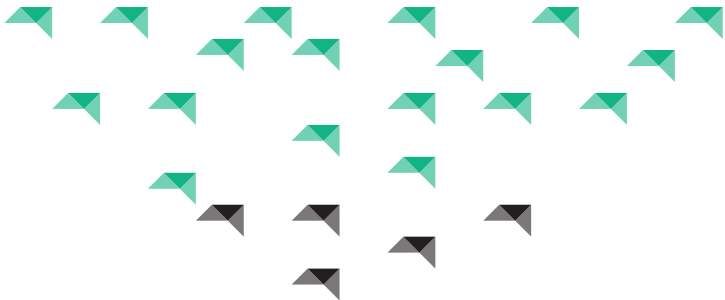


NTI The Nation's Servant

**Memories from
the Life of Martyr Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi
The Late President of the Islamic Republic of Iran**



The Nation's Servant

Green Palm

Author: Amir-Ali Sharifi
Translator: Sayyid Haydar Jamaludeen
Editor: Mostafa Rastegar
Art Director: Saeed SaffarNejad
Cover Art: Mikael Barati
Illustrator: Honar-e Nohom Team



Green Palm

Green Palm Publications



+ 98 999 99 16 140



Email: info@greenpalm.net



www.Greenpalm.net

Acknowledgment

Green Palm Publications would like to express sincere appreciation to Fatima Masuma and Ali Mahdavi for their meticulous work and invaluable contributions in text production. Their keen eye for detail and commitment to clarity significantly enhanced the overall quality of the final product.

Copyright © 2024 Green Palm Publications

All rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations included in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests or any inquiries, please contact Green Palm Publications.

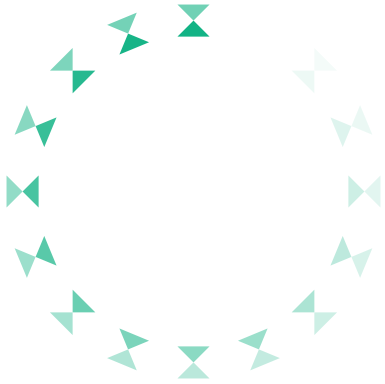


Contents

- 9 ♦ **Introduction**
- 15 ♦ **His Life at a Glance**
- 23 ♦ **Sayyid Ebrahim**
- 24 ♦ Work Alongside Studies
- 26 ♦ A Gift from Imam Reza (a)
- 28 ♦ He Was Foresighted
- 31 ♦ **The Judge**
- 32 ♦ Patrons of the Revolution
- 34 ♦ Rules Apply to All
- 36 ♦ A Friendly Authority
- 38 ♦ A Refuge
- 40 ♦ A Rejected Gift
- 42 ♦ Meritocracy
- 44 ♦ Instant Kinship
- 46 ♦ Defending the Oppressed
- 48 ♦ Wittiness in the Mosque
- 50 ♦ A Humble Imam with a High Official Position
- 52 ♦ The Teaching Salary
- 54 ♦ Helping the Needy

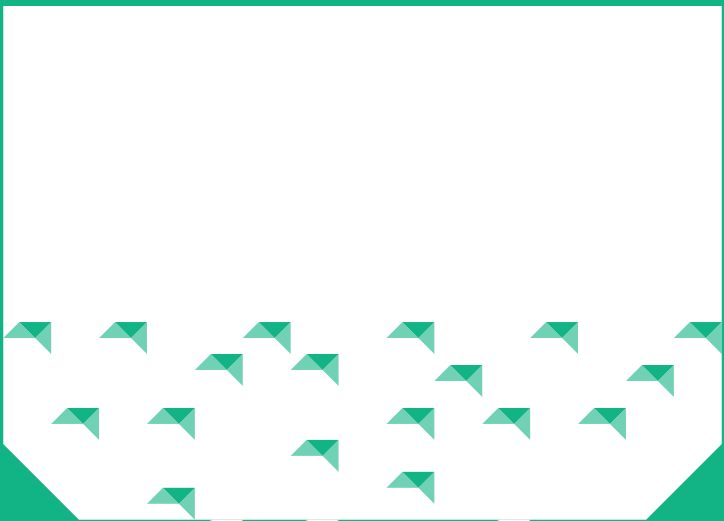
- 56 ♦ Open Arms for the People
- 58 ♦ Just Like the People
- 60 ♦ Patient in the Face of Insults
- 63 ♦ Servant of Imam Reza (a)**
- 64 ♦ Small House, Big Heart
- 66 ♦ A Fulfilled Wish
- 68 ♦ Requests of the Needy
- 70 ♦ A Shelter for the Pilgrims
- 72 ♦ A Refuge for the Vulnerable
- 74 ♦ No to Discrimination!
- 76 ♦ Personal Use Is Not Allowed
- 78 ♦ Calculate All the Expenses!
- 80 ♦ A Salary Spent on Charity
- 82 ♦ Feel Free to Criticize!
- 85 ♦ Head of the Judiciary**
- 86 ♦ Humble Despite Achievements
- 88 ♦ The Family of Prisoners
- 90 ♦ Calm in the Face of Criticism and Insult
- 92 ♦ Caring for His Mother
- 95 ♦ The President**
- 96 ♦ A Man for Difficult Times
- 100 ♦ Debating While Fasting
- 102 ♦ I Will Ask Allah for Forgiveness on Your Behalf!
- 106 ♦ You Should Apologize to the People!
- 108 ♦ The Martyrs Are the True Representatives
- 110 ♦ The Walk of Authority
- 114 ♦ Engagement with the Academic Community
- 116 ♦ Working Weekends and Holidays
- 118 ♦ He Never Neglected Establishing Family Ties
- 120 ♦ Devoted to God and the People

- 122 ♦ A Tireless President
- 124 ♦ Tireless in Serving the People
- 126 ♦ The Unwavering Smile
- 128 ♦ Meeting the Villagers
- 130 ♦ Listening to Poor Villagers
- 132 ♦ Visiting the Flood-Stricken in a Remote Village
- 134 ♦ Only for the Nation
- 136 ♦ Eager to Serve
- 138 ♦ Inexhaustible
- 140 ♦ Lucky Soldiers!
- 142 ♦ He Wanted to Be Like the People
- 144 ♦ Avoiding Extra Formalities
- 146 ♦ Humble Towards Everyone
- 148 ♦ Among the People
- 150 ♦ The Simple Villager
- 152 ♦ Confiding in the Sun
- 154 ♦ A Night with the Soldiers
- 156 ♦ Appreciation for Effort
- 158 ♦ The Children's Choir
- 160 ♦ African Coffee
- 164 ♦ Bitter Tears for Gaza
- 166 ♦ A Strong Voice for Gaza
- 170 ♦ Peace Be upon Quds
- 174 ♦ Operation True Promise
- 176 ♦ The Final Public Meeting
- 178 ♦ The Day of the Incident
- 180 ♦ Haj Agha . . . , Where Are You?
- 184 ♦ Unrelenting Service
- 186 ♦ A Man of the People
- 188 ♦ "I Felt for Raisi."
- 189 ♦ Album**





Introduction





Nations Servants

On February 1, 1979, the Islamic Revolution in Iran ushered in a new era in the country's history and reshaped the global political landscape. Led by Imam Khomeini and fueled by the unwavering dedication and sacrifices of the Iranian people, the revolution challenged the concept of politics, devoid of ethics and spirituality. Khomeini's vision, which emphasized the integration of politics and piety under a divine framework, laid the groundwork for this new path. His successor, Imam Khamenei, continued this approach after Khomeini's passing. The recent three-year governance of Martyr Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi can be seen as a testament to the continued implementation of this ideology in the political sphere.

Martyr Raisi demonstrated that he was an outstanding student in the school of Khomeini the Great, effectively combining efficiency and management with ethics and spirituality. While he was dedicated to the progress of Iran and human civilization, he never strayed from the path of justice. Though he was exceptionally humble in dealing with subordinates, he made the most decisive decisions during challenges and crises. Raisi, authoritative in action, never deviated from the path of wilayah, adherence to the Supreme

Leader, and the realization of the priorities of the Islamic system.

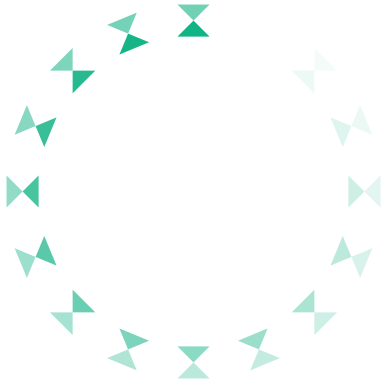
The martyred president of Iran sought the satisfaction of Almighty God, not through seclusion and isolation, but through service to the people. This commitment led his funeral to become a symbol of unity between the nation and the government. In the Islamic Republic, officials rise from among the people and consider their greatest honor to be serving them. This grand funeral demonstrated that forty-five years after the start of the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian nation remains committed to the fundamental values of their revolution, foremost among them the fight against global arrogance and the oppression of tyrants, as well as supporting oppressed nations. Therefore, the pain of the loss of the martyred president was not confined to the people of Iran but also grieved all free-spirited oppressed people around the world. They saw that Martyr Raisi never ceased to fight for their rights, especially in defending human values, supporting the Palestinian cause, and tirelessly standing against the crimes committed by Zionist oppressors.

Now, however, the grief over the loss of the martyred president has transformed into a new epic – an epic of awakening, action, and hope for a brighter horizon and a more delightful dawn in a world free from oppression and violence, filled with justice and peace. As God says, and the divine promise is infallible:

And We wished to be gracious to those who were oppressed in the land, to make them leaders and make them inheritors.

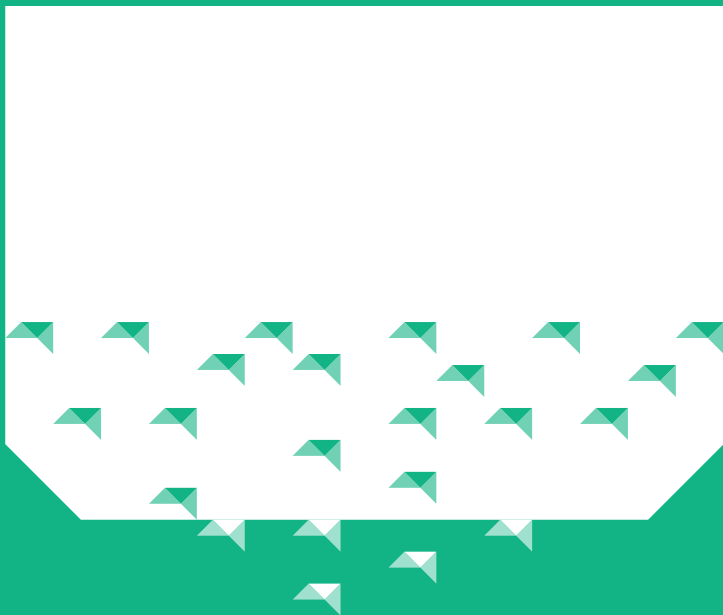
(Quran 28:5)







His Life at a Glance





Nations Servants

Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi was born on December 14, 1960, into a clerical family in the Noghan neighborhood of Mashhad. His father was Hujjat al-Islam Sayyid Haji Rais al-Sadati, and his mother was Sayyidah Esmat Khodadad Husayni, a descendant of the Husayni sayyids. His lineage on both sides traces back to Imam Sajjad (a). Sayyid Ebrahim lost his father when he was five years old. He completed his primary formal education and preliminary seminary courses in Mashhad. Then, in 1975, at the age of fifteen, he went to the Islamic Seminary of Qom, specifically the Ayatollah Boroujerdi School, to continue his studies.

Following the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, Sayyid Ebrahim, who had completed advanced seminary studies in Qom, began his first judicial role, relying on his scholarly and jurisprudential background. In 1980, at the age of 20, he became the assistant prosecutor of Karaj; shortly thereafter, he was appointed by Shaheed Ayatollah Qodduzi to the position of prosecutor. In 1982,

just two years into his successful tenure in Karaj, he simultaneously took on the position of prosecutor of Hamadan.

Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi married Jamileh-Sadat Alamolhoda, the daughter of Ayatollah Sayyid Ahmad Alamolhoda, at the age of 23. The fruit of this marriage are their two daughters.

In 1985, Raisi moved to Tehran as the deputy prosecutor. From 1989 to 1994, he served as the prosecutor of Tehran, and then for ten years, he was the chairman of the General Inspection Office of Iran. Ayatollah Raisi was appointed as the first deputy of the Judiciary, a position he held for ten years. Following this, he served as the country's prosecutor-general for sixteen months.

Following the passing of Ayatollah Vaez-Tabasi in March 2016, Ayatollah Raisi moved to Mashhad and served as the custodian of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (a) for three years; he was appointed by the decree of Ayatollah Khamenei. During this period, he implemented extensive changes in the administrative structure of the holy shrine, aimed at providing greater service to the disadvantaged, as well as to the pilgrims and neighbors of Imam Reza (a).

