

Question Explain Iqbal's vision for rise of Muslims in South Asia in the era of colonialism.

Answer Exordium

Allama Iqbal is a muslim philosopher of sub-continent. He played a leading role and build the basis of creation of present day 'Pakistan'. He born in a colony and died in colony so that's why he motivated the muslims of sub-continent to work for a separate homeland. He was a well-educated person and vital role player in spread of education in sub-continent. He is also know as a poet of East. He had a vision for the rise of muslims of South Asia in the era of colonialism. For this, he gave the concept of 'Khudi' to muslims for character building. He also widely criticized the 'western democracy' and restricted muslims to follow <sup>that</sup> ~~canon~~.

He gave the concept of 'Millat' for the Muslim.

### ➤ The philosophy of 'Khudi'

'Khudi' means 'self-ego'. He being a muslim gave religious solution to the muslims to rise again in sub-continent. In Islamic era, all the prophets taught muslims the ways of life. Prophet (PBUH) gave teachings for all sections of society.

Iqbal highlights that muslims to rise again must follow the path of Islam. They should work on 'self ego'. Iqbal wrote

خودی کو اگر بلند اتنا کہ پر تقدیر سے بلند  
خدا بندے سے خود را چہ بتا قبری رضا کیا ہے

A person must work on his 'self ego' unless God himself ask him about his choice.

Therefore, Iqbal also gave wayforward to achieve the specific standard of self-ego.

He mentioned, **unconditional and complete surrender** of choices. Follow the track of God. There will be time when this self-eye ~~will~~ merge with God. He focused that muslims should surrender their desires for Allah. Till their wishes turned into Allah's. Then, they will listen by God's ear and see by his eyes. Iqbal said if muslims surrender their wishes to Allah and follow the path of Islam they can revive their status in sub-continent.

Example of qatia, when prophet (PBUH) travelled to 'Taif' but they casted stones on him. Harret Jibrael arrived and asked for his permission. So that he would smash them between two mountains. This is because PBUH surrendered his wishes to God and now his connected is this strong that God is asking for his wishes. Harret



Jibrail is waiting for a decision of a 'man' (PROH). Hence it proved that if one surrender his desires to God, then God will ask for his desire. Iqbal guided muslims to mend their 'khudi' to get their lost status in subcontinent.

### The criticism of Western Democracy

Iqbal also criticized the western democracy and guided the muslims not to follow their path because it is nothing else destruction. Muslims were imitating the colonial powers and their system. That's why he emphasized that if muslims want to rise again they should follow Islam instead of 'Western democracy'.

#### 1- Sovereignty belongs to whom

Iqbal debated about the concept of to whom sovereignty belongs. In Islam sovereignty belongs to Allah. But in western

democracy sovereignty belongs to people. Hobbes gave sovereignty to law and John Locke gave ~~ppd~~ people power to overthrow government if not performing well. After Pakistan establishment, it is written in Pakistan's Constitution that sovereignty belongs to Allah.

## 2. Concept of secularism

He criticized secularism of western democracy. This western concept was given by 'Machiaveli', in his book "The Prince", he mentioned that religion belong to individual not to state. That's why now in western system there is no concept of state's religion. Meanwhile, Iqbal is concerned with muslims of South Asia that state must be on basis of religion. For instance, Harun Umar ruled half of the world and established Islam. He constructed 'rayasat' on basis of Islam. Iqbal <sup>wrote</sup> ~~writes~~ about

this,

جلال بادشاہی ہو یا جمہوری قہا شاہ ہو  
جدا ہو دیں سیاست سے تو رہ جاتی ہے چٹگری

Iqbal warned about despotism that if you subtract religion from state despotism will be the future. Montesque also declared despotism as worst form of government.

### 3. Liberalism in west

The western societies are established on liberal democracy. They gave full rights to any individual <sup>above</sup> age of 18. Iqbal wrote,

آزادی افکار سے پہان کی تباہی  
رکتے ہیں جو فکر و تہذیب کا سلیقہ  
فکر اثر خاں تو آزادی افکار  
انسان کو حیوان بنانے کا طریقہ

These lines explain Iqbal's views regarding liberalism. He explored that westerners are giving so much <sup>liberty</sup> liberalism in such young age, this age is emotional age and individual is not able to take rational decisions



So, by giving such liberty the system is converting an innocent child into an ~~also~~ abuser. He informed muslims about the harm of liberty in young age and there must be some check.

#### 4. Capitalism vs. Socialism

Iqbal lived through and his life in colony, where Indians were not treated as humans and specifically muslims. Homi K. Bhabha also wrote about that and mentioned that colonizers wrote on their gates that Indians and dogs are not allowed. In such circumstance hatred toward <sup>prevailing</sup> ~~state~~ system is natural. The reason of this divide was capital. The wealth was accumulated in hands of limited individuals. Iqbal wrote,

افخو میری دنیا کے غریبوں کو جگادو

کا رخ امرا درو دیوار بلا دو

He encouraged the poor people to get up awake and to shake the walls

and windows of rich men palaces  
 He was against capitalism and  
 hoped that muslims must not  
 follow this western thought because  
 this is out of Islamic boundary.  
 Islam is against the accumulation  
 of wealth.

### 5- Nationalism

Nationalism is a concept which  
 adopted by westerns and divided  
 them on basis of race, ethnicity,  
 colour. They divided their countries  
 on these social divider. <sup>However,</sup> ↑ Iqbal  
 was in favour of nationalism  
 only on basis of Islam. He  
 restricted division on basis of cast,  
 race, ethnicity, color, creed etc.  
 Such divisions are not allowed  
 in Islam. His vision for muslims  
 of South Asia that they must  
 united on basis of Islam only.  
 He mentioned in 'Bang-e-Dara';

وہیں دُشرب ہمارا ہندوستان ہمارا  
 مسلم ہیں ہم وطن ہے ہندوستان ہمارا



He called all the muslims to come and make one nation. In this coupled he was saying that either china or Arab all belongs to us. We are muslims and 'hindutva' belongs to muslims. This coupled <sup>also</sup> restrict colonialists that subcontinent belongs to muslims only. So, Iqbal favoured nationalism on basis of Islam only.

#### 6- Democracy in west

Iqbal explained Islamic system of electing leaders. The electoral college of 6 persons select khalifa. Hazrat Abu Bakar in his life gave the name of next caliph. So, Iqbal was concerned with the quality of individual, not the quantity. He wrote,

قیوریت آں لری حکومت ہے کہ جس میں  
بندوں کو گنا کرتے ہیں تو انہیں کرتے

Iqbal is mocking western democracy. Every individual either capable of rational thought or not, he is allowed

to vote and select leader. In western democracy quantity matters not quality of an individual

### Renouement

Iqbal's vision for Muslims to rise again is clear. The era of colonialism deprived the muslims even from practicing Islam. muslims got influenced by western culture. Iqbal gave the concept of 'khudi' for spiritual enlightenment and pathway to follow Islam. For political and national issues and political growth, he criticized western philosophy. He highlighted flaws of western system. If muslims follow western democracy they can not get full spiritual enlightenment. Spiritual and political growth both are equally important. According to Iqbal's vision the achievement of these goals can lead the muslims of subcontinent to their rise in era of colonialism