

Q#1

Elaborate human rights in the context of farewell sermon of Prophet (S.A.W).

1. Introduction

The last sermon of the Holy Prophet is a comprehensive and complete charter of Human rights.

Dr. Sultan

Farewell sermon of Holy Prophet encompasses all aspects of human rights owing to the fact that it was last sermon of Holy Prophet. The sermon provided a complete and comprehensive constitution for the followers of Islam. The charter ensured that no other charter be needed for Muslims till the day of Judgement. It entails the principles of Islam which regards the life, property of Muslims valuable. Further, the charter highlights the rights of women, slaves and non-Muslims. Moreover, farewell sermon reiterated the golden economic principles of Islam. In addition, justice, equality, ownership, respect for the rulers and regard for future generations are also the pressing points. In short, the charter is a complete code.

2. Human Rights in Islam and International Efforts in this Regard

Human Rights in Islam has great significance because these rights are conferred by the exalted Allah whereas the rights given by the forums and legislative Assemblies can be repealed or amended. Human rights have been given to people of other religions after evolutionary process. It was first given due importance in Magna Carta 1215 in UK. Afterwards Protection of life, Liberty, Land 1355 was passed. 1639, Bill of Rights; 1789, French Revolution; 1762, John J Rousseau's social contract; 10th Dec 1948, UDHR were significant advancements in this regard. To sum up, the latest of human right effort is around 1300 years after the farewell sermon.

3. Human Rights in the Context of Farewell Sermon

According to Maulana Maududi it may be clarified from the very outset that when we speak of human rights in Islam we really mean that these are

granted by God; they have not been granted by any king or any legislative Assembly. No legislative assembly in the world or the government of the state has the right of authority to make amendment in the rights conferred by God.

i) Characteristics of Rights in Islam

a) Divine Bounties

Rights in Islam are the divine bounties; they cannot be amended by the rulers in the world.

b) Comprehensive and entailing every aspect

Farewell sermon covers every aspect of human rights; it ensures every arena to be covered. From social to economic and from constitutional to individual, every aspect is detailed.

c) Ensures no excess, no neglect formula

All these rights are conferred by Allah, they are free from excess and neglect. No one can be deprived at the expense of excessing any other.

ii) Human Rights in Farewell Sermon

a) Sanctity of Life and Property

"O People, just as you regard this day, this month and this city as sacred, so regard the life and property of people as sacred as trust."

(Farewell sermon)

As in Quran, life of person is regarded important, same is reiterated here in sermon.

من قتل نفسا فكأنما قتل الناس جميعا
(القرآن)

He who killed a person, it is as if he had killed whole mankind.

b) Safeguarding Life

"All the activities of day of ignorances are taken aside. The right arising out of homicide in pre-Islamic days is henceforth waived."

(Farewell sermon)

c) Equality and Justice - defining pillars Farewell sermon advocates

the equality and Justice.

"No Arab has superiority over non-Arabs and no non-Arab has superiority over Arab. The only superiority is by piety and good actions."
(Holy Prophet)

d) Rights of women ~ reiteration of golden principles of Islam

"O People, it is true that you have rights with regards to your women, they also have rights over you."
(Farewell sermon)

فالتقوا الله في النساء
(القرآن)

"Fear Allah in regard of your women."

e) Right to property

"Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners."

(Farewell sermon)

f) Right of workers

"As you feed yourselves, feed them the same."

iii) Comparison with UN Human Rights Charter

Right	Farewell Sermon	UNDR Charter
a) Equality	All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over non-Arabs except by piety.	Upholds the principles of equality and non-discrimination. (Art 1)
b) Human Rights and Dignity	O People, Just as you regard this day, month and city as sacred, regard the life and property as sacred trust.	Emphasize the sanctity of human life and respect for human rights. (Art 3, 5)
c) Women Rights	Fear Allah, regarding women	Recognizes the rights and protection of women (Art 3, 6)
d) Importance of knowledge	Seeking knowledge is duty	Encourages the right to education (Art 26, 27)
e) Social responsibility	Beware of Satan, he will astray you in small things.	Encourages mutual care, solidarity and responsibility. (Art 22)

Holy Prophet^ﷺ stressed the rights of workers and emphasized on their good treatment.

g) Future generations and their obligation

Holy Prophet^ﷺ asked those who were present to spread message among those who were not present so that future generations may find the document and instructions.

4. Critical Analysis

Although, there have been advancements in this arena and the UDHR entails principles regarding human rights but it is worth to note down that UDHR document contain the rights which have been granted to the muslims some 1400 years ago. West kept struggling to find the legitimate rights whereas muslims got these from the Allah Almighty.

"The Christians were probably better off as muslims under Arab rulers than they had been under the Byzantine Greece."
(Islamic Political Thought)

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Conclusion

Islam has descended upon the very principles through the Holy Prophet^ﷺ. Holy Prophet^ﷺ has delivered the principles through his teachings and actions. Similarly, Holy Prophet^ﷺ, in his last sermon, ensured that every right may reach upon the people so that there may not remain any discrepancy in this regard. He declared the rights for every aspect of life from social to economic, from constitutional to political and from individual to collective life.
