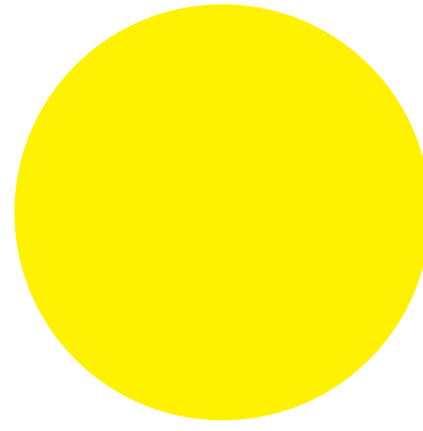


## 42nd Fajr International Film Festival opens in Tehran

The 42nd Fajr International Film Festival kicked off on February 1, 2024, featuring 621 submissions from 87 countries. The International Section includes Cinema Salvation, Films from Asian-Islamic Countries, and Festival of Festivals. In the National Section, 37 movies will compete in Sodaye-Simorgh, New Perspective, and Animations categories. The festival's curtains will come down on February 11 and the winners will be announced the same day.



# Iran Daily



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## Cultural theology of Al-Aqsa Storm

*Western decline, rise of Resistance: Five new trends in global fundamental changes*



By **Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili**  
Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance

**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

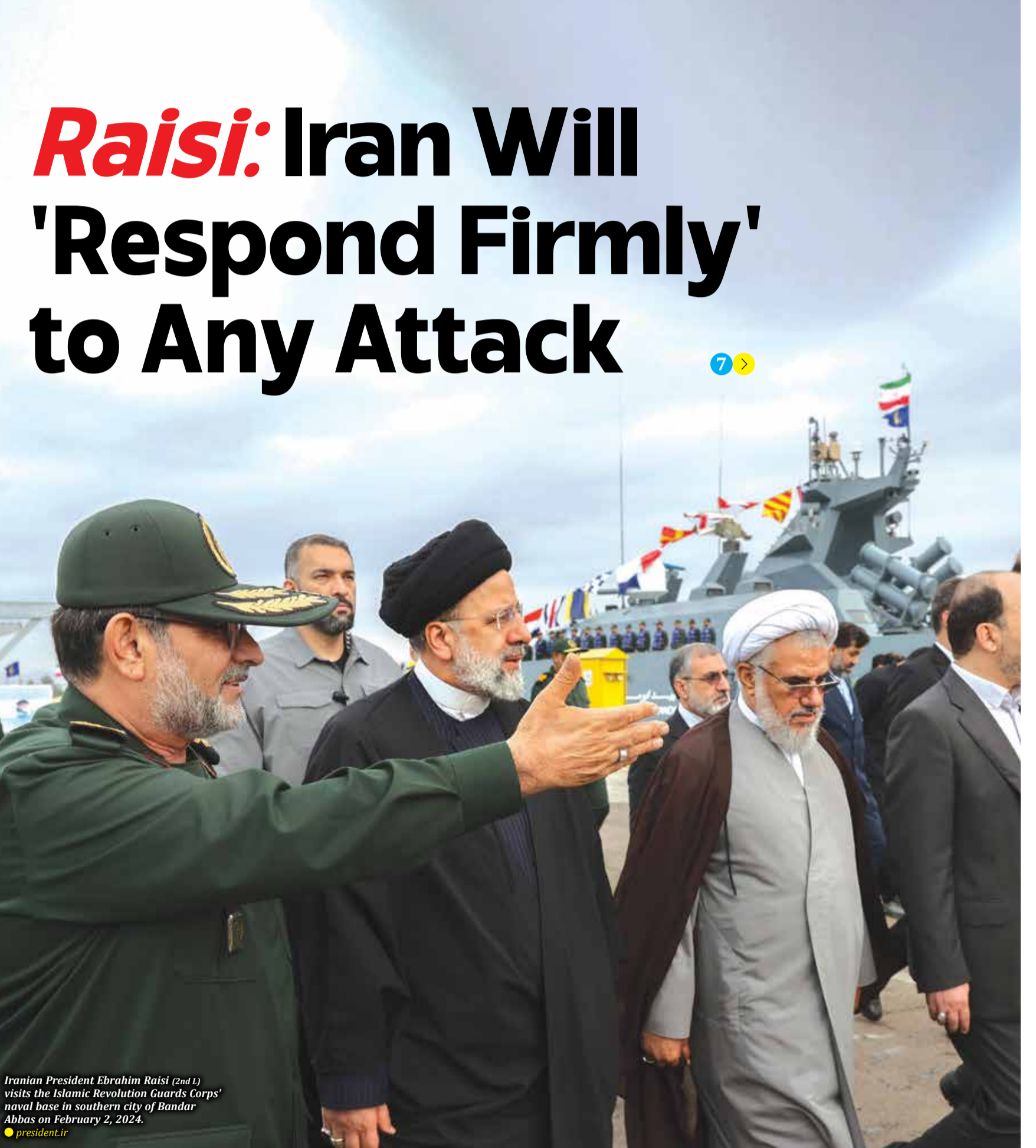
The question that is currently being discussed among scholars and intellectuals, both in academic and religious circles, is: How does global cultural theology understand the issue of the Al-Aqsa storm, and how does it reconcile it with religious identities such as Muslim, Christian, Jewish, etc.?

I aim to reframe this problem and state that the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm itself carries a new "cultural theology" born at a historical moment: during a period of cultural recession in the globalized Western world. Precisely at a time when a reversal of cultural trends from secular American-European cultures is at its peak, indicating the rise of "spiritual cultures." In the era of the "Western recession," the Operation-Al-Aqsa storm has globally presented the values of cultural resistance, and we need to strive to contextualize its "cultural theology."

### Conscience shaming world

The Operation Al-Aqsa storm, with its military initiation, holds a cultural and Islamic essence. It has propelled the world into a new phase of "ethical reconsideration" and "international shame" regarding the global policies of the West. The basis and meaning of this ethical reconsideration cannot be understood outside the realm of religious teachings and theological concepts. This shaming and redirection have long been guided by the leadership of Imam Khomeini and the wise leadership of Ayatollah Khamenei, and its results can be observed today in various levels of global political and cultural geography.

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Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (2nd L) visits the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' naval base in southern city of Bandar Abbas on February 2, 2024.  
[president.ir](http://president.ir)

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**SPECIAL ISSUE**



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