

## English — Message No. 48 (SHAMA)

### **Will our nation once again move backward—for the nth time?**

Iran possesses capacities that could turn our country into a superpower, yet until now these capacities have been wasted through repeated regressions. At this historic turning point—where the national revolution currently unfolding may also be added to the list of backward movements—we remind you of the following:

1. In the “Sheikh vs. Shah” duality before the Constitutional Revolution, the Shah held executive power, while the Sheikh, under the banner of Sharia, effectively held legislative and judicial power. The power of both the Sheikh and the Shah—if not formally, then in practice—was absolute. One consequence of this duality was that a “balance of power” existed between them. For example, when Naser al-Din Shah granted the Tobacco Concession to the British, Mirza Shirazi, the leading religious authority of the time, forced him to cancel the contract by issuing a fatwa. Another example was the confrontation between the jurist Mohammad Taqi Agha Najafi and Zill al-Sultan, the son of Naser al-Din Shah and governor of Isfahan.
2. The main slogan of the Constitutional uprising was “a House of Justice” and a National Parliament—meaning the removal of the Sheikh’s judicial and legislative authority, and inherently also meaning the limitation and constraint of the Shah’s power. Yet despite early victories, Sheikh Fazlollah Nouri imposed the first “regression” by forcing the inclusion of a “Supervisory Council” (Hey’at-e Taraz) within the National Parliament, through which a five-member clerical committee could veto parliamentary legislation on the grounds that it contradicted “Sharia.”
3. As for limiting the Shah’s power, that too remained practically “sterile.” Mohammad Ali Shah “bombarded” the Parliament, Reza Shah made it “obedient” to himself, and later Mohammad Reza Shah kept both Parliament and government under his control. Nothing of the Constitutional Revolution’s objectives could be seen, and despotism advanced to the point where the Shah first carried out the 28 Mordad 1332 coup against Dr. Mossadegh’s national government with the help of “the British and the Americans,” and then in 1353 he no longer tolerated even the appearance of two or three weak parties, establishing the one-party “Rastakhiz” system and declaring that anyone opposed to the monarchy, the Sixth of Bahman Revolution, and the Constitution belonged either in “prison or exile.”
4. The peak of our “regression” occurred in 1979 (1357), when by overthrowing the Shah we transformed the “Sheikh and Shah” duality into a “single authority,” namely the Sheikh—and returned to a pre-Qajar era. In other words, we handed over all three branches of power, and more, to the “Sheikh,” and did so officially in an “absolute” form.
5. Why have our nation’s struggles been “backward-moving,” producing “regressive” outcomes? The main cause must be sought in our nation’s “weak historical memory” and in the “leadership” of the 1979 revolution—when, through the miracle of the BBC, Khomeini, whose behavior was reactionary and who had opposed the Shah over women’s right to vote and land reform laws, was presented as a “progressive freedom-seeker,” taken to the moon, and then dropped upon us. Our nation—and even our intellectuals—joined him in a mass-like manner without asking whether he had any understanding at all of international relations, global politics, and the requirements of the final quarter of the twentieth century;

or, as Hassanein Heikal put it, he was “an arrow shot from the heart of history into the heart of Iran.” That BBC “miracle” was then completed by the “Guadeloupe Conference.”

6. Have Iran International and Israel now appeared in the roles of the BBC and Guadeloupe, to lure us once again into a “backward movement” with a “regressive and disastrous” outcome?
7. Now that both Israel’s Haaretz and a Canadian university have exposed a plot in which, with financial support from the “Israeli government,” through fake online accounts and fabricated reports and with the help of artificial intelligence, efforts are being made to portray the son of the former dictator—against whom our nation rose up due to despotism, repression, subservience to foreign powers, and a “sacred alliance” of political and financial corruption—as the savior of the Iranian nation; and now that his “open support” for Israel’s and America’s “aggression” against our country has revealed his “traitorous nature,” it must be warned that “Israeli spies,” through “Israel-friendly slogans,” must not divert your revolution, O great nation of Iran, toward a dead end.

**Proud nation of Iran**

**Long live Iran**

National Council of Iran’s Revolutionary Transition

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