

a Heroic figure. Carlyle introduces a priest as a kind of prophet who is the spiritual leader of people (115), and possesses all common characteristic that Greatmen must have. The priest first of all is a sincereman who knows somehow the divine mystery of the universe and leads people; his mission looks somehow similar to a prophet's. Regarding these qualities a priest is a man who believes truly and deeply in God. Concerning this case Carlyle says, "No thought that ever dwelt honestly as true in the heart of man but was an honest insight into God's truth on man's part, ..." (119). Then their beliefs differ of other men's beliefs. This is why Carlyle calls them Heroes.

According to Carlyle's definition of Heroes, a king is also another Heroic figure. However, not every king is a true king. Carlyle gives examples of some figures such as Cromwell and Napoleon who are great historic figures and they left eternal traces on the pages of time. Obedience of men to kings is a kind of Hero-worship that's what Carlyle believes, "... it extends from divine adoration down to the

lowest practical region of life" (203). A true king governs hearts not bodies and this shows the sincerity of a king, who is worshiped as a Hero. This true king gives order to society, and sets rules for others to follow even it will cost him his life. He is sincere and he believes that kingship is a kind of a 'Divine right' which he must keep and preserve from corruption.

Now, the discussion reaches to its most important and sensitive part, since the whole paper deals with the idea and the search for the strongest man. This part gives the gist of the discussion, even before concluding the research, the point becomes convincing, and the proposition that a prophet is the true hero is approved. Carlyle first sets to analyze prophet's character, what he meant to the world and what world meant to him, all these questions will evidently show the real character of a heroic figure. There must be a kind of sincerity, quality and quantity of wise as a part of the character of the Hero himself. He (prophet) has the "Power of Insight". He has a powerful ability to discover the inner sphere of other souls. He is so earnest

and sincere that his words hit directly the hearts of men. Carlyle calls such men, original man. His message is original and lies in the heart (sincere heart). The main example for Carlyle among prophets is Mohammad(S.A) and the religion of Islam; however he refers to christianity that is closer to 'Islam than others. Dr.Oueijan writes: "Carlyle defends the heroic stature of Mohammad(S.A) and the authenticity of Islam on the bases of their permanence and popularity" (99). As the testimonies say, the sincerity of Mohammad(S.A) for the reason of the prophethood is a propagation of the sincerity of Jesus, Moses, Ibrahim, Noah, ...

So, every theory about definition of Heroism or Hero - prophet can be generalised to all prophets through generations. According to the biography of Mohammad, it is known that he has no school-learning and he was at an age that the art of writing was rare and the number of literate person was less than 10 person in his tribe. Most probably he has not been able to read and write. But the depth of his sincerity

which is also divine makes his soul full of greetness and his thought grew , he was alone with nature meditating , and his thought was developing . So , at an early age , he was called a thoughtful man . He was named 'Al Amin ' a man of fidelity and truth . The words which he uttered were 'direct from the Inner fact of things ' (Carlyle 45) . According to Dr. Hitti , the contrast in personal characters makes us distinguish prophets of God from imposters (qtd. Jameelah 34). Genuine search for truth is found in submission of man to God . Every man submitted to God is a true man and this itself is a proof of sincerity of man , since all prophets are honest messengers of God and , according to their deeds , they are the most obedient and the most

submissive man to God's will. It can be concluded that they are the sincerest Heroes in the world , as Carlyle says : "... the sincere man was [is] by nature the obedient man "(179) . The merit of "originality" is sincerity (125 - 126) . Hugh says:" Mohammad (S . A) made a still greater and more decisive step towards creating a literature for his people " (qtd. Mirza Abu'l-Fazl XXIX). Carlyle in the part of kingdom of prophets says: "No emperor with his tiara was obeyed as this man in a cloak of his own clouting " (71). Concerning reforms in society and its laws , a prophet is the most sincere , so he is the most compassionate among kings and about people.

