

## **Sayyid Ammar Al Hakim: Aziz Al Iraq was Distinguished with his Political Performance and his Influence on the Iraqi arena**



Sayyid Ammar Al Hakim, head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, affirmed that Aziz Al Iraq (may Allah sanctify his soul) was outstanding and distinguished in his political and social performance and had an influence on the Iraqi arena, explaining that this distinction was the biggest political problem he faced throughout his life. His eminence indicated that he undertook his responsibilities in the Supreme Council and on the shia and national levels at a time when everyone was expecting major fall downs after the loss of the great scientific and religious figure the Martyr of the Niche was. His eminence pointed out that Aziz Al Iraq was able to fill the political void quickly although the moral void remained as it was difficult for anyone to compensate for the symbolism of the Martyr of the Niche, and he managed to unite the internal front and to establish the basis of a movement that remains till today, that of the Martyr of the Niche; he also transformed the Supreme Council into a movement and succeeded in building relationships with all the categories of society, the political and religious forces, and the honorable authorities at the shia and Iraqi levels. The head of the supreme Council highlighted that Aziz Al Iraq addressed the regional neighboring countries with a clear and honest speech, completely aware of the intersections and intertwining spaces, then reached an optimal level in his political vision when he was able to keeping the international conflict away from Iraq and went touring the capitals of the world explaining and clarifying the sources of difference and intersection and drawing the traits of Iraqi specificity. His eminence assured that Aziz Al Iraq possessed a clear vision and an accurate insight into the future, hence his ability to stay way ahead of others although sometimes he was misunderstood or mistrusted. Amidst the challenges we are experiencing today as a country, a state and a dogma, we remember the call launched by Aziz Al Iraq in his effort to support the establishment of the popular committees, those committees that his eminence worked on creating as a substitute and supporter to the emerging state institutions. Sayyid Ammar Al Hakim added that leaders are not just a state denuded from their circumstances, time and personalities; their decisions are assessed against the environment they worked in, the circumstances they lived and the challenges they faced.

This came during the commemorative celebration held for the memory of Sayyid Aziz Al Iraq (may Allah sanctify his soul) at his eminence's office on Monday, June 22, 2015.

**Aziz Al Iraq Was Way Ahead of Others in Envisioning the Correct Structure of the State**

His eminence indicated that Aziz Al Iraq was aware that our existential battle will be long and tough with several fronts and that the future holds a lot; he also was way ahead of others in envisioning the correct structure of the Iraqi State and thus called for administrative decentralization knowing that it will not be understood by the public and will be subject to political biddings, but he acted as a leader not as a political personality. Aziz Al Iraq had the responsibility to make a stance and warn the nation before it falls, he knew he should not

follow the crowds but his mission was to find the right path for the disadvantaged, hence what they said regarding his eagerness to establish decentralization and his repeated calls to implement it. The political price was then high, but in terms of leadership, he said, he was the right attitude and now years after the appeals he made, we hear his call echoing everywhere, and everyone upholds it as a slogan and the same crowds who were confused and incited to think that those calls are separatist are hired today to rise the slogan of the regions and to consider them as the exit to give the rights in an unstudied way and in inappropriate conditions. Here he reminded of Aziz al Iraq's defense of women and their dignity and called for celebrating the 1st day of Safar as the day for elimination of violence against women. According to his Eminence, Aziz Al Iraq also gave an interest to the civil society organizations and a special one to the youth, put into practice the collective wedding idea by allocating his entire salaries to marry the children of the martyrs and the weak classes in the society, built strong relations with the Iraqi tribes, princes and sheikhs, did his best to the tribal reality in the constitution, and used to continuously check over and visit the martyrs' families, the mujahideen and those who make sacrifices.

#### Iraq's Near Future Is Reflection of Aziz Al Iraq's Journey

His Eminence said Iraq's near future is a reflection of Aziz Al Iraq's journey, and that it is time to speak of Aziz Al Iraq with no ambiguity because he was always frank and clear, but the extent of chaos caused by some used to confuse and distort his positions. He also explained that a major area of Iraq is in the hands of terrorism, which is one of the worst kinds of terrorism the world has ever known for the ISIS is worse than al Qaeda although both groups were born in one womb. He asked: What would be Aziz Al Iraq's attitudes if he was still with us today? According to his Eminence, he will definitely take the same attitudes he took years ago for he used to look at the future in its broad outlines and not in detail and the popular committees would have been the core of the popular crowd, the decentralization would have been the solution to restructure the Iraqi state away from the detestable, suffocating centralization, and his regional and international moves would have been the security valve of Iraq to minimize the sensitivity of the exterior interventions. His Eminence noted that the Martyr of the Niche movement learns from its leaders how we work for our future, while embracing the present and inspiring from the past experiences and that the Martyr of the Niche leaders are like constant waves pushing our ship forward amidst all these storms and rocks. In his opinion, the Martyr of the Niche movement learnt from Aziz Al Iraq not to fear the big steps because it is a great movement and has big responsibility towards Allah, the nation and the country. It also learnt from Aziz Al Iraq to be modest even when it is at the top of the power and to extend its hands to the others even if they deny it its rights because it has a project and a cause, and to be frank and clear because the days go by, but the attitudes remain the witnesses of those who taken them. Here he asserted that the Martyr of the Niche movement learnt from Aziz Al Iraq to promote unity, not division, and to assume the biggest part of the responsibility because this is our destiny, and our history, generosity and determination make our responsibility greater.

## Aziz of Iraq Succeeded, by his Determination and Courage, to Keep the Rights and Stick to Obligations

The Head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq declared that Aziz of Iraq was able, by his good manners, to build a relationship network that everybody respects and to open up to all Iraqi factions. Aziz of Iraq succeeded, by his determination and courage, to keep the rights and stick to obligations. His Eminence pointed out that he was as everybody knows him when lost the Martyr of the Niche, in deep pain and brokenhearted, but, in the same time, very patient and firm, since he realizes that this end is the act of crowning all those who have decided to walk on the path of honor, freedom and dignity, the road of the Master of Martyrs (P). He recalled that when the Supreme Council was effectively defending the Shiite political situation in Iraq, the situation in the national scene was full of accusations, interpenetrations and interventions; the nation was moving from a stage they had experienced over centuries into a totally new phase; Iraq was reconstituted as a nation and re-installed as a state and the political relations between the various parties were in the exploration phase, at the internal, external, national and Shiite scales. He declared that Iraq, after the fall of the regime, became more complicated and complex on the political and security levels as the presence of foreign troops and occupation became legal in accordance with the international resolutions; criminal gangs moved forward; the regime and everything related to it fully collapsed and the constitution and institutions were absent. He stated that Aziz of Iraq had made progress and held the responsibility of the first place in the prominent and great Shiite political entity at the time, considering that the discussion of this stage's nature is a right and debt due to Aziz of Iraq to be just with him and the historical positions taken by him and his brothers in the midst of these repercussions.

## Aziz of Iraq, Practical Personality that Tends to Avoid Fame

His Eminence pointed out that Aziz of Iraq was a man who works silently in the files assigned to him, and he was also a support for his brother and his other brothers from the Mujahideen. He added that he had a practical personality that tends to avoid fame, as he is the younger brother of a family containing many well-educated people and elder brothers who are wagers to education and Jihad, his delicate and tender personality became a personality that respects and appreciates older people and a personality that did not stop learning from various intellectual and scientific schools, even within the same house; he was also characterized by loyalty, trust in God, self-denial, asceticism in this world and giving priority to public interests, adding that Aziz of Iraq was the companion of the Martyr of the Niche; it was a very special relationship as the brother is the leader and advisor, and his faith stems from a belief in the project and approach and not a matter of brother obedience and respect. His Eminence considered Aziz of Iraq as the unknown soldier for most people, but he is well known to his leadership, his brothers, his friends and a group of persons aware of the grave duties previously entrusted to him beside the task of administrating many complicated and sensitive files; so he overcame serious responsibilities, mostly linked to Jihad such as Iraqi Mujahideen

movement, the committee of internal works, the Jihadi office in the Supreme Council, reaching the post of vice-president of the Supreme Council, pointing out that he had a special role in the group of Iraqi Ulemas and in founding the Supreme Council and representing it in Iraqi opposition conferences in Beirut, Washington, London and Salah al-Din, besides founding the Center for Documentary on Human Rights in Iraq on exposing and condemning the oppressive practices of the defunct regime by convincing documents before the international organizations.