignty away from whom You will. You honor whom You will and You humiliate whom You will. In Your hand is [all] good. Indeed, You are over all things competent} Quran, Chapter "The Family of Imran" 3:26.

This verse is clear evidence that sovereignty belongs to God. He, the Almighty, appoints whomever He wills as His vicegerent. The Almighty said:

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which God has ordained something. We believe that, while it meritorious to conduct a Shura for worldly affairs, the matter of selection of a leader for a nation is up to God and not the people–*Trans.*

[25] Umar bin al-Khattab played a vital role in nominating Abu Bakr at Saqifah to succeed Prophet Muhammed pbuhap. After Abu Bakr's short reign, Umar succeeded him–*Trans*.

[26] Spinoza's *Theologico-Political Treatise* was published posthumously anonymously in 1670. Spinoza was a Dutch philosopher–*Trans*.

{I am making a vicegerent on the earth} Quran Chapter "The Cow" 2:30.

Given the above verse, no one is entitled to be appointed or elected king or ruler except the one appointed by God Almighty. God grants this divine sovereignty or supremacy to whomever He wishes. However, the king appointed by God might not necessarily rule in reality, for he might be overpowered and removed from the helm of governance. Throughout the history of mankind, this has always happened. Abraham pbuh did not rule but rather, Nimrod (may God curse him) did. Moses pbuh did not rule either but rather, Pharaoh (may God curse him) did. Al-Hussain pbuh did not rule, rather, Yazid (may God curse him) did, and so on. God Almighty said:

> {Or do they envy the people for what God has given them out of His bounty? We gave the Book and wisdom to the children of Abraham, and We gave them great sovereignty} Quran Chapter "The Women" 4:54.

Therefore, although the children of Abraham pbut have always been granted sovereignty and divine supremacy, they have been oppressed, subdued, and eliminated from the helm of governance, and it has been taken over by the oppressors. The obligation upon all people is to enable the vicegerent of God on His earth to be at the helm of leadership. If they do not, they waste this opportunity, and anger their Lord.

> Imam al-Sadiq pbuh said, "Do you not see that when God said {it was not up to you to plant its trees}, He is saying that it is not up to you to appoint a leader (Imam) yourselves and claim that he is righteous by your own desires and wishes?"
>
> Imam al-Sadiq pbuh then said, "There are three people whom God will not speak to or look at on the Day of Resurrection; He will not purify them and they will suffer a painful torment. They are: one who planted a tree that God did not plant, meaning one who appointed a leader (imam) that God did not appoint; and one who rejects the person whom God had appointed . . . "[27]

2. The story of Saul: {Have you not seen the eminences of the Children of Israel after Moses when they said to a prophet of theirs, "Send to us a king, and we will fight in the way of God"?} Quran Chapter "The Cow" 2:246.

These believing and righteous people from the Children of Israel believed in the supremacy of God, and did not appoint anyone. Instead, they asked God to appoint a king for them. This is

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[27] Abu Mohammed al-Hasan Ibn Ali, *Tuhaf al-Uqul* [Masterpieces of the Mind] (Qom: Ali Akbar Ghaffari Publication,1983), 327, and Al-Majlisi, *Bihar al-Anwar* [The Oceans of Light] (Beirut: Dar Ihya Al-Turath Al-Arabi, 1983), Vol. 63, 276.

the greatest evidence that the divine law in all divine religions acknowledges that the ruler is appointed by God, and not by the people through elections.

3. I am making a vicegerent on the earth {And when your Lord said to the angels: “I am making a vicegerent on the earth”} Quran Chapter “The Cow” 2:30.

The vicegerent of God must be the ruler on earth, and the first vicegerent was Adam pbuh. There is a vicegerent of God on His earth during each time period. In the present time period, the vicegerent of God is the Mahdi pbuh. Thus the people must empower him to rule, because he is the one appointed by God Almighty, and he should not be opposed by elections and democracy.

4. The Almighty said: {And whoever does not judge by what God has revealed, then it is those who are the disbelievers} Quran Chapter “The Table Spread” 5:44. The Almighty also said: {And whoever does not judge by what God has revealed, then it is those who are the oppressors} Quran Chapter “The Table Spread” 5:45. And the Almighty also said: {And whoever does not judge by what God has revealed, then it is those who are the defiantly disobedient} Quran Chapter “The Table Spread” 5:47.

