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# OUR FAKE LEADERS

Our presidents or prime ministers neither understand nor respect the basic norms of democracy. Make no mistake: Zardari or Nawaz, both are a true aberration. History reveals that Ayub Khan had more democratic norms than any other ruler of the country. There is no figure like him in history, for which we should be thankful.



Nawaz's inexperience is unique; his weakness is exponentially compounded by his ignorance of both policy and process, his lack of curiosity, his inability to focus and his tremendous insecurity. He refuses to acknowledge his shortcomings, let alone come to terms with them; and he desperately craves the kind of sycophantic adulation.

The signers of the Constitution of Pakistan were highly imperfect men. Z.A.Bhutto and his fellow parliamentarians were rank hypocrites for declaring it "Islamic Republic of Pakistan", none of them or their successors worked according to Islamic norms. If closely observe, all social democrat countries would seem working near to those norms.

Bhutto's slogan of "Roti, Kapra aur Makan" caught the attraction of masses. Poor nationals, later came to know the real meanings of the slogan, that he will make the reach to "Roti, Kapra aur Makan" so difficult, they will just confine to their day to day requirements.

Z.A.Bhutto was sour and disputatious, and later as prime minister cracked down on opposition for any criticism on the government. Yet they laid out a set of principles, later codified in the Constitution through amendments specially the 6<sup>th</sup> amendments, which transcended with number of flaws. At this bizarre moment in our history, it is valuable to remember that the ideas and experiments with institutions are much more throbbing and devastating than the idiosyncrasies of our leaders.

I call this moment bizarre for obvious reasons. As the head of the state, it's the duty of the leader to look after the public interest than the ruling class. Our leaders are , if we take it as "FakeHeros", they string along their supporters with promises they have no idea how to keep. Nawaz Shareef, like many, a would-be strongman defines himself politically by the fights he picks; he erects straw men, faceless "elites," cable television hosts, nonexistent individuals or groups waging an imaginary "HERO" because authoritarians always need enemies. Yet his ego is a delicate hothouse flower, threatened by the slightest puff of criticism.

The Founders of Pakistan Constitution of 1973, mindful of their own faults, had designed a system to contain a figure head president. Though they kept his term for five years, gave checking and balancing powers to the legislative and judicial branches, authorized him for the appointment of the garrison heads, but all with the consent of the Prime Minister. The only authoritative was impeachment as a last-ditch remedy, which ultimately has been removed and transferred to Prime Minister through 18<sup>th</sup> amendment. Instead, work should have been done to convert the system to "the Presidential" form of government to avoid the double burden of two head of the state as well as the provinces.

The role of the citizenry, to express approval or disapproval is just confined to the ballot box, includes making sure that suffrage is not selectively and unfairly denied by restrictive voter-ID laws or partisan purges of the voter rolls.

It is heartening that PPP always discretely enters in the game to defend a political figure over gain of some issue, may be corruption or finishing of cases through NRO. This time they have intelligently arranged it through the legal structure of the country. Perhaps some future PPP administration could be trusted to make sense of confusing patchwork they constantly have staged to ease out people like Nawaz and Musharaf.

Parliament must assert its powers of oversight. Nawaz has deepened the swamp, not drained it; and Parliament has a duty to sort through the muck. Parliament must also let Nawaz know, in no uncertain terms, that any attempt to impede or disrupt the judicial system will have the gravest consequences. Nawaz should be told that challenging the sensitive institutions of the country would automatically be considered grounds for mutiny. At moments of institutional conflict and uncertainty, Parliament naturally turns to the Constitution. But at times of anger, division and national self-

doubt, the best leaders have helped to turn to a different sphere, call all parties meeting and try to resolve the issue by dialog.

The justices of the Supreme Court, meanwhile, should make sure to implement the court's decisions and should not rightly shy away from decision that determined the corruption on part of Nawaz Sharif. It is no stretch to imagine that Nawaz's contempt for the Court may once again force the court to leave the ends loose or in the hands of NAB, remarks about the organization's head already were not encouraging by the honourable court.

WE can't forget our Independence, which of course, involved more than calamity, though it is rooted in an arm-long list of grievances and tragedy, yet, it was an act of great determination.

Why is that maxim so important? At one level, Imran's answer was bluntly practical. Accountability of the highest chair, when declared corrupt by an international forum becomes essential. If it is not done, it could eventually be taken at ease at the lowermost end. And when you have stricken down the principles and thereby consigned, are you quite sure that the demon will not turn and rend the whole nation? Will not the people then be ready to go down beneath the tread of any tyrant who may wish to rule them?

How do we measure our loss? It might be a useful exercise to take political arguments and apply the decision as a kind of suffix. So: We should fear PML(N) as gang members and a threat to the national institutions.

When our founding ideals are forgotten, it is the vulnerable and powerless who suffer first and worst. Nawaz accused institutions who dismissed him and used the words which seemed "tearing out the morals" without realizing the impact of his words on the national institutions, but just for his ego satisfaction and for his illiterate followers, he used the sparkling language.

**Poor nationals of Pakistan are waiting for the moments, when someone calls us back to that faded document which is called the "CONSTITUTION" and begins to rekindle politicians' conscience, it will be a sign we have found a real leader again.**

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