

Question No. 01

Topic phrase:

"Ijtihad, its contemporary importance in the light of Islamic Fiqh"

1. Introduction

Allah has made the religion of Islam a means of guidance and salvation for all mankind until the day of judgment. The question arises that with the passage of time, changes in society are essential part of human life. In the Quran and Sunnah, there is no partial solution to all the problems until the Day of Resurrection, but the principles of all the problems and orders are there. Therefore, the necessity and importance of Ijtihad cannot be denied with the change of circumstances, Ijtihad is the Jugular Vein of Muslim Ummah.

ii. Definition of Ijtihad

The term Ijtihad is derived from the Arabic root

"Jehd" which means "exerting one's utmost effort."

Technically and in Islamic Jurisprudence language, Ijtihad is a doctrine that implies the exercise of one's utmost reason to deduce a principle compatible with Shariah

According to the Holy Quran,

"As for those who strive in us, we surely guide them to our path."

(Surah Al-Ankabut)

On being appointed as the governor of Yemen, Hazrat Muaz (RA) was asked by the Prophet (SAW), "O Muaz, by what rule would"

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you be guided"? He replied, "By the Law of the Quran, but if you find no direction therein? Asked the Prophet (SAW), then I will act according to the Sunnah (SAW) of the Prophet, replied Muaz. But what if that also does not find? He was again asked, "Then I will exercise my judgment and act accordingly, was the reply. The Prophet raised his hands in satisfaction and thankfulness to God and uttered, "Praise be to Allah, who guides the Messenger of His Apostle as He pleases."

Importance of Ijtihad in the contemporary world in the light of Islamic Fiqh

There are many problems facing Muslim society today in political, economic and social spheres that can only be solved by resorting to Ijtihad.

112 Contemporary importance of Ijtihad in the light of Islamic Fiqh :

As mentioned in the Holy Quran,

" O you who believe ! Obey Allah , and obey the messenger of Allah and those of you who are in authority ; and if you have a dispute concerning any matter , refer it to Allah and the messenger if you are true believers of Allah and the Last Day . "

(Al Nisa: 59)

Ijtihad is important in the contemporary world due to following reasons

1. Dynamic nature of society
2. Quanic emphasis on reasoning
3. Applicability to new issues
4. It ensures justice and equity
5. Facilitating social progress

6. Balancing rights and duties
7. Addressing ethical dilemmas
8. Promoting critical thinking
9. Ensuring human dignity and freedoms
10. Consensus building
11. Preventing rigidity
12. Adapting to scientific advancements
13. Public interest (Maslaha)
14. Preventing extremism
15. Unity in diversity

6. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Ijtihad

Prophet (PBUH) said,

“When a judge gives a decision by Ijtihad and gets it right, there are two rewards for him; and if he gave a judgement by Ijtihad but erred there is one reward for him.”

(Al-Hadeeq)

• Integrals of Ijtihad

Mainly there are three integrals of Ijtihad

1. The exercise of interpretative autonomy
2. The person carrying out the process (al-mujtahid)
3. The matter which is the subject of interpretative autonomy

• Ranks of Mujtahids

1. Mujtahid Mutlak

"Ijtihad fi'sh-shar" - the absolute independence in legislation

Mujtahid Munfasih

"Mujtahid fi al-madhab"

Mujtahid Muwallid

Such a Mujtahid must have a perfect knowledge of all the branches of jurisprudence

• Ways of Ijtihad

- ✓ Judiciary
- ✓ Muslim scholars
- ✓ Parliament
- ✓ Institutionalization
- ✓ Mutual consultation

IV. Conclusion

In a nutshell, moving the right of ijtihad from individuals representing schools of thought to an Islamic legislative body is the only form which can establish consensus in modern times as mentioned in the book of Zarbal "The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam", Ijtihad is the only way to deal with emerging issues by giving new and pertinent solutions according to the Quran and the Sunnah.

Question No. 03

Topic phrase

"Culture and civilization; characteristics of Islamic culture"

1. Introduction

Culture is the collection of social behaviors and norms. While civilization is the advanced version of culture based on technological development. Culture has different characters like language, art, monuments and many more. Civilization has its own economic, social, political and governance structure. Different civilizations have their own different features. Like Islamic civilization is different from the western civilization in many ways.

11. Literal meaning and definition of culture and civilization

Literal meaning of culture

"To educate, to nourish, to
sharp" Latin

It is derived from a ~~Latin~~ word
"Culturor" means to "to grow"

Definition

"Culture is an aggregation of
social behaviors and norms"

"Culture is a way of life."

Types of culture

Mainly there are two types
of culture

Materialistic culture

It includes dress, coat, jewellery,
architecture, monuments and
other tangible items

2 Non-materialistic components

These components are intangible in nature. For example; values, customs, language and relations.

• Islamic culture

Islam has its own beautiful culture. It has both material and non-material components. For example - masjid, graveyard, clothes, beliefs, ethics and many more.

