

Book to go!

The Man of the Future

Hamid Kasiri



ILogos's 5th Anniversary!

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Book to Go!

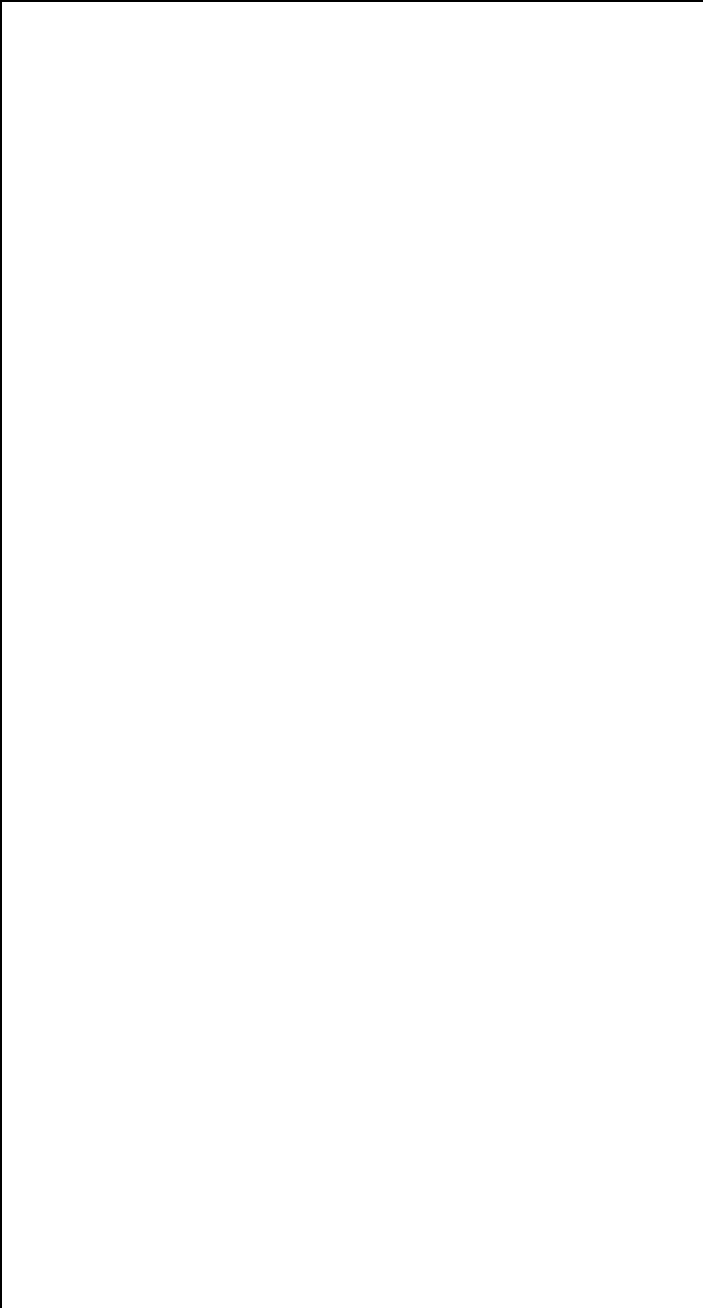
“Book to Go!” as a new book series deals with some relevant issues from the perspective of the Shia Islam. Everything presented here is **“Shiite Discourses”** and was published in my previous works, but some readers were interested to have them in a new compact form so that they can take them with on travel, on the subway and ...!

These multi-volume study booklets are a kind of **“Book to Go!”** and try to remind us in a different way of actions and lead us to harmony between faith and praxis and in life with others: *“Behave toward people the way, you want them to behave toward you.”* And this is my way, so follow it and do not follow the other paths.

This book series is published in the hope of contributing to a better understanding of **“Shiite Discourses”** in the 21st century. **“Book to Go!”** aims to motivate people to think. It thus doesn't mean, “cash and carry” or “cash and go”, but rather **“cash and read”!** This is because reading leads to the revival of the soul and refresh the mind!

