

Q. 4, Elaborate human rights in the context of the farewell sermon of Prophet (S.A.W).

Answer:

Introduction:

The rights of God and His creatures constitute one of the most important aspect of God's message to mankind, as revealed through the scriptures and through the words of prophets. God's message to mankind provides guidance for righteous conduct and therein is the justice wherein heaven and earth are found. Almighty Allah says "Certainly we sent our messenger with clear arguments

﴿لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ﴾

(Surah Haadid) The Shariah establishes standards of justice that are applicable

not only among Muslims but also between Muslims and Non-Muslims.

In this book, Allah has ordered us to overcome our feelings and not allow any hatred people may harbour for us to cause us to treat them unjustly. "And let not hatred of a people incite ~~to~~ you to not to act equitably: act equitably" (Al: Maida). When the Prophet (SAW) was in his final illness, he addressed the people in following terms "I am about to depart from amongst you, if I have whipped the back of any one of you, here is my back, let me retaliate.... The one amongst you who is dearest to me is the one who recovers from me what is rightfully his, so that I may meet my

Lord with a soul at rest"

### Meaning of Right:

The idea of right in Arabic is extremely wide-ranging. Al-Damaghani distinguishes no fewer than 13 meanings attached to the word in Qur'an, namely: God Himself, the Qur'an, Islam, equity, monotheism, sincerity, truth, obligation, legitimacy, lawful possessions, order of precedence, luck and need. The definition given by the Persian Polymath Umar-al-Taftazani is probably the most satisfactory. He defined God's rights as those involving the general welfare to the exclusion of any particular individual benefit, in contrast to rights of human beings, which involve private ~~affairs~~ interests.

Foregoing in view, it can be stated that Islam provides a perfect charter of fundamental human rights. They may be divided into 2 categories.

- (i) fundamental Human Rights.
- (ii) Rights of Non Muslims in the Islamic State.

The two types of rights of Islam are derived from the Holy Quran or Ahadith of Holy Prophet (SAW) and the examples of 4 pious caliphs who strictly followed the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah of Prophet (pbuh). These are only sources of rights of Islam. Besides rights of man (Hugooq-al-Ibad) are in some respects more important than the rights of God (Hugooqullah).

which is a clear proof that in Islam fundamental human rights are of immense importance.

Hajjat - AL - Wada (Farewell Sermon)  
First Charter Of Human Rights  
In the History of Mankind.

On his last pilgrimage, to the House of Allah at Makkah in 632/10AH, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) delivered his Farewell sermon, which is the foremost charter of Human rights in the history of mankind. Holy Prophet (S.A.W) began his sermon as: "Oh people! Listen to what I say. I do not know whether I will meet meet you at this place after a year". Holy Prophet (S.A.W) talked about the

various fundamental Human Rights as described below.

1. 1. Right to Sanctity and Property

Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said: "Your blood, and your Property are as sacred as are this day and this Month (9<sup>th</sup> Zilhaj).

2. Right to Equality and Brotherhood of Muslims.

He said: "You must know every Muslim is brother to another Muslim, and that Muslims are brethren, all of you are equal as the fingers of a hand, it is not lawful for any man to take anything of his brother's, except what is given with one's own free will."

### 3. Right to inheritance

Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said: "God has ordained to every man the share of his inheritance."

### 4. Riba / Usury abolished:

"Usury is forbidden and I make the beginning by remitting the amounts of interest which Abbas bin Abdul Muttalib had to receive. Verily, it is remitted entirely"

### 5. Right to life safeguarded.

Holy Prophet (pbuh) said "behold all practices of Paganism and ignorance are now under my feet. The blood revenge of the days of ignorance are remitted."

## 6. Rights of Wives Protected

Holy Prophet (Pbuh) said regarding women's rights that "Oh people! fear Allah concerning women. Verily you have taken them on the security of Allah and have made their persons lawful onto you by words of Allah... If your wives refrain from impropriety and are faithful to you, clothe and feed them suitably."

## 7. Equality of All Races proclaimed.

He said: "The Arabs are not superior to the Ajamis (Non-Arabs), or the Ajamis to the Arabs."

## 8. Rights of Slaves to Kind Treatment

Holy Prophet (SA.W) said: "And your slaves, see that you <sup>feed</sup> them with such food as you eat yourselves. and clothe them with the stuff you wear".