In March 2019, Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi returned to the judiciary and assumed the role of chief justice. With his exceptional management skills, he elevated the stature of the institution. Some of Ayatollah Raisi's most notable actions in this position included promptly addressing people's cases and judicial issues, decisively investigating corruption cases, digitizing the Judiciary, and finally, drafting and finalizing the document on judicial transformation.

Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi, who had run for the presidency in 2017 but failed to secure a majority of votes, became a candidate once again in the 2021 presidential election following requests from a large segment of the population. Garnering 62 percent of the votes, he earned the opportunity to assume the presidency and establish a successful track record in this arena as well.

During his three years as president, Ayatollah Raisi made tireless and wise efforts to improve economic and livelihood issues, reform administrative processes, actively engage in foreign policy, and hold numerous public meetings. He also traveled to all provinces of the country, completing nearly two rounds (forty-seven trips) to visit and follow up on the progress and development of government approvals in the provinces. On his last trip, on the evening of Sunday, May 19, while returning from the inauguration ceremony of the Qiz Qalasi Dam in the north of East Azerbaijan towards Tabriz, his helicopter crashed. Along with all the passengers of the helicopter, he attained the lofty status of martyrdom.

Alongside his executive and judicial work, Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi was known as a cultural and scholarly figure. During his studies at the Islamic Seminary of Qom, he learned from esteemed scholars such as Shaheed Ayatollah Motahhari, Shaheed Ayatollah Beheshti, the late Ayatollah Hashemi Shahroudi, and Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei. In addition to achieving the highest seminary degree (the fourth level of seminary studies), he earned his doctorate in jurisprudence and private law in 2013.

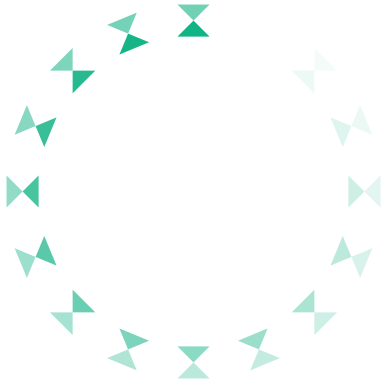
Throughout his many years as a seminary student, alongside his judicial, executive, propagation, and preaching activities, Raisi also engaged in teaching advanced seminary courses. From 2016 onwards, he began teaching advanced jurisprudence (kharej-e fiqh) and Quranic exegesis in Mashhad. Raisi has also authored several books on law and jurisprudence.

Following his martyrdom, in addition to five days of national mourning in Iran, public mourning was declared in Lebanon, Syria, Tajikistan, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Iraq, and Cuba. The flag of the United Nations and all member countries in Vienna was flown at half-mast as a sign of respect. Members of the United Nations Security Council and the International Conference on Nuclear Security in Vienna also observed a minute of silence in his honor at the beginning of their sessions.

Funeral ceremonies were held for him in the cities of Tabriz, Qom, Tehran, Birjand, and Mashhad. The total number of mourners in these cities has been estimated at more than twelve million people. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world in countries such as Iraq, Lebanon, India, Pakistan, Syria, Kashmir, and other parts of the world held memorial ceremonies in his honor.

After his martyrdom, Iranians bestowed upon him the title of Martyr of Service and Servant of the Nation in recognition of his countless services during his forty-four years of activity. He is now recognized in Iran and many countries as a symbol of a popular and active president.







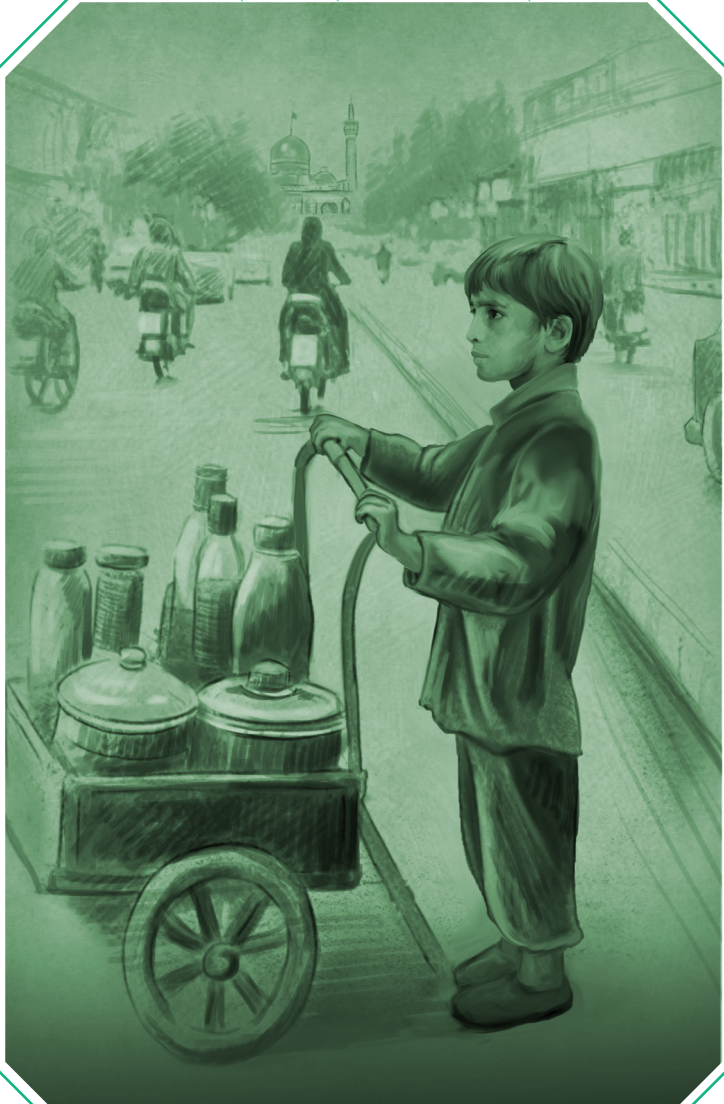
Sayyid Ebrahim



Work Alongside Studies

Sayyid Ebrahim was not yet five years old when his father passed away, leaving behind only a humble house as his inheritance. His family lived in two of the rooms, while the other two rooms were rented out. This rental income was their only means to make ends meet.

However, his father had been one of the renowned preachers of the Khorasan province and had raised his children to tolerate hardships; they were not raised with a silver spoon in their mouths. In the summers, Sayyid Ebrahim had various jobs, from selling items on the streets leading to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (a) to working on poultry farms. Later on, he chose to study at the Islamic seminary, but he continued to work throughout the summers to help run the household and earn money to buy his textbooks. In those days, it was difficult to live on only five tomans a day. Occasionally, he could afford better food for his mother and sisters. When he made good money, he bought some meat and rice for the home. Reflecting on those days, he later said, “We experienced poverty in the true meaning of the word.”





A Gift from Imam Reza (a)

At the beginning of his studies in the Islamic seminary, he was still in a dire financial situation. One day, when he didn't have much money left, he went to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (a) and expressed his difficulties. It was as though his patience had run out, his eyes telling the tale of the sorrows within his heart. During those moments, one of his relatives spotted him and, understanding his distress by the anguished look on his face, approached him and gave him some money. At first, Sayyid Ebrahim was stunned: How had someone else known what was going on in his heart? But after some time, he realized that the gift had actually come from Imam Reza (a) himself, and his heart felt at rest.

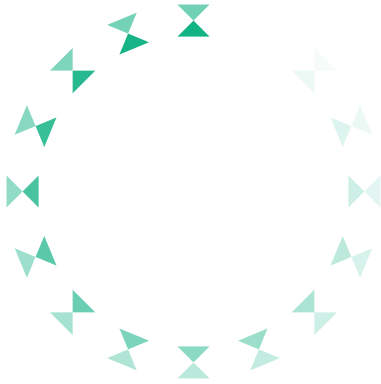




He Was Foresighted

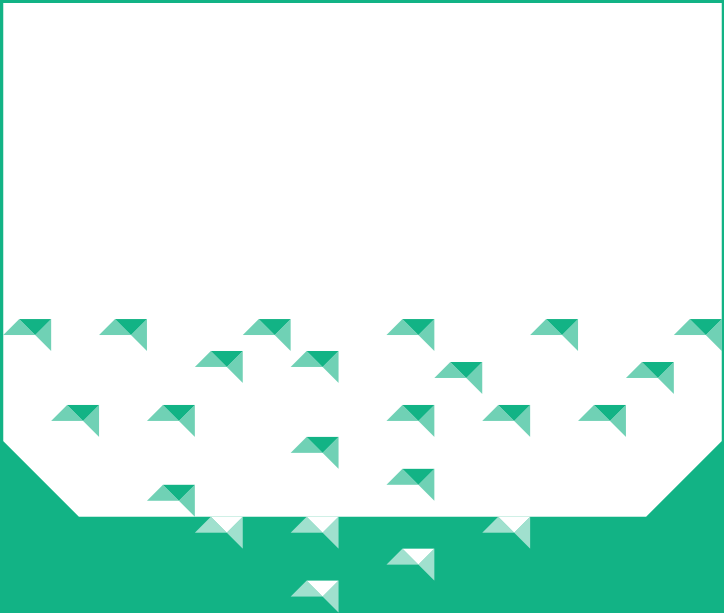
One or two years before the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, he was speaking with some seminary students about the Shah's oppressive regime and the struggle against the monarchy. Someone brought up the topic of who would lead the country if the Shah left. Sayyid Ebrahim declared, "Haj Agha Khamenei, the imam of the congregation at Keramat Mosque, is the best candidate for the presidency!" His friends were taken aback and replied, "What are you talking about?" But Sayyid Ebrahim, having witnessed Ayatollah Khamenei's managerial abilities and immense potential in organizational activities during his Quranic exegesis lessons, stood by his statement. Remarkably, a few years later, his foresight proved accurate; Ayatollah Khamenei was elected president.







The Judge





Patrons of the Revolution

The Revolution had just taken place, and the nation's economy was struggling. Many had left their villages for the cities, seeking employment. The main sidewalks of Karaj were crowded with street vendors, making it difficult for people to move around. Sayyid Ebrahim resolved this issue not with an iron fist but with a gentle hand.

He ordered that a place be found for the street vendors to relocate. This move not only made life easier for the people but also ensured that the disadvantaged street vendors weren't put out of work. In those days, the late Imam Khomeini had advised the authorities that these people were the patrons of the revolution.





Rules Apply to All

Twenty-year-old Sayyid Ebrahim, the prosecutor of Karaj, picked up the phone. The head of the Presidential Office was on the other line: “Have you arrested [so-and-so]? The president is ordering you to release him as soon as possible.” He thought for a moment and remembered that the arrested man, a close friend of the president, had committed serious crimes. After deliberating, he said, “Convey my greetings to President Bani-Sadr and tell him that this is the decision of the prosecutor and judge, and no one has the right to revoke the judge’s ruling.” Growing angry, the head of the Presidential Office snapped, “What are you talking about? This is the president’s order!” With a calm tone, Sayyid Ebrahim replied, “This request of the president is an interference in prosecution, which is not allowed by law.” Enraged by his decisiveness, the head of the office hung up without saying goodbye, and Bani-Sadr never followed up on that person’s release again.





A Friendly Authority

Despite the formal and rigid atmosphere of the prosecutor's office, he created a warm environment among his colleagues. His moral qualities made it easy for others to connect with him. No one could match his hard work and precision in judicial affairs. Every day, he worked from dawn until dusk, and his job was extremely demanding. He genuinely believed that he had to endure hardship so that a corner of the country could find its footing. Although he constantly dealt with criminals and suspects, he treated them with the utmost respect while remaining firm and adhering to the law.





A Refuge

As both a book author and editor-in-chief of a magazine, he had been critical of the Islamic Revolution from the beginning, expressing his displeasure through his publications. One day, a friend alarmed him, claiming that a group had filed a lawsuit against him and his magazine, demanding the harshest punishment from the Judiciary. His colleague suggested he present his problem to Prosecutor Raisi, who was known to meet with the general public on Tuesdays. After waiting in line for a few consecutive weeks, he finally had the opportunity to meet with the prosecutor.

Mr. Raisi asked about his problem. When he introduced himself, he immediately recognized him and took a keen interest in his legal case. Upon reviewing the case, he exclaimed, "There isn't even the slightest wrongdoing in this case!" He mentioned that during his most recent trip to Qom, he had seen one of the author's books in a friend's hand and had read some of it, wanting to read the rest. Without hesitation, the author signed a copy of the new edition and gifted it to the prosecutor. However, Raisi, not one to accept gifts while in a position of judgement, insisted on paying for the book. He then turned the telephone on his desk towards the author and said, "Call and tell those in charge to send me every issue of your magazine." Once he did that, Mr. Raisi said, "I will read your magazines and inspect your case." Sometime later, the author received the news that his case had been closed.