As for priests , a priest is said to be a spiritual Captain while prophet is a spiritual king with many Captains

(Carlyle 115) . It is another fact about the superiority of prophets over other heroes such as kings and priests . If we move to the question of 'Eternity' , we can say that a fraud prophet or a false religion cannot survive through centuries and cannot be adopted as a manner of living of many people . The prophet as the strongest man or a real "Hero" is mostly equipped with the best qualities , ever discovered within the soul of a human being and a prophet fulfills Carlyle's three criterions' definition of a hero , besides being a messenger of God which is the most important divine quality . As a final sentence it is better to say that a prophet has to fulfill these conclusion , shown in the diagram and that is the synopsis of the paper .

Success

Eternity

'Hero '

Divinity

Sincerity

انا لله وانا اليه راجعون

بدینوسیله ارتحال عالم عالیقدر مرحوم آیت الله سلطانی
طباطبایی را به بیت معظم حضرت امام (ره) و عموم ملت
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نشریه ندای صادق

to grasp the inner secret of creatures. When he find it out , he will get closer to the creator and worship Him in a better way , and that will be his religion. Goethe says : " The divine mystery that is an open secret , is open to all but seen almost by none " (qtd . Carlyle 80)

Up till now , the element of sincerity , is an inseparable in lives of eminent men . So , how do we get to know a sincere man ? And how do we identify his sincerity ? According to the interpretation of sincerity, 'Time' is a criterion to identify a Hero. Therefore, through history, a hero shows his adequacy and merit of heroism by continuity . So , time decides who is a hero and who is not. A Hero will be permanently mentioned as a proof of his success . That is, besides the element of 'Sincerity' and the criterion of 'Time' , 'success' is also included .

Thus , a sincere man is a Greatman , and he is an "Original" man , who leads others , and he has a great personality .

Carlyle throws light on the qualities of each group of heroes. He puts forth Man of letters and poets as Heroes. This distinction of

qualities makes us differentiate between heroes and the superiority of one over the others. According to Carlyle , a Man of letters is also a Hero , and he is regarded as the most important modern person. The soul of this Hero is sincere , and that is the first and chief characteristic . Beside sincerity he is also a 'genuine' and 'original' man, and its life will continue through ages , though the body of the Hero perishes, his works and originality will be cristalised and published in Books. So , Books carry on the soul of the past that is sincere and original.

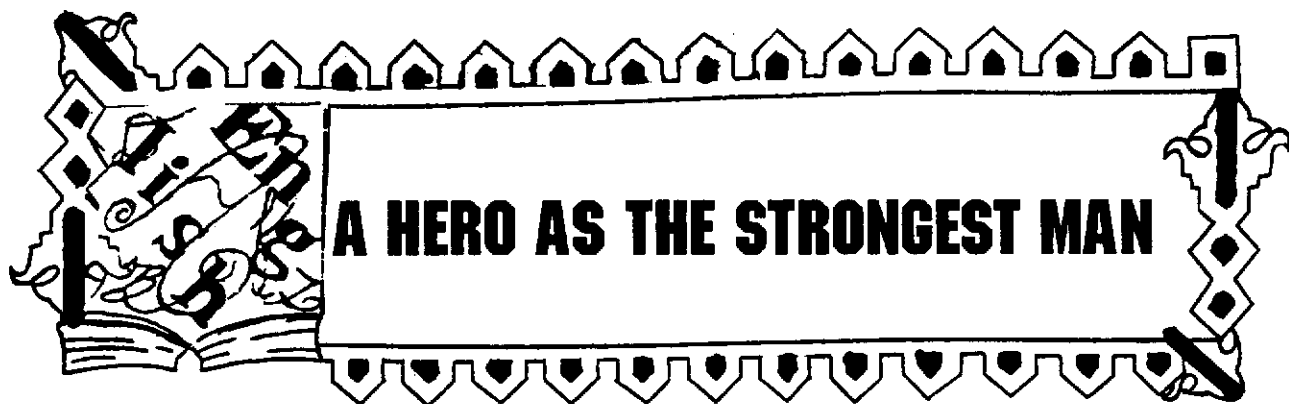
Carlyle mentions these points to clarify the virtue of sincerity and its role relating to assertion of truth in the heart of truth , that is Nature. These are literary heroes who govern men's thoughts , creeds , and beliefs . All of these Heroes are preserved and protected from forgetfulness through their Books which contain their 'Thoughts' and beliefs .

