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I Introduction

Islamic polity, or the governance system based on Islamic principles, fundamentally aims to establish a welfare state and a just society.

Rooted in the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah (the practices and sayings of Prophet Muhammad PBUH), Islamic polity emphasizes social justice, economic equity, and the well-being of all citizens. This system seeks to balance individual rights with communal responsibilities, ensuring that governance serves the common good and aligns with moral and ethical guidelines.

II Features of Islamic Polity

1. Principles of Justice and Equality

(a) **Quranic Guidance:** The Quran explicitly promotes justice and equality, with verses such as:

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives" (4:135)

(b) **Legal Framework:** Sharia law provides a comprehensive legal framework ensuring that justice is served without discrimination based

on race, gender, or social status.

2. Welfare of the Community

(a) **Economic Equity:** Islam mandates the equitable distribution of wealth through mechanisms such as Zakat (mandatory almsgiving) and Sadakah (voluntary charity). These practices aim to reduce poverty and support the needy.

(b) **Public Services:** An Islamic state is responsible for providing essential public services like education, healthcare, and social security, ensuring that the basic needs of all citizens are met.

3. Accountability and Governance

(a) **Shura (Consultation):** Islamic governance is based on the principle of Shura, or consultation, where leaders are expected to seek counsel from the community and make decisions that reflect the collective will.

(b) **Accountability:** Leaders in an Islamic state are accountable to the people and, ultimately, to Allah. This ensures that their actions align with ethical standards and the public interest.

4. Protection of Rights

(a) **Human Rights:** Islamic teachings safeguard

fundamental human rights, including the right to life, property, and personal freedom. These rights are protected under Islamic law, ensuring that every individual is treated with dignity and respect.

"And do not kill the Soul which Allah has forbidden, except by right" (17:33)

(b) **Justice for All:** The judicial system in an Islamic polity is designed to be impartial and accessible to all, ensuring that justice is served fairly and swiftly.

(c) **Protection of Women Rights:** Islamic law provides for the protection and empowerment of women, ensuring their rights in areas such as inheritance, education, and employment.

"And for women is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, be it little or much — an obligatory share" (4:7)

5. Moral and Ethical Values

(a) **Promotion of Virtue:** Islamic governance promotes virtues such as honesty, integrity, and compassion, creating a moral society where individuals and leaders act ethically.

"O you who have believed, fear Allah and be with those who are true..." (9:119)

(b) **Prevention of Corruption:** Strong measures are in place to prevent and address corruption, ensuring that public resources are used effectively and for the benefit of the community.

And do not consume one another's wealth unjustly or send it to the rulers in order that you consume a portion of wealth of the people in sin, while you know [it is unlawful] (2:188)

(c) **Ethical Business Practices:** Islam encourages fair and honest business practices, prohibiting fraud, exploitation, and usury (Riba), thereby fostering a fair economic environment.

"O you who have believed, do not consume usury, doubled and multiplied, but fear Allah that you may be successful" (3:130)

6. Social Cohesion and Unity

(a) **Community Solidarity:** Islam emphasizes the importance of community solidarity and social cohesion, encouraging individuals to support one another and work collectively for the common good.

"The believers are but brothers, so make settlement between your brothers. And fear Allah that you may receive mercy" (49:10)

(b) Conflict Resolution: Islamic principles advocate for peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue, mediation, and reconciliation, promoting harmony within society

"And if two factions among the believers should fight, then make settlement between the two" (49:9)

7. Environmental Stewardship

(a) Sustainable Development: Islam encourages the responsible use of natural resources and advocates for sustainable development practices that protect the environment for future generations

"And do not commit abuse on earth, spreading corruption" (2:11)

(b) Conservation: Islamic teachings promote the conservation of resources and discourage wastefulness, aligning with the broader goal of ensuring the welfare of the community.

"The earth is green and beautiful, and Allah has appointed you his stewards over it" (Sahih Muslim)

III Conclusion

The purpose of Islamic Polity is to ensure a welfare state and a just society by

adhering to principles of justice, equity, and accountability. Through a framework that promotes economic fairness, protects individual rights, fosters moral and ethical values, and emphasizes social cohesion and environmental stewardship, Islamic governance seeks to create a balanced and harmonious society. By aligning governance with the teachings of the Quran and the Sunnah, Islamic polity aims to achieve the dual objectives of worldly welfare and spiritual fulfillment for all citizens.