• Literal meaning of civilization

→ Civilization is derived from a Latin word 'Civil'.

→ Definition

Civilization means higher level of cultural and technological development.

Civilization is the refined form of culture.

3. Characteristics of culture and civilization of Islam

According to a Sociologist - Will Durant - civilization is the combination of four things;

Political organization

Each civilization has its own political system. Likewise Islam has its own political organization.

For example;

Persian civilization, western civilization - democracy, Islamic civilization caliphate

Moral Norms

Islam is the complete code of life. It is enriched with moral principles.

For example; hoarding, deceit, corruption and untruthfulness are prohibited by Islam. Islam is based on truth and honesty.

(ii) Economic provisions

Islamic culture and civilization has a vibrant economic system. For example; Zakat system, charity system etc. Other civilizations like Egyptian, Indus and western had strong economic system

(iii) Art and Architecture

For example; Indus valley civilization - system of drainage

• Impacts of Islamic culture on the west

Western culture learnt following things from Islamic culture

(1) Political system of Islam

For example; when Muslim were ruling in Spain, they had their own political system

(2) Administration

The administrative structure of Hazrat Umar (RA) is still

followed in Europe

(3) Arabic language

English language has taken many words from Arabic language

For example;

Coffee, Al geometry, Music
and many other words

(4) Education

Muslim education played an important role in European renaissance

For example;

"Cannons of medicine" - Avicenna

"Geometry" - Al Khawarizmi

(5) Art of Paper making

Muslims learned paper making from China then taught to Europeans

(6) Philosophy

Many Muslim philosophers translated the writings of Aristotle, Plato and Socrates like Al Farabi and Al Kindi

IV. Conclusion

Islamic culture is enriched with materialistic and non-materialistic elements. Islamic civilization has its unique characters like political system of Islamic, social welfare state, economic system and governance system. Islamic civilization is facing downfall due to many reasons. However, one day Islam will regain its lost glory.

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Question No:05

Topic phrase:

“The concept and structure of Muslim Ummah and suggestions for its revival”

Introduction

Muslim Ummah means a unity in diversity. It means Muslims are knitted together.

They feel one another hardships.

They are just like one body.

As the concept of "Pan-Islamism"

which was given by Jamal ud-

Afghani. However; Muslims are

facing multiple challenges in

the form of extremism, terrorism and

Islamophobia. But all these

issues can be cured by taking

a few pragmatic steps.



11. The concept and structure of Muslim Ummah

According to the Holy Quran,

كنتم خير امت اخرجت للناس تأمرون بالمعروف
وتنهون عن المنكر وتؤمنون بالله (3:110)

"You are the best nation produced for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah."

المؤمنون اخوة فاصلحو بين اخوانكم واتقوا
الله لعلكم ترحمون (49:10)

"The believers are brothers, so make settlement between your brothers and fear Allah that you may receive mercy."

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



According to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH),

“The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy and compassion for one another is that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever.”

- one Ummah
- one body
- one unity

Challenges faced by Muslim Ummah

Internal challenges

Political disunity of the Muslim world

Regionalism of Ummah

Rich in resources but poor in management

Fundamentalism and rise of extremism

Far away from the teachings of

Quran

Lust of materialism and moral decline

7. Illiteracy
8. Lagging behind in science and technology
9. Terrorism
10. Poverty
1. Concentration of wealth

External challenges

1. Globalization
2. Media and cultural invasion
3. No veto power

Ideological challenges

1. Concentration of wealth (capitalism)
2. Communism

Political challenges

- Middle Eastern crisis
- Political division
- Weak democracies
- Sunni - Shia division
- Local Nationalism
- Globalization - west based

111. Suggestions for the revival of Muslim Ummah

ع اک ہوں مسلم جماعتی باہمی کے
نیل کے ساتھ سے لے کر تا جنت کا سفر

"May the Muslims unite in
watching over the shrine"

Muslims should understand and
implement the true
principles of Shariah

ع جماعتی بھی، اللہ بھی، قرآن مجید ایک
کچھ بڑی بات بھی ہو۔ جو مسلمان بھی رہے

"And one your Ka'ba, one
your God, and one your
great Quran

Yet, still, divided from each
other, lives every Mussalman

Establishment of Khilafat/
Shariah and Ijtihad



Initiating inter faith dialogue
to counter the onslaught of
extremism.

Projecting the soft image of
Islam to counter Islamophobia

Searching and practicing
commonalities among Muslims
For example; as Shah waliullah
ended sectarianism among
Muslim by bringing them
on common grounds

Conclusion

In a nutshell, structure of
Muslim Ummah is weakening
day by day due to
multiple internal, external,
ideological and intellectual
challenges. These challenges can
be catered by taking some
comprehensive steps like
bringing Muslim countries together
, and promoting pan Islamism.