

Q.No.2

PHILOSOPHY OF PRAYER AND ITS IMPACTS

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is an Islamic worship or "ibaadah".

The Islamic worships are a way of connecting to Allah and ^{have} provides spiritual and moral impacts on individuals. Human were created for the sole purpose of worshipping Allah as Allah mentions in Quran.

"I did not create The Jinns and the humans except for the purpose that they should worship me"

(Az-Zariyat)

We are blessed with a set of different worships, some to be performed daily, some yearly and some once in a lifetime. Worships are categorized into physical (Prayer, Fasting), Financial (Zakat) and Physical and Financial (Hajj). These worships provide meaning and purpose to people's life.

Prayer (Salat) is a form of physical worship, performed daily. In literal sense "salat"

refers to dual/prayer - In terminology, it refers to obligatory five daily prayers. It is also the second pillar of Islam and the only worship obligated to perform daily. Prayer was obligated in the 10th year of Prophethood during the time of incident of Miraj - where Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) was called upon the skies. This is first and only prayer obligated in Makki era.

The five daily prayers are Fajr, Asr, Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib and Isha.

Importance of Salat (Prayer)

The word "salat" has been mentioned in Quran more than 60 times. It is the first deed which will be asked on the Day of Judgement. Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W) mentions in an Hadith.

"The first deed a man would be accounted for on the Day of Judgement is Salat. If it turns good, all his other deed will also turn^{out} good. And if it turns out bad, all his other deeds will also turn out bad"

(Tabraani)

Prayer distinguishes between a muslim and non-muslim. It defines muslims as said by Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W),

"Between man and polytheism and disbelief is the abridgment of salat." (Zuhri) (Muslim)

Prayer has distinct impact on an individual mind and body, it stops them from evil, provides spiritual alleviation, cleanse from sins and purify their bodies; and also has impacts on society as it strengthens the social setup, instills modesty, instills love and affection and tolerance towards others, removes evil from the society and make society punctual.

IMPACTS OF PRAYER ON INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

Prayer impacts both individual and society in a positive manner. It instills unity, tolerance, love and affection in the society and transform individual by stopping them from evil deeds, purifying them, cleansing their sins and spiritually alleviates them.

IMPACTS ON INDIVIDUAL: SPIRITUAL IMPACTS

Spiritual impacts of prayer include spiritual alleviation, cleansing from sins, purifying bodies, provides sense of contentment and satisfaction and connect Allah and Man. It is also a way to seek help from Allah.

1. Spiritual Elevation:

Prayer is a source of spiritual elevation for individuals. Offering prayers elevate them spiritually. It helps in focusing and growth spiritually. It spiritually

connects man to Allah and is a source of getting close to Allah. Hazrat Ali (R.A) said

"When I want to Allah to talk to me, I recite Quran and when I want to talk to Allah, I offer salat."

According to Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W) that during the salat, muslims are nearest to Allah.

"The nearest a servant comes to his Lord is when he is prostrating, so increase your prayers (in this state)."

(Muslim)

Salat is way of spiritual growth and closeness to Allah and should be offered earnestly.

2 Cleansing from Sins:

Salat also helps in cleaning sins from the mind and life of an individual. It is a source of atonement of sins. Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W) explains how salat removes sins from the body of muslims.

"A muslim observes prayer for God's sake and his sins fall from him as the leaves fall from the tree in winter"

(Mishkat)

Salat removes the sins from body as the leaves fall during winter means salat cleanse

the body of individuals.

3. Source of Purification for The Body.

In addition to cleansing body from the sins, also purify their body when they make abultion (wudu). In Surah Al-Maidah, Allah has mentioned how wuzu purifies bodies of muslims.

"O you who believe! when you rise to pray, wash your faces and your hands and arms to the elbows, and wipe your heads, and your feet to the ankles. If you had intercourse, then purify yourself."

(Al-Maidah)

4. Sense of contentment and satisfaction:

Prayer is the source of comfort for the believers, it provides sense of satisfaction and contentment - Allah has also mentioned in The Quran

"Surely, it is in the remembrance of God, that heart finds comfort."

