

AFGHANISTAN: ONE AMERICAN STONE THAT FAILS TO KILL TWO BIRDS

Who overcomes by force has overcome by half his foes." John Newton

The dramatic and eventful return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan leaves no doubts in the minds of anyone who is conscious politically and who has been following events and happenings in Afghanistan since the American troops overran the country in 2001, that persistence can grind down an iron beam into a needle and one should not underestimate anyone who has overestimated himself.

The original purpose of the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 by America was solely for the purpose of bringing Osama bin Laden, who masterminded the 9/11 attack against America, to justice. The belief was that he was hiding somewhere in Afghanistan. The occupation of the country by the joint forces of both the Americans and her allies, which includes the United Kingdom, led to the fall of the Taliban, who have been in power since 1996. Understandably, the Taliban introduced a system of government where Islamic laws were in operation, and these laws were anti-women. The Taliban themselves are Muslim soldiers who believe in creating an Islamic state called an Emirate.

It is incontrovertible that the Sharia laws were anti-women. Women were not allowed to dress in certain ways, not permitted to go to schools, and were deprived from formal education and all other parts of a civilized way of life.

The presence of the American forces, which helped in the democratization of Afghanistan met with great resistance from the Taliban through the commission of different kinds of crimes, such as suicide bombings, incessant killings, and the introduction of the reign of terror on people who are considered supporters of the new government.

The seemingly endless search for Osama bin Laden, which was the main reason behind the occupation of the country, translated into what is close to what can be described as nation building. This search continued alongside the transformation activities of Americans in Afghanistan.

It was after a decade of occupation of Afghanistan that Osama bin Laden was brought down in a neighboring country called Pakistan. The success would not have been as easy as it was except for the occupation of Afghanistan by the American forces. Expectedly, one would have thought that, after the demise of Osama bin Laden, the allied forces of occupation should disengage. But rather than that, the occupation continued until the former President Donald Trump chose to evacuate American soldiers from Afghanistan. He claimed that the war had lasted for too long a time, and had gulped billions of dollars which he felt should not continue. Trump succeeded in evacuating 12,500 troops before he left office, leaving behind 2,500. This was where President Biden met America, and having observed carefully by realizing that the former President Donald Trump's decision was welcomed by most Americans, he also had no choice than to follow suit with a promise of evacuating to zero number on or before September 11th.

What was not clear to Americans for as long as the war continued in Afghanistan was whether the building of the nation of Afghanistan was as important in order of priority as the pursuit of Osama bin Laden. America was only trying to nurture democracy, the newly-introduced system of government in Afghanistan, to a level that it would take root and become like an oak tree, which will take deeper roots in the face of storms. This ordinarily wasn't a bad idea, for where you cannot extend your arms, you shouldn't give your hand.



Donald Trump



Joe Biden



Why the generosity and good intentions of America to Afghanistan are turning to be a blame on America can be linked to short-sightedness on the part of Donald Trump in relation to how persistent and resolute the Taliban were and the likelihood of them overrunning the country after the American troops might have been evacuated. President Joe Biden inherited this ready-to-explode situation but had no choice than to back out.

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” Jim Elliot

This saying applies to both the Afghans and the Americans in that both had what they could not keep and chose what they could not lose as an option.

The action of the United States of America is viewed by the international community in different ways, with the majority believing that America has failed to keep her promise to the people who had helped them when they needed help the most.

One very important thing to put to mind right now is going to work. Enough of fixing blame and getting distracted easily by criticisms. The task that has to be

done, and right now, is for America to recommit herself to the war against terrorism, which is being manifested in different shades and forms.

The world is now becoming more volatile than it had always been. The scramble for supremacy among the superpowers is on the increase, with Russia and China as key players. Vulnerable countries, especially those with rigid Islamic laws, are the targets of these countries, for China and Russia will go for anything that is anti-America at all costs.

War looms large and may this not end up as one of the contradictions of life where making peace only comes by making war.

A lesson has been learned and that is the fact that nothing guarantees enduring peace in the world outside absolute trust in God and doing His will. America, in God we trust.

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