Obviously, the ruler will face new problems in every era, and will need special direction and knowledge from God regarding new developments through which he can learn His ruling. How could someone other than the vicegerent of God “judge by what God has revealed”? It is certain that no one can judge by what God has revealed except the vicegerent of God.

The evidence refuting the supremacy of people and the elections is abundant. Here is an example for whoever has presence of mind and listens.

The Story of Moses and His People

> {And Moses chose seventy men from his people for Our appointment. And when the earthquake seized them, he said, "My Lord, if You had willed, You could have destroyed them and myself before. Would You destroy us for what the foolish among us have done? This is not but Your trial by which You send astray whom You will and guide whom You will. You are our Protector, so forgive us and have mercy upon us; and You are the best of forgivers} Quran Chapter “The Heights” 7:155.

Moses pbuh, an infallible prophet, chose seventy men from the finest of the Children of Israel, and they all disbelieved and rebelled against him and against the command of God. Thus if an infallible prophet, Moses pbuh, chose seventy men for a divine mission, none of whom

turned out to be qualified for this mission, how can the common people choose a ruler and king? They might unknowingly choose the most evil of God's creation.

These evidences are enough for those who seek the truth. Whoever is searching for more has the Quran before him, crying out, into the ears of the forgetful:

> {And We have already written in the Psalms after the Remembrance that the earth is inherited by My righteous servants. . . . And We have not sent you except as a mercy to the worlds. Say, "Indeed, it is revealed to me that your god is but one God; so will you be Muslims [in submission to Him]?" But if they turn away, then say, "I have announced to [all of] you equally. And I know not whether what you are promised is near or far. Indeed, He knows what is declared of speech, and He knows what you conceal. And I do not know; perhaps it is a trial for you and enjoyment for a time." [The Prophet] has said, "My Lord, judge [between us] in truth. And our Lord is the Most Merciful, the one whose help is sought against that which you describe"} Quran Chapter "The Prophets" 21:105-112.

Why the Awaited Reformer?!

1. Religion:

A. God Almighty said:

> {And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me}[28]
> Quran Chapter "The Winnowing Winds" 51:56.

Ahl al-Bayt pbut have said that to worship means to know. Therefore, the most important task of the Awaited Reformer pbuh is to make God Almighty known to the people, and to lead them to God, for he is the guide to God and His proof upon His worshippers.

B. The Messengers pbut

The second task of the Awaited Reformer is to make the Messengers pbut known to the people, to show the oppression they experienced, and to show that they are the vicegerents of God on His earth, whose rights and inheritance were usurped.

C. The Messages

[28] Jinn are supernatural creatures. They are mentioned frequently in the Quran (see for example Chapter 72, "The Jinn"). The Jinn are also mentioned in other religious and nonreligious texts–*Trans*.

The third task of the Awaited Reformer pbuh is to make the divine messages and legal systems known to the people, to eliminate all distortion and falsehood from them, and to show the truth, ideology, and jurisprudence that God Almighty is satisfied with.

Consequently, the most important thing that the Awaited Reformer pbuh brings to reform the religion is knowledge and wisdom, {And he teaches them the Book and wisdom} Quran Chapter "The Cow" 2:129. Moreover, al-Sadiq pbuh said:

> Knowledge is twenty-seven letters. The prophets have brought only two letters and until today, people only know of these two letters. When our *Qaim* rises, he will bring out the twenty-five letters and disseminate them among the people. By adding the two letters, he will disseminate them as twenty-seven letters.[29,30]

2. This Temporal World

As all people of divine religions believe, the Awaited Reformer will fill this world with justice and fairness after it had been filled with injustice and oppression. This is well-known among Muslims, because it was mentioned by the Messenger of God pbuhap and Ahl al-Bayt pbut, and narrated by both the Sunnis and Shia.[31]

So what does the supremacy of God consist of such that it causes the earth to be filled with justice and fairness? Before I examine this important issue, I wish to clarify something of equal importance that also highlights the significance of examining it. Based on the statements of the Messenger of God pbuhap and his progeny concerning the signs for the appearance and rise of the Awaited Reformer, as Shia Muslims, we agree that these days are the days of his appearance and rise. We certainly are not concerned with the opinion of those who falter and have not read the religious accounts. Furthermore, the Christians around the world also consider these days to be the days of the rising of the Awaited Reformer pbuh, whom they consider to be Jesus pbuh. I have even read a book, written by a Christian priest in the middle of the last century, in which he considers the signs of the appearance and the Minor Resurrection to have already begun in the Kingdom of Heaven.

