

Peace and Security in Nizami's "Sharafnameh"

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ABSTRACT

Persian verse and poetry contain poems and stories on prevention of war and establishing of peace and security. Peace is a calm condition without any distress, dispute and quarrel that is considered ideal and security is an emotional, moral and emotive phenomenon in the mind of people, governors and authorities that assures peace and calmness in the society. Different meanings have been offered on peace in history and it is defined as antonym of war in Old Persian literature. Peace is not an absolute concept and it can be defined depended on religious and cultural perspective, so it deserves to study in different aspects. Most of the great poets and writers have employed these concepts in their poems and stories and considered it from different point of views and they have indicated the importance of peace and security. The great poets such as Saadi, Molavi, Hafez and Nizami have composed poems on peace and security and invited people to establish an ideal world. There are stories in Nizami's Khamse of "Makhzanol Asrar, Khosrow and Shirin, Leila and Majnoon, Haft Payker(seven thrones) and Eskandarnameh involving Sharafnameh and Eghbalnameh" that these stories can be studied from peace and security viewpoint. This article tries to investigate the examples of Nizami's Khamse and analyze peace and security in these works.

KEY WORDS: Persian literature, Nizami Ganjavi, Sharfnameh, peace and security

INTRODUCTION

Mankind has desired to live in peaceful world without stress and violence that everybody's right is recognized. Human being has needed to peace and security from beginning. Since the man preferred social life on individual life and could not provide his food, clothes and dwelling individually, he felt that he needs to worship, respect, peace, recognition of each other rights, private realm, prevention of violence on the private realm in order to establish peaceful life, so he had to fight with others in order to have peaceful life and its result was war and killing of men. Human being began to fight for fulfilling of his goal and meeting instinctual needs and so many innocent people were killed in these fights.

All fights of the tribes and civil wars and finally, world wars have had irrevocable damages and they have led to destruction and killing of many innocent people. Sometimes religious wars have led to the death of many people. Life history has always been associated with war and peace. In these wars many people, animals, trees, plants, land, water and many species have disappeared. Since the "war" and "moral" never exist next to each other, the result of these wars was increase robbery, abuse of women and children, kidnapping, starvation, famine, disease, loneliness and pain and human suffering. All these problems were clear and need no further elaboration. Naturally, man wishes to live in peace and security and dislikes war and destruction. Living in peaceful world without war, violence and recognition of others right and satisfaction is fundamental of justice and it equals to security in society without rape and violence. In societies where the people and the rulers recognize their rights and do not abuse each other they live in justice, peace, and security and they never live in anxiety and insecurity and people are trying to fulfill goals and have a good life and enjoy it. Instead, in the societies that people and the rulers are selfish, greedy, arrogant and militant and they are not satisfied with their rights and constantly engaged with each other and other nations and they are not subject to any rules and regulations only consider their own interests and do not care about others, in these communities typically people are often anxious and upset and they need to a sense of relief to enjoy live.

A healthy society does not accept this kind of living. As we know the aim of the creation is perfection of mankind. "Basically, a sense of security or insecurity is rooted in a subjective impressions and convictions and religious beliefs, moral and popular culture. The resultant beliefs cause that the leaders of a nation or a country consider other country or nation enemy or friend. Because feeling of security is a perception and it is changed even with the change of political leaders (parties) [1]. God created man to offer him his divine position by teaching religious thoughts and divine books by his prophets and live in peace not fight and destruct the world. Poets and writers have explained the issue of

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war and peace and invited people to establish peace and security. Nizami, the Iranian great poet has referred to peace and security in his stories.

“Alexander’s battle with the army of Zanzibar”

War is expressed in a variety of definitions like peace, each of which represents a particular attitude to the war. "Hedley Bull suggests war as an organized violence against each other in two or more countries. This definition does not apply to civil wars. Clausewitz believes that war is use of maximum force of violence in the service of the state or country. Of course, all wars are happened in serve of government and country. According to Quinn: war is art of organizing and applying the armed forces for fulfilling the goals" [2].

