

Question:-

Describe the ideal state as presented by Al-farabi.

Alfarabi is known as Mullim al-Thani (second teacher). presented a comprehensive political theory is AL-Madinah AL-Fadilah. His concept of ideal state is not merely moral preaching by a systematic political, educational, administrative and social model. Al farabi explains the purpose of the state, Classification of society, educational structure, leadership selection, economic orientation and cause of deviation. The ideal state aims at ultimate human happiness through rational knowledge, moral training and just governance under a qualified philosopher leader. Though rooted in classical philosophy, many aspects of Al-farabi's ideal state show striking relevancy in modern government system.

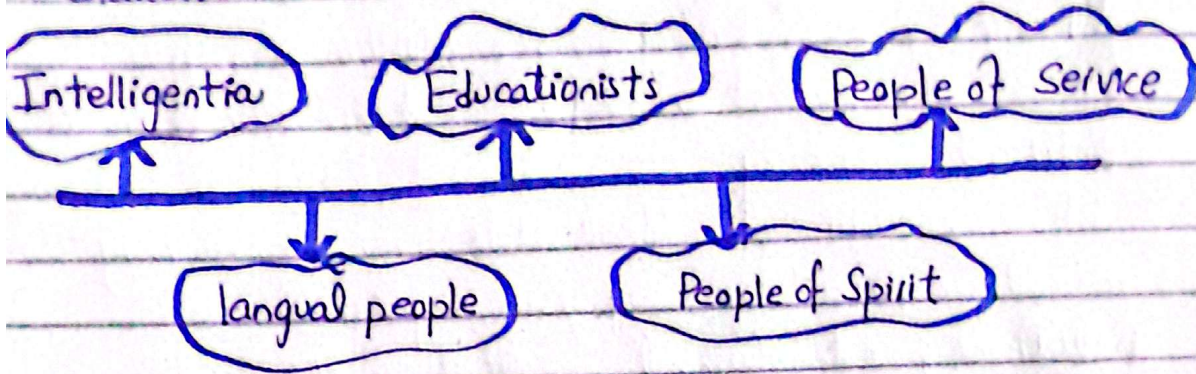
SALIENT FEATURE OF IDEAL STATE

a. Purpose of Ideal state :

According to him, the main purpose of state is to achieve Sa'adah which means intellectual or moral perfection. The state exist to help individuals reach their higher potential through collective cooperation.

b. Division of Society :

Alfarabi divide society into 5 major classes.



The best among them are the "Intelligentia", people with ability to draw conclusion & make right decision. They have to lead whole community in every branch of life.

c. Education model of Ideal State :

