

His Excellency Late President Hafez Asad's Eulogy

Your Excellency, Staff Lieutenant General,

On such an occasion, I am not concerned in adding bleeding to the wounds, or adding depth to the pain. Nay, I am concerned in consoling and in reminding of the Mercy and Wisdom of Allah, The Great and the Almighty.

I am sure I do not exaggerate when I say that this event has filled the whole of my entity, from head to foot, with sorrow. Hence I feel that my tongue will not excrete anything whatsoever of my heart emotions but such sorrow, no matter whatever I could utter. I have, however, learned from the school of Faith, as you have done, because both of us are believers, and both have learned and inherited a great deal of faith from your father, His Excellency the late President. He has taught us how to weave the ethics of the tragedy with the rapture of the satisfaction with Allah.

You see, Your Excellency, that a patient lies stretched underneath the surgeon's scalpel! He may lament, but he thanks his surgeon with the same tongue by which he laments. So are we. We are being treated, so whatever occurrence befalls us from Allah, The Great and The Almighty, will be no more than medication.

I am, therefore, right when I say: No matter how much someone, as myself, laments, no matter how much exhalations he utters; such exhalations are only translated by satisfaction with Allah. We will not be able to find any statement to express them in our language and in our fiducial feelings but through absolute submission to what Allah, The Great and The Almighty, has ordained. I do remember you when you thanked Allah on the day when your brother, Bassel, departed this world. It was not pretension. It was certainly true feeling.

Your Excellency, Staff Lieutenant General,

The people that you are going to rule have enjoyed, from their unique leader, an everlasting spring, from which they gained such a lot of the wisdom that His late Excellency had learned. He had gained from that spring such a lot of loftiness through staying up for preserving rights. He also knew, and learned, from this resource how to assimilate peace, which represents our message, along abreast to loftiness and refusal of resigning the rights which is certainly our duty. That resource has not dried up, because a flowing and abundant river has branched out of it, represented in this mass, which has had rapture in that spring and drunk cups by cups from the various branches of knowledge which our people inherited from that spring. It is, therefore, improbable and impossible for this mass to change the taste it has been accustomed to. It will never turn right or left to get away from that spring. Nay, it will keep company of the spring, represented in this abundant river branching out of it, bearing firmly in mind that this generous river will not dry up at all.

Your Excellency, Staff Lieutenant General,

I'd like to remind of something, you know more than I do, out of the secrets of our Late Leader, Allah's Mercy be with him. He was genius, and I do confirm it. He was an unequaled ruler in the world, so do I confirm it. But he, by Allah, always sought all help, and all means of facilitating his path, through sheltering to Allah, The Great and the Almighty. In this occasion, I would like to remind you of the short word I gave when he announced his satisfaction with Allah on the day when Bassel had ceased to be. In that word I addressed him with the Holy Qur'anic Verse : "Is not Allah sufficient for His slave? Yet they try to frighten you with those besides Him." [Surat Al-Zumar 39:36] I recited these Qur'anic words and looked at him. He replied with his own uttering tongue: "Yes, He is," and replied with his head as he was raising it: "Yes, He is. Is not Allah sufficient for His slave?"

Allah suffices, and you are the successor. I naturally know that the burden you are going to bear is too heavy, yet it will never be heavier than your strong will and determination. I am sure Allah will support you, and Allah will certainly never abandon you. I would like, however, to remind you of

something I previously reminded your father of, though he had never been oblivious, but he felt rapturous to hear what he had used to accord with, for it is must needs to resort a lot to Allah, internally before being externally. It is something I know about our Late Leader, though many people may not visualize this fact. But you know, as I do, that he used to resort a lot to Allah.

Make sure, your Excellency, that your capital is, **first**, to resort to Allah. **Secondly**, loving your people and being faithful to them. **Thirdly**, having mercy on your mass.

Allah will, undoubtedly, bring complete ruin to all the relief on your path, and will pave the way well before you. Concerning prayer, I can say - without simulation in this regard, and I know that I am saying the truth - that there are righteous and faithful individuals among our people. They have established close relation with Allah, and their tongues will never cease to pray for you. They will have been praying for you at sunset and sunrise. There are people who are praying for you when they prostrate to Allah. Sure they will pray for you during their prostration in the middle of the dark nights. I hope, therefore, that you will have more and more trust in the help of Allah, The All-High, and in His making your way easy.

Finally, I do congratulate the Syrian mass for not shifting from underneath that umbrella to a burning sun. They are rather enjoying broad shade, and are still marching with the flowing river which has branched out of that spring. I do congratulate, and the Arab World will know that I have to congratulate the whole Arab World, too.