Hamid Kasiri
(Amin-ul-Islam Mazandarani)

Vienna, at 03.03.2023!



Life Stories & Fatih's Stories

The intention of the Shiite historical discourse is always to transmit a teaching, be it moral, theological or mystical. It tries through the traditions, to help people to deepen their faith and to realize moral values by highlighting some of the main personalities, mostly the prophets. In doing so, they should be guided to strive for a consistent completion of humanity and human norms, which are presented alongside divine values - or even as divine values.

To this end, it is not enough to simply tell or recount the events one after the other, but in order to remind people of their Testament with the Sublime, they should be guided to build up their world of faith, in whose spiritual environment the decrees of faith are alive.

Life stories are important, but more important are those of faith. To turn the real

world of people into a world of faith, many 'stories' are taken up again at several points in the Quran and told from different - theological, moral, mystical and social - points of view.

This is a method of the Hl. Quran concerning the internalization of the history of faith, doctrine and values of faith. It does not speak of election myths, but of the *faith on election* that is to be realized in life to pave the way to salvation for people, namely "*the straight path*".¹

Today - as then - this awakens passions, makes people struggle for promise, and people discover comfort and encouragement in it. Whoever meditates, seeks their center, gets involved with them, lets himself be drawn into the depths of prophetic experiences with God without fear of contact, will not remain unchanged or unmolested. God speaks to man in a freedom of will that seeks to grasp him and transform him, to liberate and reconcile him.

God is courting him - in these images, stories and very human languages, to bring about a movement in him, just as He sent the prophets to awaken the human being as

¹ The Holy Quran 1:6.

the crowning of the creatures: “Then Allah sent His Messengers and series of His prophets towards them to get them to fulfil the pledges of His creation, to recall to them His bounties, to exhort them by preaching, to unveil before them the hidden virtues of wisdom and show them the signs of His Omnipotence namely the sky which is raised over them, the earth that is placed beneath them, means of living that sustain them, deaths that make them die, ailments that turn them old and incidents that successively betake them.”²

The fact that about 13 times the Hl. Quran is commanded to study in the world and examines the situation of nations and ethnicities dose indicate the importance of the topic of history. The Hl. Quran emphasizes the will and authority of human beings more than anything and considers human

² Imam Ali: *Nahjul Balaghah*. Selected from sermons, letters, and sayings of Amir Al-Mominin Ali Ibn Abi Talib (A. S.). Arabic and English. Selected and compiled by: As-Sayyid Abul-Hassan Muhammad ibn al-Husayn ar-Radi al-Musawi. Translator: Sayyid Ali Reza. Ansarian Publications, Qum/Iran, 52007, (first part): Vol. 1, Sermon 1, p. 28-30. During this series, the footnotes refer to this work as follows: Imam Ali: *Nahj Al-Balagha*. Ansariyan Publications, Qum, Iran, 2002, Vol. 1, Sermon 1, p. 28-30.

beings as the driving force behind history and believes that human beings make their own history.

The fact that the Hl. Quran calls on man to study history and reminds man to pass through superficial and rapid perspectives and to look deeply into historical events is very important. When the Quran considers the denial of divine signs, oppression and debauchery as one of the causes of the defeat of many tribes and nations, and compels man to contemplate it, it indicates that if a society steps in that path, it will undoubtedly fall.

In this way the faithful people are waiting for the longed-for Imam. So, it becomes clear that the faithful are confident about the future in the absence of the *Imam of Time* - and although they suffer under the oppressors, they will never give up hope for the future, and they do not see the world through the glasses of fear, anxiety and hopelessness. Otherwise, we will lose our identity and the hope and expectation of Imam Mahdi (a).

