

EDITORIAL

Suddenly, an injustice festering for 75 years has broken out in what seems to be a war of a proportion that exceeds the conflict over Ukraine. Diplomatic engineering has been utilized to legalize and perpetuate aggression on the people of Gaza. *Eyeless in Gaza* was the title of a novel by Aldous Huxley, today the symbolism is staring at us in our face. Both the present and previous United States administrations have taken diplomatic measures to secure the recognition of Israel by most 'Arab states, with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia standing out.

It should have been clear by now that such cosmetic measures never work. Yesterday, it was monarchical Iran that was the United States' CENTO ally, a state that recognized Israel. Today it is a theocratic Iran that is arraigned against Israel while Arab states have established diplomatic relations with it. The Camp David Accord brought about a two-state formula, which, perhaps was never meant to be implemented. The King Abdullah formula offered recognition in return for the 1967 frontier of Israel. Neither Israel, nor its allies feel that a peaceful resolution of the Middle East crisis needs to be pursued. There may be no limit to impunity, but there is always a limit to a population that does not admit proselytes, and a territory that encroaches on all Human Rights on its borders. It was not for nothing that China became a means of bringing out a rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The world facing climate change desperately needs a respite from conflict. The United States goes on making war and goes on making enemies. Pakistan is war weary since around a half century, it can sympathize with the people of the United States who have to fight the wars of others with no gain to themselves. Perhaps, the United Nations Security Council, already in session shall find a way out for human survival.

The first paper of this issue is "Oriental Harems : A Comparative Study of Ottomans and Mughuls" which reveals novel features as well as how harems were viewed by European travelers. From the material, we go to the spiritual in "Thematic Parallels in *Rahat al-Qulub* and *Ashloke Shaikh Farid* of *Sri Guru Granth Sahib* : A Comparative Analysis" This

paper not only notes the mystic character of Punjab but a rural mentality as well.

The third paper is “Historical Role of Europeans in Reviving Drama in South Asia.” This paper not only emphasizes the cultural vacuum felt by the Colonial races but how they paved the way for the popularity of stage drama in the designated region. The fourth paper is especially important, because there is a view held widely in India, but also now in Pakistan that Mohammad Ali Jinnah was averse to mass politics. That Jinnah’s leading of a demonstration and procession against Lord Willingdon the Governor of Bombay belies this, the present contributor has given much needed details as to how the Muslim League achieved mass mobilization, especially in the Muslim majority provinces. The last paper of this issue needs to be read and re-read by those writers in Pakistan who never tire of asserting that the teaching and writing of history in Pakistan is distorted.

Dr. Muhammad Reza Kazimi
Editor
m.reza.kazimi@gmail.com