



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

Answer

### Introduction

"Ijtihad' is a strong pillar of the Muslim world."

(Allama Iqbal)

Ijtihad is a main principle in Islam. In fact, Allama Iqbal was a great supporter of 'ijtehad' in the Muslim world. He advocated the principle of 'ijtehad' with the teachings of Islam. Moreover, 'ijtehad' can also be possible in the modern age according to the view of Iqbal. Therefore, 'ijtehad' is a main pillar of Islam.



## 2. Concept of 'ijtehad' in Islam

"Ijtehad meaning is  
'to try'."

(Oxford dictionary)

In Islam, ijtehad means to search an Islamic solution of the problem. In fact, 'ijtehad' is the third most important pillar of Islam.

"O! prophet (P.B.U.H)  
do ijtehad with  
people."

(Al-Imran, 159)

Therefore, ijtehad is an attempt of shara'ee solution of the problem.

## 3- Principle of 'ijtehad' in Islam: Allama Iqbal

Allama Iqbal always supported 'ijtehad' and it is



reflected in his socio-political thoughts.

Following are details of ijtehs according to Allama Iqbal:

### a) Rejection of 'ijtehadic' principle by Iqbal

Iqbal rejected the ijtehadic principle of people of Turkey. The Grand National Assembly of Turkey regarded as:

"The supreme authority lies in the state, not in religion."

Iqbal did not agree and rejected it as,

"Personally, I think it is a mistake to regard state as dominant."

(- Allama Iqbal)

Allama Iqbal, further, said as:



"According to Qur'an,  
the supreme authority  
is spiritual."

Therefore, Iqbal rejected ijtehad  
principle of people of Turkey.

b) Islam: A religion of idealism  
and positivism

Allama Iqbal regard-  
ed Islam as positivism and idealism.  
According to Iqbal, Islam is  
unity of Muslims as positivism.

"There is no Arabic,  
Turkish, Iranian, or  
Indian Muslim."

(- Allama Iqbal)

Iqbal also explained as below:

"But, unfortunately,  
Muslims are more  
frequently divided  
as Turkish, Arabic,  
Iranian, and Indian."



Iqbal advocated right in his place as,

• The incident of 9/11, attack on twin tower, is an evidence of division of Muslims.

Thus, Iqbal advocated Islamic idealism and positivism in the purpose of 'ijtihad'.

4- Ijtihad in the modern age: the best ever solution

Ijtihad can be possible in the modern age:

As Allah says in Quran,

"People are sources of righteous for other people."

(-Surah Toba: 122)

Allama Iqbal also showed the pathway leading to ijtihad.



"Ijtihad can be done by a Muslim who has religious knowledge and he must be in good health, possessing intellect."

(-Allama Iqbal)

Allama Iqbal pointed towards the parliament role in ijtihad as below:

"Today, parliament is the best platform to do ijtihad."

Iqbal's idea was also supported by Maulana Abu-ul-Kalam Azad as:

"Cabinet is also a driver of ijtihad."

Thus, ijtihad can be possible in the modern age in the light of above points.



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## Conclusion

فروق قائم و ربط ملت سے ہے  
تنبہا دریا کہہ نہیں

کوع ہے دریا میں اور بیرون  
دریا کہہ نہیں

(علامہ محمد اقبالؒ)

Ijtihad is a main principle in Islam. In fact, Allama Iqbal was a great supporter of 'ijtihad' in the Muslim world. He advocated the 'ijtihadic' opinion in the light of Quran. Moreover, 'ijtihad' is also possible today according to view of Iqbal. Therefore, Iqbal is a great philosopher of the Muslim world.