



Components of Civilization-Building in the Biography of Imam Ali (AS) with a Quranic Approach

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Abstract

After the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Imam Ali (AS) played a very important role in shaping Islamic civilization. To explain this role, examining the components and indicators of civilization-building in the biography of Imam Ali is of great importance. The main issue of this research is to identify which components of civilization-building exist in the biography of Imam Ali (AS). Using a descriptive-analytical method, this article examines the Alawite biography and the role of Imam Ali in Islamic civilization-building with the aim of investigating and explaining the components of civilization-building in both his theoretical and practical biography from a Quranic perspective. The findings of the research indicate that Imam Ali had a visionary insight and a civilization-building personality. His fundamental role in Islamic civilization is strengthening the components of Islamic cultural civilization among the people and employing them in his own government. Ethics, human dignity, freedom and free thinking, patience and resistance, justice, and solidarity are among the spiritual components of civilization-building in the biography and government of Alawites.

Keywords: Imam Ali, Islamic civilization, civilization-building components, Quran.

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Introduction:

The main claim of this article is that Imam Ali (AS) nurtured the seeds of a civilization that the Prophet (PBUH) sowed in the Islamic community based on the Quran and religious teachings. The infallible Imams (AS) deepened this foundation, transforming it into a robust tree known as "Islamic civilization," despite the detrimental practices of the Umayyad and Abbasid rulers. The significant issue to be clarified is the role of the Imams in Islamic civilization-building. This article focuses on Imam Ali's (AS) role in this process. Every civilization, including Islamic civilization, has its components. This paper aims to answer the main question: What are the civilization-building elements in Imam Ali's (AS) conduct?

The importance of this research lies in reading the conduct of the Imams from a civilizational perspective with a Quranic approach. The conduct and teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt (AS) provide fundamental civilizational principles that must be extracted, reinterpreted from a civilizational viewpoint, and then institutionalized in society. Moreover, during a time when the idea of reviving Islamic civilization is gaining momentum, there is a need to present an optimal model of religion's application in the political sphere and to lay the groundwork for a model of religious civilization. Thus, examining and explaining the elements of Islamic civilization in the conduct of the Imams, particularly Imam Ali (AS), who succeeded in establishing an Islamic government, is of great importance. Importantly, Imam Ali's (AS) conduct, as an accepted leader by both Shia and Sunni, can serve as a model for modern Islamic civilization-building in all Islamic countries. Indeed, the civilizational thought of Ali (AS) is a blueprint for all humanity. Therefore, it should be transformed from a religious discourse into a universal discourse since the criteria Ali (AS) proposes are relevant to all humans, not just Shia or Muslims.

Research Method:

This paper uses a descriptive-analytical method to explore Imam Ali's (AS) conduct and his role in Islamic civilization-building. The aim is to examine and explain the civilizational elements in his theoretical and practical conduct with a Quranic approach. Given the multilayered and interdisciplinary nature of civilizational studies, selecting the appropriate research method is crucial (cf. Motahhari-Nasab, 1397). The current research is developmental rather than applied or strategic; it is conducted with a Quranic and historical approach, examining the growth factors of Islamic civilization during Imam Ali's (AS) era. Using library research methods, Quranic, hadith, and historical sources were collected, and the civilizational elements in Ali's (AS) conduct were described and analyzed.



Research Findings:

The findings indicate that Imam Ali (AS) had a civilizational vision and a civilization-building personality. His primary role in Islamic civilization was strengthening the civilization-building elements of Islamic culture among the people and applying them in his governance. Moral values, human dignity and honor, freedom and free-thinking, patience and resilience, justice, and solidarity are among the spiritual civilizational elements in Ali's (AS) conduct and governance.

Results:

Imam Ali (AS) had a civilizational vision and a civilization-building personality. Besides his extensive knowledge and significant role in founding many sciences such as jurisprudence, exegesis, theology, grammar, and recitation, he established the Kufa school of thought by promoting a culture of teaching and learning. His scientific guidelines, attention to education, respect for scholars, and promotion of rationality were prominent features of Ali's (AS) governance that influenced the formation of Islamic civilization. However, his essential role in Islamic civilization was reinforcing the civilizational elements of Islamic culture among the people and utilizing them in his rule.

These elements are the spiritual components of civilization that accelerated after the Prophet's (PBUH) demise, and without Ali (AS), the chain of Islamic civilization might have broken at the outset.

Morality, human dignity, patience and resilience, freedom, justice, unity, and solidarity are among the spiritual civilizational elements in Ali's (AS) conduct and governance. The criteria Ali (AS) set for his government indicate his civilizational approach, with each criterion representing a step toward building and consolidating Islamic civilization. Overall, the nature and style of Imam Ali's (AS) conduct are civilizational.

The final point is that the civilizational elements proposed by Imam Ali (AS) have a cognitive dimension and are applicable throughout Islamic history. In an era where the idea of reviving modern Islamic civilization is flourishing, there is a need to present an optimal model of religion's application in politics and to lay the groundwork for a model of religious civilization. In this context, the conduct of Imam Ali (AS), as an accepted leader by both Shia and Sunni, can serve as an excellent model for Muslims in modern Islamic civilization-building across all Islamic countries.



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