

# TO THE CONSTITUTION MAKERS

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STUDENTS' VOICE

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### TO THE CONSTITUTION MAKERS

Soon after the appearance of these lines in this issue of student's Voice, the Constituent Assembly shall start its session and take decisions about matters of abiding effect and [reaching consequences for Pakistan. At this occasion we feel duty bound to convey the feelings and sentiments of the Islam-loving youth of the country to the higher-ups and frankly address the Constitution makers.

But at the very outset let us make it clear that our voice cannot be silenced by the hackneyed sermon that "Students must not dabble with politics." In fact it is a matter which directly affects and involves us as it affects the future—and it is to whom the future belongs. The Islam-loving youth of the country therefore feel constrained to express in unambiguous terms that they are not prepared to take it lying down if the government dares flout their wishes and tries to thrust a Constitution which is shorn of Islamic characteristics and threatens the evolution of democracy in the country.

#### **Why Islamic Constitution?**

Now our demand for Islamic constitution is based on the fact that the very dream of Pakistan remains unfulfilled if

**we try to accept slavishly the norms of the present godless regimes in our collective, political life. What, after all, is the sense of the partition of the Indian Sub-continent into Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India, if the Islamic Scheme of Government was not to bloom and bear fruit? The great massacre of Muslims, the unprecedented catastrophes that befell those who said La Ilaha Illallah in the subcontinent, the shame—»3 violation of the chastity of our women folk—were all these first because we wished to see some persons bearing Muslim names be seated on governmental**

authority or to create conditions which may be conducive for the commercial prosperity for their hoarding and black-marketing and smuggling-practices? Those who sacrificed and suffered for the achievement of a Muslim National homeland shall not tolerate this basic ideal of the nation to be trampled underfoot.

Islam—A Guarantee Against Disintegration.

We also strongly feel that not only the progress and welfare, but the very integrity and existence of the state, consisting of numerous geographical units and linguistic groups, is gravely threatened if Islam does not become a living sentiment in the hearts of the people of the country and if it is not allowed to weld them into one ideological whole. The experience of the past few years is sufficient to open the eyes of all. The rising tide of provincialism, the ever-growing bitterness on the language issue, the widening gulf of differences in the view points of the two wings of the country, all are symptoms of the disintegration that is taking firm roots in the body-politics of the nation. What else can arrest these disintegrating tendencies except Islam? The hollowness of mere speeches and statements against provincialism has been well demonstrated. It is by giving new life to our love of the Islamic ideology that the nation can have a basis of unity. It is Islam alone that will heal the wounds of hatred and broaden the outlook of the people. It successfully met, in Arabia, the challenge of disintegrating forces which led to long internecine feuds to unfold cruelty and barbarism. It came, when in the words of the Holy Quran the people of Arabia were :

"And remember ye, the blessings of Allah on you. When ye were enemies of one another. He created love in your hearts and thus, by the grace of Allah, ye became brothers. And ye were on the verge of Hell when He delivered ye from it "

(Al Quran 3,11,2)

And Islam is capable of repeating this miracle in every age and on every land.

Islam—The only hope of Humanity.

The failure of the western systems of life based on a negation of Divine guidance, is also a warning to us. The disastrous results furnished by these ideologies enough to disillusion the most rabid of its votaries and the blindest of its followers. Their failure also demands that we should experiment our own ideology and demonstrate its blessing before the oppressed mankind and show to the world the path of its survival, prosperity, progress and peace. Now this holds a great promise for us. It shows how invaluable, how noble is the service that we Muslims of Pakistan can render to the cause of mankind. Now if some power-drunk politicians try to extinguish the only ray of hope for the sake of loaves and Ashes, they have to be resisted tooth and nail.

### **Islam—the only Truth.**

And last but not the least, our demand for Islamic Constitution springs from our deep-rooted conviction that Islam alone is the true code of life, that it is the system of life revealed to the mankind by Allah Almighty; that human intellect unaided by Divine Revelation is incapable of guiding man aright. We also believe that as the creatures of Allah it is our duty to follow the guidance revealed by Him. As His Vice-gerents on earth, we also feel our responsibility to establish the kingdom of Allah. We also hold that none has the right to rule over us except in the light of Quran and Sunnah. And thus we reiterate we shall never bow down before an Un-Islamic Constitution—come what may

### **No Back Doors. Please !**

We therefore address ourselves earnestly to the members of the Constituent Assembly who have gathered to decide our future and remind them of their responsibility before the nation and before Allah, Omniscient.

It is now more than six years ago that work of constitution making was started and no less than about a crore of rupees have been hitherto spent. After this sheer waste of time and national money a new back door is being provided—the back door of an INTERIM CONSTITUTION—be sabotage the Islamic provisions of the last B.P.C. Report.

The verdict of the nation on the question is quite clear. It stands for an Islamic constitution and is bitterly opposed to any Interim Constitution. The East Pakistan Muslim League Party has unanimously opposed it, the President of the Constituent Assembly has opposed it, the leaders of the pre-partition League have opposed it and meetings are being held throughout the country to oppose it. Now who has the cheek to say that the nation needs an Interim Constitution—when the country is already being governed by an Interim Constitution.

Interim Constitution-But Why?

The protagonists of an Interim Constitution are vociferous on the point and the difference of opinion regarding 'certain' constitutional issues, No doubt, differences do exist. but if these differences can furnish any justifiable argument for the abrogation of B.P.C.

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Report, the almost unanimous opposition to the Interim Constitution should be a much weightier argument against its imposition. But keeping this aside, let us examine the genius of this argument.

The B.P.C. Report presented in the Assembly towards the end of 1952. no doubt raised some heated controversy, the main issues being those of parity between the Eastern and Western wings of the country, the formation of the Ulema Board.

Now even in case of an Interim Constitution there can be no escape from the first problem. The proportion of representation has to be evolved for the solution of the deadlock. Now this very formula can be accepted in case of permanent Constitution as well.

Secondly, the question of the Ulema Board does not arise at all as emphatic and unanimous demand has been made by Ulema of all schools of thought for its eradication.

Thus the last B.P.C. Report can be amended in a way that it may be brought in conformity with the aspirations of the people.

The plea for an Interim Constitution therefore becomes meaningless. Rather it is a fraudulent attempt to hoodwink the people, a subtle attempt to turn the popular victory into defeat.

We warn the members of the Constituent Assembly against being a party to this treacherous move.

You Are on Trial

The Constitution-makers should remember that they are on trial. The millat is rigidly looking towards them whether they prove themselves loyal to the objectives of the Muslim League and Qaid-e-Azam or merely the lackeys of the ruling few. They are facing an acid test. The youth are eagerly looking towards them whether they allow themselves to be intimidated, coerced or bribed into signing their own death warrant and going down in history as a set of unscrupulous weaklings who sang to the tune of the powers-that-be and sold the destiny of Pakistan for the lure of an ambassadorial or ministerial post or for some other gains or just to please the ruling clique and who tried to hold up the progress of the forces that are destined to give a new order to the world. If they choose to play the treacherous game of prostituting their conscience and bartering the future of the country by accepting the imposition of an interim, Un-Islamic Constitution, then remember that the nation will never play second fiddle to them. It will treat them and their proposals with the contempt they deserve. Remember :

We do not beg an Islamic Constitution, we demand It, and we pledge to have it. We suffered and struggled for Islam And are not prepared to **betray** our martyrs, by accepting any Un-Islamic Constitution. We are determined to have Islam-come what may ;

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