

Q No-2

The meaning and concept of Ijtihad, the qualities of Mujtahid and its importance in contemporary world

Introduction:

Ijtihad is a source of Islamic law. This source is applied to the matters for which any example is not found in Quran and Sunnah. The ijtihad is done by Mujtahid. The Mujtahid is the person who has certain qualities to perform Ijtihad. These qualities include knowledge of Quran and Sunnah, command on Arabic language and contemporary affairs. Ijtihad has great importance in contemporary world. The reason is that today's world has complex issues.

These issues can be related to economy or medical science. The solution of these issues is not found in Quran and Sunnah. Therefore performance of Ijtihad is of primary importance in an Islamic society.

① Literal Meaning:

Ijtihad is taken from Arabic word جهد which means to strive

② Technical Meaning:

Ijtihad is the struggle made by Mujtahid to find the solution of matter that is not found in Quran and Sunnah.

③ Concept of Ijtihad

Islam is both static and dynamic. There are several matters whose

solution is available in Quran and sunnah.

However, occasions can come where the solution is not available. So, Islam has allowed performance of Ijtihad to find solution of those matters that may arise.

Translation: "And those who strive, we will surely guide them."
(Al-Quran: Ankaboot)

④ Need of Ijtihad

Question arises: Why was there need of Ijtihad? The answer is simple. Islam is not a stagnant religion. It allows to use wisdom to find solution of matter not found in Quran and sunnah. The prophet S.A.W is reported to have asked Hazrat Maaz (R.A) when he was being

appointed Qazi (The judge of Yemen)

Translation:

"What will you do if you do not find solution in Quran and Sunnah?"

Hazrat Maaz replied;

Translation:

"I will use to the best of my ability to find solution."

The prophet praised the companion on his reply.

⑤ conditions for Ijtihad

There are two conditions that must be fulfilled before ijtihad is conducted.

(i) Matter is not found in Quran and sunnah

It should be ensured that the matter that is legislated or for which Ijtihad is done is not

found in Quran and Sunnah.

(ii) It must be done by Mujtahid
Ijtihad must be done
by the Mujtahid.

⑥ Who is Mujtahid?

Mujtahid is the
person who has the
following qualities.

Qualities of Mujtahid

(i) Knowledge of Quran and Sunnah
Mujtahid must have knowledge
of Quran and Sunnah. It enables
him to confirm matter is not found in them.

(ii) Command on Arabic language

Quran and Sunnah are
in Arabic language. So, Mujtahid
must have command over
Arabic language.

(iii) Contemporary knowledge

Mujtahid must also
have contemporary knowledge.
As it qualifies him to
be expert in that
field. Since, a doctor is
not qualified to treat

patients unless the law
reaches degree.

② Importance of Ijtihad in modern world

(i) solution of modern day
problems

(ii) Rationalization of Islam

Conclusions:

To conclude, Ijtihad
is a source of Islamic
law. It provides roadmap
for finding solution of
modern day problems. It is
performed by mujtahid possessing
certain qualities.