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I Introduction

The doctrine of Risalat, or prophethood, is a foundational concept in Islam, embodying the belief that God has sent a succession of messengers throughout history to guide humanity. These prophets, chosen for their unparalleled righteousness and divine wisdom, were tasked with conveying God's message and leading their communities toward spiritual and moral enlightenment. The doctrine of Risalat underscores the significance of divine guidance in human life and highlights the essential role of prophets in establishing justice, ethical conduct, and spiritual fulfillment.

II The Concept of Risalat

1. Definition and Concept

(a) **Meaning of Risalat:** Risalat derives from the Arabic root "R-S-L", meaning "to send." It refers to the divine appointment of individuals as messengers to deliver God's instructions to humankind.

(b) **Role of Prophets:** Prophets are chosen by Allah to act as intermediaries between God and humanity. They are entrusted with the responsibility of conveying divine commands, providing guidance, and exemplifying a life of virtue and piety.

2. Quranic Perspective

(a) **Universal Guidance:** The Quran emphasizes that God has sent messengers to every nation, as stated in the verse:

"And We certainly sent into every nation a messenger, [saying], 'Worship Allah and avoid Taghut'" (16:36)

(b) **Seal of Prophethood:** Prophet Muhammad (PBU) is recognized as the final prophet, as indicated in the Quran:

"Muhammad is not father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah and the seal of the prophets" (33:40)

This signifies the completion of the prophetic mission with him.

3. Hadith on Prophethood

(9) Hadith on Finality: He also remarked,

"My Similitude in comparison with the other prophets before me, is that of a man who has built and completed a house except for a place of one brick. I am that brick, and I am the last of the prophets"

(Sahih Bukhari)

This emphasizes the unique role of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), as the final prophet.

III Importance of Risalat in Human Life

1. Guidance and Direction

(9) Clear Path: Prophets provide clear guidance on matters of faith, morality, and social conduct. Their teachings offer a structured approach to navigating life's challenges, enabling individuals to make informed and righteous decisions.

2. Moral and Ethical Framework

(9) Instilling Values: The prophet's teachings are foundational in instilling a robust moral and ethical framework within society. They emphasize core values such as honesty,

Justice, compassion, and humility, fostering harmonious relationships among people.

3. Social and Political Reform:

(a) **Advocacy for Justice:** Many prophets were instrumental in challenging social injustices, inequality, and oppression. They advocated for the rights of the marginalized and promoted social reforms aimed at creating a just and equitable society.

4. Spiritual Development

(a) **Deeper Connection with God:** Prophets guide people toward spiritual growth and a closer relationship with God. They emphasize practices such as prayer, meditation, and remembrance of Allah, which are essential for spiritual enlightenment.

5. Hope and Inspiration

(a) **Source of Motivation:** The lives of the prophets serve as a profound source of inspiration and hope. Their struggle, triumphs, and sacrifices exemplify perseverance, courage, and faith, motivating individuals to remain steadfast in their beliefs.

IV The Role of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

1. Final and Comprehensive Messenger

(9) **Unique Position:** Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is considered the final and comprehensive messenger. His teachings encompass all aspects of human life, from personal conduct to governance, as detailed in Quran & Hadith.

2. Foundational Teachings

(9) **Unity and Justice:** The prophet's emphasis on unity, equality, and justice laid the groundwork for an inclusive and harmonious society. His teachings promote fairness and equity, guiding Muslims in all aspects of life.

3. Exemplary life

(9) **Role Model:** The prophet's life, known as the sunnah, serves as a model for Muslims worldwide. His character and conduct are the epitome of moral and ethical standards, providing practical examples of how to live a righteous life.

V Conclusion

The doctrine of Risalat is central to Islamic belief, highlighting the vital role of prophets in guiding humanity towards a righteous path. Through their teachings, prophets provide essential moral, ethical, and spiritual guidance, shaping both individual lives and societies.