It is important for man, as an essential foundation for his life, to use a view of the heart and love in addition to reason. For it is from love that we can more easily

participate in expectation and hope. Through prayer, supplication and dialogue, for example, we can have an intimate connection with Imam Mahdi and thus build strong bridges between us and him. Through the following prayer of Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (s) we build a bridge³ of faith, trust and love between us and Imam Mahdi (a):

“Oh God, we ask You the establishment of the noble government by which You will help Islam and its followers to glory and prestige and humiliate hypocrisy and its followers. Make us into those who call for obedience to You and those who lead to Your way, and let us be honored in this life and the life beyond.”⁴

قال الامام الباقر عليه السلام:

"اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَرْغَبُ إِلَيْكَ فِي دَوْلَةٍ كَرِيمَةٍ تُعِزُّ بِهَا الْإِسْلَامَ وَ أَهْلَهُ
وَ تُذَلُّ بِهَا النِّفَاقَ وَ أَهْلَهُ وَ تَجْعَلُنَا فِيهَا مِنْ الدُّعَاةِ إِلَى طَاعَتِكَ
وَ الْقَادَةِ إِلَى سَبِيلِكَ وَ تَرْزُقُنَا بِهَا كِرَامَةَ الدُّنْيَا وَ الْآخِرَةِ."

Now we pray the supplication of the same Imam al-Mahdi (a) regarding of his

³ We can also make this bridge accessible to others by proclaiming the faith in Imam Mahdi (a) and Mahdawiya's view.

⁴ Majlisi, M. B. (Allama): *Bihar-ul-Anwa*. Moassasah al-Wafa, Beirut/Lebanon, ²1982, Vol. 88, p. 6.

reappearance:

Oh, God let us belong to the helpers,
followers and faithful of the *Imam of Time*
and to wrap us in the devotion and prayer
of the *Imam of Time*.

We pray to God that salvation and relief
through the *Imam of Time* may come soon,
and we beg God that with the great event of
his reappearance he can especially bless all
people.

We strive for the realization of the goals
of this teaching, which, as the Prophet
Muhammad (s) said, ***is more important
and loftier than any other worship!***⁵

We also should recognize the counter
movements that do not let us clearly see
which paths lead into the light of the ***right
expectation***, and not into the darkness of
going astray. In this way, we are waiting for
the longed-for Imam and hand in hand we
think of those:

- *Expectation* (الإنتظار),

⁵ Saduq, Sheikh Abu Dschafar Muhammad ibn Ali
(ibn Babwaih al-Qumi): *Kamal-ud-Din wa
tamam-un-Nemah*, Moassasah al-Nashr al-Is-
lami, Qum/Iran, 1985, p. 644. Cf.: Majlisi, M. B.
(Allama): *Bihar-ul-Anwar*, Moassasah al-Wafa,
Beirut/Libanon, 21982, Vol. 52, p. 128.

- *Facilitation* (الفرج)
- *Salvation* (النجاة).

As mentioned before, Shiite identity is based on expectation and hope. For this, it is necessary to recognize ourselves and to think about where we have arrived on the path of ***Imam Mahdi's expectation!***

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to bring about this volume: *Al-Hajj Abu-Mostafa al-Karbalaei!*

Book to Go!

"Book to Go!" as a multi-volume study booklet is a kind of **"cash and read"** and tries to remind the readers different ways of thinking and actions. Its compact content leads to harmony between faith and praxis and in living with others.

The Man of the Future

The man of our time is either a *"perfect man"*, or an *"ordinary man"*. The *"perfect man"* is Imam Mahdi, and the average human being, all of us. Likewise, the man of the future is either a perfect man (Imam Mahdi) or an ordinary man, who obeys the longed-for Imam Mahdi. The ordinary people are either a real Mahdawi or a little bit less or not at all Mahdawi. The more Mahdawi the man of today is, the better his future will be, because the future lays in the light of Imam Madi (a).

Prof. Dr. Hamid Kasiri

Author of several book series on nonviolent, Dialogue, *"Just peace"* and Shia Studies. His monographs on Shia Islam at universities are now considered as classics. He is the founder and owner of **"ILogos International Publications"**, Vienna/Austria.

