

Chapter 8: The Virtue

Guarding His Heart

Ayatullah Araki relates some of master's virtue saying:

“Some particular virtue that I have noticed in him is guarding his heart, to prevent him from falling into the evil suggestions, since the heart is subject to wicked concepts and images”.¹

The Memorial of the Master

In spite of the bitter departure of Ayatullah Al-Ha'iri in the year 1315 S.H. (1936 A.D.), the dearest memorial remained clearly inside his faithful student and oftentimes be related many notions about his master during his lectures. Besides, preventing the people by Reza Khan to perform the funeral ceremony for him, (Al-Ha'iri) had left a panging passion in Al-Khonsari's heart, who continued his loyalty towards his master.

That is because Al-Hairi was not a mere master, but a unique spiritual inspirer for his students. So, Al-Khonsari's students suggested that he would better lecture the Book of Salat written by Ayatullah Al-Hairi and was accepted by the student master.

With His Students

Al-Khonsari was so kind with all his students...so element towards the, listening to their opinions and commentaries with complete respect, always trying to make them understand and to build their personality. While after the lecture, Al-Khonsari changes His position from a master to a mere friend of his students. But in spite of his humble and improved standards of morality, he was highly respected by his students as a master.

Al-Khonsari was always trying his best to improve his students' condition, so he paid them the highest salaries known in those days.

Mr. Al-Ashrafi says:

“Ayatullah Al-Khonsari was very humble, as he preceded others to salute them, without letting them precede him to do that”.[2](#)

With The Poor and Needy

Iran, before, lived incomplete state of poverty due to the corrupt policy and morals of its rulers. Casteism was evident everywhere. Most of the people were in deep illiteracy.

Al-Khonsari, who was aware and acquainted with that situation, urged perpetually cherish to help the poor and give the needy what they can.

He (Al-Khonsari) had accepted to be hired to perform prayers and fast for others, in order to son those who, in his opinion, were indigent. It is said that he spent the rest of his life in doing that deed. Many patients were being treated in the hospitals by a recommendation of him. [3](#)

Another story told by Mr. Husayn Al-Noori who said:

“Once we intended to visit Ayatullah Al-Khonsari at his home. A beggar asked him a shirt to wear. He immediately went inside and we followed him. We noticed that Sayyid had put off his own shirt and gave it to the beggar, then he sat as usual and began to talk with us regarding our lessons, as if nothing has happened at all..!.

An Adequate Living

When man realises that he is only a servant of Allah, he begins to establish an adequate living with contentment and peace, and so was Al-Khonsari earning his adequate and simple living by teaching, having the same characteristic of his poor people. Besides, and as a Marji', he prohibited himself to think about selfishness or to improve his life by luxurious living. He had his meals with his servants, joking and having nice conversations with them.

Mr. Al-Ashrafi says:"Our master used to drink the tea in earth ware pots, and refused our frequent requests to have his tea in glassware pots even once"[4](#)

Enjoining the Good

Al-Khonsari always craved after the best manners to advise others to do some good deeds using the most respective style and the kindest words.

It is said that once he was sitting with some young men who were beardless. So, he wanted to introduce the beard as an important feature for men, but without impassioning their feelings. He said:

“May Allah mercy upon our ancestors who were regarding the beard as a manly pose..!”[5](#)

Al-Khonsari's political attitudes sprang from this source.

With the Holy Quran

Once Al-Khonsari has been requested to give one of the attendants the Holy Qur'an thus:

“Is there any Holy Qur'an with your disposal?” – A phrase used in Arabic and Persian to honour a person while requesting something from as a polite style.

Al-Khonsari then became very angry and said: “Who am I that the Holy Qur'an be at my disposal? All the people of all ranks are at the Holy Qur'an's disposal, and they must be honoured by that. Really the wicked Satan has talked on behalf of you. Now don't repeat that again...!

The Anniversary of the Holy Lady Zaynab (a.s.)

Al-Sherif Al-Razi who was a well-known historian and researcher and who spent most of his life in history, gained access to know that the exact date of death of Sayyidah Zaynab (the daughter of Amirul Momeneen Ali A.S.) was on 15th Rajab 62 A.H. confirmed by fifteen reliable historical reports and documents, and gave his essay to Ayatullah Al-Khonsari who then approved that, and a ceremony for that anniversary was held by Al-Khonsari on 15th of Rajab 1328 S.H. (1949 A.D.) in Faydhiyyah school after performing the evening prayer. Since then, the mentioned anniversary was being celebrated by the people as formal occasion.

Another Good Attribute

It is said that, once Al-Khonsari was going home at night with some of his students, when he met a man who recited the verse of *wajib sajdah* (surah: Sajdah/15; Fussilat/37; Najm/62; Al-'Alaq/19), the matter that forced Al-Khonsari to prostrate immediately as a custom. The man who seemed an insane person, repeated that many times, and yet Al-Khonsari was also repeating his prostration each time, until one of Al-Khonsari's intended to punish the said man, but Al-Khonsari with his usual behaviour, prevented him to stop the insane from repeating those verses. Maybe Sayyid has enjoyed that very much.

In the Hospital

No doubt that the First World War has marked its effects on Ayatullah Al-Khonsari during his being arrested and expelled in an island in Singapore. Besides the torture and starvation he suffered. For the last few years of Ayatullah Al-Khonsari's life, it was clear that the past would have arose again and began to distribute him seriously, especially his heart. So, he was advised to go to Tehran for better treatment. Thus he travelled to be capital on the autumn of the year 1330 S.H. (1951 A.D.). He stayed there for four months and a half.

His Cultural Activity

Al-Khonsari insisted that the most essential and important factor that cause the nations to progress towards the right way, is providing children education. He declared that: “If we assured the children education and trained them perfectly, furnishing them with appropriate environment and faithful and sincere instructors, we will them be confident that our country is marching towards glory and prosperity.

Otherwise, we will receive nothing but disorder and forfeiture, and a strange generation will come up who will definitely sell his homeland and religion cheaply”.

While through his political view, he criticised the government personnel regarding the increasing straying from the right path among the young people especially in relate with religion and the misrepresented distorted picture they have got about Islam.

Ayatullah Al-Khonsari had formally censured the local publishers for distributing impolite and unethical books which are non Islamic even in the least degree. He then sent a telegram to the prime minister of that time Dr. Mosaddiq, requesting him to appoint a capable man for the Ministry of Culture in his next cabinet, and the taller promised him to do so.

- [1.](#) Hawzah Magazine. no. 12, p.28.
- [2.](#) Simaye Ferzanegan – Muhammad Reza Mukhtari .
- [3.](#) Majmoo'eyeh Hikmat Magazine, vol.I, no. 12, p.40 .
- [4.](#) Hawzah Magazine, no.36.
- [5.](#) Majmoo'ey Hikmat Magazin,vol.I, no. 12, p.24

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