

After extensive reading on Hussain's revolution and the division among our people unlike anything we had experienced before, and in light of the ongoing religious wars around us where Muslims are killing their brothers for false religious reasons, it is my humble opinion that Hussain's revolution was against injustice, aggression, and discrimination. It was a revolution against those who shed the blood of their fellow Muslims, calling their Muslim brothers *kafir*—unbelievers or heretics, and sowing extremist divisions for their own power. How can such things happen when we all make the same declaration, "There is no god but God, and Mohammed is the messenger of God?"

Our life will not be straightened until we witness the return of men like my father, like Mulla Othman, Abdullah Al Nouri, and Ali Al Jassar—may God have mercy on them all. They were moderate, loving, and tolerant men, as were their Shia brothers. My people, when we were children, no one taught us the difference between Sunni and Shia. We only felt this difference after the Iranian Revolution, the Iran-Iraq War, and the later wars in Afghanistan when American intelligence promoted violent jihadi ideologies against the Russians. Everything that is happening today has nothing to do with religion. It all results from policies of ignorance.

On this ceremony, I invite men of true religion to unite and spread modesty, tolerance, and love among all people. Our religion is beautiful! Our home land is fine! Our people are beautiful! There is room for everyone! It is heart-breaking to see extremism and religious wars fed by men of religion who, regardless of their intentions, do not understand the destructive influence they plant in the people's minds. Let us take this moral from Hussain's Revolution, the revolution of all Muslims.