

صديقه وعدوه .

وهو المناظر القوي الحجة والحاضر البديهة عند ما يدافع عن الاسلام وقضاياه ويرد على أهل الزيغ والضلال . وقد اقيم له حوار قبل الحادثة الفاجعة بيوم واحد فقط بينه وبين الذين كانوا يطالبون بتنفيذ الفقه الحنفي أو الجعفري أو غيرهما من المذاهب الفقهية ، وكان رحمه الله يقول أن لا نقبل بديلا من القرآن والسنة . و قد استمر الحوار لمدة ست ساعات ونصف ساعة يدافع عن القرآن والسنة ويدعو الى التمسك بهما . وقد أعلن الحكم النتيجة في اليوم الثاني فقالوا ان الحق مع العلامة احسان الهي ظهير وجماعته ، فكان نصرا مبينا للحق وهزيمة نكراء لمعارضيه .

وفي مساء ذلك اليوم انفجرت القنبلة المنحوسة عند ما كان الشهيد رحمه الله يخطب في جمع غفير محتشد لأهل الحديث في أحد ميادين لاهور ، فكانت الكارثة الكبرى التي ما بعدها من كارثة والمصيبة التي ما بعدها من مصيبة ، حيث ذهب ضحيتها نخبة الدعاة السلفيين أمثال الشيخ حبيب الرحمن يزداني والشيخ عبد الخالق قدوسي والشاب المجاهد محمد خان نجيب وغيرهم من الأرواح الزكية التي لم يكن ذنبهم غير أنهم كانوا ينادون بالامة الاسلامية للعودة الى الاسلام الصحيح والتمسك بالكتاب والسنة . وعلى رأسهم هذا الشهيد العظيم الذي لم تعرف الساحات أمثل منه ولا أقرب منه . وسوف تبكي المنابر وتئن المحارب اليه لمدة طويلة حتى يأتي الله بمن يملأ هذا الفراغ ، وما ذلك على الله العزيز ، وصدق الله عز وجل اذ يقول : ﴿ من المؤمنين رجال صدقوا ما عاهدوا الله عليه فمنهم من قضى نحبه ومنهم من ينتظر ﴾ .

فقد أفدوا بأرواحهم في سبيل الله وقدموا أنفسهم شهادة على صدق نيتهم وإخلاصهم لله ورسوله .

فرحك الله يا شهيد الاسلام ، يا من كان يتمنى الموت في سبيل الله يا من عاش عزيزا ومات كريما ، يا من قدم روحه شهادة على صفاء باطنه ونقاء نيته . واخسأوا أيها الضلال الذين دأبوا على ممارسة الارهاب وحبك الموامرات ضد أهل السنة في كل زمان ومكان ، يا أحفاء النظام والبشر المريسي ويا أبناء عبد الله ابن سبأ اليهودي ويا اتباع أهل النفاق والارتداد لا تفرحوا وانتظروا ذلك اليوم العصيب الذي تقفون فيه امام الواحد القهار وتصرخ بكم دماء الشهداء الابرياء الذين قتلوا وهم في الساحة يناضلون ضد باطلكم ، يوم لا تنفع قنابلكم الحارقة ودسائلكم الجهنمية ، يوم يقول الله جل شأنه ﴿ اخسأوا فيها ولا تكلمون ﴾ .

وشرى لكم أَمَا الشهداء وشرى لك أيها الظالم الجنايا الاسلام الذي لم يعرف الخور والجلين في حياته ولم يخف في الله لومة لائم ولم يرض بروحه في سبيل ربه الذي أعزه بالاسلام وأكرمه بالشهادة التي هي بغية كل مسلم مخلص في دينه ، فأنت الراجح وأنت الفائز وأنت الكريم وأنت الذي يرجى له الخير والحمد لله على قضائه وقدره .

وانتم أيها الموحدون السلفيون باجماعة أهل الحديث في كل مكان ، ويا من بشره النبي العربي ﷺ فقال : لا تزال طائفة من أمتي منصورين - الحديث .