Sometimes the accompanier of Alexander
Measured the positions of the sun and moon
Alexander was considered himself messenger
And ordered to arrange preliminaries immediately
To campaign to the head of Zanzibar
He was informed on the sword of the king
To return and never fight [3].

In this story the Egyptians complain Alexander on Zanzibar people. Alexander who has heard the cry of the oppressed with ratings and wisdom of Aristotle arranges an army from Macedonia to Egypt. At first, Alexander sends his beloved and brave friend who is wise and learned to the king of Zanzibar to inform fear of confrontation and battle with Alexander. When Totiyanush arrives to the king of Zanzibar court he talks about power of Alexander and demands him to be moderate since nobody could not prevent Alexander’s anger. Totiyanush announces him to attract King Alexander attention since you will lose in the war and in peace and safety you will benefit from him. He informs him on losses of the war and benefits of peace. The King of Zanzibar orders to remove Totiyanush’s head from his body. Seeing this scene with tearful eyes the messengers return to Alexander and after two days he attacks Zanzibar. In the war Zanzibar army surpassed Roman troops and they are retreating in panic. Alexander consults with his wise minister. The Minister says that the Zanzibar people are evil. He advises that the best way to do that is to pretend cannibalism and imprison several people and cut and sent them to the kitchen to see that cannibals are worse than them. This kind of peace is established through fear. Since other party is scared and convinced to accept the superior authority and using special techniques the enemy becomes humbled. Almost all dictionaries in all languages briefly argue that “peace is a state that a country is not at war”. This inverse definition is not a simple concept, an abstract and logical contradiction. This definition will depend on the states. Since by the threshold all human relations, attitudes, ethics, economics, and religion are upside down” [4].

Art of warfare requires that the enemy is treated equally and sometimes employ plot to destroy the enemy. After a long war, the party who is defeated and retreated feels compelled to accept peace.

“Counseling of Dara with the heads of Iran”

A warier comes from Rome
And campaigns toward Iran
He attacks all over the world
Destroys everywhere
When sits on the kingship throne
Finally he is killed and abolished
Never be proud of your power
Live in balance and temperament [3].

When Dara is informed that Alexander has to resolve the conflict and passed over the sea he counsels with the wise men to fix this catastrophe. Those were familiar with Alexander and knew him as rebellious remain silent. Fariborz, one of the warriors, says that my ancestors told me that a man comes from Rome and attacks on my country and destroys there and dominates all over the world but finally he is killed and abolished.

Then he says this man might be the same as the Roman king and in this case it is better to never fight and deceive him and send him back to his country, because that is a trick better than be anger. King should be aware of and never rely on his strength and never ignore enemy. King gets angry and Fariborz regrets and apologizes. Fariborz who has the wisdom and foresight of the military is aware of battle with Alexander and invites the king to peace. Accepting the opposite party conditions means accepting his superiority over him. King’s pride jeopardizes his statecraft. A king should consult with his counselors

and hear the opinions of people in the diplomatic affairs. Selfishness and arrogance cause that a person could not take advantage of the ideas of others. Before war, all aspects should be measured and military data collected. Consultation with the elders is one of the principles of statecraft. A ruler should always use comments of the counselors and ministers and benefit from them. Especially in war and peace consulting is important. In order to percept this social process at first reasons and causes of human beings social attachment are investigated and then spiritual and material reasons for foundation of social and historical groups, their behaviors and resistance of them are studied[5].

Letter of Dara to Alexander

Dara writes a letter to Alexander and informs him his power and authority and advises him to withdraw fight with him and announces that he will destroy Rome. Otherwise, he will not see Romans so, the best way to have peace in preventing and dealing with him. Having peace that he invites Alexander to accept it, is kind of peace through fear, avoidance of war or in other words, avoid the use of firearms and fire-fighting. Dara has no desire to fight probably he has heard the story of Alexander and the Zanzibar army. But royal official and pride does not allow him to accept peace and he is forced to acknowledge the war [3]. It is better to announce the issue of peace clearly, and in this case it is not permissible to doubt and indecision. What is Alexander have is the blessings of God and he tries to spread the religion of God. He invites Dara to peace, the Roman peace. Other countries submissive and obedient to the Roman peace were powerful nations and these countries had influential religion and culture.

