

AN OUTSTANDING JURIST AND CRUSADER

Mirza Mehamed Husain s/e Sheikhu Islam Mirza Abdul Rahim, popularly remembered still as Mirza-e-Na'inee was born in Na'in in Iran in the year 1277 A.H. He acquired his elementary knowledge in Islamic Fiqh from his family members who were famous jurists of the time. He migrated to Isfahan for further education and after some time, he proceeded to Najaf-Iraq in the year 1303 A.H. It was under the high level tutelage of Seyyid Iskhak Ismail Sadr and Akhond Kherasani that he completed his advanced course in Islamic jurisprudence and he could attain the high position of Ijtihad. On account of his excelling intelligence and deep insight into various Islamic sciences that he came to be acknowledged among the Ulemas of the time as Mujtahid-e-Aa'zam, following the death of his tutor Akhond Kherasani in the year 1329 A.H.

Mirza-e-Na'inee was considered an expert in Usool (science of doctrines) besides an authority on a number of other Islamic sciences. His opinions and verdicts came to be respected even by his contemporaries. Among his numerous students were Seyyid Mahmood Shahreudi, Seyyid Mohsin Al-Hakim and Seyyid Abdul Hadi Shirazi, who later on became the leading mujtahids in Najaf with followers in many countries. He left behind a number of treatises and publications.

In character, Mirza Na'inee was wellknown for his piety and zohd, abstaining from the pleasantries and tasty food of the world. His humility even before his students and his humble posture when standing for prayers was particularly noteworthy.

Despite being engrossed in day to day matters in view of his leading position in the Islamic jurisprudence, he was no less mindful of the welfare and political questions confronting the masses in Iraq and Iran. In the days when the oppression and intransigence of Mohamedali Shah Qachar in Iran had reached its peak, he along with Akhond Kherasani issued a declaration reading:

"Now it is incumbent that this Mohamedali Shah the blood-thirsty be deposed and no taxes be paid to his government"

During the first world war when the British imperialists advanced their forces to the area between the two rivers- the Tigris and Euphrates- Mirza Mirza Na'inee and other eminent jurists rose against the British. On different occasions Mirza used to issue declarations in order to make the public aware of what was happening. The British staged an election in Iraq in order to establish a government of their own stooges and on this occasion, Mirza Na'inee issued a forceful fatwa later confirmed /as under, forbidding the masses in Iraq from participating in it:

" Yes, I had in the past issued a ruling forbidding every Muslim believing in God and the Day of Judgement from participating and associating in any form with the election. And this ruling with its full force is still valid and its content for any reason is not subject to any alteration"

When the British had installed Faisal as king of Iraq and embarked upon an election to deceive the people, one of the prominent ulemas of that time Sheikh Mahdi Khalisi openly came out to oppose the meddling in the internal affairs of Iraq by the British. As a result he was ~~deposed~~ deported by the authorities to Iran. The ulemas of Iraq were much upset to witness this humiliation and in the course of their meeting on the issue, it was decided that two of their leading figures ~~to~~ emigrate in protest to Iran and the two chosen were Mirza Na'inee and Seyyid Abul Hasan Isfahani. These two eminent jurists went to Qum where they were given warm welcome by the head jurist there Marhoem Haj Sheikh Abdul Karm Hairi Yazdi, the founder of the Qum seminary. He ordered his students to accord the two jurists all respect and their lectures were well attended. After some time when the situation in Iraq improved, the two returned to Najaf and continued ~~with their~~ to render their services in running that great centre of Islamic jurisprudence.

It is believed that the first jurist ever to publish a book on the subject of Islamic politics and rule was Mirza Na'inee, whose book 'Tanbeehul Ummah wa Tanzeehul Millah' made a profound contribution in awakening the masses particularly in Iran on the subject of Vilayatul Faqeeh- (the guardianship of the Jurisprudent). The book in Persian stipulated lucidly the various arguments which lead to prove the validity of Islamic rule ^{the} and leadership of a jurisprudent. ^{to when established} It also exhorts people to reject oppressive rule of despots and identify themselves as members of Muslim Ummah and not with nationalism or communalism based upon race, colour or nation. At one point Mirza Na'inee exhorts people to rise up in these words:

"If Muslims do not wake up from this silence and negligence and continue to accept humiliation and subseivence by the Pharoas (the oppressive rulers) and invaders of the country (foreigners) they would forfeit the blessing of freedom of Islamic nationhood and would be subjected to the domination of the Christian rulers"

What is noteworthy herewith is the fact that despite the poor communication and scant media in these days, eminent jurists like Mirza Na'inee were alive to the political situation in their country and machinations to dominate ^{them} ~~their~~ by the foreign powers. They were bold enough and considered it their religious duty to protect the interests of the masses by openly declaring their opposition in an effort to awaken ~~thaxxxxxxxxxx~~ them.

It was in the year 1355 A.H. that Mirza Na'inee died at the age of 78 years after suffering ^{from} prolonged sickness. The final prayer before burial in the vicinity of the holy shrine of Ali bin Abi Talib (A.S.) in Najaf was conducted by Seyyid Abul Hasan Isfahani who succeeded him as the ~~jaxxx~~ leading jurist and Mujtahide Aazam ^{of the Muslim Ummah.}