لا تقنطوا من رحمة الله ولا تئسوا واصمدوا في سبيل الحق مثل الجبل الصلد الذي لا يعرف الزعزعة ولا يعترف بها ، فأنتم أبناء هذا الدين وحماته ، واتخذوا من حياة الشهيد نبراسا لكم ، تعلموا أولادكم الصبر والاستقامة في سبيل الله وربهم على الصديق مع الله والجهاد في سبيله فان الظالمين بعضهم أولياء بعض والله ولي المتقين ، والله ولي المؤمنين ، ألا أن أولياء الله لا خوف عليهم ولا هم يحزنون . حينئذ الله لا إله إلا هو عليه توكلنا ، ومن يتوكل على الله فهو حسبه ◇ ◇

There have also been political assassinations. But since the killing of the PPP leader Hayat Mohammad Khan Sherpao in a bomb blast in Peshawar on February 8, 1975, this is the only occasion when an explosive device was pointedly aimed at the main speakers in a public meeting. Again, unlike the relatively small student gathering at which Mr Sherpao was killed, this was a large public meeting and casualties have been staggeringly high. It has also come at a very critical moment in our history when the national drift has created an environment of deep fear and uncertainty. It is significant that this politically motivated act of terror was staged in Lahore, which remained relatively calm when Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta were rocked by bomb blasts or ethnic clashes.

Monday's bomb explosion raises many disturbing questions. It was in all appearances a thorough professional job. According to reports, the device was planted in a flower vase delivered by some unknown person. It was a highly sophisticated device, carefully timed to go off to do maximum damage. There is still no clue as to who the culprits are or might have been. Nor is it clear whether the aim was to eliminate Allama Zaheer and other Jamiat leaders or had a more sinister purpose, namely to create an atmosphere of terror and strengthen the forces of destabilisation in the country. One also does not know whether Allama Zaheer and his party's strong dissenting position on certain political and controversial legislative issues earned them the blind animosity of certain forces leading to the monstrous act of assassination which has now claimed its frightful toll. Irrespective of

the sinister motives of the perpetrators of this crime, no effort or ingenuity must be spared to trace the culprits whoever they are and bring them to justice. Similarly, every effort must now be made to preserve an environment of tranquillity so that the process of opinion formation can continue as part of an open and legitimate political process. Just about a year ago, some of the largest public rallies ever were held in a completely peaceful manner. The cost to our polity will be grievous if peace and public order are not protected against the machinations of the forces of violence and disorder. The major responsibility in this regard rests upon the authorities whose foremost task is to track down the saboteurs who are guilty of Monday's blast. They should also take the necessary precautions to forestall any future acts of political terrorism and subversion in the country. The custodians of public order and security have an onerous duty to perform. For their part, the political parties too must now be more alert about the security situation at their rallies and meetings. But on no account must the political process be allowed to be rampered with or put under undue trammels. It is unfortunate that the authorities have not been able to check the rapid spread of illegal arms in the country. Free availability of such weapons makes things only too easy for potential terrorists. In spite of repeated assurances, no successful campaign has yet been launched to rid society of unlawful, sophisticated weaponry. The cult of violence is gaining strength and virulence at an alarming rate. We need all our resources and will to counter this trend which portends danger to society and

crowded meeting of the youth wing of Jamiat Ahle Hadith. Allama Zaheer was addressing the meeting when the blast occurred and he was seriously wounded. He was later flown to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment where, after the amputation of his right leg, he succumbed to his injuries in the small hours of Monday. His death has understandably thrown a pall of gloom over the country, raising disturbing questions about the likely consequences of politically motivated violence at this critical juncture in the nation's history. This act of terrorism has taken a shattering toll in the death of Allama Zaheer, a religious scholar and political leader of great capabilities and promise. It is shocking to learn that he was only 46 when his life was so cruelly cut short by a fiendish act of criminality. As Secretary-General of the Jamiat, he was the moving spirit behind his party and his integrity and sense of commitment to his cause were exemplary. We shall miss him all the more because of his courage and his

leadership qualities. His death has been consoled, amidst glowing tributes and loving reminiscences, by leaders of all persuasions. Apart from being an eloquent exponent of Islam, Allama Zaheer was a man of learning in a wider sense, having graduated in law and acquired masters' degree in as many as six subjects. He was also educated at the Madina University. As an author of several books in Arabic, he was held in high esteem in the Islamic world. It is not usual for a man as involved as he was politically and in contemporary issues of life to have such scholarly achievements to his credit. At a time when violence has spread at an alarming rate, Allama Zaheer has become its most notable victim. His death should shock us into an awareness of what this horrific aberration, this drift could entail for the future of the nation. Allama Zaheer was a democrat and a

free man of religion, who did not compromise his religious conviction or his political

beliefs either for expediencies or for fear of retribution.

