

In the name of God, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful24th December 2015

On the auspicious occasion of the birth of Jesus Christ who is the messenger of peace and mercy, and upcoming New Year I would like to extend my well wishes to you and to the world. I would like to congratulate all the men of liberty and all the ones whose heart beat for the love of God, peace and security while also taking this opportunity to extend my concern and heartache to those who have suffered the past year over ever increasing disappointments that have been occurring around the world.

The year 2015 was a year of sad and catastrophic events which resulted in pain and grave suffering for millions of innocent people around the globe. If there was enough political willingness and good intentions on the part of world powers, the pain and suffering could had been prevented or at least mitigated.

For the last couple of decades, mankind has steadily created catastrophic disasters while abusing his willingness and relinquishing his responsibilities toward his fellow humans. These man-made disasters could not have been explained anymore clearer than in the Holy Koran: These events would not only engage those who caused them, but also would engulf those who did not have anything to do with it. In another passage of the Holy Koran, the Almighty God states that “the most tyrant people are those who forge lies on God to justify and legitimize their deeds and to realize their desires”. If such catastrophes continue to take place, humankind would be exposed to an immensely dangerous situation in which saving ourselves from it would be close to impossible. In other words, such occurrences would end up living in an era during in which evil ambitions are continuously being spread. These ambitions would ultimately engage even those who did not have anything to do with it leading them to suffer. These engagements in evil doing may not be interpreted as being an accessory to crime to be tried at the court of law, but the point is that what can not be tried at court may not be dismissed as trivial acceptable matter either. Even if it is a just

trial, it still may shed light over a small portion of this complicated fact. The historical political facts enjoy a variety of aspects. To see, feel, taste, smell or even think about such complicated facts, a nation shall live with it for generations while documenting the gained experience quite deliberately so to be able to speak of their understanding of that historical political fact. There is no doubt that evil doing is growing in our present day and will continue in the future. Living in the age of growing evil would cover the human face with dirt which cleaning of is a cumbersome task. Is it not the very evil the same as horrific desertification, as is perfectly witnessed and reflected in the poems of the great German poet of the late nineteenth/early twentieth century? A few years after composition of those poems, horrible catastrophes were made by Hitler's Nazism, Mussolini's Fascists and Stalin's Felons. Today again our sun and moon are suffering from total eclipse of the hearts and the dark horrible side of the evil of man kind is threatening our spiritual, ethical, artistic and cultural assets.

When Catastrophe and felony is spread all around the globe, all the politicians and scholars of the world have to pull their resources and efforts together jointly so as to eradicate them. Religious scholars and leaders bear primary responsibilities for tackling the catastrophes of the world destruction and massacres which are taking place in the name of Abrahamic religions.

I pray and hope that all religious leaders, poets, artists, scholars and politicians, as well as all those International and Regional organizations whose responsibilities are to safeguard peace, would take prompt immediate action so as to reduce the immense pains and agony of millions all around the world and to ensure, through action oriented civilized dialogue, the realization of "historical reconciliation" as a prime objective and effective strategy against extremisms and religious sectarianism.

Mohammad Khatami

Founder and President