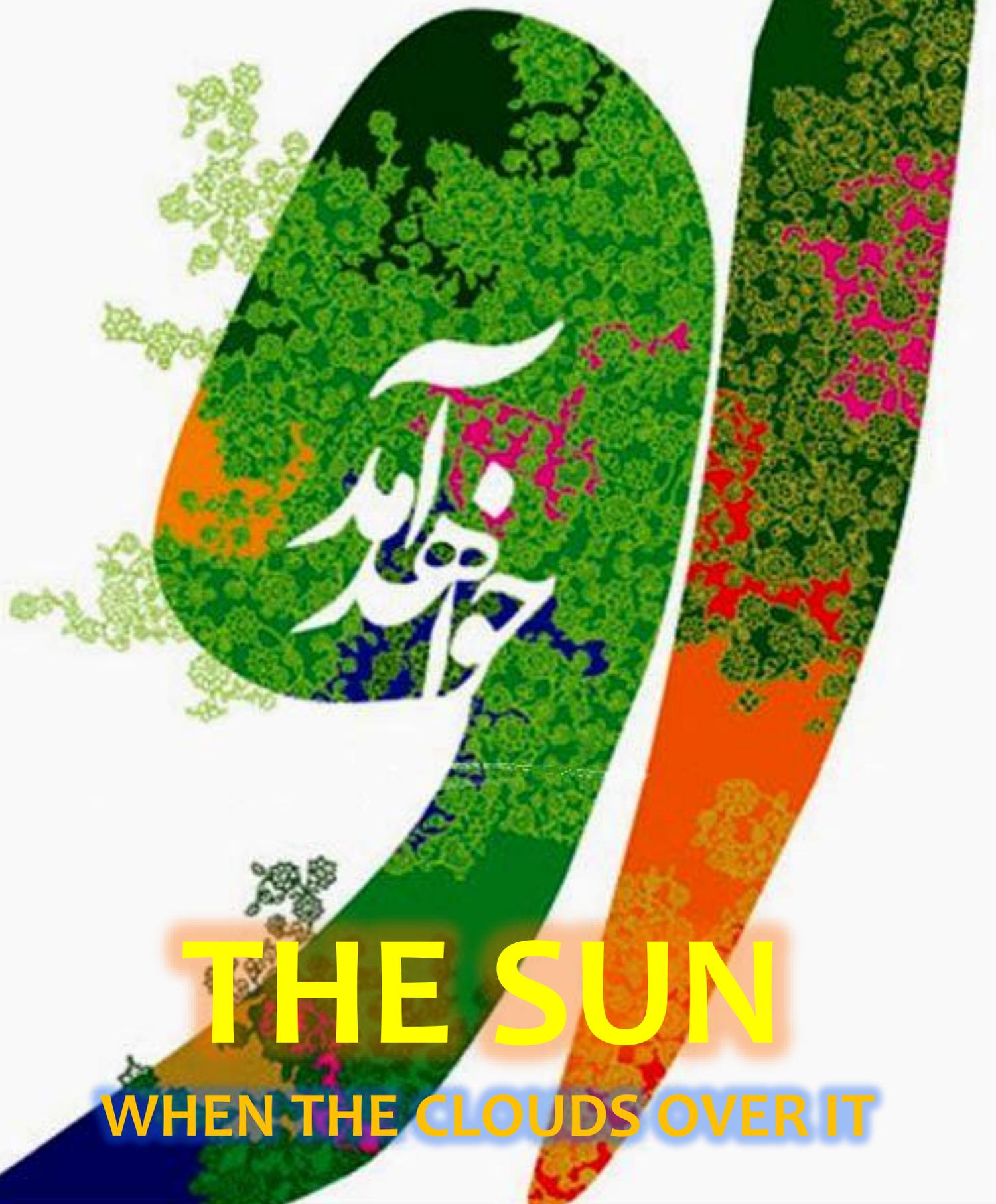




Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Center for Public
Diplomacy
March ۲۰۲۳



THE SUN
WHEN THE CLOUDS OVER IT



Believing in the Imam of the Time [Imam Mahdi (aj)] helps people to .not succumb [to evil] provided that they fully comprehend this belief. When this belief is truly placed in hearts, its presence is felt among the people. The sacred, beloved, Infallible Imam - the hub of the universe, the refuge of all creation - is present even though he is in occultation and has not reappeared. How is it possible to think he is not present? The devout believers feel his presence in their hearts and with all their emotions and senses. His absence does not affect this feeling that he is present. He has not reappeared, but he is present in the hearts and is among the people. This gives vitality and enthusiasm to a person. This great nation needs this hope more than anything else. The nation, which fights on the path of God and for the sake of the greatness of Islam, has become an honor for all of human history and for all of the history of Islam. In our time, it has raised the flag of Islam. Such a nation needs this bright hope more than anything else. This belief brings this hope for them.

