

Q. What are Al-Ghazali's prerequisites for becoming a Khalifah? (20).

I. Introduction:

During the middle ages, at the time of crisis for the muslim rule, Al-Ghazali, a sufi philosopher, defined the duties and prerequisites of a khalifa or Amir. As per Ghazali the concept of khalifah is the rule of the Amir not by reason but by the Shariah or divine law.

Imam Ghazali referred to the sectarian division and the downfall of muslim Caliphate. He defined his theory with the prerequisites and the duties of an Amir of a state.

Al-Ghazali's concept of Amir or khalifa is widely accepted by the muslim world in modern times.

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The answer at hand deals with the question on Al-Ghazali's concept of Amir, while discussing the prerequisites and the duties of this head of state.

II. Khilafat during the time of Imam Ghazali and background of theory:

Imam-Al-Ghazali was among the few political philosophers in the muslim world. The rise of Greek historians and philosophy had significantly influenced the muslim worlds, deviating the rulers from the core purpose of Islam.

a. Downfall of Abbasid Caliphate:

The most significant factor was the decline of the muslim Caliphate during Ghazali's time. The downfall was due to the external interference and deviated standards from muslim ideology.

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b. Rise of Seljuk Sultan in east:

The rise of Seljuk Sultanat in the eastern region of Arabia was considered the sovereign power. The strict Islamic ideological policies made Al-Ghazali found of this rule and declared the sultanat as the protector of Caliphate.

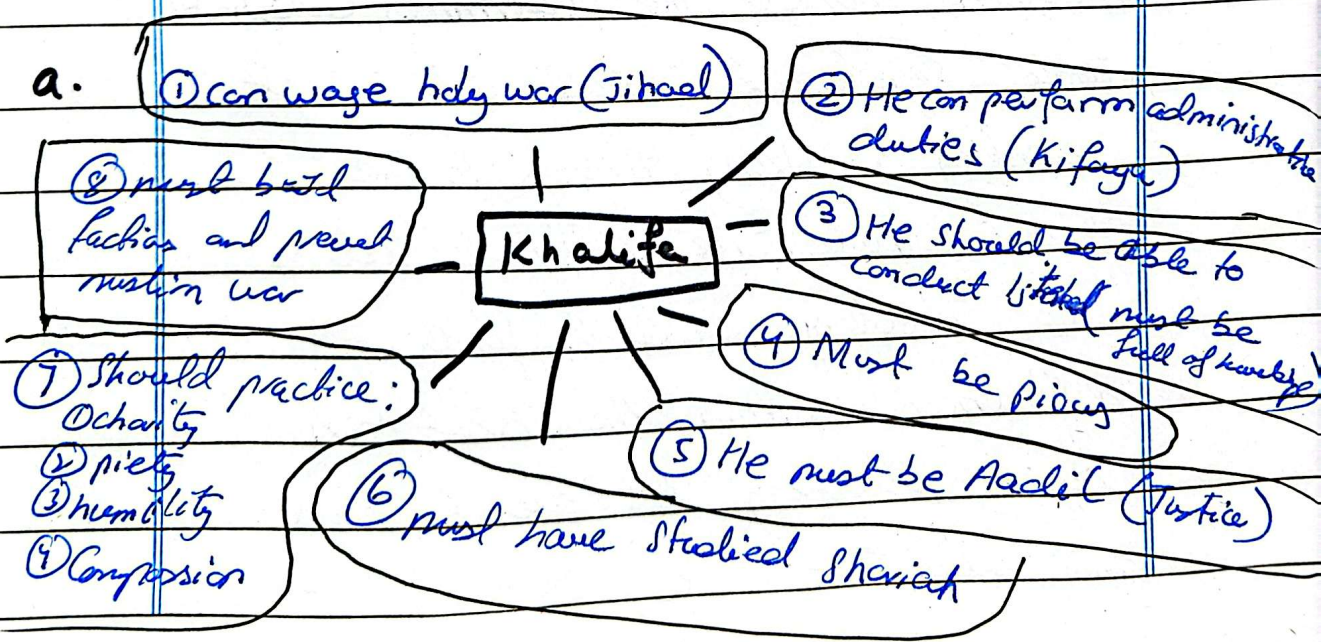
c. Rise of sectarian rule: (Shia rule in Egypt):

During the disintegration within muslim worlds the Fatimids Caliphate took significant control over Egypt presenting a strong threat to the Abbasid rule. The different sect of Shia ideology raised further differences within the arabian region leading to several wars and disputes.

d. The attack of Crusaders:

The disintegrated Arabian, muslim world had given the European Crusaders a great opportunity to take over the land now known as Palestine and Syria. The core of Islamic history was taken away from muslims and so Al-Ghazali presented the concept of sole leader, a Khalifa in order to protect the Muslim land and ideology.

III. Al-Ghazali's prerequisites of Khalifa:



b. Duties of Khalifa:

6 hours	Prayers and Quran
6 hours	States Affairs
6 hours	Hunting and recreational activity
6 hours	Eat Food and rest

IV. Al-Ghazali's theory with Contemporary world:

The ongoing disputes within the muslim community has erased the core concept of unity among muslims.

The core principle of Islam has been eradicated with the modern ideology.

The electoral mechanism is followed around the world which gives the touch of modern democracy but the rise of conflicts within muslim countries such as Iran vs KSA and many such muslim countries has eliminated the concept of one Khalifa.

V. Contribution of Imam Ghazali in Islamic political thought:

Imam Ghazali is considered a landmark philosopher in both muslim and western philosophy. His famous Revolutionary Theory of Education had gained the attention of many western philosophers such as Hume, Dante, and St Thomas Aquinas. His works has given the muslim world a golden philosophy of Khilafat and education.

VI. Conclusion:

In short, the muslim political philosophy of Imam Al-Ghazali has given the muslims with the concept of Khalifa. He defines the Khalifa as the Amir (Head of State) along with this provides the prerequisites

of becoming a Khatib with the complete knowledge of Islam, in order to declare ijtehad and jihad against enemies of Islam. He also defines the concept of duties of the Amir by dividing them into a six hour routine and follow, Islamic and world affairs simultaneously.