A Rejected Gift

Someone came to the prosecutor's office and explained that he owned a few four-hundred-square-meter pieces of land in Karaj and intended to donate one of them to the prosecutor. His idea was for the land to be sold, with the revenue distributed among the city's needy at the prosecutor's discretion. However, Sayyid Ebrahim refused the offer, despite the man's insistence. The man even asked a respected citizen to mediate on his behalf, but to no avail. He then offered to give the land to the prosecutor, but Sayyid Ebrahim still wouldn't accept it. Sayyid Ebrahim completely dashed the man's hopes, saying, "No, Brother! You should go to the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation. If I, as someone who has no property in this city and even stays in the prosecutor's office at night, accept this land, people's minds will be riddled with thousands of misguided thoughts, and they won't be able to trust me ever again."





Meritocracy

When he was appointed as the head of the General Inspection Office, some officials with opposing political views worried about being fired or dismissed. However, despite being aware of their political inclinations, he utilized their capabilities throughout his ten-year tenure. He genuinely believed in meritocracy, not just in rhetoric.

Similarly, when he assumed the custodianship of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (a), many people expected widespread changes at the managerial level due to his different management approach compared to the previous custodians. But that didn't happen. He himself said that when someone performs their duties well, there is no need to replace them, even if they don't share his views.





Instant Kinship

The automotive repair team of the General Inspection Office was the most overlooked group of individuals. Despite their hard work, they didn't receive the appreciation they deserved. One day, Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi, the newly appointed chairman of the General Inspection Office, was preparing to visit the chief justice. As he approached his car, he noticed one of the mechanics in uniform repairing a vehicle nearby. Sayyid Ebrahim walked up to him, greeted him, and expressed appreciation for his work. Then, he got into his car and set out, leaving the mechanic stunned. The mechanic's co-workers gathered around him, exclaiming, "You didn't tell us the new chairman is in your family!" The mechanic insisted that this was the first time he had met him, but no one could believe him. However, it didn't take long for the rest of the mechanics and workers in the office to realize just how compassionate their new chairman truly was.





Defending the Oppressed

In an open meeting with the people, Sayyid Ebrahim was informed that an official from the Ministry of Education had been laid off without cause due to an inaccurate report by an inspector from the General Inspection Office. Sayyid Ebrahim assessed the case thoroughly and found that the laid-off official was dealt with unjustly. Consequently, he removed the inspector from office and reinstated the official to his position. In every post he held, whether as the head of the General Inspection Office, the prosecutor-general of Iran, or the first deputy of the Judiciary, Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi maintained this approach, restoring rights to those to whom they belonged.





Wittiness in the Mosque

When Mr. Raisi came to the mosque in the evening, he delivered a short speech to the people after the prayers. Interestingly, he always tried to cheer them up with a joke or charming sentence. I was surprised that someone occupied with legal cases from morning until evening could be so refreshed and energetic. One reason for his wittiness was to break the ice, as the people saw him as a high-ranking official. He wanted the people who visited the mosque to resolve their legal issues to feel comfortable. Sometimes, so many people came with their problems that he couldn't leave the mosque until an hour later. He wouldn't even allow the visitors to be frisked at the door. It was extremely important to him that they felt completely at ease and as though they were speaking to one of their own close family members or friends.





A Humble Imam with a High Official Position

Sayyid Ebrahim had been working in the Judiciary for twenty years, yet alongside his immense responsibilities, he also served as the imam of a mosque, leading evening prayers whenever his schedule allowed. He used this opportunity to resolve people's problems. Every evening after prayers, he sat in the mosque for an hour, giving those with judicial issues a chance to meet and discuss their concerns with him. Sometimes, people seeking his help didn't recognize him by face and were unaware that this humble clergyman, sitting in a corner of the mosque and talking with them, was in fact the chairman of the General Inspection Office.





The Teaching Salary

Alongside his official responsibilities, he also taught Islamic jurisprudence at the Marvi Islamic Seminary. It was normal to pen a contract for the teaching salary, but this contract was made different by the note he added beneath his signature:

In His Name, the Exalted

I value the opportunity to be at this educational institute. Please give the teaching salary to the needy students of the seminary.

Respectfully,

Wassalam.





Helping the Needy

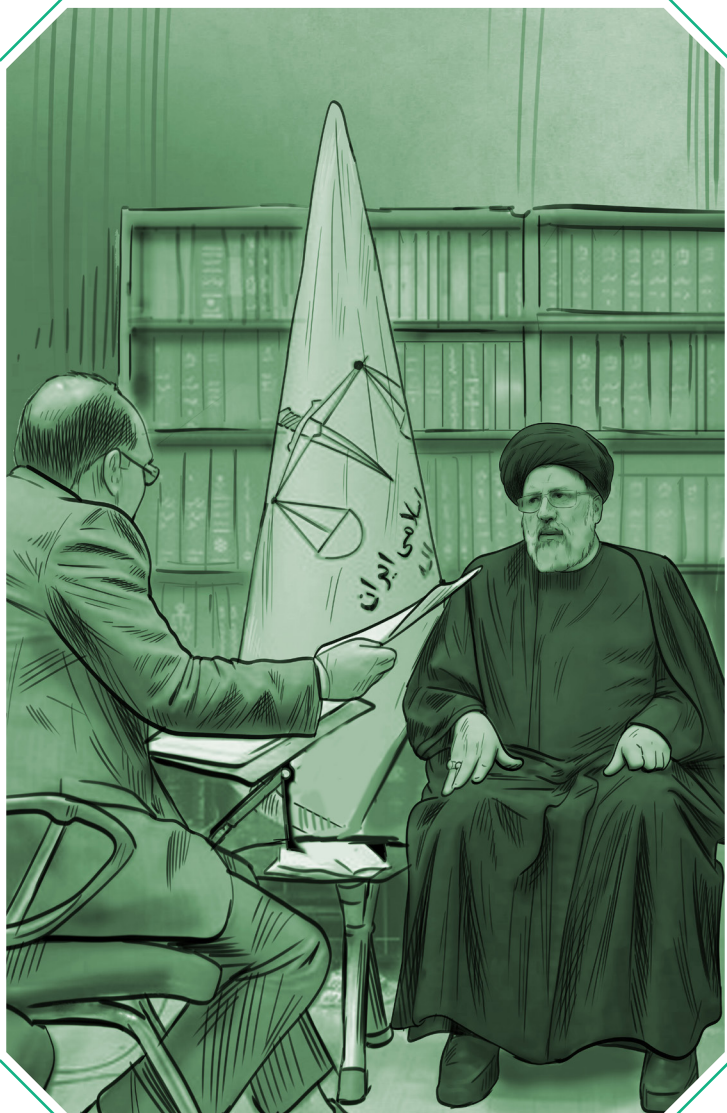
When he worked in the judiciary, he held open meetings on Tuesdays, where all kinds of people would come. Anyone with seemingly irresolvable problems in any part of the judicial system would discuss their issues with him, and if the law allowed, he helped them. However, some people who had no judicial problems would also come. When I asked them what they needed from Haj Agha, they said, “We have financial problems, and he has been helping us for a while. We’ve come to get help.” At times when there wasn’t enough time for them to meet Mr. Raisi, we delivered their messages to him, and he provided the assistance they needed.





Open Arms for the People

For over twenty years in various judicial positions, he maintained a consistent practice: holding weekly meetings with the public every Tuesday. Each week, he personally sat down and spoke one-on-one with people whose affairs had reached an impasse. Sometimes, when there were more visitors, he moved his desk into the hallway and continued meetings with people until nightfall. He responded to everyone with the utmost composure, promised to follow up on their cases, and diligently pursued the matters to the best of his ability.





Just Like the People

Admission to a PhD program has specific requirements. The applicant must first pass a nationwide entrance exam before enrolling in a university. Like all applicants, Sayyid Ebrahim went to the exam center. Many of the applicants knew him beforehand, and many others, noticing his demeanor and appearance, thought that an official had come to see how the entrance exams were being conducted. It was not until he took his seat at the back of the hall, received his question sheet, and began to answer questions like everyone else that they realized what was going on. Many of the students couldn't believe it, stealing glances in awe for half the exam's duration. Could it be that one of the high-ranking officials of the country was participating in an exam mere feet away from them?





Patient in the Face of Insults

It was decided that a judge would be transferred from his current post to another location due to a violation he had committed. This transfer would result in a demotion for the judge, considered a penalty for his misconduct. The judge called Sayyid Ebrahim and started cursing at him so loudly that I could hear his voice from the other end of the line. I was enraged and asked, “Why don’t you respond to him?” However, without paying any attention to the insults, Sayyid Ebrahim followed up on the judge’s case to ensure that none of his rights were violated.







Servant of Imam Reza (a)



Small House, Big Heart

Originally from Mashhad, Sayyid Ebrahim had settled in Tehran after years of official responsibilities in the capital. When he was appointed custodian of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (a), we suggested that he use the holy shrine's budget to rent a house for himself since his position required him to live in Mashhad and establish a life there. However, he didn't agree and preferred to stay in the Razavi Pilgrim Town. We offered him two fifty-square-meter apartments with only a tiny kitchen and a living room. They were suitable for pilgrims staying a few days, but not ideal for living in for several years. Despite our insistence, he remained firm in his decision. He brought just enough furniture to fit in a pick-up truck and made those apartments his home. The house he had in Tehran was not large or luxurious either. Once, I asked him why he didn't buy a bigger place. He replied, "This house is enough for me and my family."





A Fulfilled Wish

We were walking together towards the holy shrine of Imam Reza (a). He told me, “Once my term in the Judiciary ends, I want to be the imam of a remote mosque and teach the people Quranic exegesis and Islamic rulings.” Sometime after that conversation, he was appointed as the custodian of the holy shrine. One day, while I was at the holy shrine, I saw him on the pulpit in the Gowharshad Mosque, facing the tomb of Imam Reza (a) and speaking about Quranic exegesis after the congregational prayers. It felt as though Allah had granted his wish that day, but instead of a remote mosque, He had chosen the closest mosque to the tomb of Imam Reza (a) for him.





Requests of the Needy

When he was the custodian of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (a), he received messages from the people via social media. There were two kinds of messages: one about receiving blessed food from the holy shrine, and the other with particular requests. Many people, from single mothers with orphaned children to those hopelessly looking for jobs, were facing difficulties and turned to Imam Reza (a). He instructed his social media admins to establish a special process for responding to these messages to ensure there would be no delay. He personally tended to each of their issues, exerting all his efforts to resolve their problems.





A Shelter for the Pilgrims

In a meeting with the officials of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (a), Ayatollah Raisi addressed everyone in a serious and stern tone, saying, “Serving the pilgrims of Imam Reza (a) is our pride. We must never interact harshly with the pilgrims of Imam Reza (a). As the shrine’s custodian, I explicitly say that if you disrespect these pilgrims, you have disrespected Imam Reza (a) himself.”

With this perspective, he dedicated all his efforts to building Zaer Shahr-e Razavi (Razavi Pilgrims Town), a place for travelers who couldn’t afford to stay in a hotel. He aimed to ensure that no pilgrim would ever have to sleep on the street or in a tent while in Mashhad.

Once, he called me, clearly enraged, and demanded, “What are you doing?!”

Taken aback by his tone and anger, I asked, “What happened?”

He replied, “When I was in the shrine underpass, I saw a few families laying blankets on the ground and resting!”

His anger and harshness were justified; I was upset about the condition of the pilgrims at Imam Reza’s shrine as well. He was determined that no pilgrim should be without shelter in Mashhad.





A Refuge for the Vulnerable

During his tenure as the custodian of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (a), the cities surrounding Mashhad were struck by two consecutive earthquakes. He mobilized all the resources available through the holy shrine to compensate for the losses inflicted by the earthquakes, yet he remained concerned. We only saw him relax once we showed him our report on the aid provided to the earthquake-stricken regions. Although the holy shrine had no direct responsibility to help with the relief effort, he felt a profound sense of duty. Typically, governmental institutions, rescue teams, and popular volunteers assist those affected by such crises, but Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi didn't hesitate to help when he had the resources.





No to Discrimination!

For many years, Ayatollah Raisi's father had recited rowzeh (devotional texts) for the people in the holy shrine of Imam Reza (a). When he passed away, he was buried beside the grave of Ayatollah Faqih Sabzevari in the holy shrine. During our periodic renovations, we decided to replace Ayatollah Sabzevari's gravestone and enclose it in glass to prevent damage. At that time, Mr. Raisi was the custodian of the holy shrine. I suggested to him, "Let us replace your father's gravestone as well." But he replied with a resounding NO. I insisted, saying, "We'll pay for it ourselves." However, he was firm in his decision, replying, "I don't want it to seem as though I renovated my father's grave because I am the custodian of the holy shrine."





Personal Use Is Not Allowed

When Sayyid Ebrahim and his family lived in Tehran, he occasionally held a rowzeh, gathering all the relatives at his house. However, when they moved to Mashhad, he couldn't host guests at their home because it was too small. So, once every two or three months, he rented a hall in southern Mashhad and invited everyone. Despite being in charge of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (a) and all its facilities, Sayyid Ebrahim was not willing to use any of them for personal purposes.