Imam Mahdi (AS) 's life

- ٦٨٩ or ٨٧٠ A.D He was secretly born in Samarra, Iraq, to Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS) and Narjis, to be protected against the threat of the enemies.
- ٨٧٤ A.D His father, Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS), martyred by poisoning. after his demise, the Abbasid caliph sent a group of agents to his house. They shut down the house and confiscated his property, looking for the Imam's (AS) son, Imam Mahdi (AS).
- ٨٧٤ A.D His leadership started despite his young age, due to his exceptional wisdom and knowledge.
- ٨٧٤ A.D The period in which he led a secret life due to his enemies' threat, known as his Minor Occultation, started. During this period, he had contact with no one except four reliable men of his followers who transferred Imam's (AS) message to other people.
- ٩٤١ A.D His last deputy, Ali b. Muhammad al-Samuri passed away who would not be followed by any successor by Imam Mahdi's (AS) order.
- ٩٤١ A.D The connection through special deputies came to an end, and the Occultation entered a new phase, known as Major Occultation, in which Imam Mahdi (AS) has no contact with anyone and his followers must refer to the scholars for their religious needs. This period lasts until the present.
- Present: Possessing the blessing of long life by Allah, Imam Mahdi (AS) is still alive, yet lives secretly and is hidden from any sight. His followers indirectly benefit from his presence and leadership while awaiting his reappearance.

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A Glance at the Life of Imam Mahdi (AS)

Date Line

874 A.D

His father, Imam Hasan al-Askari^{AS}, martyred by poisoning. After his demise, the Abbasid caliph sent a group of agents to his house. They shut down the house and confiscated his property, looking for the Imam's^{AS} son, Imam Mahdi^{AS}.



was secretly born in Samarra, Iraq, to Imam Hasan al-Askari^{AS} and Narjis, to be protected against the threat of the enemies.

869 or 870 A.D

874 A.D

The period in which he led a secret life due to his enemies' threat, known as his Minor Occultation, started. During this period, he had contact with no one except four reliable men of his followers who transferred Imam's^{AS} message to other people.



His leadership started despite his young age, due to his exceptional wisdom and knowledge.



874 A.D

941 A.D

The connection through Special Deputies came to an end, and the Occultation entered a new phase, known as Major Occultation, in which Imam Mahdi^{AS} has no contact with anyone and his followers must refer to the scholars for their religious needs. This period lasts until the present.



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941 A.D

End of the Time

When Imam Mahdi^{AS}, the savior of all humankind, will reappear and fight against cruelty and oppression, spread justice all over the world, and free people of all their pains and sufferings.



Possessing the blessing of long life by Allah, Imam Mahdi^{AS} is still alive, yet lives secretly and is hidden from any sight. His followers indirectly benefit from his presence and leadership while awaiting his reappearance.

Present

THE SUN, WHEN THE CLOUDS COVER IT...



**The awaited Imam Mahdi (pbuh)
in the statements of the
Supreme Leader of the
Revolution**



THE SUN, WHEN THE CLOUDS COVER IT...



IMAM MAHDI'S REAPPEARANCE IS THE START OF HUMANKIND'S GROWTH

Everyone - including the elites, those who can understand events, and the masses of people throughout the world in various countries who may be preoccupied with their daily life and unaware of developments - feel this need, either consciously or unconsciously. Of course, all religions have promised this. In all religions, there is a promise of relief and a great divine movement at the end of history, which is of course not the end of history. The real world and humanity's real life will start from when the Imam of the Time comes. So for the end of the situation that now exists in life, all religions have promised such a future.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT GOALS OF IMAM MAHDI'S (AJ) GOVERNMENT

One of the things that is required in the area of internal politics is social justice. A society will not be Islamic if social justice does not exist or if justice isn't ensured in that society. If someone imagines that it is possible for us to practice divine religion – any real religion, not just Islam – in a place where social justice, in the correct and broad sense of the word, has not been established, he should know that he is mistaken. The goal of the prophets was to uphold justice, “So that mankind may maintain justice” (Qur'an 57:25). The prophets came to uphold justice. Of course, upholding justice is part of the process. It's not the ultimate goal. Therefore, the first task of the [prophets] who came was to uphold justice and save people from the evil and oppression of tyrants. The goal of Imam Mahdi's (pbuh) government at the end of time is this same kind of justice.





ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOLS IN FIGHTING COLONIALISM

There are a number of features in the belief in the school of thought of Imam Mahdi (aj) which work like blood in the body and soul of the material body. One of these features is hope. Sometimes, powerful, strong hands bring weak nations to the point where they completely lose hope. When they lose hope, they won't make a move. They think that it is useless and that it is too late. They think they cannot confront the powers because they won't succeed. This is the spirit of despair. This is what colonialism seeks. Today, the global Arrogant Powers want Muslim nations, including the dear Iranian nation, to be afflicted with the spirit of despair.

MANKIND SHALL MOVE ALONG THAT PATH

The sacred existence of Imam Mahdi (a.s.) is a continuation of the movement of divine prophets and their calls, since the beginning of the history till today. This means the great movement of the prophets and the divine calls by the prophets have never stopped throughout history. Humanity has always needed a prophet, a divine call, and the individuals who call the people to worship God. And this need persists today. As the time has passed, humanity has become closer to the prophets' teachings. Today, with advances in intellectuality, civilization and wisdom, human societies have come to comprehend many of the teachings of the prophets which were not understandable for them tens of centuries ago. The topics of justice, freedom, human dignity, etc.-which are popular in the world today – were originally raised by the prophets. At the time of the prophets, the masses of the people could not comprehend these concepts. The fact that the prophets were sent consecutively and their message spread, has made these thoughts inherent in the people's minds, hearts and nature – generation after generation. Those messengers of God have not stopped their succession: Imam Mahdi (pbuh) assures the succession of the honorable messengers of God. That is, you can see the call by Abraham, Moses, Jesus, the call by all the prophets and redeemers sent by God and the call by prophet Muhammad (pbuh) represented in Imam Mahdi (pbuh). Imam Mahdi (pbuh) is the heir of all of them and holds their flag, inviting the world to the same teachings that the prophets have brought over time and have offered to humanity.





AWAITING THE PROMISED MAHDI

Presently the mind of humankind is ready to understand, to learn, and to know, undoubtedly, that a lofty human will come to save them from the burden of oppression and tyranny. The exact effort that all the prophets made, the exact promise the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) has made to people via the Quranic verse: "And relieves them of their burdens and the shackles that were upon them," [7:157] is expressed. The hand of divine power can make this dream of humankind come true through a heavenly human, a divine human, a human connected to worlds of mystery, spirituality, and worlds that are not understandable to shortsighted humans like us. Hence, the hearts, the enthusiasm, and love are attracted to that point; and, every day they grow more attracted than the day before. The Iranian nation, enjoys a great privilege today: the atmosphere of the country is an atmosphere of Imam Mahdi (aj).

EXPECTING A SAVIOR

Today, humanity is expecting a savior who will put an end to oppression and injustice that have always existed in the history of mankind, a savior who will crush the oppressors and dispense justice and equity. This is what those looking forward to the reappearance of Imam Mahdi (greetings be upon him) will expect him to do when he reappears, since the main affliction of mankind is the lack of justice and equity.





THE MANIFESTATION OF DIVINE JUSTICE

As a people awaiting the Imam Mahdi (the Savior), we should establish and build our lives directed upon the same path of our Imam (May hundreds of greetings and praise be upon him and may God hasten his return), today. Of course, we are too trivial to construct the same establishment that the divine friends of God made or will make, but we should work hard towards that path.

الإمام المهديُّ عليه السلام:

أَمَّا وَجْهُ الْإِنْتِفَاعِ بِي فِي غَيْبَتِي فَكَالْإِنْتِفَاعِ بِالشَّمْسِ إِذَا
غَيَّبَهَا عَنِ الْأَبْصَارِ السَّحَابُ، وَ إِنِّي لِأَمَانٌ لِأَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ.

Imam al-Mahdi (AS) said:

The way that people benefit from me during my occultation is as they benefit from the sun when the clouds cover it from the sights. I am indeed a [source of] security for the dwellers of the earth.





قال رسولُ اللهِ صلى اللهُ عليه وآله:
المهديُّ رجلٌ منْ وُلدي، وجهُهُ كالكَوكبِ الدُّرِّيِّ.

The Prophet (SAWA) said:

The Mahdi will be a man from my offspring, and his face
will be like a sparkling star

قال الإمام الصادق عليه السلام:
إذا قام القائم عليه السلام حكم بالعدل وارتفع في أيامه
الجور، وأمنت به السبل، وأخرجت الأرض بركاتيها
وردَّ كلَّ حقٍّ إلى أهله

Imam al-Sadiq, peace be upon him, said:

When the Awaited al-Qaeim (may Allah hasten his reappearance) appears, he will rule with justice, all tyranny will be taken away during his ruling, all paths will be safe, the earth will bring out its blessings and all rights will be given to its owner



الفهم
الأسهل
لأفكار
الفردج