

United we stand, Divided we fall...



Question: Given your 40 year artistic and humanitarian repertoire, what are your thoughts and feelings with regard to the current state of affairs in Iran?

Dariussh : there is no doubt that we are witnessing historic times, and undoubtedly the only constructive movement in this endeavor is indeed the human rights movement. Let us find our individual liberties in the freedom of the mass, let us believe that freedom is the inherent right of every single member of the society, because that is the only way we can complement this grand movement. November of last year, at a seminar organized by Ayeneh Foundation, in conjunction with the Iranian Student Group at UCLA, and SHARE, an American NGO; I stated that the latest researches have shown time and again that the growth of social maladies worldwide moves in parallel with the extent of human rights violations. It is not a hidden fact that the government in Iran has been guilty of systemic human rights abuses and violations, and what has transpired in our country after the elections this year, is a direct result of these abuses and violations. One of the latest statistics I reviewed stated that our countrymen are subjected to a violation of their human rights every 5 seconds. How ironic, given that the human rights decree was our gift to the world.

If we are witnessing this magnificent mass movement amongst the future generation in Iran, it is solely because the youth in Iran has

chosen a path and strategy that is completely different than that of all the political groups, the so-called opposition group. The student movement has been united, harmonious, unprejudiced, unselfish and democratic in every way. Those are all characteristics that have been lacking in all the organizations outside of Iran, from political groups to the media, as they have acted unilaterally, inconsistently, in denial of reality, which has resulted in the current state of utter distrust on the part of the public.

Question: How have you been able to get your message across to your countrymen inside?

Darius : What our students and my countrymen have accomplished in these past several weeks, no entity or organization has been able to come close to in the past thirty years. The silence of the student movement resonates the repeated and total violation of their human rights. Unfortunately, the governing censorship, and the lack of transparency, not only in the Iranian media, but also in entities such as Voice of America and CNN, has done a great disservice to this grand movement. A cry and a movement that deserves every angstrom of dedication to echo its legacy. We are living in strange times, how can I justify that I am faced with censorship even in this country? Is journalism just another job? or does it have a sanctity which it has to uphold? Instead of saving their country, at the cost of destroying their house, these days journalists are saving their house at the cost of destroying their land. In my opinion, falling short as an excuse to stay, especially in these crucial and vital times, is not something that I can justify in any shape, way or form. I was hoping that those of our countrymen, who work in non Iranian media, would open many closed doors to this magnificent movement. Journalists are supposed to be the eyes, ears and the voice of the people. I hope that one day journalists and journalism become trustees of the truth and of our human rights.

Question: Would you like to collaborate with the young artists inside Iran?

Dariussh : Of course , and I have, as a matter of fact, two of the tracts in my latest album “ the silent miracle” were collaborations with amazing young artists in Iran. I have always strived to be their voice, to maintain this emotional rapport, and to accompany their echo, especially with the younger artists inside Iran, those amazing souls who are living in the nightmarish inferno inside our country. I deeply value their insight, and revere their efforts and the sentiments they echo in their work. This relationship has opened a new chapter in my music. In fact, I am making last minute preparations to perform one of our recent collaborations in line with the current state of affairs in Iran at my concert, on August 1, 2009 at Gibson Amphitheater.



Question: on July 22, 23 and 24th, apparently there is going to be a gathering/hunger strike in front of the United Nations in New York. Will you be participating?

Dariussh : I have always invited my countrymen to break their silence, and I have always stood by all those courageous and selfless souls who have in the past thirty years stood up against dictatorship and tyranny. But I have learned from the history of my country that intermittent movements and struggles, and oppositions with boundaries and limitations, have never been successful. I belong to my countrymen and not to any particular political or social groups or sects. Only a united and national truce amongst every single organization is it political, social or religious, can energize and complement this movement. I will continue my path and my fight, especially in creating more in depth educational programs through Ayeneh Foundation, and with regards to my new project with the young artists inside Iran, which has its roots in the core of this grand movement, and I will only consider to attend this gathering, solely if every single opposition group and organizations, with any ideology and political belief, one by one announce that they will be attending and commit to their statement. Let us remove the boundaries, and instead of vocally demanding freedom, learn the culture of democracy and act democratically.

Question: in your opinion, what is our responsibility? What can we do?