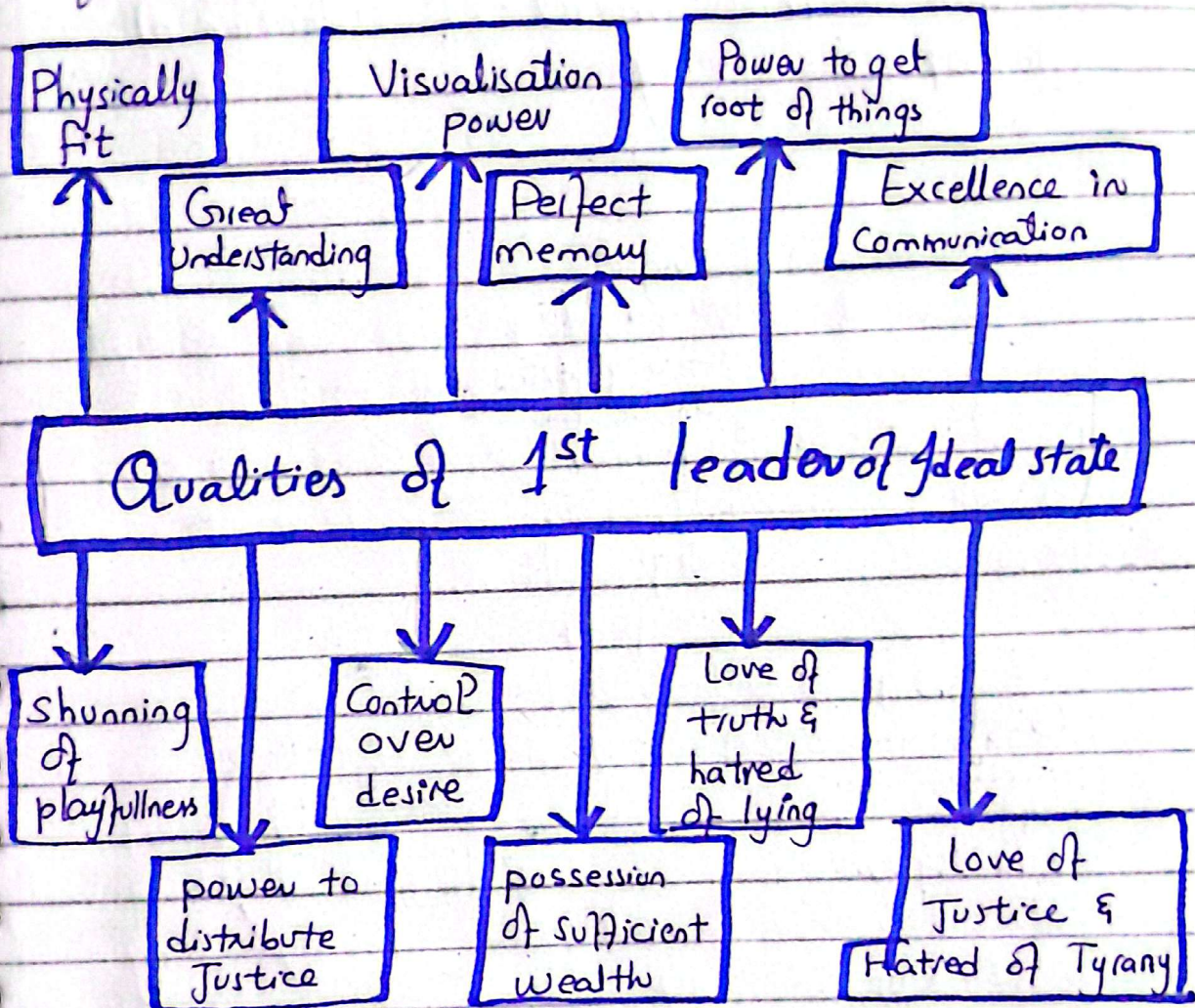
The intelligentia group must study the **Speculative Sciences**, no person can attain perfection without happiness. The masses who serve the state by their art and craft must possess persuasion & imagination. They reserved for themselves the right to interpret the Holy Quran. Each person of the state must learn speculative sciences.

d. Ruler-Centric but Merit-Based Leadership :

He presented a detailed model of leadership, and each branch of ~~leader~~ ^{life} must be lead by 2 leaders, & the first leader is known as **Raisul-Arwal**, must be a philosopher.

e. Twelve attributes of First Leader :

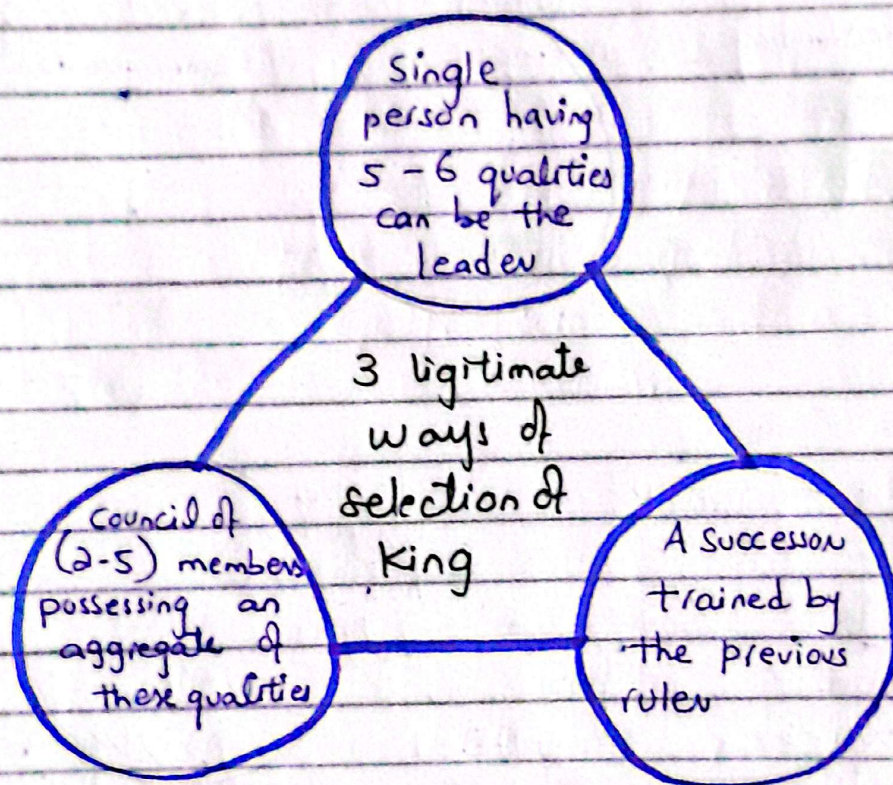
Al-farabi enumerate twelve attributes of the first leader, which are :