(Ar-Ra'd)

This verse explains that only remembrance of Allah can comfort the hearts of believers

5. A way to Seek Help from Allah:

Prayer is a connection between Allah

and Man and it is a way to seek help from Allah. The Dua made at the end of prayer here is a way of asking Allah's help in any sphere of life regarding anything from the smallest wish to the "biggest" desire. Allah himself command Muslims to seek help from him through Salat. He says:

"O you who believe! seek help through patience and salat."

(Al-Baqarah)

Prayer helps individual to ask Allah's guidance and help for their issues and ask for the fulfillment of their wishes.

IMPACTS ON INDIVIDUAL : MORAL IMPACTS

Moral impacts of prayer include staying away from evil and makes individuals punctual

1. Helps to Stay away from Evil:

Prayers when offered earnestly and properly helps individuals in staying away from evil deeds. It restrains from evil and shameful acts. In Surah Ankaboot Allah affirms that

"Surely Salat restrains one from shameful and evil acts."

(Al-Ankaboot)

2. Makes Punctual:

Namaz (Salat) helps in making an

individual punctual. As salat is to be offered at a particular time, so, individuals become punctual in their lives by offering namaz five times a day - As Holy Quran tells

"Prayer is enjoined upon you (believers) at a stated time"

(An Nisa)

Offering prayers at stated time helps individuals to stay on time in other affairs also

IMPACTS ON SOCIETY

Prayer have profound impacts on society as well as it helps to transform individuals and eventually transforming society as a whole. The impacts of prayer on society include strengthening unity, instill tolerance, remove evil from the society.

1. Tolerance towards Others:

Prayer helps in building tolerance in individuals and as a whole instill tolerance in society - as individuals make up society as a whole - A tolerant individual make a tolerant society and makes society patient and successful.

2. Remove Evil from the society

Salat helps individuals to stay away

from evil and as a whole to makes society evil-free. When righteous individuals exists in society, then society will also stay away from evils as a whole.

3. Strengthens unity.

Prayer creates a tolerant and patient society who instills love and affection towards other and helps in strengthening unity among people. Prayer helps to unite people and instills modesty.

CONCLUSION:

Prayer is an obligatory worship that helps to distinguish people (believers) from non-believers. It spiritually elevates individuals and helps them connect to their Lord and instills tolerance. In society, it helps to create a society that is free from evils as it transforms individuals of the society spiritually and morally.

Q.No.5-

REFORMS AND ADMINISTRATION OF 2nd CALIPH OF ISLAM:

INTRODUCTION

Hazrat Umar Farooq (R.A) was the second caliph of Islam among Rashidun Caliphate. He

maintained this post from the years 634-644 AC. He (R.A) was among the greatest and most powerful companions of Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W). He (R.A) was one of the few educated individuals in Makkah and was both a superb fighter and a courageous man. He (R.A) was the one who introduced Muslim Ummah with the concept of governance with justice and put forward the philosophy of a better and welfare state of Islam. His contributions as the second Caliph of Islam were so significant that his reforms in governmental affairs remain a model for modern administration. As a result of his (R.A) excellent governance, and administrative and equitable policies, the Islamic empire became the largest Islamic welfare state under a victorious ruler. The revolutionary measures and policy changes he instated in these conquered territories not only gave him a remarkable and esteemed recognition in Islamic history but also history of the world.

REFORMS BY HAZRAT UMAR (R.A)

Umar Farooq (R.A) implied several reforms for the benefit of the people. Among these reforms the institutional building has been a hallmark of his era in Islamic history. His reforms include formation of bait-ul-maal, majlis-e-Shura, judiciary division, water irrigation system, accountability system, military unit, trading system, education system.

