

2- Prophethood is defined as the divine state that is granted by Allah on chosen people. In the world, a total of 124000 prophets, have been sent to give the divine commandment of Allah to the people. Therefore, belief in Prophethood is an essential part of Islam and one of the six articles of Faith. Such belief impacts individual as well as collective life of people. Individually, it enlighten man regarding the divine path, the idea of right and wrong, accountability of his actions and a role model to follow. Collectively, it guides on political, economic<sup>and</sup> social aspects of the people. Hence, belief in Prophethood is fundamental to be able to understand the essence of Islam.

### Doctrines of Prophethood in Islam

Prophets are granted divine knowledge:

Prophets are defined as the divine messengers of Allah who are given the responsibility to disseminate the commandments of Allah. Since the knowledge is divine, prophets do not have a guidance of their own but what has been revealed over them. This negates the concept of man-made knowledge through meditation or self reflection. It is not, therefore, based on personal opinions and beliefs. This is what makes it significant that these are actually the guidance or commandments of Allah. In essence, it negates the concept of constructivism. For example Nietzsche claims that right and wrong is subjective. Quran states in Surah Alaq:

"...taught man by the pen, then taught man what he did not know."

Prophets are role models.

The idea of Prophethood revolves around the concept of guidance in divine form. Therefore, they are meant to be followed. As mentioned, followership of prophet <sup>means</sup> acting on the principles of divine knowledge. Quran has repeatedly mentioned that Prophets (SAW) should be followed if one wants to take the pathway of that Allah has commanded.

→ Significance of Muhammad (SAW) as role model:  
Prophet (SAW) is the primary role model of Islam. He has been termed as the 'Walking Quran'. His Sunnah and Hadith are considered as primary sources of Islamic Faith, signifying the importance of role model of Prophets. If something is not clearly mentioned in Quranic text, it is referred to the Hadith. For example, Quran has repeatedly emphasised on establishing obligatory Salah. However, the mode of praying is not specified. Hence, Sunnah of Prophet (SAW) is considered to be the modes of prayer.

The concept of revealed revelation on Prophets

Although there were more than hundred-thousand Prophets, there were few Nabis. According to some interpretations, Nabi are those with new Shariah. Whereas other interpretations only limit it to the revealed books of Torah, Injeel, Zaboor and Quran. These books were revealed on Hazrat Isa (A.S), Hazrat Dawood (A.S), Hazrat Musa (A.S) and Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

## The concept of Seal of Prophethood

Quran has clearly mentioned Islam to be the final Abrahamic religion, making Prophet (SAW) as a seal of Prophethood. There will be no prophet after Islam. Hence, Islam is for every nation and every time unlike the religion of previous prophets. Prophet (SAW) is considered as the messenger of entire world. During the time of Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) four or false prophets claimed divinity who were suppressed in such regards.

## Importance of the Doctrine of Prophethood

-> Significance of Prophethood in individual life.

Divine knowledge enlightenment leading to certainty

Humans are curious ~~and~~ living beings. They ~~is~~ evolved from an agrarian society to industrial and technical society technological society. Many man-made philosophical, scientific and evolution based knowledge are being inculcated. Yet, people feel an uncertainty to what their actual purpose of life. Belief in Prophets and their messages fills that significant gap. This is because people know they are not man-made religions but that of God. Therefore, the knowledge of truth is credible. This provides people their true purpose in life giving them the aspect of certainty. As an individual a person may differ on the man-made knowledge with others but could not on divine knowledge.

The Concepts of right and wrong is objective

Based on the idea mentioned before, <sup>divine</sup> truth will define the actual concepts of right and wrong. A manmade concept will meet many limitations, but the concept of right and wrong ~~off~~ by God is in its total perfection. The purpose, therefore, sincerely follow on the divine concepts of morality. They are aware of strict accountability in case of deviant behavior. Hence, they ensure that Prophets are followed in true essence of character.

-> Significance of Prophethood in collective life

Political and economic importance

Political significance:

Belief in Prophethood means that his followers has to follow his teachings and base him as their role model in political and economic sphere. In political aspects, the idea of peace over war, just ~~relaxing~~ ruling, social welfare state and diplomacy should be followed. For example, Prophet (SAW) agreed to sign treaty of Hudaibiyah with Quraysh rather than entering war. Such examples are significant in contemporary era of extremism and corruption in the Islamic world.

