

## Political Science

Q. Write a detailed essay on the principle of Ijtihad in Islam as given by Allama Iqbal. How can it be made possible in the modern age?

Allama Iqbal, a renowned philosopher, poet, and political leader of the Indian subcontinent in the early 20th century, played a pivotal role in shaping the intellectual discourse within the Muslim community. One of his central themes was the principle of Ijtihad in Islam. Ijtihad refers to the process of independent reasoning and critical thinking within Islamic jurisprudence.

Allama Iqbal believed that Islam was not a static religion but a dynamic force capable of adapting to changing circumstances. He emphasized that Muslims must embrace Ijtihad, which he saw as a crucial aspect of intellectual growth and progress. Ijtihad, according to Iqbal, allowed Muslims to interpret and apply Islamic principles in accordance with the changing realities of the world.

Moreover, Iqbal argued that the process of Ijtihad should not be limited to a select group of scholars but should be open to all educated Muslims. As Iqbal said, "Elevate your selfhood to such heights, that even before destiny unfolds, God Himself shall inquire, 'Tell me, what is your will?'"

with this verse, Atama Iqbal emphasizes the idea of self-improvement and individual responsibility. He urges Muslims to raise their intellectual and spiritual capabilities to such an extent that they become capable of engaging in Ijtihad and formulating their own understanding of God's will, rather than passively accepting fate.

In addition, Iqbal advocated for a dynamic interpretation of the Quran and Hadith that considered the evolving context of society. He believed that the Quran's teachings were timeless and universal, but their application needed to be contextually relevant. For instance, in the context of women's rights, Iqbal argued that Islam provided equal spiritual status to men and women, and Ijtihad was necessary to reinterpret certain historical practices to align with gender equality in modern times.

Furthermore, Iqbal emphasized that Ijtihad could address contemporary social and political issues faced by the Muslim world. He believed that Muslims needed to reinterpret Islamic teachings to establish democratic governance, promote social justice, and eradicate economic disparities. For example, Iqbal envisioned a ~~society~~ society where the principles of consultation (Shura) and justice (Adl) were applied in governance, allowing for equitable representation and fair decision-making processes.

Besides that, Atama Iqbal encouraged Muslims to

integrate scientific knowledge and modern advancements with Islamic principles. He believed that Ijtihad would bridge the gap between Islamic teachings and modern science, fostering innovation and progress. For instance, legal saw potential in the field of embryology mentioned in the Quran to be explored further in light of modern embryological discoveries.

Moving on, promoting education and knowledge dissemination is fundamental to making Ijtihad possible in the modern age. Access to quality education equips Muslims with the necessary tools to engage in critical thinking and understand the complexities of Islamic jurisprudence. By encouraging formal education and supporting Islamic seminaries that include modern sciences and disciplines in their curriculum, the Muslim community can foster an environment conducive to Ijtihad. Scholars and institutions can also utilize digital platforms and online resources to disseminate knowledge about Islamic principles and the importance of Ijtihad.

With that being said, encouraging independent thinking within the Muslim community is also crucial for promoting Ijtihad. Breaking away from traditional norms of blind adherence to authority fosters an atmosphere of intellectual freedom. Scholars, religious leaders, and educators can actively encourage individuals to question and seek a deeper understanding of Islamic teachings. Not just that, Muslims should

also be taught to value diverse perspectives and engage in constructive debates. Encouraging dissent and respectful discourse allows for the exploration of various viewpoints, enhancing the quality of *Ijtihad* discussions and promoting a culture of intellectual openness.

Additionally, to make *Ijtihad* possible, it is essential to have qualified scholars and experts who possess expertise in classical Islamic jurisprudence as well as modern disciplines. Such scholars can bridge the gap between the traditional and contemporary, ensuring that *Ijtihad* is grounded in a deep understanding of both historical contexts and modern challenges. Establishing centers for Islamic studies that incorporate various ~~fields~~ fields can train scholars with multidisciplinary expertise. This approach enables scholars to draw from multiple sources of knowledge, offering nuanced and relevant interpretations of Islamic principles.

Finally, addressing modern challenges often requires interdisciplinary perspectives. Encouraging collaboration between Islamic scholars and experts from different fields can provide comprehensive solutions to complex issues. For example, when discussing ethical implications of emerging technologies, experts in ethics, science, and Islamic jurisprudence can collaborate to arrive at well-informed conclusions. Moreover, organizing seminars, workshops, and conferences that

being *Wajehat* scholars and professionals from diverse disciplines facilitates these collaborations and fosters an integrated approach to *Ijtihad*.

In conclusion, *Alama Iqbal's* vision of *Ijtihad* extended beyond the realm of traditional Islamic jurisprudence. He viewed it as a transformative principle that could revive the Muslim community's intellectual and spiritual vitality. To make *Ijtihad* possible and relevant in the modern age, Muslims must embrace education, critical thinking, and openness to diverse perspectives. By doing so, they can reinvigorate the spirit of *Ijtihad* and ensure that Islam remains a living and dynamic force in the ever-changing world.