Calculate All the Expenses!

On the day when Ebrahim Raisi was handing over the custodianship of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (a) to become the chief justice, he told me, “Calculate all the expenses that the holy shrine has incurred for me over the last three years and inform me.” I didn’t understand his request at first, so he elaborated, “Calculate every facility I have used, including my meals, and give me the total.” I was stunned; these expenses were part of the holy shrine’s budget for the custodian. I tried my best to change his mind, but he was determined. I calculated the expenses and provided him with the total. Without sparing a second, he wrote a check and said, “Return this amount to the holy shrine’s account.”





A Salary Spent on Charity

When I succeeded him as the custodian of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (a) three years into his term, I reviewed the financial invoices from his administration. I found that he had not taken even a single rial from his custodianship salary. I told him, “This money is your legal right. It must be given to you.” But he refused to accept it and instead requested that the funds be used to build a clinic on the lands belonging to the Holy Shrine. We honored his request and spent the money on the three clinics we were constructing in the deprived regions of southeastern Iran, with the help of donations.





Feel Free to Criticize!

During a meeting with journalists, the chairman asked Mr. Raisi to start his speech.

However, Mr. Raisi replied, "I have come to listen. Let the attendees speak, and I'll speak at the end."

The chairman then announced, "Who wants to speak?"

I raised my hand and said, "Me!"

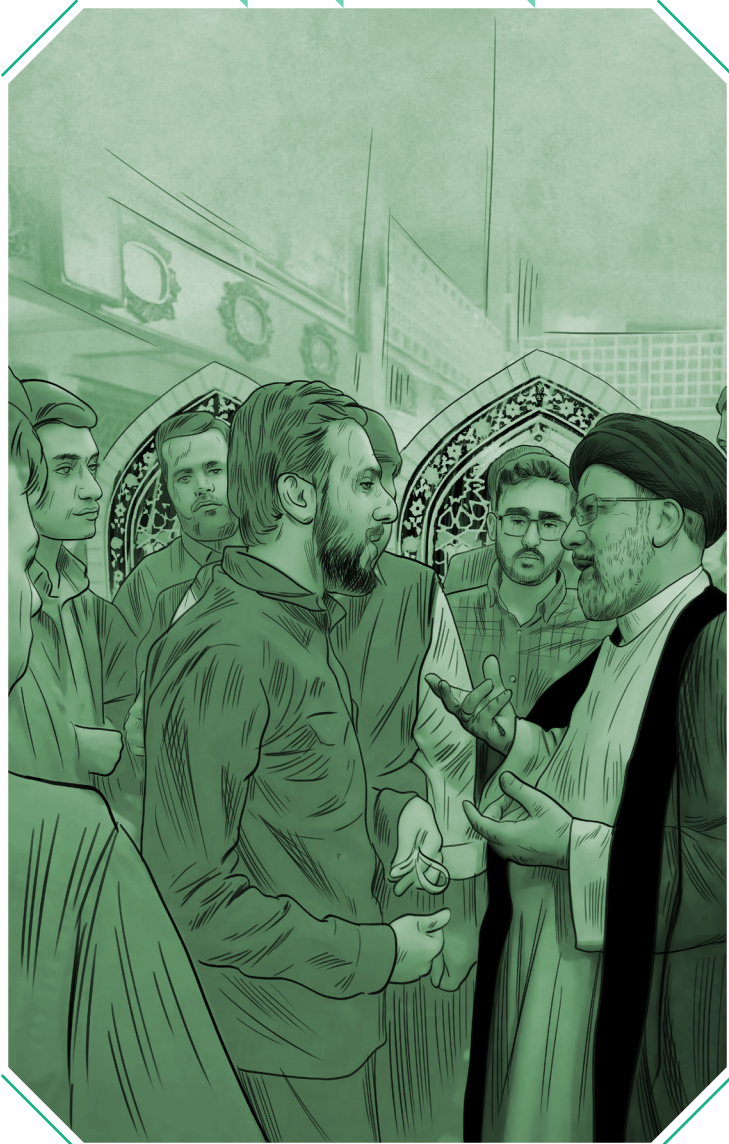
First, I addressed Mr. Raisi and said, "I ask forgiveness in advance for any possible rudeness."

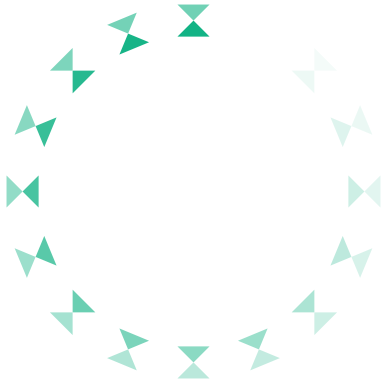
He replied, smiling, "Go ahead. I'm at your service."

I fiercely and explicitly criticized his performance for over ten minutes, sentence by sentence, short but consistent. Perhaps some of my criticisms were harsh and, to some extent, unfair. Several times, others tried to interrupt my critique which appeared bitter, but each time, Mr. Raisi, reminded them, saying, "Don't worry about it, he's talking to me."

When I finished speaking, he replied, "Dear sir, thank you for your truthfulness and frankness."

When it was his turn to speak, my friend beside me joked, "Just wait and see . . . He will indirectly mention you!" As far as I can remember, he spoke for half an hour, but I didn't sense any sign that he was upset about my criticisms. When the meeting ended, I went to him to say that whatever I had said didn't negate my heartfelt admiration and abundant love for him, and my words had been solely out of sympathy and love. However, before I could say anything, he hugged me, kissed me on the forehead, and told the attendees, "I like these kinds of conversations!"







Head of the Judiciary



Humble Despite Achievements

He was considered one of the most experienced members of the judiciary, having been a part of it since his youth. Even the two people who had served as chief justice before him had less experience, yet he never displayed any sense of superiority in judicial matters. He never acted as if he were better than those under his management. When he was appointed chief justice later on, his conduct with the people did not change. Many people attest to this fact. His interactions with others remained consistent, regardless of his position.





The Family of Prisoners

Before he was appointed chief justice, he was so attentive to the prisoners and cared for them so much that some saw him as a fatherly figure. He issued circulars to ensure that prisoners without outside support could seek help from judiciary officials to resolve their problems. He even looked after the families of the prisoners, ensuring they didn't face hardships while their breadwinners served their sentence.

During his term as chief justice, we were informed that Mr. Raisi was planning to visit our prison. The prison warden told me that I was to welcome him and, if permitted, I could discuss my problems with him. I couldn't believe that the chief justice would take the time to speak to me, a mere prisoner. When he arrived, I greeted him, and as he was about to leave, I mustered the courage to say, "I have an issue."

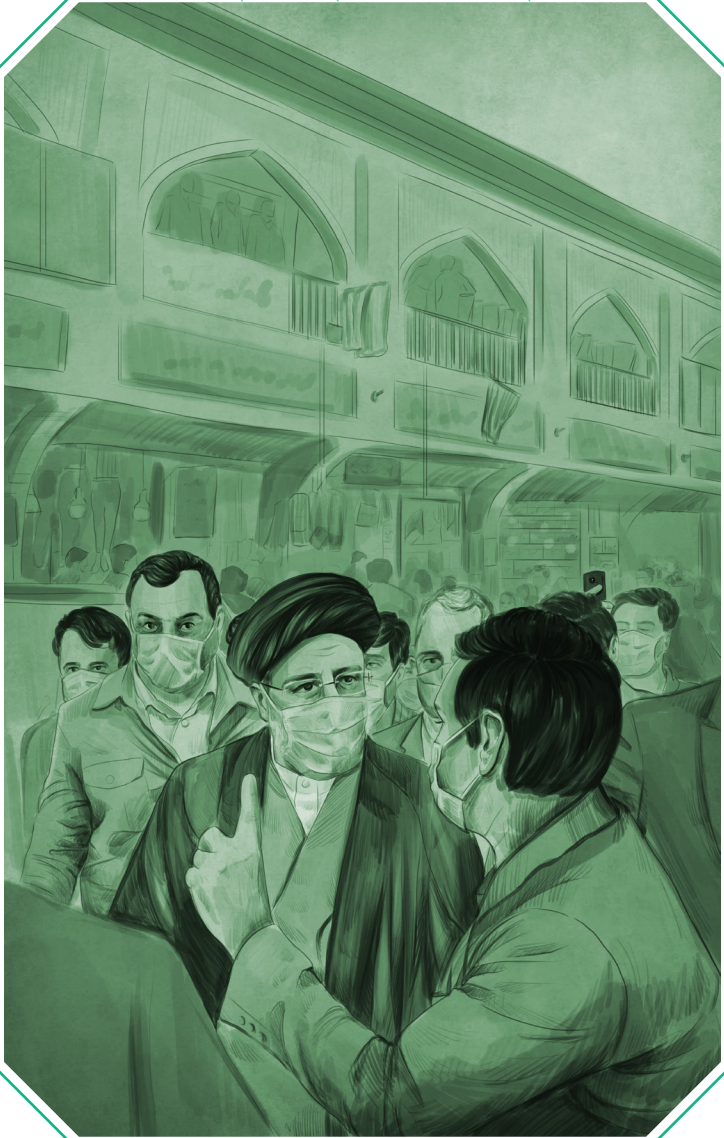
His response, "Go on," was so kind that I felt at ease and spoke freely. Following our conversation, his office consistently followed up on my legal case until it was resolved, to the point that the judge thought he must be a close relative of mine.





Calm in the Face of Criticism and Insult

After his speech at the mosque in the heart of Tehran's main bazaar ended, we came out. A young man standing in the middle of the road directed a barrage of criticisms and insults at Mr. Raisi, using the worst language imaginable. He was aggrieved about a court ruling. Responding calmly, as if he hadn't even uttered a bad word, Sayyid Ebrahim told him, "I'm not in charge of that court." Despite this, the youth persisted, continuing to hurl obscenities. Displaying his magnanimity, Mr. Raisi told me, "Arrange for this young man to come to my office tomorrow so I can speak with him properly. Nothing can be explained here in the middle of the road."





Caring for His Mother

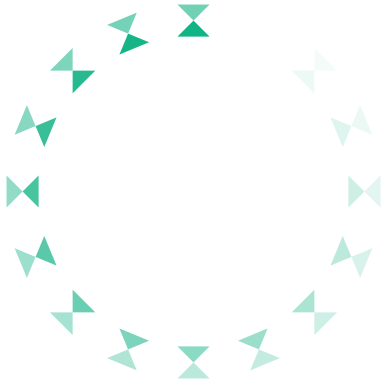
I had an appointment to discuss a certain issue with Dr. Raisi. When I entered the room, I sensed an aura of calmness from him. When I asked why, he replied, “My mother had caught the coronavirus, and alhamdulillah, I just found out that she has recovered and isn’t in danger anymore.”

I was taken aback; I asked, “I didn’t know your mother had fallen ill.”

He replied, “Yes, I didn’t tell anyone.”

I still couldn’t wrap my head around it. He was the chief justice. When we talked about it in further detail later and I asked him why he didn’t tell anyone, I realized that it was because he didn’t want anyone to give him special governmental treatment just because he was the chief justice. Over those few days, he and his family had taken responsibility for caring for his mother.







The President



A Man for Difficult Times

During his two or three years as chief justice, the authority became significantly more respected by the public. This admiration was influenced by his personality and the effective operation of the authority under his leadership. As the presidential elections approached, many people believed the country needed a manager like him, especially since dissatisfaction with the previous government had grown following the coronavirus pandemic and management issues. The next president would have a big job on their hands. When rumors began circulating that he was considering running for president, some of his close friends met with him, asking him to remain in the Judiciary. They highlighted the country's difficult managerial conditions and severe economic issues, trying to dissuade him from participating in the elections in any manner possible. However, he responded to them:

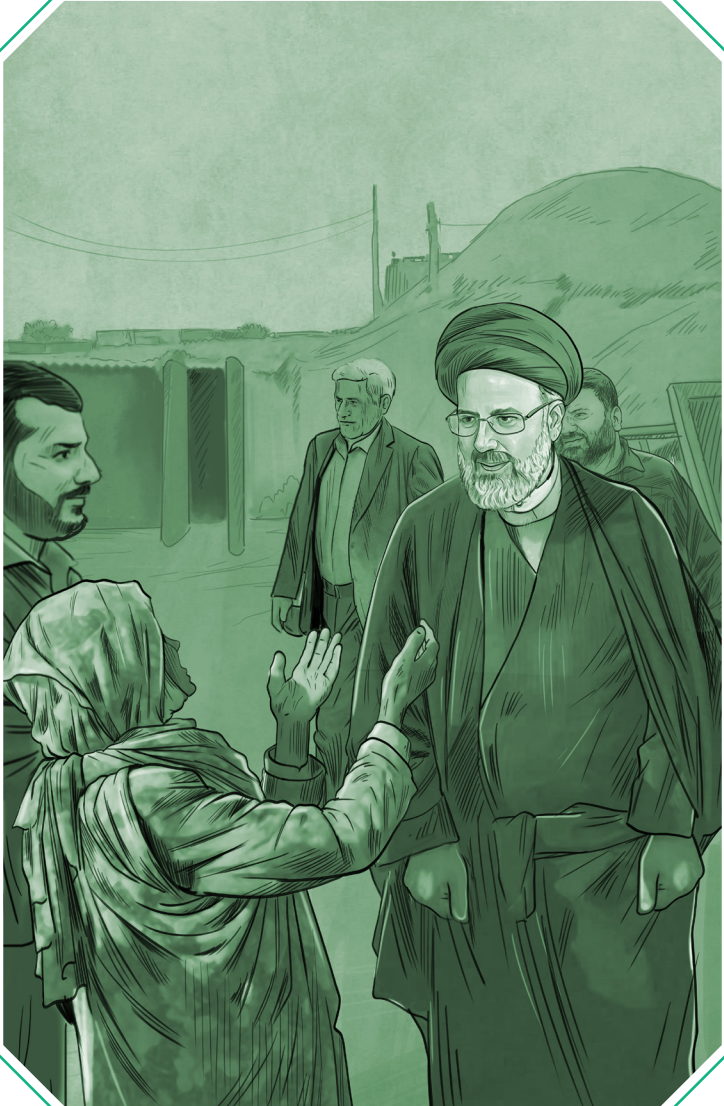
I understand the managerial situation of the country and the problems you're talking about, but I feel compelled to participate because of the duty I feel on my shoulders. This is an arena that calls for self-sacrifice. As the chief justice, I am currently in a position of demand, but if elected president, I will be accountable to the people. The truth is, I am a soldier on this battlefield. Why should I seek my own comfort and sit in a position of personal benefit?