The first leader of Al-farabi's ideal state is known as **Raisul-Awwal**, it should be philosopher and have a great understanding of things. He must be physically fit, and superior by nature. He must have capability to convey himself to others, and does not submit before any other.

Selection of Philosopher-King :

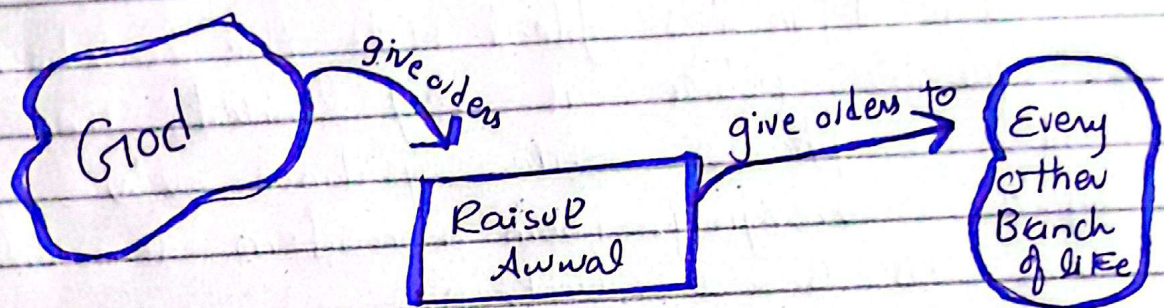
Al-farabi well know that those qualities cannot be found in one single human, so he gave three model of selection of philosopher king.



In case where a single person with 5-6 qualities is not available, the ruler must be the one who ^{has been} brought up under a leader. If it is not available, then the council of 2-5 person must be created with a Hakim, the one who is able to visualise the need of people & state as whole.

6. Administrative Structure of Ideal State:

Administration is hierarchical and merit-based. Every citizen of the ideal state perform its own duties according to ability. The supreme head Raisul-Awwal feels more or less for the first cause of god.



4. Concept of Collective Cooperation:

Alfarabi rejects the idea of communism of wives and property as given by Plato. For him, the citizen must follow the concept of individualism in wives and family. He is quite clear that apart from common property, there would also be allowed individual property.

i. Law Religion & Reason:

Religion plays a symbolic role in communicating philosophy and truth to masses while the ruler governs through Reason.

ANALYTICAL JUDGEMENT of Ideal State BY AL-FARABI

Limited public Participation :

In Al-farabi's ideal state the contribution of general public is very limited. The model emphasizes elite guidance over popular sovereignty. From a modern democratic lens, this is a weakness.

Overdependency on Moral leadership :

The success of state is heavily dependent on the moral leadership qualities. Weak leadership could lead to deviation. Still, this overdependency must not be only factor of success of state.

Absence of Electoral Mechanism :

Alfarabi gave only 3 reasons to select the leader, he did not provide the election method. His focus is competency over consent, which clashes with modern democracy.

Not Unrealistic But Elite-Centered.

Unlike the plato, Alfarabi's Ideal State is not unrealistic but it is elite centered, as the philosopher-kings are rare. The second clause for selecting the leader who has been brought up by the philosopher-king is not sustainable.

MODERN RELEVENCY

Al-farabi Concept of Ideal State remains valid today as it emphasised more on quality education, moral leadership and collective welfare. Thinkers like Ibn Rushd, Ibn Sina are inspired by Al-farabi's ideas. Modern countries like Finland & Singapore reflect's Alfarabi's ideas.

FINAL REMARKS

: Alfarabi's Ideal State is not a fantasy but a multi-dimensional political framework combining ethics, education, leadership and social harmony. He gave 12 qualities of first leader & provide 3 legitimate ways to select the king. Moreover, the ideal state must follow laws, religion and moral values in order to achieve its sole purpose that is the ultimate Happiness.