Who are you, O unmanly men? April 2002

Tell me who you are, O you who speak the language of Arabs and of Muslims, who live in the cradle of religion messages and prophets, who sit on the chairs and thrones onto which you have been raised by your Arab and Muslim peoples. However, you are harbouring and caring tenderly for representatives of the Israeli occupation which is going on persistently in slaying, persecuting, annihilating and repelling your brothers in nationality and religion?

The Israeli occupation is waging a ferocious exterminatory war there in the land of Palestine against your brothers, the rightful owners of the land, using the most advanced and deadly weapons, while you are here performing the humble function of guarding its embassies reassuring their occupants who are full of rancour against your religion and existence.

Tell me who you are -- seeing this large number of victims whose blood has turned the land of Palestine into a slaughter house that your ill fate has led you to such humiliation and baseness!

Are you the aggressors' friends? Why, then, you don't emigrate and live there amongst them and share committing the massacres and atrocities that are going on now with them? Or you are their messengers sent to us, promoting their crimes, justifying their ferocious acts and disguising their hideousness? Why don't you avow that openly? Why don't you take after U.S.A in admitting that bluntly?

Have baseness and cowardice replaced chivalry and bravery in your hearts. Consequently, depriving you of manliness in your spirits, of faithfulness to your own peoples and of truthfulness to your Lord? Why, then, don't you learn lessons of manliness and bravery from those heroes who sacrifice their dear lives as a price for repelling aggression and as a charge for safeguarding honour?

O you dwellers of high and fortified towers! Learn from those heroes! Learn the art of sacrifice from girls that are, in age, not older than your

Who are you, O unmanly men?

granddaughters! Learn how the seats of power become worthless, whatever great they might look; how the joys of lucre, of victuals and of drinks become disdained however tempting they might be, in defending the right, the land and the honour! Learn from those boys and girls all that you don't know of this art, and don't be offended if one of your instructors be a girl who was not exceeding sixteen years of age, because your ignorance of this art is more humiliating and more offending than being taught by young girls.

As for you, O you ordinary people, whose heads are replete with the fervour of chivalry and whose hearts are agitated with the desire of standing by your brothers who are being extirpated, but you have no approach to do that; you should know that there is an open door before you and nobody can shut it. Save now every penny you used to spend on luxuries, on gratification or on sundries, and send all amassing amounts through well-known secure channels to your brothers who are between the jaws of starvation and slaughter and who are crying for help but receiving none.

Just do it and wait, for the days to come would hopefully favour our nation with same valiant leaders like the ancient caliph who rescued the who appealed to him for help. Hopefully, the days to come will favour us with another Mu'tassim!

M. Saʻid Ramadan Al-Buti