Now, it is just us and our shared struggles and hopes. Over the past few months, various groups, sectors, and professions have invited me to run for the election. On the other hand, some well-meaning individuals, for various reasons, have kindly advised me to resist this call. However, the kindness of the people towards this humble servant has extended to the point of becoming a widespread and public demand. If it were not for this public desire, I would have been content to continue the path of transformation in the Judiciary. Yet, resisting this broad wave would have appeared as a disregard for the will of the noble people of my country and misunderstood as comfort-seeking in the battle against our shared struggles.

**Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi's Statement on His Candidacy in
the 2021 Presidential Election**





Debating While Fasting

During the presidential debates, he was attacked by his rivals, but he strove to maintain proper conduct and focused on critiquing his opponents' performance, always aiming to be fair. He even fasted on debate days to ensure he would be more mindful of his words and actions. A fasting person is always more vigilant, seeking Allah's satisfaction with their deeds. The debates were held on summer evenings when hunger and thirst affected a fasting person more intensely. Nevertheless, he attended those debates while fasting to remain more attentive to his political conduct.





I Will Ask Allah for Forgiveness on Your Behalf!

Although Sayyid Ebrahim held a university doctorate and a license for ijtehad (the highest level in the Islamic seminary), during the 2021 election debates, one of the candidates, resorting to lies and deceit, accused him of not having enough education. In a live debate broadcast on television and viewed by millions, the candidate remarked snidely, “You can’t become president with only a primary education!” This accusation persists even today, and the enemies continue to use this phrase. However, Raisi’s reaction to this accusation was notable; after the program ended, he approached the candidate and said, “I will ask Allah for forgiveness on your behalf for what you did to me.”





As a child of the great Iranian nation and a humble soldier of the Islamic Revolution, relying on Almighty God and seeking help from the Imam of the Age – May God hasten his reappearance – and the pure spirits of the martyrs, I have come forward independently to bring about a transformation in the executive management of the country and to fight relentlessly against poverty, corruption, humiliation, and discrimination. With respect for all candidates and political groups, I hold myself accountable and responsible only before the Almighty God and the Iranian nation.

O God, You are my witness that I have never sought position or power, and in this instance as well, contrary to personal desire and interest, I have stepped forward solely to fulfil my duty in response to the call of the masses and the elite communities, to uphold social interests, alleviate the people's suffering, and instil hope. On this path, I seek assistance from You and Your Chosen Ones to be a worthy servant for these appreciative and suffering people. God willing, with His help and benevolence.

**Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi's Statement on His Candidacy in
the 2021 Presidential Election**





You Should Apologize to the People!

No one could ever make him so angry that he lost his composure. Regardless of the situation, he always tried to keep his cool and approach issues logically. We only witnessed his anger when the people's problems were not resolved due to government officials' negligence. Once, there was an outbreak of viruses across the country, and medications such as antibiotics and IV drips were running short. When we reviewed these reports in a cabinet meeting, we saw President Raisi's extreme anger for the first time. He was harsh with those responsible and instructed me to apologize to the people as soon as possible.





The Martyrs Are the True Representatives

We were on our way to New York to participate in the United Nations General Assembly. There were some people on the plane recording a documentary. I asked the president, “How do you feel as the representative of the Iranian people?” Suddenly, he choked up, and tears began to flow, as though the title “representative of the Iranian people” weighed heavily upon his chest. I asked him why he was crying, and he responded, “The true representative of the country is Shaheed Haj Qasem Soleimani. The true representatives of the country are the martyrs. Who am I [compared to them]?”





The Walk of Authority

Opponents of the Islamic Republic had planned to disrupt Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi's first appearance at the United Nations. They intended to organize a protest outside his place of residence during his first few days in New York, chanting slogans against the Islamic Republic and hoping to tarnish its reputation. However, Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi delivered a fiery and bold speech at the United Nations, calling for the murderers of General Haj Qasem Soleimani to be brought to justice while holding the general's picture aloft. Despite being aware of his enemies' plans, he made a courageous decision after the speech that foiled all their plots; he walked back to his hotel from the United Nations instead of using a car. Images of the Iranian president's walk of authority, particularly along the path where his opponents had organized their protest, were broadcast worldwide, and there was no sign of a large demonstration. Regarding his decision, he said, "We shouldn't run away from these scenes. These people don't have anything substantial to say. We have to face them head-on."





Some time ago, the former President of the United States declared that ISIS was created by America. For us, it doesn't matter which American administration was responsible for creating ISIS. The issue is that a government from the other side of the world decided to redraw the geography of our region at the cost of shedding the blood of hundreds of thousands of women and children. However, the Islamic Republic halted and then pushed back this project. The commander and hero of this war against terrorism and the destroyer of ISIS was none other than General Qasem Soleimani, who was martyred on the path of liberating the nations of the region, with the former president of the United States claiming responsibility for this crime. A fair judicial review of the crime that the former president of the United States has confessed to is a service to humanity.

President Raisi's Speech at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly: September 21, 2022





Engagement with the Academic Community

During his presidency, the academic community and elites met with Dr. Raisi several times. As the president of one of Tehran's universities, I also participated in these meetings. Typically, the procedure in these meetings was for the president to listen to a few representatives of the entire group and then respond to everyone in detail in a single speech. However, in our meetings, the procedure differed. Even if the meeting lasted several hours, the president would listen attentively to the speeches of the country's elites and then make a few brief points afterward.

What stood out in Dr. Raisi's words during these meetings was his unwavering commitment to serving the people. In the few minutes he spoke, his primary message was that the scientific concerns of the elites should be directed towards serving the people. He wholeheartedly pursued a problem-driven approach to research at universities, and said, "The field of solving the problems of the people is yours, the elites."

Another noteworthy point was that he fulfilled every promise he made to the elite community. This commitment encouraged the country's elites to think more seriously about solving national problems with the government's help, as they saw the president actively seeking solutions with their assistance.



دوره هجدهم است با چهره های برجسته از
اساتید و نخبگان علوم و فناوری ها؛ برترساز

۱۴۰۲ - ۱۴۰۳
مهر ماه ۱۴۴۵



Working Weekends and Holidays

I asked the president for a time to give the presentation and was given a slot at nine o'clock in the morning on Friday. When I met him that morning, he said, "Last night, I went to Qom and returned to Tehran after praying fajr [the morning prayer]," disregarding that it was a Friday [the Islamic weekend], in the middle of Ramadan, and during the New Year's holidays. Each of these occasions could convince anyone to take a day off. Yet he met with me in the morning, and not only that, but he also had two or three other meetings scheduled afterward.





He Never Neglected Establishing Family Ties

He and his wife had agreed to hold a rowzeh (religious gathering) at their house on the first of each month. One of his motives was to connect with his family and relatives. He maintained this rowzeh every month for twenty years without exception. Despite his busy schedule, he never allowed the rowzeh to be canceled. Even when he couldn't attend due to travel or urgent matters, he instructed his family to continue the program. When some wondered why they still held the rowzeh in his absence, he explained, "The only thing that matters is that the family meets, even if I'm not there."

In addition to this monthly program, he organized a family gathering every six months. One condition for these gatherings was to minimize talk about political issues and the government, focusing instead on family matters. However, given the sensitivity of some national affairs, the younger guests sometimes initiated political discussions and asked him questions. During these times, he answered openly and kept them informed about both internal and external affairs.





Devoted to God and the People

Worship wasn't just a part of his life; it was the central focus. This is why he never neglected his nightly prayers and worship, nor did he ever abandon serving the people. He saw both as means of gaining proximity to God.

After returning from provincial trips, despite being exhausted from delivering numerous talks, attending intense meetings, and interacting directly with the public, he would still rise one or two hours before the morning call to prayer to perform his nightly worship. His wife cannot recall him ever missing his nightly prayers, even when the fatigue from hours of strenuous work had drained his strength.

His companions on these trips recount how, on many nights, they were so exhausted that they didn't even have the energy to set the alarm on their phones, asking the security team to wake them for the morning prayers. However, they later realized that even on those nights, Mr. Raisi had awakened an hour before the call to prayer to conduct his vigil and nightly worship.





A Tireless President

President Raisi had come to Qom on a provincial trip. It was a Thursday night, and he wanted to visit the Jamkaran Mosque to worship. After he finished, people gathered around him, and he spent one or two hours listening to them. I thought to myself, Once this is over, he'll go and rest. However, at seven o'clock in the morning, when I switched on the television, I saw the president exiting his airplane at Ilam Airport, six hundred kilometers away from Qom, as if he hadn't just spent the whole night talking to people a few provinces away. Seeing this, I felt worried for him.

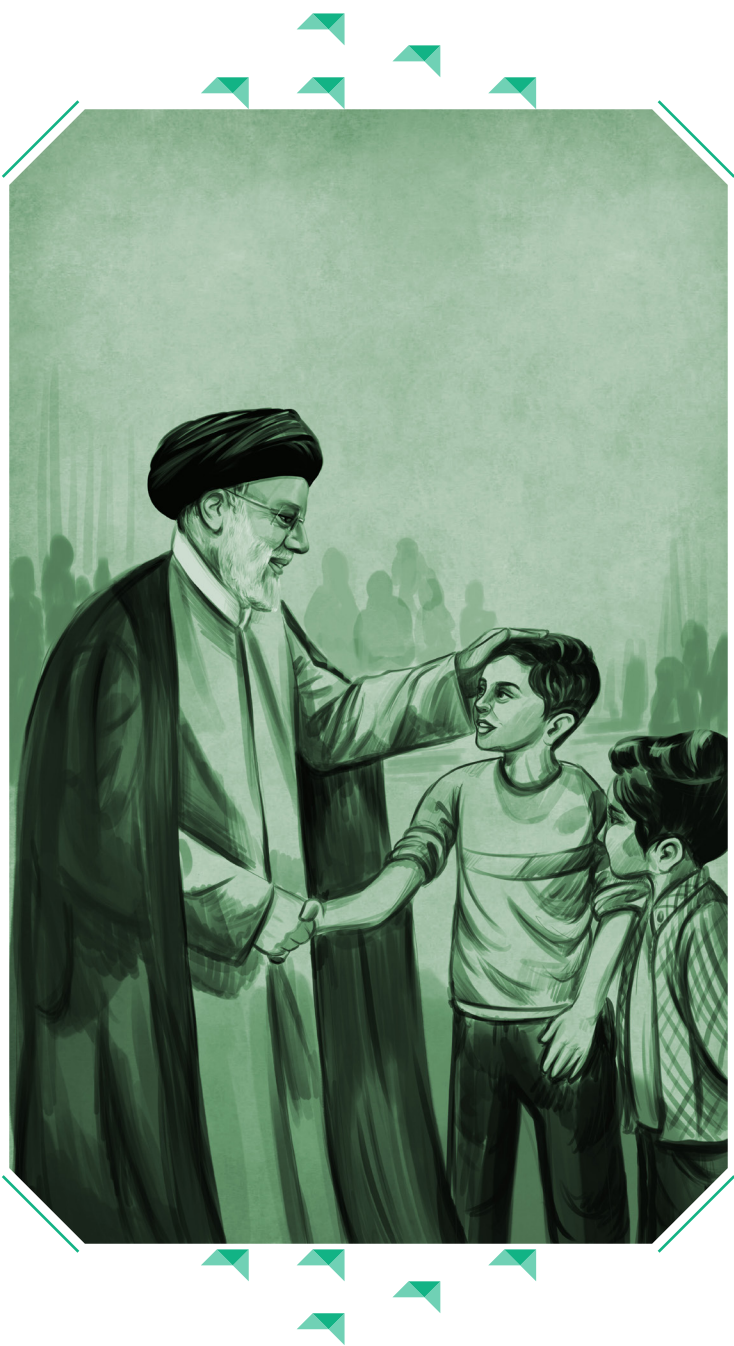




Tireless in Serving the People

As president, his workload was burdensome and exhausting due to the tough conditions within the country. In this regard, Major General Mousavi, the commander-in-chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, recounts:

