

QUESTION

"Islam teaches the lesson of human respect and dignity irrespective of colour, race and creed." Discuss

ANSWER

**ISLAM TEACHES RESPECT
AND DIGNITY FOR EVERYONE
WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMI-
NATION**

I) INTRODUCTION

ولقد كرّمنا بني آدم

"We have dignified the children of Adam"

(Surah Isra)

This verse from Surah Isra signifies that Allah has given inherent dignity to

all children of Adam. This dignity and respect is given without any discrimination. The last sermon of Prophet (PBUH) also stress on the same teaching. Though various ~~the~~ Quranic verses, Hadith and the actions of Prophet (PBUH), it is evident that Islam puts great stress on respect and dignity for everyone.

II) BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE CONCEPT OF RESPECT AND DIGNITY

The terms "respect" and "dignity" trace their origin in Latin and Greek root words which means honour, fair treatment and recognition. Immanuel Kant, a great modern philosopher,

define these terms as
"something that form the
basis of fundamental human
rights"

III) ISLAMIC TEACHINGS ABOUT RESPECT AND DIGNITY FOR ALL MANKIND WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMIN- ATION

a) Respect and Dignity for being the Crown Creation of Allah

The entire mankind is
the crown creation of
Allah. All other creations
of Allah are made to
serve the interests of
mankind either by food
or means of transportation

و فضلناهم على كثير من خلقنا
تفصيلاً

"we have privileged them
over much of Our other
creation" (Surah Al-Isra)

b) Respect and Dignity for Being Created Equal with Each other

Allah has created entire
mankind equal. No one has
any superiority over other
on race, color and creed. Therefore,
all deserve respect and
dignity

"An Arab has no superiority
over a non-Arab, nor a
non-Arab has any superiority
over an Arab ... except for
piety and good deeds"

(Holy Prophet, last sermon)

c) Respect and Dignity for Being Created in the Best Form

Allah has created entire mankind in the best form. Therefore, all people deserve respect and dignity without any discrimination.

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ أَحْسَنَ تَقْوِيمًا

"Indeed, [Allah] has created mankind in the best of forms" (Surah At-Tin)

d) Respect and Dignity for Being Recipient of Divine Knowledge

Quran, which is the divine knowledge of Allah, has been revealed for

entire mankind. That is why everyone deserve respect and dignity for being considered worthy of Divine Knowledge

تنزيل من رب العالمين

"[Quran is] sent down by the Lord of all nations"
(surah Al-Waqiah)

e) Respect and Dignity for Being Chosen the Vicegerent of Allah on Earth

The entire mankind is the vicegerent of Allah on Earth. This is a very high status. Owing to this, everyone deserve respect and dignity.

"And when your Lord said to angels that I am going to place a Kalipha on Earth"

IV) OTHER REASONS FOR RESPECT AND DIGNITY FOR EVERYONE

<u>Reasons</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
i) For being allowed to chose any religion	لا اكرهون الدين "There is no compulsion in Religion" (Al-Baqarah)
ii) For being saved from religious sentiments being hurt	"Donot abuse who they call upon other than Allah ..." (Al-An'am)

iii) For life being declared important

"Whoever kills another human being ... it is although he has killed entire mankind"
(Al-Maidha)

iv) For property of an individual being declared important

"Your lives and properties are forbidden on each other till you meet your Lord on the Day of Judgement"
(Last Sermon)

VI) CONCLUSION

To sum up, Islam teaches its followers to respect everyone because of the inherent dignity that is placed in each human being by the virtue of their relation with God

QUESTION

Define Ijma (consensus) and explain its different kinds. Highlight its importance in the light of Quran and Sunnah

ANSWER

IJMA: ITS IMPORTANCE IN QURAN AND SUNNAH

I) INTRODUCTION

Whether the issue is small or big, there is strength in consensus. This wisdom forms the basis of the Islamic concept of Ijma. Ijma holds an important role in Islamic law. This is because it provides guidance to Muslims in contemporary issues in the light of Islamic principles.