As for the Jews, they consider these days to be the days of the Minor Resurrection. In fact, many of their rabbis confirm that these days are the days of the return of Elijah pbuh and the appearance of the Global Reformer. Some of them have recently distributed flyers from airplanes to the Muslims in Palestine demanding that they leave the Holy Land because the time has come for the Minor Resurrection, and stating that these days are the final days after

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[29] *Bihar al-Anwar* [The Ocean of Lights] Vol. 52, 336.
[30] *Al-Qaim* means "The Riser" and is another title for the Mahdi–*Trans*.
[31] Sunni Islam is the largest denomination of Islam. The differences between Sunni and Shia Muslims arose from a disagreement over the choice of Muhammad's successor and subsequently acquired broader political significance, as well as theological and juridical dimensions–*Trans*.

which only the righteous will remain in the Holy Land. According to Jewish belief, they are the righteous ones.

If that is the case, it is clear that all religious people who firmly believe in what the prophets pbut have stated acknowledge that these are the days of the Minor Resurrection and the appearance of the Awaited Global Reformer pbuh. If these are the days of his appearance, where he is to fill the earth with justice and fairness after it was filled with injustice and oppression, it becomes clear to us that these are the days in which the world is filled with injustice and oppression.

Here, two questions come to mind:

How is it that the world became filled with injustice and oppression?

The answer to this question has been mentioned, and I will refer to it below.

The second question is: How will this world become filled with justice and fairness?

This is what I want to begin to explain. I will highlight some of the characteristics of the supremacy of God that result in the earth being filled with justice.

The First Characteristic: The Law (the General Constitution and other laws)

The one who sets down the law is God Almighty. He is the Creator of this earth and everything in it, and He knows what reforms its people and inhabitants: namely mankind, jinn, animals, plants, and other creation that we either do or do not know about. He also knows the past, present and future. He knows what reforms the human body and soul as well as what reforms mankind as a whole. The law has to take into consideration the past, present, future, human body and soul, the interest of the individual, group, and other creatures. The law also has to take into consideration the interest of inanimate objects such as the earth, water, the environment, etc. How could anyone other than God Almighty know the details of all these things, given that most of these things cannot be inferred or understood, meaning that they, their attributes, and so on, cannot be known?

Moreover, if we were to assume that someone knew all of these details, how would he be able to make a law that takes them all into consideration, though some of them might contradict one another in practice? Which legislation would guarantee the creation’s best interest?

Surely, this legislation will only exist within divine law and divine jurisprudence, because the one who set them down is the Creator of all creations. He knows of the secrets and what is even more concealed, and He is capable of making things take whatever course He wishes. He, the Almighty, is far above what they associate with Him.

The Second Characteristic: The King or Ruler

Undoubtedly, leadership—whatever form it takes, whether it be within the supremacy of people (either dictatorial or democratic), or within the supremacy of God Almighty—has a direct effect on human society. This is because society is naturally compelled to at least listen to this leadership, since humans are naturally disposed to follow a leader assigned by God Almighty.

> {It is the nature of God upon which He created the people. There is no alteration concerning the creation of God; that is the valuable religion} Quran Chapter "The Romans" 30:30.

This leader is the guardian and the vicegerent of God on His earth. If his right is usurped and the mirror of the human's nature is tainted by the darkness of this worldly life, humans will accept any leadership as an alternative to the vicegerent of God, His proof upon His creation, in order for the human to fulfill the imperfection within themselves, even if this alternative leadership is immoral and opposed to this vicegerent. Humans usually obey the leadership represented by the ruler. Leadership can only be represented by one of two people: either the vicegerent of God who is His proof upon His servants and the ruler appointed by God Almighty, or any other person, whether he is a domineering dictator reigning by oppressive force, or one who is elected by free, democratic elections. The ruler appointed by God speaks for God because he only speaks and acts according to the command of God.

As for the ruler appointed by the people or who dominates them, he does not speak for God Almighty at all. The Messenger of God pbuhap said: "Whoever listens to a speaker has worshipped him. If the speaker is speaking for God, he has worshipped God, and if the speaker is speaking for Satan, he has worshipped Satan."[32]

Hence, a person either speaks for God or Satan; there is no third party. Every ruler other than the vicegerent of God and His Proof upon His creation speaks for Satan in one way or another, each to his own extent, and to the extent of the falsehood he carries.