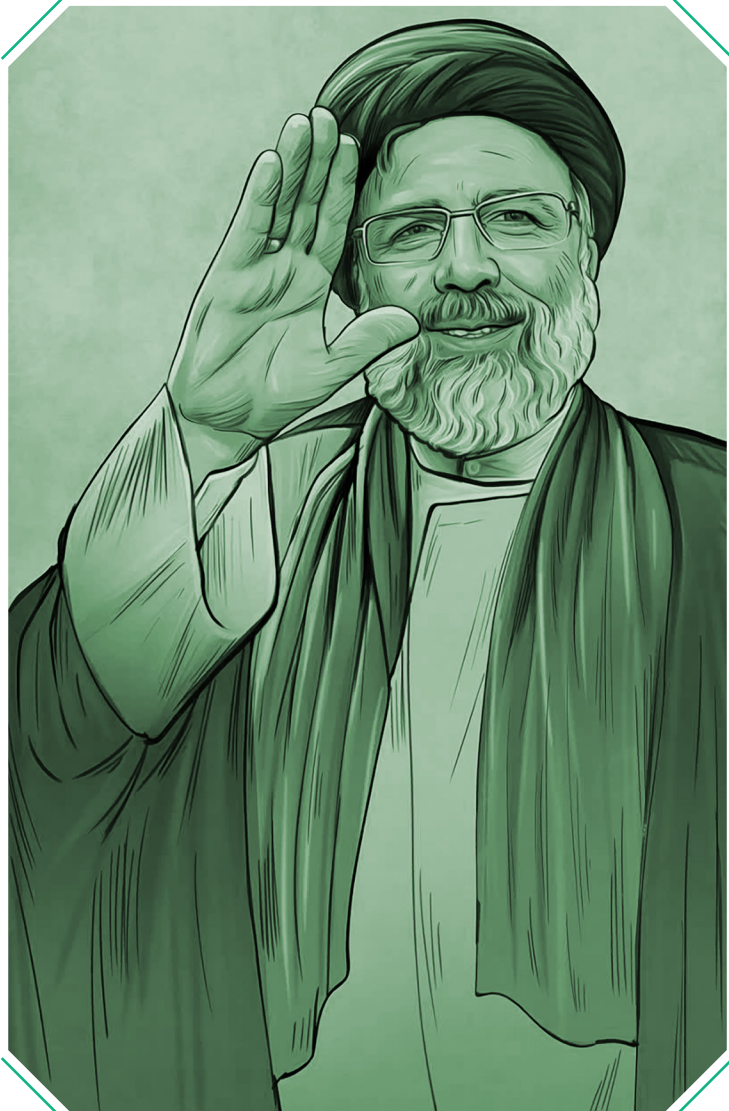
During a journey to the hot and humid southern city of Jask, the president's ceaseless efforts in the forty-five degrees Celsius sweltering heat astonished me. It was intolerably hot. We were accompanying him to a mosque in Jask for a lengthy program. You could tell from his face that he hadn't rested enough over the last few days. Once the program ended, I thought, "Now's a good time for him to rest." But a group of children, locals of Jask, surrounded him, and he started to talk and take photos with them. The program was so compressed and the weather so hot that I reprimanded his guards, telling them, "You should look after his health!" But they complained to me, saying, "No matter how much we ask him, he keeps telling us that he mustn't miss out on even a minute of serving the people."





The Unwavering Smile

During his presidency, the Sistan va Baluchestan province was once again hit by floods, making the already impoverished lives of the people even more difficult. As a journalist, I was part of the president's entourage. When we arrived in the flood-stricken region, the conditions were so severe that the water reached up to our knees. Rather than us looking after him in that challenging situation, he was constantly reminding us to take care of ourselves. His unwavering smile never left his face. Some people thought that the smile was just for the cameras, but he was always like that. He genuinely enjoyed being among the people.

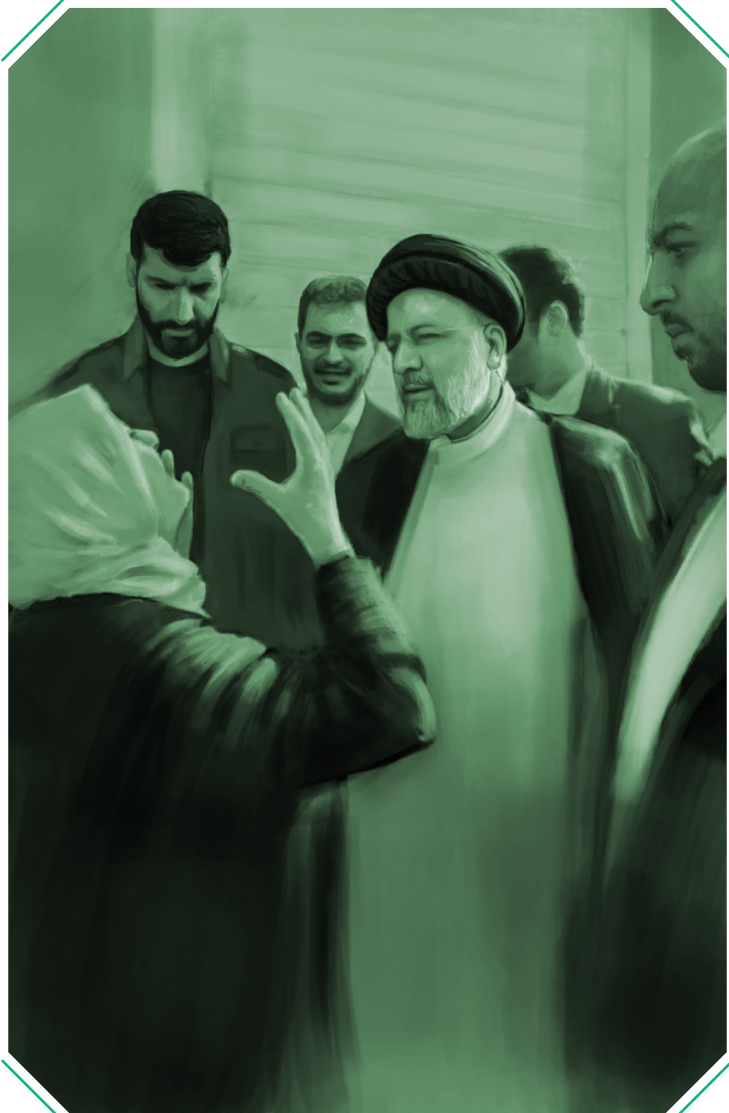




Meeting the Villagers

During the president's second visit to Isfahan province, we arrived at one of the villages earlier and waited for him with a crowd of people. Amidst the crowd, I spotted an elderly lady who had clearly been through a lot. She had a hunchback, and her wrinkled hands told a tale of years spent in agriculture. She was reciting supplications and verses of the Quran under her breath, all the while eagerly trying to get closer to the front. I approached her and said, "Haj Khanum,¹ don't worry. When the president arrives, we will arrange for you to meet him so you can show him your hardworking hands." As soon as those words left my mouth, the elderly lady glared at me angrily and said, "Do you think I've come to show off? I see Khomeini and Khamenei within him!" When the president arrived, she was the first to break through the security circle and meet him. When she met him, she didn't say a word. As if under a spell, she simply stared at him, ceaselessly reciting some prayers under her breath.

1. A polite way of addressing or referring to a woman in Iran in a religious context.





Listening to Poor Villagers

During a visit to one of the impoverished regions in Sistan va Baluchestan province, President Raisi personally asked the residents living in the suburbs about their problems. The Baluch family could never have imagined that one day, they would host the highest-ranking executive official in the country. When the president entered their hut, they welcomed him, and he sat down to listen to their concerns. He summoned the officials present and instructed them to attend to the villagers' needs in the region and turn their huts into proper houses. He cautioned the responsible official, informing him that the huts must be converted into houses by a specific date, using whatever means necessary, after obtaining the residents' consent.





Visiting the Flood-Stricken in a Remote Village

I was traveling from village to village, lending an ear to the flood-stricken residents of the Dashtiari county in the Sistan va Baluchestan province. In one village, a pregnant woman was washing clothes by a stream formed by the floodwaters. She complained to me, "Not a single person came to visit us!" I bid farewell to her and waved as the car pulled away. I knew nothing would improve unless a high-ranking official visited the region.

The next day, care packages were gathered in a sports hall, ready to be dispatched to the villages. Amidst the confusion, we received unexpected news that the president was coming! I could hardly believe it. Despite the awkwardness of the question, I asked everyone I knew to find out which region the president would visit. After asking around for about two hours, I learned that he was visiting a remote village in the area.

An hour later, the president arrived to personally supervise the aid process. The villagers, who never expected anyone to hear their pleas due to their remote location, were overjoyed. "We never imagined a day when the president would come here!" they exclaimed. One villager stepped forward, locked eyes with the president, and said, "Mr. Raisi, I was one of your staunch opponents, but now that you have visited us, my opinion has changed. I'm your supporter now!"

As the sun set, the president's convoy left the village. The men gathered together and praised the president for his commendable visit. I called the news agency's office and complained about not being informed officially about his visit. They responded, "The presidential office didn't want to turn the visit into a media circus."





Only for the Nation

Once, I was speaking privately with the president about a project. I told him, “If you do this, it will make the government more endearing to the people.” He replied, “Don’t say things like that. We aren’t working for our own benefit. The work must benefit the country, not just our government.”





Eager to Serve

He was deeply passionate about serving the people. He was scheduled to visit Alborz province the day after returning from Russia. During the flight back, he calculated that if they visited the presidential office after landing, rested a bit, and then set out for Alborz province, their journey could be delayed. Therefore, he instructed his team to go straight from the airport to Alborz province at midnight without resting. They could then rest briefly at the governor's office before starting their provincial meetings and visits. The president's diligence in serving the people astonished his security and protocol team. Even in taking such measures, President Raisi aimed to reduce the expenses as much as possible and minimize any inconvenience to others.





Inexhaustible

I was hosting a program where a group of youths were to be honored at the end. The officials present had to stand for the entire duration as several guests came up to receive their awards. Members of the president's security team approached me and urged me to announce the names and wrap up the program quickly. At first, I thought they were trying to speed things up as they normally did, but they informed me that the president had come to the program straight after receiving an IV and had also promised to attend three other programs elsewhere. I looked back at him; weakness and exhaustion were visible on his face, so I concluded the program as soon as possible.





Lucky Soldiers!

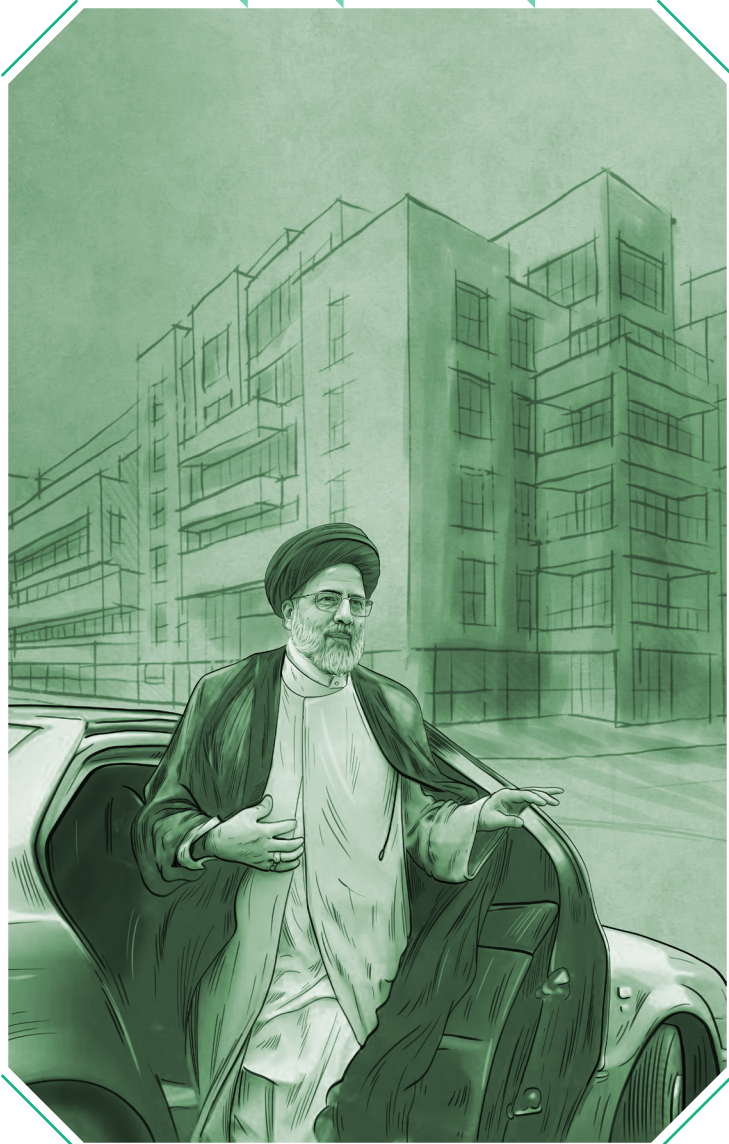
The president went to great lengths for everyone but disliked it when others did the same for him. Whenever we planned to organize a ceremonial unit to welcome him or see him off, he would say, “I swear to God, I don’t want to see these young soldiers standing in the heat or cold.” And whenever the ceremony was performed due to our insistence, the president would personally thank each soldier.