The finality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the last messenger marks the completion of divine guidance, but his teachings continue to influence and inspire Muslims around the world. By embracing the principle of Risalat, individuals can achieve spiritual fulfillment, moral integrity, and social harmony leading a balanced and purposeful life. Understanding and following the teachings of the prophets ensures a life aligned with divine will and fosters the betterment of humanity.

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Q1 (i)

I Introduction

Ijma, or consensus, is a fundamental concept in Islamic jurisprudence and theology. It refers to collective agreement of the scholarly community or Islamic Ummah (community) on a particular legal or theological issue. This principle is crucial in the development and application of Islamic law (Sharia) and ensures that religious rulings reflect the collective wisdom of the Muslim scholars across the generations.

II Definition & Concept

(A) Meaning of Ijma: Ijma is derived from the

Arabic root "JMA" meaning "to gether" or "to unite". It signifies the agreement of scholars on a specific issue.

(b) **Historical Context:** Ijma has historically been used to resolve issues that are not explicitly addressed in the Quran or Hadith. It represents a consensus reached by the scholarly community through Ijtihad (independent reasoning).

III Importance in Islamic Law

(a) **Source of legislation:** Ijma serves as a source of Islamic law alongside the Quran and Hadith. It provides a mechanism for addressing new issues and evolving legal contents.

(b) **Stability and Unity:** By reflecting a consensus, Ijma ensures community uniformity in legal rulings and prevents fragmentation within the Muslim community.

IV Quranic Reference

(a) **Guidance on Consensus:** Although Ijma is not explicitly mentioned in Quran, its principles are supported by Quranic encouragement of mutual consultation:

And those who have responded to their lord and maintained prayer and whose affair is [determined by] consultation among themselves

and from what we have provided them, they spend" (42:38)

IV Hadith on Consensus

(9) Hadith on Agreement: The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said,

"My Ummah will not agree upon misguidance" (Sunan Abu Dawood)

Indicating that consensus among scholars is a safeguard against erroneous interpretations

V Conditions for Ijma

(a) Qualifications of Scholars: Only qualified scholars with deep knowledge of Islamic jurisprudence can participate in Ijma.

(b) Unanimity: Ijma refers a unanimous agreement among scholars; However, in practice, it may involve a broad consensus rather than complete unanimity.

VII Conclusion

Ijma plays a pivotal role in Islamic jurisprudence by providing a method for consensus-based decision-making. It ensures that Islamic law evolves in a manner consistent with the collective wisdom of scholarly consensus, thereby maintaining the unity and stability of the Muslim community.

Q8(ii)

I Introduction

The concept of the ~~the~~ veil in Islam, often associated with modesty, encompasses various practices related to dress and behaviour for both men and women. The veil, known as "Hijab" in Arabic, symbolizes adherence to Islamic principles of modesty and respect. It is a significant aspect of Islamic dress code and cultural history.

II Definition and Types of Veil

(a) **Hijab**: Generally refers to the headscarf worn by ^{Muslim} women to cover their hair, neck, and sometimes shoulders. It represents modesty and piety.

(b) **Other Forms**: It includes the "niqab" (face veil) and "burqa" (full-body covering). Each type has different cultural and regional practices.

III Quranic Guidance

(a) **Modesty in Dress**: The Quran instructs both men and women to dress modestly. For women it specifically states:

"And tell the believing women to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts and not expose their adornment except that

which [necessarily] appears thereof. And to wrap [a portion of] their headcovers over their chests" (24:31)

(b) **Behaviour of Modesty:** The Quran also advises men to lower their gaze and act modestly:

"Say to the believing men to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts" (24:30)

IV Hadith on Veil

The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

"Modesty is a part of faith" (Sahih Bukhari)

This hadith emphasizes the importance of modesty as a core value in Islam.

V Cultural and Social Context

(a) **Diverse Practices:** The practice and interpretation of wearing veil can vary widely among Muslim communities. Cultural influences, personal beliefs, and social contexts play significant roles in how the veil is worn and understood.