Ahl al-Bayt pbut said, "Every banner raised before the banner of the *Qaim* pbuh is a banner of a tyrant," referring to each banner whose owner is not affiliated with the Mahdi pbuh.

Therefore, the ruler appointed by God Almighty speaks for God, and the ruler not appointed by God Almighty speaks for Satan. Certainly, the one who speaks for God reforms religion and this world, and the one who speaks for Satan corrupts religion and this world.

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[32] Muhammad Al-Kulayni, *Al-Kafi* [The Sufficient Book]. (Tehran: Dar Al-Kutub Al-Islamiya,1944), Vol. 6, 434, and Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Ali Al-Sadooq, *Uyun Akhbar Al-Ridha* [The Source of Traditions on Imam Al-Ridha] (Qom: Maktabat Toos 1983), Vol. 2, 272.

What remains to be said is that God Almighty knows what each soul holds and He knows the righteous from the corrupt. He chooses His vicegerent and selects him so that he is the finest of His creation and the best, most righteous and most knowledgeable one on the earth. God Almighty protects him from errors and mistakes, and directs him towards righteousness and reformation.

However, if the people object to the appointment of God, they will only choose the worst of God's creation. In fact, Moses pbuh, who is an infallible prophet, chose seventy men from his people whom he believed were righteous, only to find out later of their corruption. There is a lesson in this for whoever is willing to learn, a reminder for whoever is willing to remember, and a sign for whoever is willing to listen and acknowledge.

3. In God's Supremacy the Law and the Ruler Enjoy Perfection and Infallibility

In the supremacy of God, the premise results in the reformation of people's political, economical, and social condition. This is because in these areas, the lives of the people depend upon the law and the ruler, as the law governs them and the ruler is the one implementing the law. Therefore, if the law is from God, regulation in these areas is the best and most ideal that it can be. Also, if the ruler is the guardian and vicegerent of God on His earth and the finest of his creation, then the application of the divine law is perfect and complete, and it is done in the best way possible.

As a result, if the people of a nation accept the supremacy of God on His earth, they receive the best of religion and this world, and their children attain happiness in this world and in the hereafter. Indeed, the finest thing that can rise from the earth to heaven rises from the children of a nation that accepts the supremacy of God on His earth, which is the allegiance to the guardian of God and devotion to him. Consequently, that nation receives the finest thing that can be sent down from heaven to the earth, which is support from God Almighty, and that nation becomes one of the best nations, because it accepts the guardian and vicegerent of God on His earth:

> {And if only the people of the villages had believed and been pious, We would have opened upon them blessings from Heaven and Earth; but they denied [the messengers], so We seized them for what they were earning."} Quran Chapter "The Heights" 7:96.

In addition, nations would claim to be superior to others based on the extent to which they accept the vicegerent of God on His earth and obey his commands. The nation that accepts Imam al-Mahdi pbuh is the best nation produced as an example for mankind:

{You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin right and forbid what is wrong} Quran Chapter “The Family of Imran” 3:110.

This nation is the three hundred and thirteen companions of the *Qaim* and whoever follows them.

On the other hand, if a nation rejects the guardian and vicegerent of God on His earth, it commits the most foolish act and loses this world and the hereafter. In this world, there is humiliation and disgrace; and in the hereafter, hellfire and the worst resting place.

Lastly, I want to emphasize that I do not believe that a person who believes in God Almighty would think that the law set down by people is better than the law of God, or that the ruler appointed by the people is better that the ruler appointed by God Almighty.

And praise be to God alone.

{And when they see you, they take you not except in ridicule, [saying], "Is this the one whom God has sent as a messenger? ✶ He would have nearly misled us from our gods had we not been steadfast in worship of them." But they are going to know, when they see the punishment, who is farthest astray in his way} Quran Chapter “The Criterion” 25:41-42.

The Guilty Shortcomer
Ahmed al-Hasan
June, 2004

Glossary

The 313 Companions - They are the companions of Imam Al-Mahdi who will pave the way for his rise. Ahmed, the successor of Imam Al-Mahdi, is the first of the 313.

Ahl al-Bayt - People of the House, or family. In the Islamic tradition it refers to the household of the prophet Muhammad and his progeny through his daughter Fatima Zahra's marriage with the Prophet's cousin Ali. Their sons, Hasan Ibn Ali and Hussain Ibn Ali, were Prophet Muhammad's grandsons, pbut.

