

Q: Iqbal is credited with creating the idea of Pakistan. Give your Arguments.

### Introduction

Allama Iqbal was one of the greatest thinkers and poets of the muslim world. He was not only a sage, a revolutionary poet-philosopher, an extraordinary scholar and harbinger of Islamic renaissance, but also a political thinker and seer of Pakistan. From the outset he took keen interest in political situation of India and in 1908 while he was still in England, he was selected as member of the executive council of the newly-established British branch of the Indian muslim league. In 1931 and 1932 he represented the muslims of India in the Round Table Conferences held in England to discuss the issue of the political future of Indian muslims. Allama Iqbal with the help of his poetry tried to awaken the muslims of the Subcontinent. He said:

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"India is a continent of human beings belonging to different races, speaking different languages and professing different religions. ... I, therefore, demand the formation of a consolidated muslim state in the best interest of India and Islam."

## 2) Expounding Iqbal vision for the Rise of muslims in South Asia

### \* Rejection of Europe Concept of Religion:

Iqbal was immensely inspired with political wisdom and divinely insight. He was deadly against atheism and materialism and discarded the European concept of religion as the private faith of an individual having nothing to do with his temporal life. In his view, the biggest blunder made by Europe was the separation of church and state. His

Prophecy that he made in the following verse of a ghazal written in March 1907:

Your civilization will commit suicide with its own dagger

Because a nest built on a frail bough cannot be durable

came absolutely true in 1914 when the European war broke out because of the European nations blunder of separating the church from state. In the same ghazal he said:

I will take out my worn out caravan in the pitch darkness of night

Lo! My sighs shall emit sparks and my breath will produce flames.

### \* Iqbal and construction of self-actualization in muslims:

In Iqbal poetry, we find a significant symbol, "Deeda-wax" (visionary), who may be deemed as Iqbal himself. He could foresee what others could not. In *Asrar-e-Khudī*, Iqbal presented the utmost characteristics of human beings to ignite the divine spark in muslims, compelling them to adopt Islamic concept of life and society. In *Ramuz-i-Bekhudī* he emphasized the crucial role of selflessness

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to benefit the nation - In his poetry, nationhood and nationalism dominate over personal interests and agenda.

### \* The concept of Pakistan in the light of Iqbal's Allahabad Address

Allama Iqbal's presidential address to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the All-India Muslim League that was held at Allahabad in December 1930 - commonly known as Allahabad Address - holds a great significance in the Pakistan Movement because in this address, he conceptualized the idea of separate homeland for the Muslims.

"It cannot be denied that Islam, regarded as an ethical ideal plus a certain kind of polity - by which expression I mean a social structure regulated by a legal system and animated by a specific ethical ideal - has been chief formative factor in the life-history of Muslims of India. It has furnished those

gradually unify scattered individuals and groups, and finally transform them into a well-defined people, possessing a moral consciousness of their own."

He stressed the formation of a separate state by saying:

"I would like to see the Punjab, Northwest Frontier Province, Sindh and Balochistan amalgamated into a single state self-government within the British Empire or without the British Empire, the formation of a consolidated North-West Indian muslim state appears to me to be the final destiny of muslims at least of North West India."

### ★ Addressing Roundtable Conferences

After delivering the Allahabad Address the idea of a muslim state always remained alive in his mind. He was sure that the muslims of sub-continent were going to achieve for themselves an independent homeland. On 21<sup>st</sup> March 1932

In his Presidential address at the annual session of All-India Muslim Conference at Lahore, Allama Iqbal stressed his view regarding nationalism in India and commented on the plight of the Muslims under the circumstances prevailing in the subcontinent. Having attended the second Round table conference in September, 1931 in London, he was keenly aware of the deep-seated Hindu and Sikh prejudice and unaccommodating attitude he had observed the mind of the British Government. Hence, he reiterated his apprehensions ~~and~~ <sup>suggested</sup> safeguards in respect of Indian Muslims. He stressed the need for provincial autonomy because autonomy gave the Muslim majority provinces some power to safeguard their rights, cultural traditions and religion.

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## 2) Events form the basis for Iqbal's

### Concept

Series of events after the revolt of 1857 that constrained Iqbal to shift his mind from Hindu nationalism to separate homeland for Indian muslims. Annulment of Bengal was an overreaction of Hindus, controversial to common nationality. Nehru report formed a constitution that was in favour of Hindu community with hardly a place for muslims. Khilafat and Non-Cooperation movement clearly illustrated that Hindus and muslims were different nations, as they could not continue unity even after living together for decades. Promotion of Secularism by British and Indian was an out of blow move: threatening muslims identity and ethos crucially, as it condemn religion to the purely personal matters of an individual with no consideration in state matters.

## \* Letter to Quaid-e-Azam

Allama Iqbal's apprehensions were validated by the Hindu Congress ministries established in Hindu majority province under the Act of 1935. Muslims in those provinces were given baleful and dastardly treatment. In his letter to Quaid-e-Azam written in 1936 and in 1937 ~~he referred to an~~ independent muslim state comprising North-western and Eastern muslim majority zones. On June 21, 1937, only ten month



before his death, Jinnah wrote a letter to Quaid-i-Azam:

"A separate federation of Muslim Provinces is the only course by which we can secure a peaceful India and save Muslims from the domination of Non-Muslims. Why should not the Muslims of North-West India and Bengal be considered as nations to self-determination just as other nations in India and outside India are?"

### Quaid's Acknowledgement

After death in April 1938, the Quaid acknowledged his debt to great philosopher in the following words:

"His views were substantially in consonance with my own and had finally led me to the same conclusion as a result of careful examination and study of the Constitutional Problems of India."

In short, Iqbal was the man behind the idea of Pakistan. His contributions to the Muslim world as one of the greatest thinkers of Islam also stand unparalleled. According to Iqbal, the only system of life that could be implemented as living and cultural force is Islam because it is based on permanent and absolute values given in the Quran. Jinnah for whom Iqbal evinced a great deal of respect and admiration, was so eloquent in his praise of the great Muslim poet. He will ~~live forever~~ <sup>live as long as Islam will live</sup> as long as Islam will live. His noble poetry interprets true aspirations of the Muslims of India. It will remain alive. Therefore, Iqbal's role in the Pakistan movement has been formative and it would not be an exaggeration to say that Pakistan would not have been a reality without the presence of Allama Iqbal. His actions proved a beacon of light when the path to a free homeland was dark.

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