

## (Question - 4) ✍

Discuss in detail the Principles and the terms and conditions of "Jihad" in the light of Quran and Sunnah:

### 1 - Introduction:-

Jihad, in Islam a meritorious struggle or effort. During the Mecca Period when the Prophet (610-622 CE) Muhammad received revelations of the Qur'an at Mecca, the emphasis was on the internal dimension of jihad, termed *sabr*, which refers to the practice of "patient forbearance" by Muslims in the face of life's vicissitudes and toward those who wish them harm.

The word "Jihad" in Arabic means to "struggle against something". It is a two-way process, despite all hardships and difficulties, striving for the achievement of an object. Similarly exhausting all one's energies for the attainment of an ideal is also called "Jihad."

Surah ul Ankabut It is said:

"Those who strive hard (بِأَعْيُنِنَا) in us (our cause) we will surely guide them to our Paths."

It's also said:

If they strive to make you join with me (in worship)

anything (as a partner) of which you have no knowledge, then obey them not."

The word Jihad was first revealed in Makki surahs. The Holy Prophet PBUH lived at Makkah for about thirteen years. He struggled to the utmost to preach and propagated the message of Islam against all odds. But he did not take up arms. He, along with his companions, was instructed "To hold back their hands". In Madni Surah it has been used as "struggle in the way of Allah" which may culminate in full scale war.

Definition: To strive in the way of Allah i.e. doing everything one is capable of for the pleasure of Allah and make all kinds of efforts for establish the supremacy of Allah i.e. Islam."

## 2- Jihad : Types

There are mainly three types of "Jihad" in the normal life of human beings

- (a) "Jihad" for survival or struggle for existence
- (b) "Jihad" for self-rule or struggle for freedom
- (c) "Jihad" for ideology or ideological struggle.

A - Jihad for Survival or Struggle for Existence:  
If a Muslim struggle for survival within the fold of Islam it will be an act of worship on his part. If

he works hard to earn his livelihood he will be rewarded by Allah Almighty. In the context of an Islamic polity, the efforts of a believer to maintain his life through lawful means is a "Jihad" and an act of worship in the sight of Allah.

### B- Jihad for self rule or struggle for freedom.

It is a legitimate cause which leads to complete freedom. If Muslims struggle for their independence within the confines of Shariah it will be a lawful act.

If someone lays down his life for the preservation of freedom he will attain martyrdom. The Holy Prophet PBUH is reported to have said:

"The one who is killed while safeguarding his property is also a martyr."

### C- Jihad for Ideology or Ideological Struggle:

It's highest form of "Jihad". It pertains to ideas, thoughts and beliefs of an individual. At ideological level the Holy Quran uses the term الجهاد, the struggle in the way of Allah. Islamic ideology is based on faith in the Oneness of Allah. It has a system of worship and a complete code

of life which needs total implementation. A sincere struggle for the enforcement of Islamic ideology at individual or collective level is called "Jihad Fe Sabilillah."

### 3- Jihad Fe Sabilillah : Levels

There are Three levels of Jihad Fe - Sabilillah, each divided further into three phases. In all there are 9 different stages of "Jihad Fe Sabilillah."

- a - Internal Jihad at individual level.
- b - Ideological struggle
- c - Establishing Islam

#### A - Internal Jihad at Individual Level:

Every individual Muslim has to struggle in three different directions to prove that he is a real and faithful servant of Allah Almighty. In doing so he has to encounter his own "baser self" called *al-Nafs al-Amarah* in the Quranic terminology. The Holy Prophet PBUH has termed this struggle, to escape the power of evil, as *Jihad-i-Akbar* (Jihad-i-Akbar). Besides one's own "Baser Self" there is devil along with his agents to lead astray a man from the right path.

"Surely the devil (Satan) is your enemy, so take him for enemy; he only invites his party that they may be inmates of the burning life."  
(Surah Fatir 35:6)

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said,

"Surely the devil runs through the body of man as blood flows through the veins."

### B - Ideological Struggle

It is knowledge based "Jihad". The main source and most powerful weapon in the hands of Muslims in the Holy Quran. It recommends a three-pronged strategy for waging ideological "Jihad"

- (i) Wisdom
- (ii) Preaching with inspiration and excellent admonition
- (iii) Intellectual arguments to expose the futility of opponents' beliefs.

In the Quran Allah has given a comprehensive guidance for the propagation of Islam.

"O Prophet invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and excellent admonition and discuss things with the people in the best manner."

(An-Nahl - 125)

## C- Establishing Islam

The highest level of Jihad - Fe - Sabilillah is to establish the supremacy of Allah by implementing the just system of Islam.

"Establish Deen (this complete code of life) and be not divided in it."

(Surah - Ash - Shuraa - 13)

'And thy lord do thou magnify!  
means to sovereignty the establish the  
sovereignty of Allah on earth.'

سُبْحَانَكَ يَا قَدِيرُ

(Surah - Muddaththir - 3)

Besides above mentioned Quranic verses there is a very comprehensive term "Kingdom of Heaven on the earth" used in the bible.

In Lord's Prayer it is said;

'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

## 4 - Jihad Fe - Sabilillah: Phases

There are three phases of "Jihad Fe Sabilillah" for establishing Islam namely:

(1) Passive Resistance

(2) Active Resistance

(3) Armed Conflict

(1) Passive Resistance:

Entire Makkah Period of the Holy Prophet's life is the best example of in this

regard. The Muslims were prohibited to raise hands even in self-defence. This non-violent practice of Holy Prophet and his companions is lauded by Almighty Allah in the following verse:-

"Hast thou not turned thy thought to those who were told to hold back their hands (from fight) but establish regular Prayers and spend in regular Zakat"?

(Surah An-Nisaa - 77)

At Makkah, the Muslims were not allowed to rush to arms. It is known as passive resistance.

### (ii) - Active Resistance:

When the Muslims became powerful enough after having gone through a vigorous training, their individual character reformed and that all with their focus on one objective i.e. to seek the pleasure of Allah, they can go ahead with an active struggle against evil forces.

"Allah sent his Messenger (may PBUH) with guidance and the Religion of Truth, to cause it to prevail over all religions, even though the pagans may detest."

Surah Fut Tawbah 33

### (iii) - Armed Conflict

Islam is not a religion of war and violence. But however if war is somehow thrust upon the Muslims, then they are supposed to fight back with all the force at their command. The Holy Prophet PBUH resorted to war when the Makkah non-believers harassed him & his community of believers even at Mading. The armed struggle of Holy Prophet PBUH is explained in the following Quranic verses:

"Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress limit: For Allah Loveth not transgressors." 196  
(Ayah-al Baqarah)

"O believers! Fight them until there is no more mischief and the Deen of Allah (way of life prescribed by Allah) is established completely."  
(An-Anfal - 39)

### 5. Conclusion:

Islamic approach towards Jihad was clearly determined and demonstrated by the Holy Prophet PBUH throughout his 23 years of Prophetic life. He adopted a course of action which reflects the philosophy of "Jihad" in Islam.



The focus of "Jihad" at individual level was self-purification. Self purification comes through total obedience and dedication by self-denial. With reference to "Jihad" at ideological level the Holy Prophet (PBUH) made it mandatory for every Muslim to "seek knowledge from cradle to <sup>the</sup> grave", it includes religious as well as the knowledge of physical sciences. The final phase of Islamic "Jihad" is Qital.

When Islamic Muslims are powerful enough it becomes their duty to establish the just system of Islam so that the will of Allah is enforced. Islam is complete code of life.

