

Question:

What are the pre-requisite for becoming a khalifa in Al-Ghazali view.

Abu Hamid - al - Ghazali was a famous Muslim theologian, jurist and philosopher. He was born in Iran and is considered one of the most influential figure in Islamic History. Ghazali view on leadership and the qualities required to be a successful khalifa are of great significant. For him, khalifa (caliph) is the shadow of God on Earth and he must be courageous, managmous, kind, wise, piety and devoted to Allah Almighty. His ethics and morals are strong enough to make timely decisions and governe the state. Besides, A khalifa is an Islamic term that refers to the ruler who is responsible for the governance of a muslim state, without kalifa religion and world are preserved.

"The caliph is the protector ~~and~~ of religion & world; without him, faith is neglected and worldly affairs collapse"

MEANING OF KHALIFA

According to Al-Ghazali,

"Khalifa is supreme Political & religious authority who act as Successor of the Prophet (PBUH)."

For him, Khalifa is a guider and social organizer.

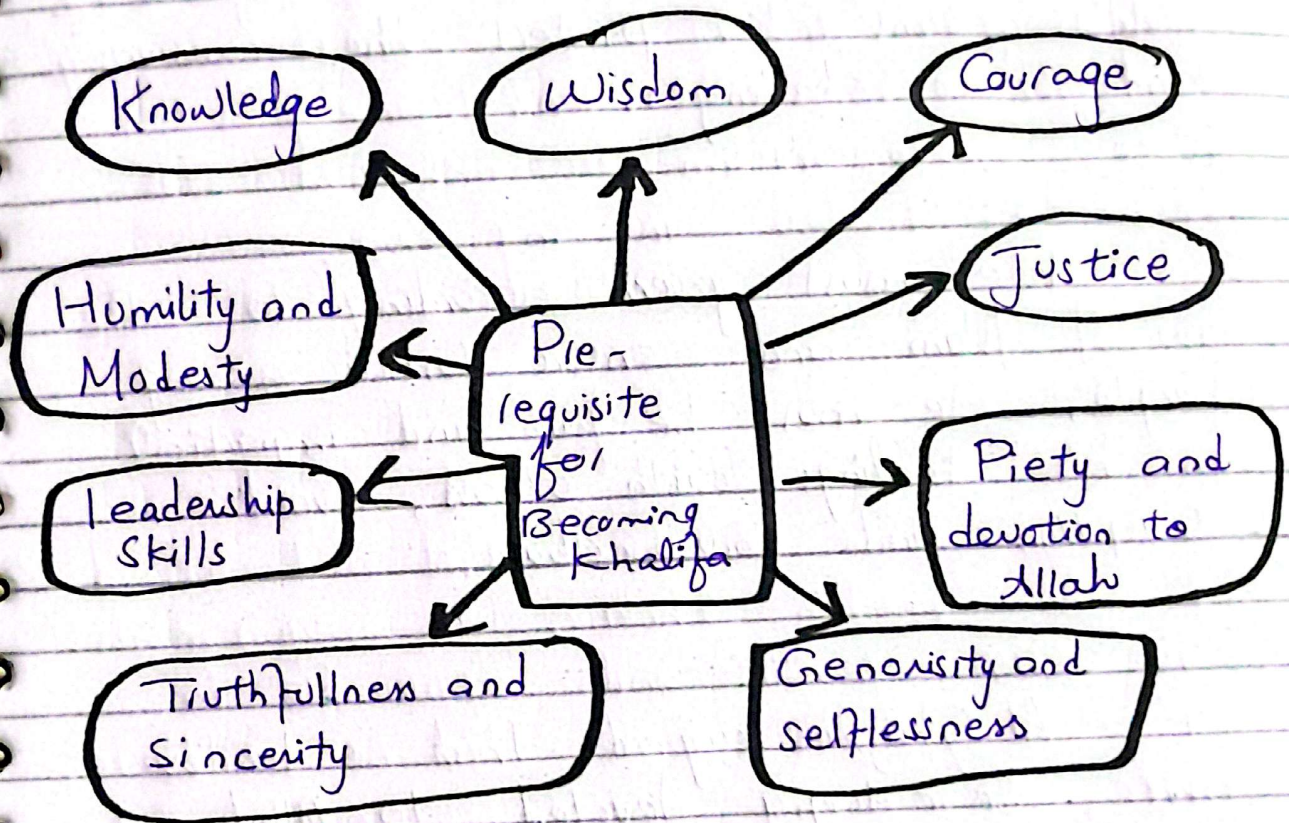
NECESSITY OF KHALIFA

Imam Ghazali strongly emphasizes on the existence of Khalifa, and without him the society would fall. Here are some obligatory reasons:

1. To preserve religious Unity
2. Prevent division among muslim
3. To enforce law (Shariah) in society
4. Provide justice and order
5. To protect territory and citizen's Right
6. Act as successor of Prophet "

Thus, Khalifat is essential to safeguard both faith and social stability.

QUALITIES TO BECOME KHALIFA



Knowledge :

Knowledge is the utmost important for khalifa. A caliph must have deep understanding on Quran and sunnah. Beside shariah, caliph must know theology to make decisions.

Wisdom :

Wisdom is the important aspect of khalifa. He must be able to solve problems and make decision timely which benefits the whole society and in accordance to the Islamic law and shariah.

Courage :

Courage is the quality that a leader must possess. He must be able to make decisions, and when necessary take bold actions to protect the community and face challenges.

Justice :

He must govern according to the law of Islam and ensure justice among people. He must be fair and impartial in his dealings with others, avoid corruption and power abuse.

Piety and Devotion to Allah :

Al-Ghazali argued that a leader must be deeply devoted to Allah and ~~unable~~ to lead with integrity and compassion. He must have strong connection with Allah, which will serve as a source of guidance and strength.

Generosity and Selflessness :

Khalifa must be kind and generous to peers and ~~to~~ those who need, avoiding greed. He must be compassionate and always strive to help others. He is always willing to give of himself and his resources to support people in need.

Truthfulness and Sincerity :

Al-Ghazali also stressed the importance of truthfulness and sincerity. A leader must be truthful in dealing with others and sincere with his duty.

Leadership Skills :

A caliph must possess a strong leadership skills, including ability to inspire and motivate people, make decisions in difficult circumstances and to resolve conflicts effectively.

Humility and Modesty :

A khalifa must be a humble and modest person. He avoids pride and listens to people's advice carefully. Ghazali argues that a leader who is overly confident is more likely to make poor decisions and lose the support of people.

ANALYTICAL JUDGEMENT

These requirements were essential for a caliph to be able to govern effectively. While some of the qualities are still relevant and others are not applicable, given the changes in political and social circumstances.

MODERN RELEVENCY

In Contemporary world, the role of political leader is quite different from what it was in Al-Ghazali's time. The general principles as justice, courage, wisdom are important to become a leader in any era.

FINAL REMARKS Al-Ghazali's ideas continue to be studied and discussed by the modern scholar. His requirements are 80% generic and applicable in any society in order to become leader. While, there are some other requirements such as piety and strong connection to Allah are only applicable to the Muslim leaders and community. Moreover, these views continued to be respected and studied today.