



The Guardians of the Cedars Party issued the following communiqué:

The situation in Lebanon will not improve as long as our people have not yet reached the point of political maturity at which they are able to rise above a blind following of their leaders and select them according to specific criteria and hold them accountable on the basis of reward and penalty.

Our point is not to slander the Lebanese people or diminish their standing. We, in fact, were the first to call them a great people. But in these miserable days and in the midst of the ongoing political bazaar, the Lebanese people are conducting themselves as a herd of sheep led to political mass gatherings and counter gatherings and exploited in numeric referenda carried out by their leaders from time to time in order to gauge their popularity in comparison to the popularity of their opponents. So much so that packing crowds for the sake of packing crowds has become the objective, regardless of the content of such mass gatherings and whether or not they aim at achieving higher national aspirations and goals.

We say this in our keen concern over our people whom we love and respect greatly. We certainly hope that our people will return to their authentic selves and their political alertness, since to the extent that the degree of such alertness is elevated, the closer we get to extricating ourselves from this abject reality that continues to besiege the country from all sides. Particularly since the hope of salvation remains entirely dependent on this people alone without their leaders who have reached a state of complete political bankruptcy.

Political awareness is achieved when the people decide not to be led behind their leaders on tribal, sectarian, malicious or sentimental grounds, but on bases grounded in a set of Lebanese principles and constants aiming at achieving stability, peace and dignity to this country which is afflicted with its leaders.

Political awareness is achieved when the people decide to hold their leaders accountable every time they deviate or renounce these principles, and not continue to idolize and deify them and find justifications for their mistakes and support them on the basis of: "Support your brother, be he the oppressed or the oppressor." Keep in mind that refraining from such accountability gives the leader greater latitude to commit wrongdoings, deviate from the constants and change their positions, as is happening at the present time.

Political awareness is achieved when the people refuse to be exploited and bartered with for personal interests that have nothing to do with the public interest, and when they recognize that they are the decision-makers in making and unmaking leaders, in supporting rulers or toppling them down, and in building themselves a promising future or remaining stagnant in the filthy marshes like the undeveloped peoples of the Third World.

It pains us every time we see our "great" people desperately striving to please their leaders and getting nothing in return, and when they take to the streets only to support one leader against another, and when they do not move to protest against corruption in the administration or the pilfering of the treasury or starving the people or draining the country of its youth, etc.

It pains us even more that the Lebanese people of March 14 who participated in the celebration of liberation and the ushering of our new independence are today a different people who participate in the wars of mass gatherings, and the rallies of herding and supreme leader worship and praise.

Lebanon , at your service

Abu Arz
October 20, 2006