

Publisher's Note

Dr. Muhammad Husayni Beheshti, the oppressed martyr was born in Isfahan in a cultured and learned family on 24th October. 1428.

At the early age of four, he started learning reading, writing and reciting the Holy Quran. He did not take long to complete primary education. After which he joined the Sadi High School of Isfahan, where he learnt the English language with the help of his associates. ·

By 30th August 1941, Martyr Beheshti felt a strong urge to enhance his knowledge about Islamic theology and culture. So, in the year 1942, at the age of fourteen, he secured admission in the Sadr Theology School of Isfahan and commenced his study of the religion and philosophy of Islam. Having successfully completed his studies and lessons in Arabic literature, logic, theology, jurisprudence and fundamental principles in that school in 1946, he proceeded to Qum for further studies.

During his period of study at the Theological Center of Qum, he benefitted from the knowledge of such learned authorities and distinguished scholars like the late Ayatollah Boroujerdi, Ayatollah Mohaqqiq Damad, Ayatollah Khonsari, Ayatollah Hojjat KuhKamari. Allamah Tabatabai, Haj Sheikh Murtada Hairi Yazdi, and our beloved Imam Khomeini.

After having obtained a diploma in literature from a modern school in 1948, he secured admission in the Tehran University, from where he was awarded a B.A. degree in Islamic Theology in 1951.

In the years that followed, he was persistently involved in political struggles. He played an important role in the happenings of 22 July 1952. He founded the “Qum's High School of Religion and Science (*Din wa Danesh*)” with the cooperation of a few militant and learned Ulama.

During the years 1956 to 1959, he wrote his thesis and was awarded a Ph. D. degree from the College of Theology. In 1962, when the Islamic Revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeini was still in its infancy, Martyr Beheshti assumed an active and energetic role in political struggles more than ever before, keeping in close contact with the '*Hey'at e- Mo'talafeh*' (The United Group).

In 1946, on the request of Muslims from Hamburg and on the advice of the leading religious jurisprudent

Ayatollah Boroujerdi, he fled to Hamburg. There he took over responsibility for the guidance of Muslims in Hamburg and founded "The Islamic Students' Union".

He visited Syria and Lebanon and also performed Haj pilgrimage to Mecca during these years. In 1969 he travelled to Iraq and met Imam Khomeini.

In 1970, he left Hamburg for Tehran, his native place, where he gave lectures pertaining to the Quran. However in 1979, he was imprisoned by the SAVAK and this brought his classes on the Quran and its commentary to a close.

Once released from prison, Martyr Beheshti organized a series of activities against the Shah's regime and while pursuing these, he left for Paris to meet Imam Khomeini who had migrated from Iraq.

He played an important role in holding public demonstrations against the imperialist regime of the Shah. After the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution, Martyr Beheshti became a member of the Islamic Revolutionary Council, and later, of the "Council of Experts". He played a worthy role in framing the Constitutional laws for the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the same period, with the assistance of some learned personalities and militant religious leaders (Ulama) he founded the *Hizb-e- Jomhuri-elslami* "The Islamic Republican Party".

On 23rd February 1979, Martyr Beheshti was nominated Chief Justice of Iran and while holding this position in 1981, on June 28th, at about 9 p.m., two powerful bombs blasted the roof of the central office of the Islamic Republican Party, martyring Beheshti and more than seventy two devoted followers of Imam Khomeini.

They shall forever be honored in our memory and may we ever follow in their footsteps in multitudes. May Allah bless them all.

The present work is a compilation of Martyr Ayatollah Dr. M. H. Beheshti's lectures, delivered on various occasions and covering different subjects. We offer the same to our English readers, hoping that these lectures will bring them a better understanding of the issues discussed.

International Relations Department Islamic Propagation Organization

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