

Question What are Al-Ghazali's pre-requisites for becoming a Khalifa?

Answer Exordium

Abu Hamid Muhammad b. Muhammad b. Muhammad b. Ahmad is also known as 'Al-Ghazali'. His surname was Zaimudina. He gave pre-requisites for becoming a khalifa. He gave this concept and pre-requisites because during this time caliph was mere puppet in the hands of 'Seljuks'. He understood the system and wanted to correct the department of Imam. He referred that politics is the science 'for the good of people'. However, the present caliph is opposite to this. He ^{tried} to remove corruption from caliph's life by giving pre-requisites for becoming a Khalifa.

A. 'Khalifa' is not puppet

He was agitated because of influence of others on

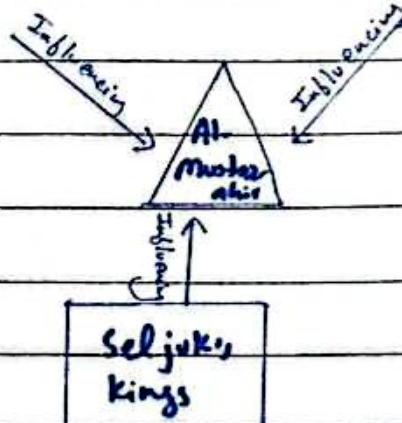
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caliph. He highlighted that caliph must be brave so that no external power can influence him. He must be free from corruption. Al-Ghazali corrected Al-Mustashir who was caliph but facing and following 'Seljuk kings'. The other forces like 'Fatimids' and 'Umayyads' also influenced him.

Umayyads
in
Spain

Fatimids
in
Egypt

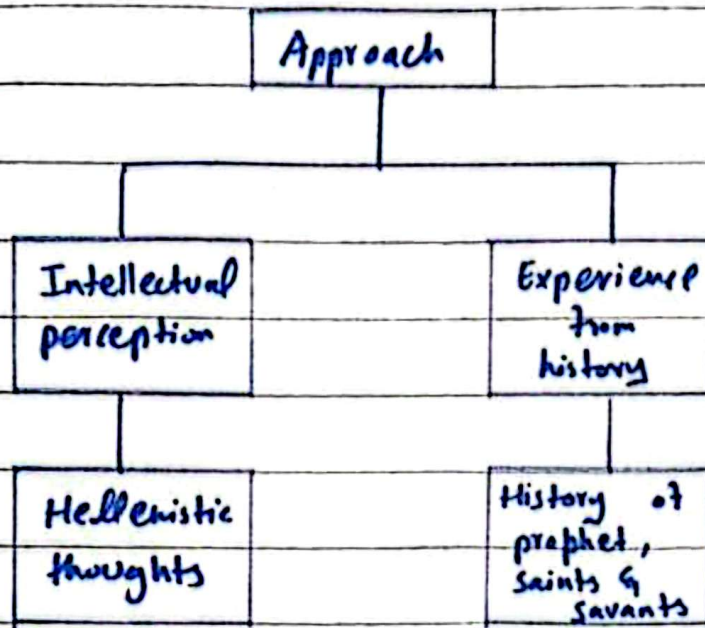


He tried to save Abbasids on base of 'Faq'.

B- Approach for selection

He adopted an approach that Khalifa must have wisdom

and can understand worldly affairs on basis of Islam. He must have experience, taken from the history and life of prophet.



C. 'Ijma' for Khalifa

He himself in his concept of Khalifa joined the teachings of Islam on the worldly affairs. He took religion and world side by side. He guided that Khalifa must be able of Ijma.

D. Requirements for Khalifa

The life of Al-Mustahbir was

In front of his eyes. Therefore, he favoured moral capability of Imam. He did not give 'idealistic' requirements. Rather he focused on justice, wisdom, knowledge of religion, application of religion on worldly affairs (Dunya).

E- Selection of Caliph

He was different in his approach of selection of Caliph.

Al-Mawardi and Al-Farabi gave the idea of selection of Imam either by already present Imam or by 'electoral college'. However, Al-Gazali highlighted the importance of 'consensus', he focused that (Khalifa) must be selected by agreement of general public.

F- Guidance for Caliph

Al-Mawardi guided throughout the process of choosing Caliph. He linked his arguments with the history and ^{linked} knowledge of religion to the worldly affairs.

A learned man once told caliph Haroon - al - Rasheed that,

You must not forget that you are sitting, where Abu Bakar once sat and so be truthful, where Umar once sat and distinguish between right and wrong, where Usman once sat and be bountiful and, where Ali once sat and be knowing at all.

By mentioning this he guided that any caliph must influence himself and take help from the teachings of Islam. The practical example of those teachings are present in the form of 'Khufae Rashiden'.

G- Guidance for behavior

- ① He told that 'Khalifa' must be available for anyone so that a common man can alien him.
- ② He must personally attend every of other states.
- ③ He guided to establish a secretive

service. He regarded this 'secret service' as the soul of body which is state.

He- Duties of Caliph

- 1- He must be a symbol of justice in society.
- 2- He must ensure internal and external security of public.
- 3- He will responsible to give order of war.
- 4- He can execute 'Tehad' against those who refused to pay charity, the example of ^{Hadrat} Abu Bakar is evident.
- 5- He must impose taxes on different items.
- 6- He ~~must~~ ^{must} help the poor from the treasury of the state.
- 7- He will appoint ministers and other officers.
- 8- He will present himself a symbol which others can follow.
- 9- He must regulate his affairs according to the teachings of Islam.

IQ- Forbids Caliph from

Al-Gazali also guided caliph few things not to do to be a true caliph.

- 1- A caliph must not lead a luxury life, it can lead inequality in society.
- 2- He must be a symbol of simplicity from his character.
- 3- He must not be influenced by any external factor and do not follow anyone except teachings of Islam.

Devouement

Al-Gazali explained in detail all the related pre-requisites for becoming a Khalifa. He was disappointed by his circumstance and very cautious about a caliph's duties. By giving these teaching he is guiding Al-Mustazhar and wanted to strengthen and make genuine the concept of Khalifa.

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Public were disappointed also but
Gazali's guidance showed them
light of hope that can find
such caliph. Gazali linked
and discussed religion and history
to the worldly matters. He
also emphasized that caliph must
also follow religion and capable
of Ijma. So, pre-requisites for
becoming a khalifa can find
a new caliph which can fulfill
the requirements.
