

POLITICAL LESSONS (I)

The real potential of the people and the reserves of the country has not been realized.

Honest, sincere and dedicated persons should be elected to the assemblies. Honesty and sincerity should be preferred to ill-gotten wealth.

Politics is necessary to establish democracy in Pakistan.

Corruption, injustice, non-recognition of merit and the absence of rule of law are eating Pakistan to the core.

What we have is mismanagement, wrong planning, apathy, corruption, loot and plunder. No government has tried to change the system.

What we have is politics of power, and no one is concerned with the problems of the people.

Slight improvement at the macro level has had no impact on the people's lives.

Corruption, dishonesty and selfishness have affected the attitudes of the people. They have lost their tolerance and the spirit of serving humanity. Opportunist politicians have made the people indifferent to politics.

The poor are becoming poorer and the rich are getting richer. There is no equality and justice in the distribution of wealth, and only a privileged class rules over 90 percent of the masses.

Every ruler is responsible before God for the welfare of the people. He should be accessible to the people and take personal interest in their problems and promote the people's prosperity.

The people are the “real wealth” of a country. Investment in their welfare would allow them to progress and enhance their taxable capability.

Government servants should adopt a modest bearing towards the public, shun an ostentatious lifestyle and live as ordinary people. They should eat simple food and wear clothes made of coarse fabric. They should not be arbitrary and act within the law.

The governors and ministers should refrain from self-projection and image building.

A judge should persevere in examining the pros and cons of matters that come before him. He should be willing to rectify his own errors of judgement.

Man has an obligation to choose the path of righteousness, to safeguard his freedom and that of others.

Freedom of thought comes within the framework of ideological commitment. Freedom of thought breeds freedom of speech, strong unwavering character secure in their self-knowledge, have confidence in themselves and their values, and whose behaviour will always reflect their strength. Freedom is an inalienable right which enables man to lead a moral and upright life.

Follow the principles of justice, equality and freedom – the freedom of thought, belief and speech – that guarantee equality of status and security of life without making any difference between men of various denominations.

Do not be a mere initiator without firm determination.

Safdar Hasan Siddiqi
13th August, 2004.

