“NOTHING IS TRUE, EVERYTHING IS PERMITTED”

Ideology as Political Weapon: How Bartol’s Alamut Challenges the Justice of Plato’s Republic

Hassan enforces his ideology and authoritarianism through deception:
1. Drugs fedayeen with hashish at night and brings them into paradise, which is actually just a garden
2. Places beautiful virgins, exotic animals and foods, etc. to evoke paradise
3. Brings fedayeen back, they believe that he has been enabled by Allah to show them to paradise
4. They yearn to return, the only way back is death.
5. The fedayeen are prepared to obey Hasan and sacrifice their lives to return to paradise

“I do not think that the overwhelming majority of people care about the truth. Far from it! They want to be left alone, and they want fairy tales to feed their hungry imaginations. But what about justice? They couldn’t care less, as long as you meet their personal needs…If this is what humankind is like, then exploit its weaknesses to achieve your higher goals, which will benefit them too, even though they don’t understand that.”

Al-Qeda also exhibits authoritarianism and ideology, and these reinforce one another:
1. The bahai or the pledge of allegiance serves as an assurance that those affiliating themselves to the organization are committed to the organization’s ideology. By instituting it, the organization is freed from conceptual problems arising from differences in opinion. To a certain degree, through it an acceptable level of uniformity is maintained which contributes to the organization’s stability and ease of management and administration.

A system based on Plato’s model can and has enabled severe violations of individual human rights; Alamut serves as a cautionary tale against the potential unjust consequences that may result from unchecked authoritarianism and ideology, particularly when deception is permitted.

It seems that ideology is inescapable, but critical thinking can combat it and mediate access to truth (i.e. Plato’s Allegory of the Cave, Alamut’s Ibn Tahir).

While Alamut criticizes ideology, it also extends ideologies about the Middle East’s relationship to terrorism.

My project may be read as advancing certain ideologies for citing al-Qaeda; one must think for oneself and locate truth through different sources.