

Question Describe Al-Mawardi's theory of Imamate

Answer Exordium

Al-Mawardi is a muslim philosopher, who gave the theory of 'Imamate'. He highlighted the procedure of selection and succession of Imam. He emphasized in detail the qualities of Imam. He addresses the need of 'Imamate' and described that if want peace in society, only Imam can prevail peace. He based his theory of 'Imamate' on all Islamic principles and focused on lives of 'Khulfa-i-Kashideen'. He explained the need and requirements of 'Shura'. Therefore, the 'theory of Imamate' is vital for understanding the need of Imam. By this theory, he is guiding to properly establish this system to achieve peace in society.

A- Need of Imam

Al-Mawardi focused on the

cruel and unjust system of society where only son would be the successor of throne and no value of merit. He gave solution that if one want a society with peace, justice and meritocracy. It could only be happen by establishing Imam.

B - Selection of Imam

He discussed two ways to select Imam.

The already present Imam can nominate an Imam. The present

- 1) Imam has the authority and the next Imam will be from his nomination.

Exempli gratia, Hazrat Abu Bakar in his life gave the name of Hazrat Umar to be the next Imam of muslim Ummah.

Meanwhile, in present circumstances, during war between Iran and Israel. The supreme leader of Iran, Ayatullah Khamenei nominated

this next Imam. He gave the names of 3 persons.

- 2) The second way to select an Imam is to select him by a 'Shura'. If last Imam did not nominate any Imam then 'Shura' will select him but by following specific procedure. In Islam, there is concept of indirect election. People (the ^{general} public) selected the 'Shura' and 'shura' later select the Imam.

Example: In fact, the 'shura' of 6 people selected 'Harraat Usman' as the next Imam.

C- Requirements for 'shura' and electoral college.

The Imam must not be a normal person, he must have some qualities to distinguish him. Also, those who will select him also meet a criteria. The electoral college must ~~be~~ ensure to have qualities of **Justice, wisdom and**

Knowledge. Whereas, Imam must have qualities of Justice, wisdom, and knowledge, no physical and mental illness.

Al-Mawardi describe that apart from these qualities, Imam must be male and from 'Araish family'. Only 'syed' can be Imam.

D. Succession of Imam

Al-Mawardi was against the system of kinship and prefer merit. He explained that any one can success Imam except his own son. However, if his father alive, he could be Imam. It stated that, father can be the successor of son but son can not be the successor of his father. It is simply due to it leads to monarchy.

E. Removal of Imam

Under few difficult circumstances Imam can be removed. If there is some change in his moral

character, he did not a symbol of justice anymore. If there come any serious illness which affected wisdom, Imam can be removed.

F- Concept of 'Khalifatullah'

It means 'Khalifa successor of Allah', this is the meaning associated to it. When someone called Hazrat Abu Bakar with this name, he disliked and guided not to call this name instead call him 'Khalifa tul Mohamad PBUH'. It means successor of 'Muhammad'.

G- Principles and duties of Imam.

1- Justice:

Imam must ensure justice in society. As it is mentioned that those who follow justice will be among those seven persons who will enjoy Allah's shadow.

2- Security:

Imam must ensure the security of his people from internal and external both enemies.

3. Order of war

Imam gives order of war ('Jihad'). He will decide this matter deserve 'Jihad' or not. Either it is against internal or external threat. For instance, Harut Abu Bakar ordered 'Jihad' against those who refused to pay ('Zakat') charity.

4. Order of tax

Imam can impose taxes and also collect 'Jizya' from non-muslims.

5. Baitul-mal

He can help povers from the treasury of the state and use it on other welfare projects of society.

6. Appoint ments

He will also appoint ministers and other officers of the state.

Denouement

Al-mawardi explained in

detail the institution of Imamate. This institution is based on teachings of Islam. He took examples from the lives of four caliphs. He based many of his concepts on era of caliphates. Therefore, in any society with no peace, this institution must be adopted for the betterment of society.