War between Dara and Alexander

Alexander signed the letter and sent it to Dara and arranged war preliminaries and they began to fight in Mosel. No party surpassed the war and they were waiting to peace but they began to fight.

Dara attacked like a fierce lion and then Alexander attacked with his sharp sword. Dara had two officers although they were kind and obedient apparently but they sought opportunity to uncover their hostility so they went to Alexander and took refuge [3].

They demanded security since they were also afraid of Alexander power and they were greedy and revengeful so these reasons caused them to take refuge. The officers were certain on loss of Dara and they were aware of the horror of Alexander so they accepted peace to be safe. This case is the evidence of Roman peace. With no idea to choose between peace and war, Dara consulted with military leaders to vote but none of them insisted on peace and friendship with the King of Rome and they voted on war. Alexander was also in the following way in order to stand against the enemy and defeat him. The war began. Dara was wounded and the officers came to Alexander and announced that Dara was killed and they demanded him reward. Alexander knew that the officer do not fear on killing kings so he went to Dara and said him this is custom that one day you are king and the other day you are lost. Dara wanted Alexander to respect on his wives and get married with Roshanak his daughter and asked him to protect the country.

Firstly, when war can be prevented by peace, war is a mistake may be the enemy is not so inferior. Secondly, everyone does not deserve to be pledged because some people are not loyal to friendship. Those who do not fulfill their benefactors are not worthy of loyalty and trust. Of the reasons for triumph of Alexander as Nizami has pointed out it can be referred to following:

1-Alexander is young and Dara is old and his chances of victory are high.

2-Dara is tyrant and oppressor and people do not accept oppression.

3-Dara has many internal enemies and as mentioned in the text, his greatest enemies were his close men. His officers' conduct impacted on his enemy. So this proves that the domestic enemies' hatred was much stronger than foreign enemies. Besides having internal enemies and dissension within the enemy will be warmer than victory.

4 -Dara ruled long and the people were dissatisfied.

"When Alexander was king of the world he ruled with prosperity and consciousness and constructed many buildings and monuments. He was king of all nations from west to east. Alexander read the Arab works and decided to go to Mecca and took tons of gold and treasures along the way in the desert and invaded the Arab country. The Arab leaders saw the prosperous king and they obeyed him" [6]. Alexander, who had learned of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca thanked God and after the ritual of Hajj left for Yemen.

Analysis of the story

Alexander has the military power and subjugates people and always thanks God, and he knows his power originated from God.

King should be alert and to be concerned with the prosperity of his country. However, most developing countries have a stronger military power and affect on others and they obey and seek peace. Alexander respects on divinities and this is one reason that he is commemorated by the people.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is concluded that Nizami has been influenced by Greek philosophers such as Plato and it shows that he was familiar with Greek philosophers thought and culture. For establishing peace and security in society it is necessary to begin from governors. The rulers should be just, wise, smart, honest, compelling, and believers. If the rulers have these features justice is prevailed in the community and justice provides secure community. Consequently, internal security, urban development and military power are established and relations with other countries are emerging besides international relations, economics, culture and political progress. Healthy international relations with other nation provides context for international peace and security.

People also have duties towards achieving peace; it can be refered to the story of the ideal city, or Utopia and its characteristics.

War and bloodshed cause to poverty and cultural, economic and social regression, and irreparable damages. Wise rulers are aware that war is not the only way to deal with enemies from other solutions other than killing innocent people that security can be achieved. Civilizations dialogue is one of the best practices for avoiding war and achieving peace. Who considers ruling out as divine blessing he is different from whom knows governance is product his power, intelligence, cunning, and his personal and political knowledge. The first one aim is fulfilling his religious and rational duty and the second one aims to preserve his power and authority, the first one rules out and then leaves governance in required and the second one kills millions people and the first one likes people for sake of God and the second one wants people for himself. The pious ruler provides security and peace for people and the second one wants peace to control people. The first group considers God's satisfaction as his measure and the second one considers selfishness as his measure.

If I become the ruler

I will do for God's favor

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