He Wanted to Be Like the People

Whenever we went for a speech or an inauguration and he saw people standing outside the designated area waiting for him to arrive, he insisted that the security team stop the car ten to twenty meters away from the crowd so he could walk toward them. Despite the serious problems this caused for the security team, he had a strong determination to be amongst the people. He hated sitting in the car while people surrounded him.





Avoiding Extra Formalities

He never enjoyed extra formalities and luxuries and didn't allow the country to incur additional costs by observing unnecessary protocols. This concern extended to his provincial trips, where cities were decorated differently to welcome him. Seeing his picture prominently displayed on a banner in a city we visited was enough to bother him, and he would sometimes go as far as to issue a formal reprimand to officials for doing so. Once, when a villager had put a photo of the president on the wall outside his house out of admiration, he reprimanded us, asking, "Why are you pasting my photo on the walls and doors? If you want to inform the people of the public meeting, use a photo of the people at my speech, not my portrait!"

During his tenure as chief justice and president, he went on over a hundred provincial trips, but I can't recall him ever spending a night in a hotel. He believed that if governmental departments and agencies had accommodations in every city, they should be used to avoid incurring additional costs for the government, even though many of those places lacked sufficient facilities to host the nation's president.





Humble Towards Everyone

As the airplane landed, rain began to patter against the windows while we waited for the stairs to exit. When President Raisi stepped out of the plane, a member of his entourage opened an umbrella and tried to hold it over him to shield him from the downpour. However, he was not one to allow others to inconvenience themselves for his sake. He took the umbrella himself and went down the stairs. At the foot of the stairs, a group of journalists were waiting for him in the rain with cameras and microphones to interview him. When he stood among them and realized that they were getting wet in the rain, he shut his umbrella so he could be in the same situation.





Among the People

A group of fruit farmers from a village in Bushehr province traveled to meet the president about their concerns. While visiting different provinces, Sayyid Ebrahim also made sure to visit remote areas. Upon seeing the farmers, he told us, “Please entertain them until my meeting is over.” Following his meeting, when the farmers asked him to build a dam for them, he immediately ordered research to be conducted regarding the necessity and feasibility of constructing a dam. Later on, he revisited Bushehr to follow up on the project’s progress.





The Simple Villager

He sat at the heart of the local tribe's tent in Semnan province, listening to the people one by one. At one point, a man raised his voice, yelling his request. Silence fell over the tent for a few moments. Seeing how calm the president was, the man regretted his outburst and said, "Haj Agha, forgive me. We are mountain and desert dwellers. We are used to speaking loudly." President Raisi laughed and replied, "I am here to listen to you. The roof of this tent has an opening, so shout as much as you want. The sound will leave through there; it will not hurt anyone!"





Confiding in the Sun

Throughout his presidency, Sayyid Ebrahim faced intense criticism due to his anti-corruption policies. His government was under immense political and media pressure. Once, I told him, “I wish you wouldn’t stay silent about these things and let them say whatever they want.”

He replied, “You know most of the issues and are aware of them, but there are many other things you are unaware of. Let me tell you something; I take my complaints to Imam Reza (a) so that he can help me.”





A Night with the Soldiers

He had a habit of befriending everyone working around him, even those who often went unnoticed. Despite the heavy workload that came with his role as president, he made it a point to spend the Yalda¹ Night with the Army soldiers. The soldiers could hardly believe that, on a night when most people gather with their families, the president of the country, knowing they were stuck on military service, would choose to visit them in their garrison, sit at the same dining spread as them and interact with them like an elder in their family.

1. Yalda, the longest night of the year, marks the beginning of winter in Iran. Traditionally, Iranian families gather on this night to celebrate, staying up late together.





Appreciation for Effort

Wherever Mr. Raisi went to inaugurate a project, he always paid attention to those who weren't always noticed. In every program, the managers and officials of the project usually stood in the first row, but the laborers and human resources often went unnoticed. Mr. Raisi didn't like it when those who exerted effort to bring the project to fruition were not appreciated. At many ceremonies, he sought out those on the sidelines who were often overlooked.

At the inaugural ceremony of the Shiraz-Isfahan Highway, he expressed his gratitude to the laborers and showed appreciation for their families. During the memorial ceremony for Hafez, the prominent poet, he thanked each member of the security team as he was leaving. At the inaugural ceremony of a water transfer pipeline, he told the laborers, "Thank your families on my behalf. If it weren't for their support and assistance, you would never have been able to accomplish such a great feat with this project!" Following the inauguration of the Sadra Water Supply Project, he removed his long black clergy cloak, slung it over his arm, and descended the dusty slope to meet the laborers and personally thank them for their efforts. He smiled, with dust all over his head and clothes, and said, "It's not an issue. We all come from dust, and we will return to dust."





The Children's Choir

During the president's trip to Zimbabwe, a group of children were scheduled to perform the well-known song "Salaam Farmandeh" to welcome him. The children had prepared enthusiastically for the performance but were concerned their efforts might go unnoticed amidst the busy schedule and crowds. Upon hearing about this, President Raisi, despite needing to leave for his next scheduled meeting, decided to stay and watch their performance with keen interest and attention. As the children performed, some people signalled to the choir to speed up, reminding them that the president had another engagement. However, President Raisi intervened, asking the children to continue at their own pace. After the performance, he took a group picture with them. The children's excitement and joy were simply indescribable.





African Coffee

Since he traveled between cities, whenever he noticed a group of villagers standing by the roadside to welcome him, he instructed the driver to stop so he could talk to them and thank them for their efforts. Even during his visit to Uganda, he met with the local people and spoke with the general public with a friendly smile, without the need for an intermediary. On this trip, the native people welcomed him with unique traditional programs. During one of the meetings with the people, as crowds gathered around him, a native Ugandan offered him a glass of water. President Raisi gratefully accepted the glass and drank from it. Then, with a genuine smile, he asked for a cup of African coffee. Surprised yet proud, the hosts brought him a cup of coffee, which he also drank. This behavior demonstrated his trust in and affection for the people, making it an unforgettable moment for us.





The Quran is the word of God, a book that invites humanity to rationality, spirituality, justice, ethics, and truthfulness. The three fundamental pillars of the Quran are monotheism, justice, and human dignity, which are essential for human happiness. What has the Quran said that has aroused the hatred of the arrogant, powerful and wealthy?

The Quran speaks of the unity of humanity, stating that all inhabitants of the earth are like brothers and sisters from one father and mother. It considers humans as representatives of God and views men and women, despite their natural differences, as complements to one another and equals before God. The Quran defends the sanctity of the family and considers children as trusts from God.

Is this the first time the words of God are burned, with the belief that the divine voice can be silenced forever? Did Nimrod, Pharaoh, and Qarun triumph over Abraham, Moses, and Jesus? The Noble Quran prohibits insulting beliefs and considers respect for Abraham, Moses, and Jesus as respect for Muhammad (s).

Islamophobia and cultural apartheid, manifesting in various forms such as burning the Holy Quran, banning hijab in schools, and dozens of other shameful discriminations, are inconsistent with the advancements of contemporary humanity.

Behind these acts of hatred, there is a larger plot at play, and reducing it to the issue of freedom of expression is misleading.

President Raisi's Speech at the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly: September 19, 2023





Bitter Tears for Gaza

I was by his side for many years during his terms as chief justice and president. I accompanied him on many of his important trips. We went through all kinds of experiences together, both good and bad. Still, I never saw him cry – that is, until the week after Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, when the Zionist regime launched its heaviest offensive against the innocent people of Gaza. During a trip to one of the Iranian provinces, as we sat at the table, having lunch and watching the news on television, images of the bombings of Gaza and the children being injured and killed were broadcast. The president was so overwhelmed by these scenes that he left his food and cried aloud, and we couldn't have lunch any more. Throughout the five years I spent by his side, I had never seen him in such a state.





A Strong Voice for Gaza

Following Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, President Raisi consistently spoke out about Gaza. During his trips to Pakistan and Sri Lanka, he ensured that Gaza was mentioned in each of his speeches. He held several meetings with the heads of Islamic countries to address Israel's crimes. I wish we had recorded these meetings, some of which were confidential, so that everyone could witness the anger, passion, and zeal with which the president of Iran addressed the leaders of Muslim countries. In one instance, he spoke to a leader with such strong reproach that the other party left the meeting feeling humbled. At the BRICS summit, President Raisi took the initiative and demanded that all countries that were present issue a definitive statement regarding the situation in Gaza. When he noticed that all the presidents were discussing the painful events following October 7, he emphasized that the people of Palestine have been suffering oppression and usurpation for over seventy-five years, not just since October 7, 2023. His words were so influential that the meeting's statement was ordered according to his speech.

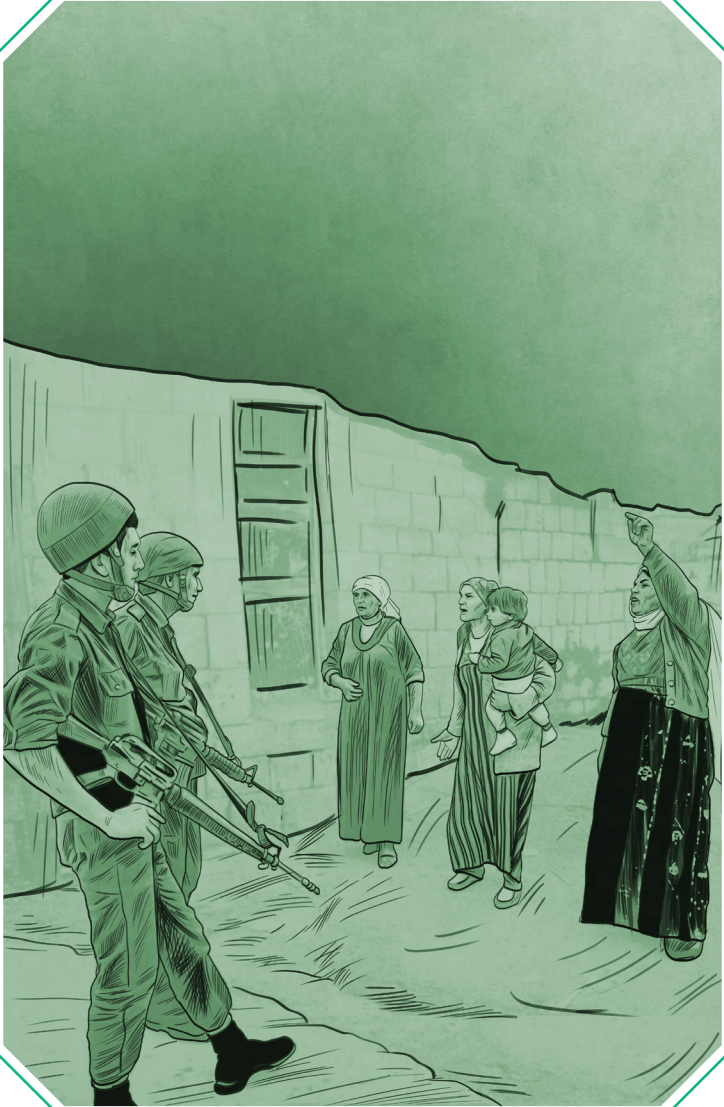




Emphasizing October 7th as the start of the war distorts reality and narrates the issue from a later point. Besides the seventy-five-year history of occupation, terror, and aggression, numerous clashes have occurred in the West Bank over the past year.

The Islamic Republic believes that the ultimate solution leading to lasting peace and stability in West Asia and the world is the formation of a single Palestinian state after holding a referendum based on the democratic principle of one vote for every Palestinian.

**Extraordinary BRICS Summit on the Gaza Crisis:
November 21, 2023**





Peace Be upon Quds

In the wake of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood and the subsequent offensive on Gaza by the Zionist regime, Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi, the president of Iran, mobilized all his diplomatic resources to support the Palestinian cause. He engaged in extensive discussions with various Islamic world leaders, advocating for a summit dedicated to the Gaza crisis. Despite his efforts, he encountered a lukewarm response. He even proposed Iran as the host when initial attempts faltered. This prompted Saudi Arabia, the periodic summit host, to organize the gathering in Riyadh.