Economic significance

Prophethood followership would ensure that the economy is free of interest rate. For example, the recent controversial 26th Amendment of Pakistan has vowed to end Interest on loan by 2028. In addition, the concept of Zakat by Prophet (SAW) decrease unequal

income distribution. Lastly, a strong penalty to be imposed on corruption. Prophet (SAW) was called Sadiq and Amin because of his integrity and truthfulness.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the belief in prophet hood is one of the fundamental teachings of Islam who were given divine knowledge to guide men towards the right path. It is known that Prophet (SAW) is the last prophet making Islam a complete religion. Not only do one benefit from the certainty and a strong purpose of life but also ensure it is applied in economical and political terms.

4. Islamic State has been defined as welfare state. One of the major reasons is its commandment on charity. Although 'Sadaqah' non-obligatory charity has been encouraged, 'Zakat' obligatory charity has to be paid by certain individuals annually. The Islamic meaning of Zakat is to pay in the name of Allah. There are different calculations of Zakat payment depending on the type of property. Moreover, it is not obligated on all individuals but those with certain requirements. The specifications of those who can receive Zakat are also identified. Zakat has social effects of better communal feelings and helping those in needs. On moral level, it removes the lust of wealth and a sense of arrogance in a person. On spiritual level, it brings him closer to Allah.

## Who can pay and receive Zakat

### Eligibility of Zakat payers:

Quran has specified the requirements of Zakat paying individuals. Zakat can be given by individual if he/she has gold equal to or greater than 7.5 tola, has silver equal to or greater than 52.5 tola. 2.5% of the Zakat is taxed from the available property. On irrigated land 5% of the total yield. On unirrigated land 10% of the total yield. The value of camels is five, sheep is forty and cattle is thirty. The Zakat can only be paid by Muslims on annual basis.

### Eligibility of Zakat receivers:

Zakat can only be received by those specified in Quran. They are wayfarer, miskeen, Faqir, Zakat collector, prisoner freedom (freeing slaves), etc. Faqir are those who do not beg but are in financial hardships. Wayfarer may need cash during their journey if they run out. This is because they have no source of income or wealth in the journey.

Zakat Collectors are those responsible to pay, manage the collection and management of Zakat. They are tasked with distribution of Zakat to those in need. The salaries of Zakat collectors can also be adjusted from Zakat amount. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, people mistrust govt in Zakat collection alleging corruption and mis-handling of the funds.

## Who is eligible for Sadqah

Sadqah is a non-voluntary Charity given out of kindness in the name of Allah. It can be given to anyone directly or indirectly. For example, planting a tree or making a dua for someone is Sadqah.

Prophet (SAW) has even considered the removal of stone from a path as a form of Sadqah. Prophet (SAW) has encouraged sadqah in such a way that 'your left hand should not know that you are giving Sadqah from your right hand'. This means that it should be not voluntary shown to people. Otherwise, it is considered Shirk. Moreover, Sadqah can be given through lawful earnings.

## Effects of Charity on social aspects of Muslims:

- Communal feeling and Sadqah  
Zakat enhances communal feeling between the givers and receivers of the Charity. It creates a sense of brotherhood in a society. Zakat gives you realise the hardships that the receiver is facing. It inculcates a feeling of assistance to the purpose to elevate his social and financial position.
- Reduction in economic disparity  
Zakat reduces economic disparity as the portion of income of the rich is divided among the poor. It mitigates the effects of class system in society as the payer knows that the wealth is granted by Allah to him. Hence, Islam signifies equality regardless of financial position except for piety. Piety sets the importance of person.

## Effect of Charity on moral and Spiritual values

Charity discourages hoarding wealth

Wealth hoarding is being discouraged through the charity. It creates a sense of purpose and mentality that wealth is not limited to one's self but it should be given to those in need. Such morality influences him to earn by unfair means because wealth is a temporary blessing with aspects of strong accountability on day of judgement. The person knows that hoarding wealth will decrease the circulation of money in economy leading to less demand and more unemployment.

Charity removes arrogance and brings person closer to Allah

Charity is giving away of a portion of wealth. A person with arrogance will realize that wealth is being bestowed to him by Allah. He ~~knows~~ knows that he could not take it with him in the next world. The wealth granted to him could even be taken back from this world. Hence, nothing is his to feel pride. Rather, the person shows a sense of gratitude if he could pay charity, or if he could receive charity. There is a lesson for both. The sheer acknowledgement of Allah being Al-Razzaq, brings the person closer to Allah.

The Conclusion

In Conclusion, a person pay Zakat since it is one of essential pillars of Islam if he had the ability to pay or receives



Zakat, if he was eligible, under the given requirements. Not only <sup>charity</sup> Zakat brings communal feelings in a society, but also ensure reduction in economic disparity and revive in him the spirits of paying in the name of Allah. It should be noted that Sadaqah does not necessarily involved material aspects.

5- Ijtihad is a significant concept of Islamic Fiqh. Since Islam is a complete code of life for all nations and times, various problems arose that were not clearly present in Quran, Sunnah or Ijma. Hence, the scholars had to apply their personal independent judgement, or such matters. This ensured the flexibility of Islam with changing time while maintaining its essence in its true spirits.

### Details regarding Ijtihad

Ijtihad is termed as independent reasoning by Islamic Jurists if the issue could not be addressed through primary sources of Fiqh, Quran and Sunnah. Such reasoning is done within the light of Quran and Sunnah. The Jurist must ensure that such reasoning does not contradict with the teachings of Quran and Sunnah. Based on deep knowledge of Quran and Sunnah and the historical events the Jurist analyse and provide his judgements regarding the issue. The judgement given can be changed with time and events or under different circumstances.

## Requirements of Mujtahid:

Mujtahid is the Islamic Jurist who conducts Ijtihad. Following are the requirements of Mujtahid:

1. He must be a Muslim
2. He must be of a sound mind
3. He has <sup>been</sup> qualified as an Islamic Jurist
4. Should be well versed with Quran and Hadith
5. Must have strong Arabic proficiency

These requirements are necessary to ensure sound Islamic judgements and avoid 'innovation' in Islam.

## Importance of Ijtihad in modern times

As the time commenced, various modern issues arose that needed clarity and urgency. Among such prominent examples are the concept of Islamic banking, ~~and~~ the ~~concept~~ issues of congregational prayer during Covid-19 and the debate around cryptocurrency. It should be noted that the Jurists who conduct Ijtihad on such matters must be well versed with the subject matter, in addition to fulfilling the requirements of Mujtahid.

## The concept of Islamic Banking in modern world

As the world has moved towards globalisation, many Western concepts have been inculcated

into the Islamic world so much so that the system could not function in its absence. One such example is Banking system. Banking system is simply defined as the act of borrowing and lending on an interest rate. Almost all the Islamic countries are overly-dependent on this system. However, the introduction of Islamic banking has resulted in adoption of this system while taking out the un-Islamic feature from it.

### The rationality behind Islamic Banking and Fiqah

Banking is a new economic system that didn't exist during the Islamic commencement. The complexities of overdependency to this system coupled with aspects like interest rate forced Jurists to introduce the concept of Islamic banking.

Islamic banking involves Profit and Loss as the expected return on investment rather than a fixed interest rate. It ensures that the money is backed by an asset to avoid earning of money from money. This concept has developed gradually over time. In current times, Islamic banking like Meezan Bank is leading banking system in Pakistan. It has its own Shariah advisory body. Jurists like Mufti Taqvi Usmani are overseeing the functions of Islamic banking. Therefore, such concept could not have arisen without independent reasoning of Jurists. It should be necessary to take Islamic countries out of interest based system.

## The concept of one-arm distance in the pandemic of Covid-19

During the Covid-19 pandemic, criteria of one-arm distance was placed among individuals to avoid getting infected. The issue arose when Muslims felt the need to congregational prayers. Since Islamic congregational prayers involve standing side by side arm-to-arm and toe-to-toe, the created concerns of its spread of COVID-19.

Muslim Jurists conducted independent reasoning and decided that the concept of one-arm distance shall be enforced upon individuals. This ruling was applied until the pandemic ended. Later, Muslims were allowed to pray shoulder-to-shoulder when vaccinated.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, Ijtihad is an important aspect of Islam with adjustment to the changing time. However, it requires a Mutehadd eligible to do Ijtihad with in spirits of teaching of Quran and Sunnah. This has enabled Jurists to deal with various cases and issues that needed Islamic judgement such as banking system and Covid-19 related issues. Thereby making it a way of ensuring that Islam adjust with changing times and conditions.