Ali Ibn Abi Talib, the Prince of Believers - He is the cousin of Prophet Muhammad pbuhap and the first of the twelve Imams. He is known as the "Prince of Believers" (Amir al-Mumineen), which is a title that belongs only him and is familiar to all Muslims.

Dysfunctional clerics - The dysfunctional clerics are those who have perverted the religion instead of preserving it, although it is their duty to do so. They have fallen for worldly desires and are misguided and as a result, misguide their followers. Practicing clerics, as opposed to dysfunctional ones, are those who have followed guidance from God in preserving the religion. They work by the knowledge they have learned, that is, they practice what they preach.

Fatimah - Fatima al-Zahra pbuh was daughter who was closest to Prophet Muhammad pbuhap. She was the wife of Ali Ibn Abi Talib pbuh, and the only child of Prophet Muhammed to have children that survived into adulthood. After Abu Bakr was elected as leader at Saqifah, Ali Ibn Abi Talib refused to give him allegiance. Abu Bakr sent a group of men to force Ali to swear allegiance, and Fatima refused to allow them to enter her home. One of them then forcefully pushed the door open, crushing Fatima against a wall. This broke her ribs, causing her to miscarry her unborn child. She died a few months later as a result of her injuries.

Hussain Ibn Ali - The third Imam and son of Ali Ibn Abi Talib pbuh. He stood up against an oppressive regime during his time. He and his companions consisted of approximately seventy-two men who faced an army of tens of thousands. Al-Hussain refused to give allegiance to Yazid; what resulted was a massacre that nearly completely eliminated the descendants of the Prophet Muhammad pbuhap. Al-Hussain emerged and endured as a symbol of resistance against oppression, and it is true to this day. Islam was allowed to continue through the lineage of the Imams, because through Al-Hussain's revolution, people were able to understand the oppression that the Imams experienced, and support them.

Imam - In Shia Islam, the title "Imam" refers to a divinely appointed leader. The twelve Imams are the spiritual and political successors to the prophet Muhammad.

Jinn - Supernatural creatures mentioned in Islamic theology and also mentioned frequently in

the Quran (for example, see Chapter 72 of the Quran titled “The Jinn”). The *jinn* are also mentioned in other texts.

The Mahdi - Translates to "the guided one", a title for the divine leader who will appear in the End Times to establish justice and rid the world of evil. For Shia muslims, the Mahdi is the twelfth Imam, Muhammad Ibn al-Hassan pbuh (born in 869), who went into Occultation in 941 and will reappear in the End Times.

Al-Qaim - "The Riser" in English, another title for the Mahdi.

Satan - Satan does not always mean Lucifer, but sometimes, evil in general: "Satan here means evil (and the defect of darkness) and it does not mean Iblis as some imagine. . . . This Satan (meaning evil) is the darkness which no creation is free from, as the light that has no darkness within is God Almighty." The Journey of Moses pbuh to the Junction of the Two Seas (English book), 26 and 28.

Saqifah - Its significance lies in the fact that it was a assembly of some companions of Prophet Muhammad who gathered immediately and hastily after his death. They took it upon themselves to choose a successor to the Prophet pbuhap, a controversial decision that is believed to have created the earliest division in Islam between the Sunni and Shia sects.

Sharia - Sharia law, or Islamic law is the religious law forming part of the Islamic tradition.

Shura - A reference to the same event that happened at Saqifa. The word translates as “council”. In Islam it is recommended that all decisions be made in consultation with others, unless it is a matter that God Almighty has ordained. We believe that, while it meritorious to conduct Shura for worldly affairs, the matter of selection of a leader for a nation is up to God and not the people.

Sunnah - The word Sunnah is an Arabic word meaning "tradition" or "way." For Muslims, Sunnah often means "the way of the prophet" or “the way of God”.

The Supremacy of the People - A reference to any system where the leader of a nation or country is elected by people as opposed to being elected by God, with the laws being written by man.

The Supremacy of God - A system of government whereby the leader is elected by God, the laws come from God, and this divine law is implemented by the divinely appointed leader.

The Vicegerent - The vicegerent, or khalifa in Arabic, is a divinely appointed leader charged with the duty of leading people in religious and worldly affairs. The first vicegerent, as stated in the Quran, is Prophet Adam pbuh. The vicegerency is passed through the line of prophets and their

successors, and there is always a vicegerent in every time period. The word khalifa is also commonly translated as “caliph” or “successor.”