(b) **Empowerment and Choice:** For many Muslim women, wearing the veil is a personal choice that reflects their faith and cultural identity. It is seen as a form of empowerment and a means of expressing devotion.

VI Contemporary Issues

(a) **Debates and Misunderstanding:** The veil has been subject to various interpretations and debates, especially in non-Muslim societies. Discussion often focus on issues of freedom, cultural integration, and personal autonomy.

(b) **Legal and Social Considerations:** Different countries have varying laws and social attitudes towards the veil, impacting how it is practical and perceived.

VII Conclusion

The concept of the veil in Islam is deeply rooted in the principles of modesty and respect, as outlined in the Quran and Hadith. While practices may vary, the veil serves as an important aspect of Islamic identity and cultural expression. Understanding its significance involves recognizing the diverse ways in which it is interpreted and practiced, as well as respecting individual choices and cultural contexts.

I Introduction

The roles, rights, and status of women in Islam have been significant topics of discussion and analysis, often influenced by cultural, social, and political contexts. Islam provides a comprehensive framework for understanding women's roles, and rights, derived from its primary sources: Quran and Hadith. Understanding the role and rights of women in Islam requires a nuanced exploration of these sources, considering both historical contexts and contemporary interpretations.

II Role of Women in Islam

1. **Spiritual Equality:** Islam emphasizes the spiritual equality of men and women. The Quran clearly states:

"Indeed, the believers, men and women, are allies of one another" (9:71)

This highlights that both genders are equally responsible for their spiritual and moral duties.

2. **Motherhood:** Motherhood is highly revered in Islam. The Quran reflects this respect:

"And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him in increasing weakness, and his weaning is in two years" (31:14)

The Prophet Muhammad ^(PBUH) said, "Paradise lies at the feet of mothers"

This underscores the sacred role of mothers in Islam.

3. **Marriage:** In Islam, marriage is viewed as a partnership based on love and mutual respect.

"And of His Signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them" (30:21)

Women have the right to choose their spouse and are entitled to fair treatment within marriage

4. **Daughter:** The status of daughters is also esteemed. The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said,

"Whoever has three daughters and provides them with support, will enter paradise" (Al-Bukhari)

This highlights the respect and care due to daughters.

5. **Sister:** Islam emphasizes the importance of maintaining familial bonds. Sisters are expected to play supportive and nurturing roles within the family structure.

6. **Community Involvement:** Women are recognised

as active contributors to the community. Historical figures like Bibi Khadijah (RA), the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s first wife, were involved in business and social reform, illustrating women's significant roles in various spheres.

III Rights of Women in Islam

1. **Right to Education:** The pursuit of knowledge is highly encouraged in Islam.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stated, "Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim" (IBN MAJAH)

This applies equally to women, who are encouraged to seek and share knowledge.

2. **Right to Property and Financial Independence:**

Women have the right to own and manage property independently. The Quran asserts:

"And give the women [upon marriage] their dowries graciously" 4:4

3. **Right to Work:** Women are permitted to work and contribute economically, provided that their work does not conflict with their religious obligations. Historical accounts show that women, such as the Prophet's wives, engaged in various forms of work and public service.

4. **Right to Marriage and Divorce:** Women have the right to choose their spouses and to seek divorce if necessary. The Quran states:

"O you have believed, it is not lawful for you to inherit women by Compulsion" (4:19)

Addressing the issue of forced marriages and emphasizing consent.

S. Legal Rights: Islamic law grants women various legal protections, including rights to inheritance, protection from abuse, and remedies for injustices.

IV Status of Women in Islam

1. Historical Context: Before Islam, women in pre-Islamic Arabia faced numerous restrictions and lacked rights. Islam introduced significant reforms, such as prohibiting female infanticide and granting women rights in marriage, inheritance, and property.

2. Modern Interpretations: Contemporary interpretation of Islamic teachings about women can vary. Efforts by scholars and activists work to reconcile traditional teachings with modern views on gender equality, advocating for women's rights while respecting Islamic principles.

V Conclusion

The role, rights, and status of women in Islam are deeply rooted in the religion's foundational texts, reflecting principles of justice, equality, and compassion. While historical and cultural contexts have influenced the application of these principles.