1. Formation of Majlis-e-Shura

During Hazrat Umar's caliphate, the Majlis-e-Shura, was a central institution, Muhajireen and Ansar, two fractions within Jamaat-e-Islam, were widely regarded as the most influential groups in the Arab world at the time. There was a strict requirement for membership in both groupings in the Majlis-e-Shura. Each group has representatives in the Majlis-e-Shura, responsible for handling both major and minor issues that arose in daily life and all issues must be settled through discussion as is required by Islamic beliefs.

2. Formation of treasury system - Bait-ul-Maal

There was no treasury structure in place prior to Umar's rule. Any loot or tributes was promptly given out to the people. Under the rule of the second caliph, Islamic territory grew at an unprecedented rate. This resulted in substantial income and wealth being collected from those regions. Therefore, ~~Prophet~~ Hazrat Umar (R.A) conferred with Islamic Shura to determine how best to allocate these funds. The decision was to build Bait-ul-Maal, or Central Treasury in Madinah. Infrastructure improvements, social welfare, and disaster and drought management were

all funded under this system-

3. Foundation of Judiciary Division:

One of the goals of Islamic rule is to develop an Islamic society by establishing the Islamic system's ideals. Justice and equality are among the most significant of these ideals.

Justice was the defining characteristic of Hazrat Umar-*ra*, and it is still used as an illustration.

He became impartial himself and served as a model before instituting justice among his people, and during his administration, there never has been a violation of the law. It was equally available to Muslims and Non-Muslims. Hazrat Umar (R.A) wrote the following letter to Hazrat Abu Musa:

"People will continue to present you with their requirements. Therefore respect them everyone who seeks your assistance. This is sufficient for a weak Muslim to have justice on his side when determining and disturbing."

4. Foundation of water irrigation system

Hazrat Umar (R.A) established the global canal system, improved agricultural practices, safeguarded animals and ensured a reliable water supply.

Before Islam, the Arabs had already endured centuries of water scarcity and famine. Hazrat

Umar (R.A) dug a series of canals and set up an irrigation system.

5. Foundation of accountability system:

During his reign, accountability was strictly enforced. He used to forbid his family first before forbidding other people. Hazrat Saalim (R.A) mentions:

"When Hazrat Umar used to appear on the podium, forbidding people to do anything, he collected his family and said: I forbidden the public from these activities, and they are staring at us like the way a bird looks at meat. I solemnly swear that any of you who I caught engaging in such behaviour will face double the normal punishment."

6. Formation of Military Unit:

In Hazrat Umar's (R.A) government, the army was officially established as distinct branch. He (R.A) established the soldiers' pay and granted them with extra perks. Additional cantonments were also established, and a huge number of armaments were made available. Regular hours were set aside for army training in preparation for the coming conflicts.

In this manner, Hazrat Umar's established

An effective working state.

ADMINISTRATION OF HAZRAT UMAR (R.A)

The success and efficiency of Hazrat Umar's (R.A) administration mainly dependent on his strict compliance over the staff. When a governor was appointed, his letter of appointment which detailed his duties and ~~privet~~ privileges were publicly read, so that the people could know the terms of appointment which ~~detailed~~ and could hold him responsible for abusing his powers. Addressing a group of governors he (R.A) once said:

"Remember, I have not appointed you to rule over your people, but to serve them. You should set an example with your good conduct, so that people may follow you."

He (R.A) also kept keen interest in the management of army. He founded many military centres including madinah, kufa, basra, egypt etc. barracks of soldiers were constructed. He paid attention to minute details for the foundation of an effective army.

Umar's (R.A) administration's basic principles were justice, law and order and democracy. No one was above law and everyone was accountable

Including Caliph-

He ^(R.A) divided the state into many provinces

In which honest and capable governor were appointed. Finance was organized. All expenditure and incomes were registered and recorded. Lists of the deserving and poor was prepared and help was given to them. He (R.A) was the first Muslim ruler who introduced insurance, pension system, police department, written law and many other new systems.

CONCLUSION:

Hazrat Umar's (R.A) rule had the most effective and exemplary system for an Islamic state in the history. It reformed and expanded the Islamic state through different systems. His rule is still used as an example for the effective Islamic state.
