

Q:- "The last sermon of the Holy Prophet (SAW) is the basic document for awakening of conscious of mankind for human rights."
Discuss.

(1)

INTRODUCTION:

Islam has always been a firm advocate of human rights in all ages. 'Right' is translated as 'Haqq' which means truth, correct, obligation, legitimate etc. In terminological basis, it means a legal right of a person given to him by the Shariah (Islamic Law). As Prophet (SAW) was the most perfect man on the planet Earth, he had been a perfect example for all the mankind who carried out everything so correctly that he never abrogated anyone's right regardless of one's race, colour, and religion. He remained a flag bearer of human rights all his life, before and after the prophet hood. His last sermon during Hajj is considered as the first charter of Human rights in the history of mankind. Islam has given humans a great amount of respect and provided them with rights at a time when the powerful had extraordinary amount of power and control over their subordinates.

(i) THE LAST SERMON OF PROPHET (SAW):

The last sermon of Prophet SAW, delivered on the ~~10th~~ ninth day of Dhul-Hijjah, 10 A.H (632 AD) in the valley of Mount Arafat in Mecca. It was the occasion of annual rites of Hajj. It is also known as 'the Farewell Pilgrimage'. The sermon was then repeated by sentence by sentence by Safwan's brother Labiah (P.A), who had powerful voice, at the request of Prophet Muhammad SAW which he faithfully proclaimed to over ten thousand gathered on the occasion.

The rights are explicated below, from the last sermon of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW):

(ii) SANCTITY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY:

Prophet Muhammad SAW, in his last sermon, has proclaimed the sanctity of life and property. This shows no person can harm other without any provision of evidence and even with the provision of evidence, the accused be brought to justice through legal means. In this sermon, prophet SAW said: "Your blood and your property are as sacred as this Day and this Month and this City." He further added emphasis to the property as: "Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owner." And about sanctity of life as: "Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you."

RIGHTS OF WOMEN:

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in his last sermon has instructed us to be good with ~~and~~ women and called them as the security of Allah, "O people! Fear Allah concerning women. Verily you have taken them on the security of Allah and have made their persons lawful unto you by words of Allah. If your wives refrain from impropriety and are faithful to you, clothe and feed them suitably." It is obligatory on the husbands to clothe and feed them according to their capabilities.

RIGHTS OF HUSBANDS:

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) has emphasised the rights of husband over their wives. In his last sermon Prophet (SAW) said, "It is incumbent upon them (wives) to honor their conjugal rights and not to commit acts of impropriety which if they do, you have authority to chastise them, yet not severely." Husbands have been given authority to punish their wives on the acts of propriety, but not severely, so that it may bruise their bodies. If they (husbands) can make them (wives) understand of their wrongdoing, husbands should do so. Other they may punish their wives, but not severely.

(iv)

NO SUPERIORITY IN RACE / COLOR ETC:

The one of the most fundamental characteristic of Islam is equality. That every being is neither superior nor lower than the other. The Prophet of Islam in his last sermons put more emphasis on this concept of equality as "An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; white has no superiority over black; nor does a black have any superiority over white; (none have superiority over another) except by piety and good action."

(v)

RIGHT OF WORKERS AND SERVANTS / SLAVES:

Prophets Muhammad (SAW) has mentioned the rights of workers and servants / slaves as: "And your slaves I see that you feed them with such food as you eat yourselves, and clothe them with the same clothes that you, yourselves wear." It simply show case the acts of equality towards your slaves and workers and servants. And to take care of them just as you take care of yourselves is the most beautiful ~~and~~ concept and it germinates the brotherhood and goodness among each other.

DATE: ___/___/___

(vi) ECONOMIC RIGHTS OF INDEBTORS:

On the last sermon, prophet of Islam has restricted all interests and usurious dues. "All interests and usurious dues ~~are~~ accruing from time to time of ignorance stand wiped out." He did it so that loan provider may not take any advantage whatsoever from necessitation of the indebteder. This way it would encourage the indebteder to be good to his loan provider and some other way around.

(3) SECOND CONSCIENCE OF RIGHTS PROVIDED IN THE LAST SERMON OF PROPHET (SAW)

The rights of human beings provided in the last sermon of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) work as the second conscience for an individual, as if one is able to comprehend the how to differentiate between good and bad, right and wrong, that's good. Otherwise, the last sermon then can work as a second thought of human thought the rights provided in it. It will bring not only Muslims together, but also the non-Muslims to adopt such beautified rights mentioned by the Prophet SAW in his last sermon.

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(4)

CONCLUSION:

The last sermon of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) provides the very basic, yet most important rights, for the better working of ^{not} only individual's life, but that of family's, relative's, society's and of all Muslims. The rights of life and property, women, husbands, economic and others, if implemented correctly and ~~with~~ ⁱⁿ true faith can change the society of today's.