Even concerning every topic Carlyle says that "without morality , intellect were impossible for him ; a throughly immoral man couldnot know anything at all !" (107). This is why

Carlyle calls literature as 'Apocalypse of Nature' that shows the 'open secret'(163).

A poet is another heroic figur for Carlyle who belongs to all ages. as, a 'divine mystery' there is in all time and in all ages. a translator, who exists to interpret the mystery. The poet has a 'direct Insight Belief' to understand the 'open secret' (Carlyle , 81). Smith concerning this Case says: "The sincerity of the Hero is a corollary of the truth of his vision"(220". Thus, as Carlyle explains a poet is a sincere man, who has depth of vision and can see the divine beauty of things besides that all of his sayings come from the heart, describing an emotional state, and they touch our hearts. As it was said before, nature in her depth is music, so a poet for being sincere, should have 'Musical Thought' which has deep meaning in itself. From the point of view of Carlyle a man who has not morality, can't be an intellectual man (107). The degree of Heroism depends on the quality and the quantity of its relation with creator.

A priest is a religious person who according to Carlyle deserves the title of



A HERO AS THE STRONGEST MAN

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The power of humankind is associated with the word "Hero". Some books have already dealt with this theme; for example, *Heroes, Hero - worship and the Heroic in History*, by Thomas Carlyle. Being a leader philosopher at his time, Carlyle is fascinated by the idea of a "Hero", the essence of a "Hero" and his continuity. He set up criterions to judge a hero, and then he scanned the social constitution; he found out that many people could be considered heroes, starting from poets, priests, kings and prophets. However, prophets are the real heroes since they fulfill the conditions he set for an eternal and an authentic hero. And the purpose of this paper is to prove it. As the history shows that Moses, Jesus and Mohammad (A.S) were real heroes.

Of course, previous philosophers, such as Plato, started setting up rules for man to be a hero or a leader, but Carlyle was the

first one who completely treated the matter and discussed it from all angles.

Basically who is a 'Hero'? For example if we find a physically powerful man shall we call him Hero or not? We have to know more than the physical ability of a person in order to judge whether he is an actual and a distinctive hero.

Carlyle gives a definition of the primary features of a "Great man" that is "sincerity, a deep, great, genuine sincerity, is the first characteristic of all men in any way heroic" (45). So, a hero is a sincere man and this sincerity is a quality related to his soul as a human being. Out of the definition of a Hero, soul has an important role that is inseparable from heroism. We are going to find out that soul is the fountain of heroic features and that it is an integral part of a 'Hero'. As Carlyle says, "A Hero is a Hero at all points; in the soul and thought of him first of all" (28). Every one who

lacks this characteristic cannot be a hero even though he is in charge of others or he is a leader. In other words, namely he is a leader but not as actual one.

Carlyle believes that 'Heroism' which is a 'divine relation' exist in all times and in all places, as far as there are sincere and genuine men in the world. All men emphasize and support sincerity in a certain way. They admire and honour a person with this quality, an even more they worship him. Sincerity is considered ideal in the world of courtesy.

Carlyle believes that everyman who can understand the beauty of the universe, can worship the creator in a better way and therefore he is a hero. Because at first he must recognize the loveliness of things, and he can be a poet, a painter, etc. (10).

For understanding the divine beauty of things, soul interferes, that is, just the soul of a "Greatman" is able