It also ensures that Muslims don't go astray. Holy Prophet (PBUH) talked about the strength in the consensus of Muslims in the following words:

لا يجمع امتي على خطأ

"My Ummah will never agree on an error"

II) DEFINING THE CONCEPT OF IJMA

a) Literal Meaning

Ijma comes from Arabic language meaning:

- 1) Gathering together
- 2) Agreement on something.

b) Contextual Meaning

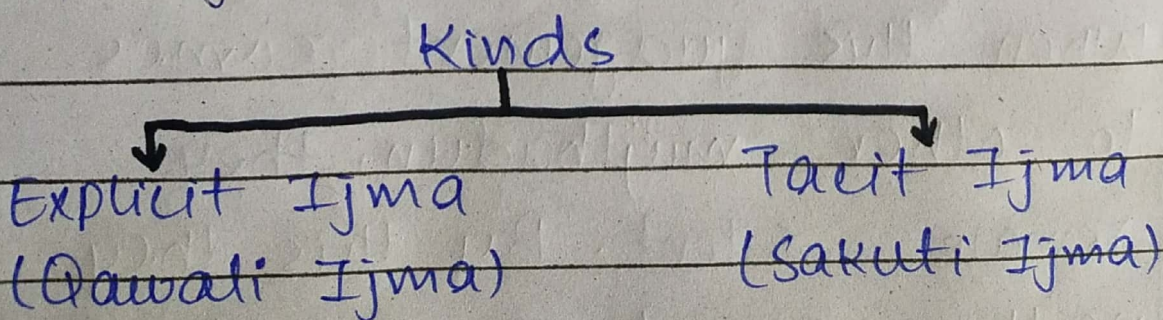
In the context of Islam, it is the agreement of the Muslim Ummah on a particular point.

c) Definition

According to Imam Ghazali, Ijma is the agreement of Muthadeen (independent jurists) on an issue after the death of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

III) KINDS OF IJMA

There are two main kinds of Ijma



a) Explicit Ijma (Qawali Ijma)

This is a kind of Ijma in which the mujthadeen of a particular time converge on an issue and they explicitly express their approval on it. This is explicit Ijma.

b) Tacit Ijma (Sakuti Ijma)

In this type of Ijma, some of the mujthadun converge to a point on an issue and give judgement. When this judgement comes to other mujthadun, they remain silent. By this they neither accept or reject it explicitly.

IV) OTHER TYPES OF IJMA

<u>IJMA</u>	<u>BRIEF DESCRIPTION</u>
i) Ijma of Companions	It is the ijma by the companions of Prophet (PBUH). It is most authoritative in nature.
ii) Ijma of Jurists	It is performed by Jurists. It is of moderate authority level.
iii) Ijma of Public	It is the Ijma performed by ordinary people of Ummah. It has low value in Islamic jurisprudence compared to others.

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v) IMPORTANCE OF IJMA IN LIGHT OF QURAN

a) Following Ijma is Synonymous to Following People in Authority

In order to properly run a state, obedience of people to those in authority is needed. Ijma is performed by people who have authority: Mujtahdeen. Following their decision is necessary in Islam.

"Those who have believed, obey Allah, Prophet and those who have authority among you" (Quran)

This verse signifies the importance.

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b) Consultation was Ordained to Prophet (PBUH)

Ijma is done through consultation and it was ordained upon Prophet (PBUH)

"And consult them in [conducting] matters"
(Surah An-Nisa)

c) Consultation is the Quality of the Believers

Allah has said that one of the quality of the believers is that they consult on matters

"[Who] conduct matters among themselves"
(Surah Ash-Shura)

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VI) IMPORTANCE IN THE LIGHT OF SUNNAH

Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

"If a matter comes to you, judge by the Book of Allah. If nothing comes from there, look at my Sunnah. If nothing comes from there then do what majority of people believe to be truth"

a) Other Examples from Sunnah

During Battle of Badr, Holy Prophet (PBUH) followed advice of companions to meet enemy outside of Medina. Similarly in the

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Battle of Trench, Holy Prophet followed the advise of a companion to dig a trench.

VII) CONCLUSION

To sum up, Ijma holds an importance position in Islam. Through it, Muslims can solve contemporary problem in light of Islamic principles. Both Quran and Sunnah describe its importance.