

Question Discuss the detail of the concept of 'Raisul Awwal' by Al-Farabi.

Answer Exordium

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Al-Farabi was a renowned muslim philosopher. He gave the concept of 'Raisul Awwal' in his book Al-Madina Al-Fadila. He was very much influenced by the ancient philosophers like Plato and Aristotle. He highlighted that an ideal state must have 'Raisul Awwal', to establish peace in society. This 'Raisul Awwal' is the Imam of the state. He gave details about his concept of selection and responsibility of 'Raisul Awwal'. Here is detailed explanation of Al-Farabi's concept of 'Raisul Awwal'.

A- Influence of Plato and Aristotle.

Al-Farabi's theory is also influenced by them. He also divided the population of society

Date: _____

Day: _____

in different sections ^{just} like Plato and Aristotle did. He also gave the concept of 'Ideal state'. He wrote, 'Book of agreement between the ideals of two philosophers the divine Plato and Aristotle'. He presented an agreement between the different concepts of 'Ideal state' of Plato and Aristotle.

B- Division of society

This division also mirrors the influence of Plato and Aristotle.

- 1- Intelligentia
- 2- Languid people
- 3- Educationist
- 4- people of spirit
- 5- people of power

C- Raisul Awal's requirements

He gave a list of requirements that must be present in 'Raisul Awal'. He explained that he must be a **philosopher**. His aim must be to spread

happiness. He must have qualities of justice, wisdom, knowledge of religion, fitness. He focused that 'Raisul Awwal' must be an orator.

D- Twelve qualities

He mentioned twelve qualities for 'Raisul Awwal'. The question arose that is 'Idealistic' to find one person with all twelve qualities. Al-Farabi addressed the question and gave few points.

- 1- If not all twelve, find a person who owned 5-6 these qualities.
- 2- 'Raisul awwal' can be the one who is brought up by anyone who had all these twelve qualities.
- 3- Lastly, find 4-5 persons who collectively owned twelve qualities. Then any one who had more number of qualities will be leader and this team will lead the society.

E - Selection of 'Raisul Awwal'

'Raisul Awwal' must be selected by 'Shura', which had been selected by general public. For instance, 'Shura' of 6 persons selected Hazrat Usman 'Raisul Awwal' can also be nominated by the previous 'Raisul Awwal'.

F - Education of 'Raisul Awwal'

He must have wisdom and get education of Specular sciences. The need of specular sciences is to make connection and application of 'Islamic' and 'Qur'anic' ideas in real life. When 'Raisul Awwal' learned specular sciences he will apply teachings of Quran in his society.

Al-Farabi mentioned,

The ruler is the one who does not need anyone to help, who knows all sciences and is capable of understanding

what he is doing.

7- Duties of 'Raisul Awwal'

a. Justice

He must ensure justice in his society, which is the basic reason of creating 'Raisul Awwal'.

As it is mentioned in Quran, who follows the path of justice, will be among those seven persons, who will enjoy the shadow of God ^{on the} ~~in~~ here day of judgement.

b. Security of people

He is responsible for securing his public from internal and external threats.

c. Order of war

'Raisul Awwal' will decide to wage war. It could be against internal or external affairs. For instance, Hazrat Abu Bakar ordered 'Jihad' against those who refused to pay charity.

d. Order of Taxes

He can impose taxes on anything and also collect 'Jizya' from non-muslims.

e. Bait-ul Mal

He can help the poor of the society from the treasury of the state. He can initiate other welfare programmes as well.

f. Establish Criminal Law

He must establish Islamic criminal code. Solve the issues like 'kisas' and 'diyat'.

Denouement

Al-Farabi based his concept of 'Ra'isul Awwal' on theories of 'Ideal state' and by Plato and Aristotle. As he wrote a book among their agreement, his theory is example of their agreement but ^{based} specifically on Islamic teachings. He did not favour the department of kinship.

He gave list of twelve qualities to find 'Revised Aweel'. If not all qualities are present in one person, he gave solution for that as well. The son of 'Revised Aweel' will not be his successor. The new 'Revised Aweel' will totally be selected on merit basis.

He gave unique concept and guided to follow his theory for establishment of peaceful Islamic society.