At the Riyadh summit, Raisi made a powerful statement of solidarity with the Palestinian people. Wearing a Palestinian keffiyeh, he began his speech with a blessing for Quds and ended with a blessing for the children of Gaza. His speech was marked by a passionate and fiery tone, explicitly affirming that any nation fostering economic relations with the Zionist regime is complicit in the bloodshed of innocent Gazans. Following his passionate address, Raisi engaged in bilateral meetings with other summit attendees, tirelessly advocating for increased support and aid for Palestine.



الجمهورية الإسلامية الإيرانية
Islamic Republic of Iran



Greetings to the oppressed and martyred children of Gaza. Greetings to the children who have sought refuge in the Quran amidst the ruins of Gaza and recite its verses. Greetings to the children who tremble with fear under the oppression. Greetings to my dear children in Gaza. Greetings to you who have given meaning to resistance today by standing against the most equipped armies in the world and the lowest of individuals on earth. Greetings to you who have depicted the brutality and savagery of the Zionist occupiers with your small hands and frail bodies. Your blood-soaked faces, dismembered bodies, and crushed bones under the rubble of American bombs scream that we stand firm.

Undoubtedly, the future belongs to the resistance. You, the resilient people, are the true heroes. We will not leave you alone. Palestine will surely triumph. They see it as distant, but we see it as near. Quds is ours, and victory is ours.

**Extraordinary Summit of Islamic Countries for Palestine:
Riyadh – November 11, 2023**





Operation True Promise

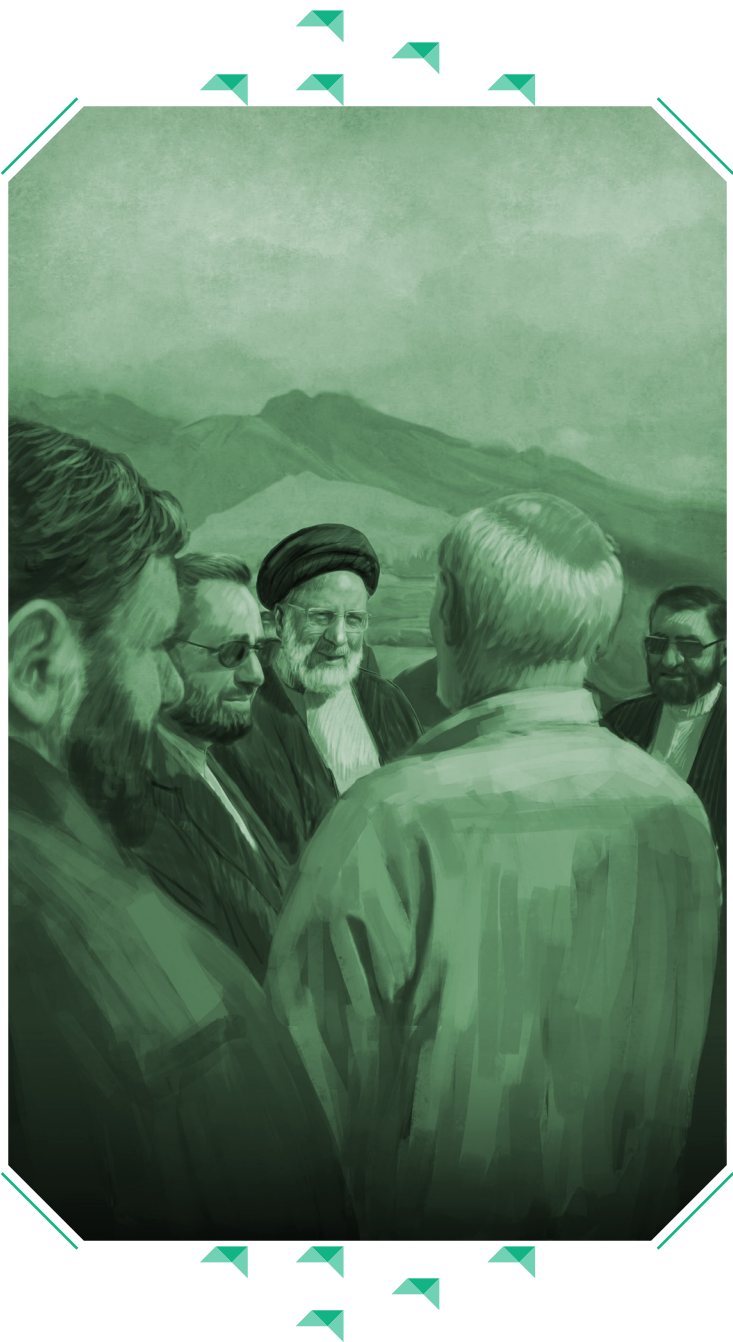
At the beginning of April 2024, in an egregious move that violated international law, the Zionist regime launched an aerial attack on the Iranian consulate in Syria, resulting in the martyrdom of fourteen Iranian representatives. Since this was not the first instance of such violations, Iran decided to retaliate against the Zionists. Officials discussed the level, scope, and manner of their response to the tyrannical and oppressive regime. President Raisi believed that, since a consulate is considered the territory of a country, the response had to be severe and launched from within Iranian territory to ensure that the Zionists wouldn't dare to violate their rights and interests again. This firm stance led to Operation True Promise, the largest drone strike in history, which the president fully supported.





The Final Public Meeting

During his final trip to inaugurate a dam, some locals from the area came to the opening ceremony venue, hoping to share their problems with the president. I arrived at the event site early to make preparations. I spoke with these people and directed them to a different location where the president could meet them after the dam inauguration and listen to their concerns. They were skeptical, thinking I was trying to get rid of them. Eventually, I personally assured them that the president would visit them, and that's exactly what happened. When the president arrived and learned that some people wanted to discuss their difficulties, he changed his next scheduled event and sat down to listen to their hardships. This turned out to be the last public meeting held by the nation's servant.





The Day of the Incident

That day, like all other days for the president, was extremely busy and packed with work. After a diplomatic meeting with the president of Azerbaijan in the border region between the two countries, they inaugurated a dam. He then met with the local people who had concerns and wanted to share them with someone – and who better than the president himself? After the noon prayers, the president and his entourage set off for Tabriz in three helicopters. Everything had been checked. The weather was cloudy, but there were no specific issues for the flight. The flight path overlooked a mountainous region full of tall, lush trees. Amidst the rugged, forested slopes, a dense cloud formation was spotted. The pilot of the president's helicopter, who was also the mission commander, ordered all three helicopters to gain altitude to pass through the thick cloud. However, on the other side of the fog bank, at the destination, the people waiting to welcome the president beheld only two helicopters. This was the final flight of the president, a flight to eternity . . .





Haj Agha . . . , Where Are You?

The rain had made the ground muddy and marshy, making it difficult for the motorcycles to navigate the terrain. The only thing that gave us the strength to continue was the hope of finding our lost beloved. We had been searching for a while, straining our eyes, leaving no part of the forest unseen, determined to find any trace of him. Amidst the growls of the motorcycles, a voice emerged from the radio of Haj Davoud, who was sitting on the back of my motorcycle: “Something can be seen with binoculars towards the ridge of the mountain to your east. Go in that direction; other groups are coming too, but you’re closer. Go, inshallah it’s good news.”

We turned immediately, traversing the ups and downs swiftly. It was as though new life had been injected into our exhausted bodies. The sun was gradually emerging from the eastern horizon; dawn was breaking. With hope, we accelerated faster, but the hope sapped away the further we advanced. Day broke, and we witnessed what had been announced over the radio with our own eyes, but how I wish we had never beheld such a scene! As we found large and small pieces of the helicopter in the tree branches, our companions began to cry, “O Husayn!” We could no longer advance by motorcycle, so we got off and started to run. Our minds were telling us that all hope had been lost, but our hearts kept a glimmer of hope alive.

“O Husayn!” Haj Davoud cried out to Imam Husayn (a), seeking his help painfully. After a moment’s silence, his cries in Azeri broke the silence: “Haj Agha, *hardasan?*!” [Where are you?!] We couldn’t believe our eyes. We weren’t supposed to be searching for the president’s body. We had come to find our dear president alive and safe, but now we were witnessing a truly heart-wrenching scene.

A voice came from the radio: “Haj Davoud, have you arrived? What happened? What’s going on? Is Mr. Raisi okay?” Haj Davoud couldn’t even stand. Falling to his knees, he replied, “Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi has been martyred. There are no survivors. Everyone has ascended . . . [to heaven.]”







Unrelenting Service

Three days after the burial ceremony of Sayyid Ebrahim, I was supposed to attend to my classes as usual. So, I showed up at the university and didn't allow a single session to be canceled. That's how he was, and how he wanted us to be as well. I was certain he wouldn't be pleased if I called off even one session of my course to mourn him now that he had been martyred. Ever since word of his martyrdom came, every single person sharing their memories of him has confirmed the same thing – when it came to serving the people, non-working days didn't exist.

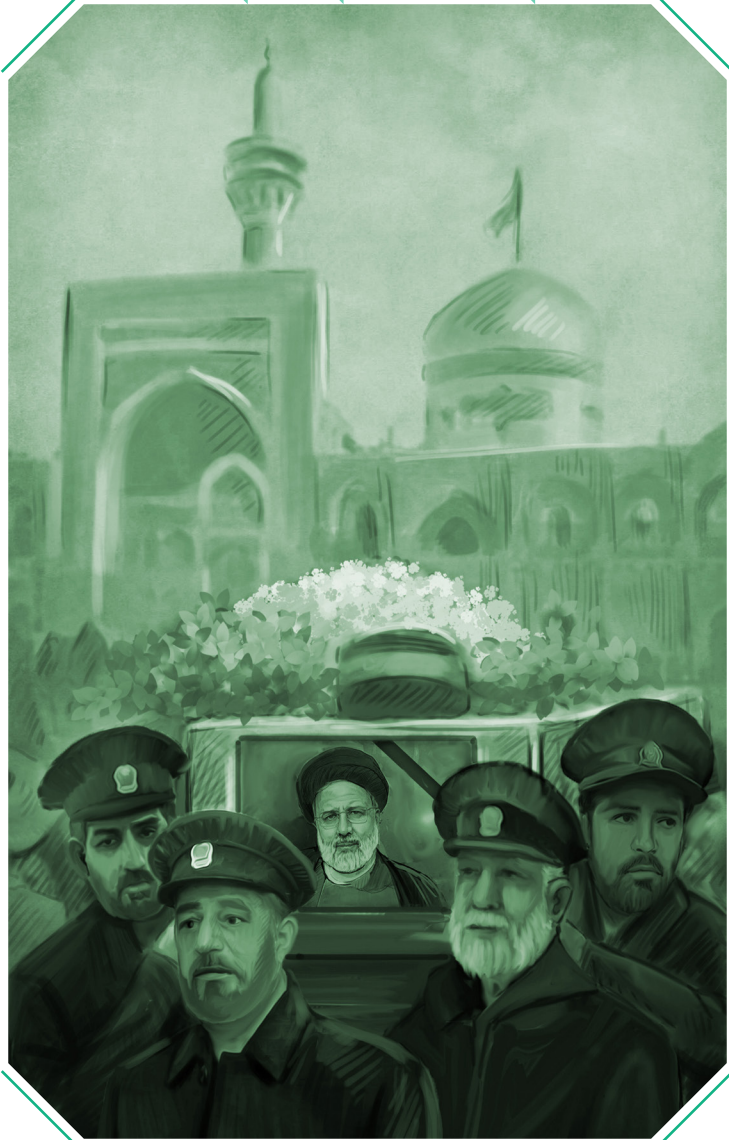




A Man of the People

The president's main approach to addressing the country's challenges was to involve the people. He saw every success as a blessing from the people's involvement, and he believed that any issue could be resolved with their participation. No other consideration ever delayed his efforts to solve the people's problems. He invested all his energy into solving problems with the help of the people. As a result, he earned a special place in the people's hearts, and when he finally left, everyone shed tears and bade him a sorrow-filled and heartfelt farewell.

The people requested that his funeral be held in several different cities. The cities of Mashhad and Tabriz had never witnessed such immense crowds for a funeral. In response, they showcased their creativity and generosity. For example, on the day of the funeral in Mashhad, some hotel owners gave free rooms to travelers from other cities, and residents who could offer accommodation opened their doors to mourning visitors.





“I Felt for Raisi.”

Ayatollah Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, recounts:

After his martyrdom, in almost all newspapers, publications, and various social media platforms, various individuals from different factions spoke about his services and his round-the-clock efforts, praising him, and extolling his virtues. [Some of] these people weren't willing to say a word during his lifetime. They saw these outstanding characteristics, but they concealed them, and many times, they said the opposite and hurt him. Of course, he often didn't respond, but sometimes he would come to me and complain a bit.