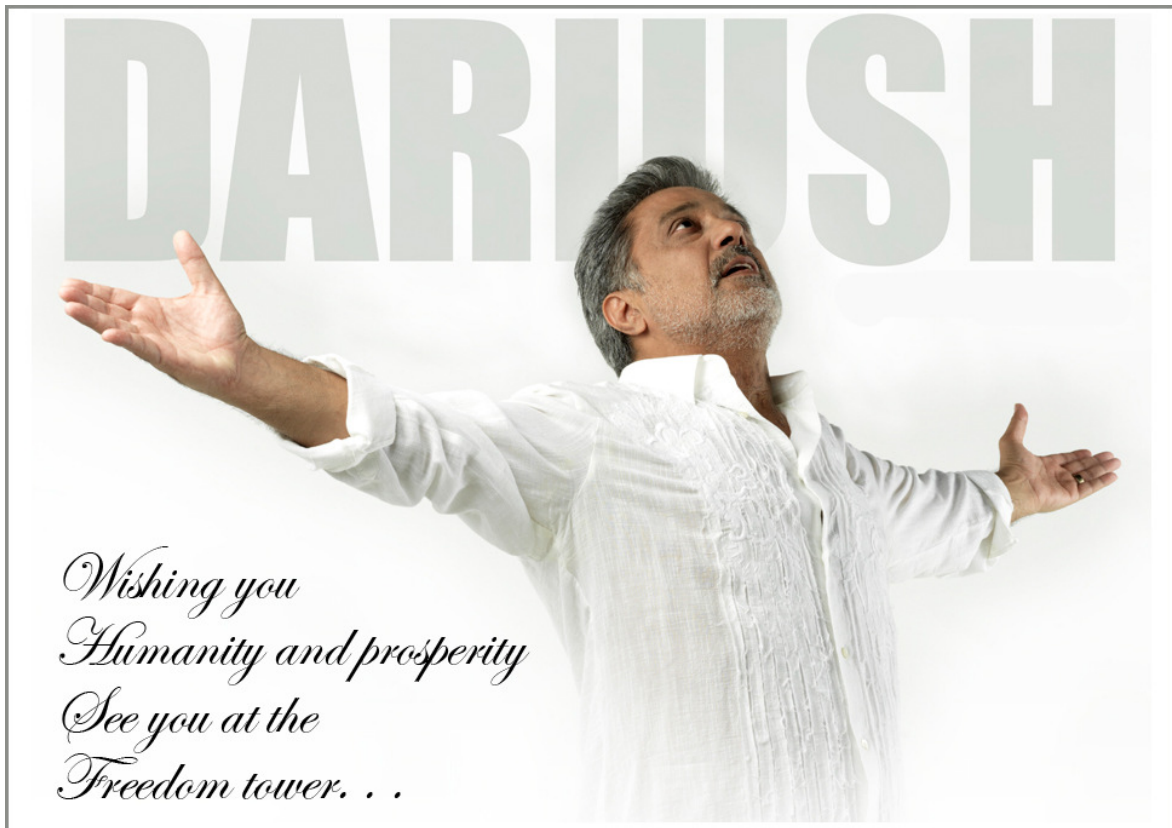
Dariussh : demanding freedom is not a game of words, demanding freedom is a task, a fight. Everyone always talks about what should be done, everyone has always tried to dictate what must be done, everyone talks about duties, and we have always looked at the past with anger, lived in the present with frustration, and looked at the future with fear. Let us once, to truly support this glorious student movement, look at what we should **NOT** do. Let us find a way to achieve equality and selflessness, let us find ways to mend our world, not put up with it, let us find a way to stand by each other in harmony,

let us find ways to revive the motivation to live in our future generation, let us either find a way or create a way. Neda died with her eyes open, while we are living and demanding freedom with our eyes closed. Let us first criticize ourselves and our own characteristics, let us admit that we made a mistake. Denying our mistakes is the silent preparation for the repeat, let us learn the language of solidarity and support, let us change our vision, let us discard the outdated mentalities. Let us destroy all the self made barriers so that our support can be accepted by the young students in Iran. Let us learn from the student movements in and around this town, where in a selfless manner, away from all the usual mottos, are supporting their compatriots. Let us go from me to us, all along respecting our individuality and personal choices and beliefs, so that our individual abilities can complement the abilities of the mass inside our country, and for the sake of the future of our country, and countrymen, be that spark that keeps the fire the student movement has started lit perpetually.

Question: what have you planned for your concert on August 1, 2009 at the Gibson Amphitheater?

*Darius*h : the preparations for this concert started over 6 months ago, and true to my mission, this project will also come to fruition with my goals and objectives acting as my compass. That night, along with my countrymen, we will echo the plight and the fight of our courageous countrymen inside Iran. As I mentioned in an interview a few days ago, I have invited artists of all backgrounds, from painters to lyricists, from musicians to writers, to join me on the stage, and in a symbolic move, and in the hopes that all the political, social, religious and cultural groups will get inspired by this move, and support the student movement whole heartedly and unconditionally. May be this will be a stimulus, an incentive so that for the first time in the history of the

fight for freedom in Iran, away from all competition and prejudice, we can support our human rights movement, hand in hand. Art has always been in support of humanity; Let us not forget that art and politics can have a lot in common, because politics in its pure sense is composed of all those acts and decisions that are committed to the provision of peace and well being for humanity.



*Wishing you
Humanity and prosperity
See you at the
Freedom tower. . .*

Los Angeles,

July 14, 2009