DAWN

A national tragedy

THERE is shock and dismay over the bomb explosion in a Pakistan Day public meeting in Lahore which claimed a terrible toll of casualties. That eight persons died and about one hundred were injured makes it one of the worst incidents of its kind in recent years. Among those critically injured is Allama Ehsan Elahi Zaheer, leader of Jamiat Ahle Hadith. He was addressing the meeting called by the youth wing of the Jamiat when the bomb went

off. It was ostensibly aimed at Allama Zaheer and the other prominent leaders and activists of the party. Maulana Habibur Rehman Yazdani, Naib Amir of the Jamiat, is among those killed. Even in the current perspective of widespread violence and subversion, this one touches a new benchmark in our turbulent political history. Political meetings have been disrupted in the past and minor blasts have occurred on the periphery of public gatherings.

experience. It is intriguing why it has happened in Lahore and that too on Pakistan Day. But whosoever is behind it has made a calculated effort to sow the seeds of strife in a province which has hitherto had a peaceful political life.

Needless to say such incidents are prone to disrupt the democratic process and strengthen the hands of those who advocate total clampdown on all political activities in the name of peace and stability. Violence as a political weapon has been made possible by the proliferation of arms of all sorts in the open market, which are easily available to those who can afford to buy them. If the Government is keen to safeguard the life and property of its citizens, it should act decisively to put an end to the growing "culture of Kalashnikovs". The tragic incident at Lahore may have far-reaching consequences and can be exploited by the vested interest to foment trouble and conflict between different sections of society. It may also lead to disturbances and mass violence.

Undoubtedly it is the work of unscrupulous disruptionists who are out to wreck the peace and solidarity of the nation, but the Government cannot be absolved of its responsibility to ensure the safety of the citizens. Its failure to make adequate security arrangements on Pakistan Day is a serious lapse and will reflect adversely on its credibility. It is time a wholehearted effort was made to tackle the growing menace of violence in politics. It is an issue on which all patriotic elements, regardless of their political affiliations, would be willing to cooperate.

The Government, despite its tall claims to punish the disruptionists, has so far failed to contain violence; and if the incident at Lahore is treated like routine business, the horrifying phenomenon may cause irreparable damage. The litmus test of government sincerity and efficiency would be how soon the probe is made and the facts of the matter brought to light.

THE PAKISTAN TIMES

Death of a crusader

WITH the death of Allama Ehsan Elahi Zaheer in a Riyadh hospital, the infamy of the bomb blast in which he was seriously injured on Pakistan Day in Lahore has acquired a

more tragic dimension and added a more sinister twist to the possible motives behind the murderous plot. Eight persons had died when the explosive device had gone off in the

Allama Ehsan Elahi Zaheer

ALLAMA Ehsan Elahi Zaheer's demise has deprived the country of a religious scholar and a political leader. With his death the toll of victims of the bomb blast at the public meeting on March 23 in Lahore has come to nine. Allama Zaheer received his religious education at Jamia Mohammedia, Gujranwala, and the Islamic University, Madina. Later, he acquired Master's degrees in six subjects, including Arabic, Persian, English and Urdu. He was an enlightened religious 'alim' who did not see eye-to-eye with obscurantist and semi-literate maulvis. As an anti-imperialist, he exposed such elements which have had direct or indirect links with imperialism or Zionism. For him there was no incompatibility between Islam and democracy. He, therefore, consistently opposed the Martial Law regime and the nominated Majlis-e-Shoora. He also had no liking for the successor regime that came into existence as a result of "partyless" elections. The Shariah Bill, sponsored by jamaat-e-Islami, was the object of his sharp criticism.

So far there is no clue about the persons responsible for the bomb blast that killed Allama Zaheer. It is a dastardly political murder, following the assassination of Fazil Rahu, Hisbani and Saadatullah. While it is true that proliferation of arms has increased the incidence of crime, political murders are no ordinary criminal acts. These are always the result of conspiracy by political opponents. If the Government fails to trace and apprehend the real culprits, the aggrieved parties will begin to suspect an official hand in the assassination of opposition leaders.

THE MUSLIM Violence in politics

TEN people were killed and 91 injured when a powerful bomb went off during the course of a Pakistan Day meeting of Jamiat-Ahle Hadees at Lahore. It is far too early to say which elements are responsible for this heinous crime. Hopefully, the police will give a better account of its investigating prowess than has been evident with regard to similar incidents in the past. Bomb blasts have become a recurring phenomenon in the Frontier, and Sind too has had its share of political violence, but this is the first time that Punjab has gone through such an