

Quaid-e-Jamhuriat – Shaheed Benazir Bhutto

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Every moment of the constant struggle of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, her speeches as a source of immense relief for the people, her fearless expression of absolute courage in the face of each threat and her resonant representation of the inspiration of people have always remained a source of real strength for me. Her great bravery and remarkable services for her beloved country could inspire any individual in the world and her sacrifice and laying down her life is termed as a guarantee for the sustainability of democracy in Pakistan.



This great leader of ours, who practically followed the golden principles of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto ought to be remembered as “Quaid-e-Jamhuriat (Leader of Democracy)” as it is merely a result of her forceful efforts that democracy in Pakistan is fully vibrant and functional and striving to improve the performance of the nation with full zest and vigor.

My memories of all the spectacular moments that I spent with my Quaid-e-Jamhuriat are precious asset for me and words cannot do justice even if I try to mention everything relevant to her. While writing this article, I am again recounting all those moments which surely provide the very basis of my political life and are part of my most cherished treasure.

The unprecedented leadership and epic struggle of Shaheed Mohtarma would always remain imprinted on my mind. It is a matter of immense honor for me to be able to observe her endeavors in proximity. The level of her commitment and perseverance always provided continued guidance. My conversations with Shaheed BB during the struggle for democracy and her persistent guidance have become an integral part of my personality.

The overall welfare of the people of Pakistan, empowerment of women and creation of new economic opportunities for the youth of the country remained her major concerns. Her reason behind the decision of coming back to Pakistan was out of her deep affection for the people. She was well aware of the fact that the rights of the people were not being provided in the absence of genuine democracy and hence, the integrity of federation is in jeopardy. The unparalleled courage of my Shaheed BB could be ascertained from the fact that while she spent many precious years of her life either under house arrest, in the various prisons of the country or in forced exile but she still kept voicing her truthful stance unfathomably.

Shaheed Mohtarma's return to homeland in 2007 infused a great spirit in the struggle for establishing a genuine democracy in the country. While working with our great leader, we were immensely stirred with passion and commitment for the people by taking great deal of inspiration from her.

The cruel and barbaric forces snatched this greatest gift of God to the nation from us in the tragic incident of 27th December but she would always remain a beacon of light for democracy. The enemies of the country targeted Shaheed BB to thwart the rule of people of Pakistan while she laid her life to save the Federation of Pakistan and to safeguard the rights of the people of the country. There is no denying the fact that today the light of truthfulness has pushed the darkness of lies forever.

During her last historic and heroic speech, Quaid-e-Jamhuriat expressed her uncompromised stance about the democratic future of Pakistan where there was no room for the forces representing the obscurantist mindset and having anti-people agenda. This was indeed a commitment with the restoration of true democracy in the country and thus creation of a social welfare state where the socio-economic rights of every citizen are provided and protected through the high values of democracy.

Being leader of the masses, Shaheed BB was the most effective and forceful advocate of the democratic and human rights of all the citizens of Pakistan including exclusively the vulnerable and marginalized segments of society. Her murderers in fact attempted to exterminate the hopes and aspirations of the people but they are bound to fail as Quaid-e-Jamhuriat has become a symbol of hope and resistance and thus an invigorating factor for them to pursue with their dreams.

Thank God, today, by virtue of the visionary leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari, we are on the path to achieve a prosperous and stronger Pakistan as per the aspirations of Shaheed BB. Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) can be termed as the practical manifestation of our great leader's vision highlighted in slogan of "Roti, Kapra aor Makan – Elm, Roshni, Sab ko kaam". We can rightly claim that BISP is playing a vital role in improving the socio-

economic conditions of underprivileged segment of the country. The trust of the people and unprecedented service is a reality and has received tremendous applause and endorsement from the entire world.

It is worth stating here on the Youm-e-Shahadat of Quaid-e-Jamhuriat Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto that the successful journey from dictatorship to democracy is undoubtedly the immortal gift presented to the people of Pakistan by our great leader.

At the end, I would like to pray for the Chairman of PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari a great success to lead Pakistan towards a better frontier of prosperity, independence and sovereignty.

May God bless BB and her family. Pakistan Zindabad.

(Especially written Article in connection with the 5th Martyrdom Anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto)