EDITORIAL

Topics such as manifestations of the virtues of the Infallible luminaries are expected to touch upon those characteristics that are highlighted in authoritative sources, eg, the Holy Quran and reliable hadiths. Accepted in its own right, mere recounting such merits must be supplemented by translating them into our present-day vernacular. With regard to the global mission of Islam, they must be paraphrased in such a way that even non-Muslims may benefit from them, too.

To introduce the merits of the Infallibles on a global level, two jobs must be done simultaneously: using an acessible language, and instances of the effects of practicalization of their advice must also be highlighted.

To adduce but one example, the case of the late Allama Sayyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi in the Eastern African Coastline countries and territories is a good example. (This is highlighted here because a short review of his biography appears in this issue.) He was successful in disseminating noble Islamic teachings among the indigenous African natives, not merely by preaching, but through

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treating them in a humane way, eg, by respecting them and helping them as sincerely as he would treat the originally Indian immigrants there. A great and tangible effect was that due to his efforts many of them not only embraced Islam, converted into Shi'a Islam, but also went to Najaf or Qom and made Shi'i clerics. In this way, the spread of Shi'a Islam in Eastern African nations owes a lot first to the late Sayyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi and ultimately to putting the wisdom of the discourses of the Infallibles into practice. Perhaps every Shi'i cleric might know how to preach: just a limited number of them may know how to practice what they often preach.

Dr. Muhammad-Reza Fakhr-Rohani

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