

~(Q#6)~

Importance of Human Rights

Introduction

Islam is a complete code of life that gives comprehensive guidance on all aspects of human life. In just twenty three years, Islam gave a complete code framework of human rights in Quran and Sunnah. In Islam, these rights are divinely guided and therefore unchangeable. No one can deprive anyone from their basic fundamental rights. State is responsible for the protection of these rights.

Western concept of Human Rights

Western concept of Human Rights evolved slowly and it took nearly seven centuries for it to be formalized through Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It started with Magna Carta in 1215, a written document between Barons and the King of Great Britain which gave some liberty to the Barons. This was followed by British act of 1355 which gave fundamental rights of life

and liberty. Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 made monarchs responsible for the protection of these rights. After this, French Revolution came in 1789-1799 which further strengthened these rights; however, real implementation came much later. In the twentieth century, United Nations passed UDHR in 1948 which gave all the basic fundamental rights of ~~man~~ According to UDHR, Human Rights are moral principles or basic fundamental rights that every human being is entitled to regardless of cast, creed or race.

Basic Fundamental Rights

1) Equality of all Mankind

Islam strongly emphasizes equality of all human beings. All the human beings are equal in the eye of Allah. As Prophet PBUH said in the last sermon,

'O people! All mankind is from Adam and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor any non-Arab has any

superiority over any Arab. A white person has no superiority over a black person, nor does a black person has any superiority over a white person - except in piety and good action."

2) Right to Life

Human Life is sacred in Islam.

Killing of an innocent soul is strictly forbidden in Islam and its killing is equivalent to the killing of the entire community. It is the duty of the state to safeguard its citizens from any internal and external threat. Non-Muslims are also protected in return for jizya.

3) Religious Freedom

All the individuals in a state are allowed to practice their religion. Their religious places should also be protected. As Allah says in the Quran,

"There is no compulsion in religion."

After the establishment of an Islamic state by Prophet PBUH, he signed Charter of Medina which gave religious freedom to Jews. It was mentioned in

the charter

"The Muslims and the Jews are like one community. The Jews have their own religion and the Muslims have their own."

4) Right to Property

Every citizen has the right to ^{own} a property. Islamic state is moderate - a balance between capitalism and communism. It retains the virtues of both and rejects the evils of both as well. So a person can own a property, but its use should be monitored to avoid any exploitation. One thing needs to be cleared about inheritance laws of Islam.

5) Right to Earn lawfully

Every citizen is allowed to earn lawfully. However, bribery, hoarding and gambling including speculative trading is not allowed. According to a Hadith,

"The best earning is from one's own hand."

and "Next to obligatory prayer is the obligation of earning lawfully."

6) Right to Education

Education is considered an obligation in Islam because it brings closer to Allah. It is the responsibility of the state to provide free and compulsory education to its citizens. Prophet PBUH also established used to personally teach the companions. Masjid-i-Nabwi was the earliest concept of an open University.

7) Political Rights

Every citizen is allowed to enjoy give his opinion about government matters. He is allowed to give votes as well. Islam has the concept of Shura (Consultative Assembly) in which citizen can voice their opinions. Head of the state are also answerable before the general public.

8) Judicial Rights

In Islam, individuals are allowed to establish their own courts for criminal and civil cases and it is on their preference whether they want to bring their case before the Muslim court or their community.

tribunal ensuring that Islam respect justice and fairness. Allah says in the Quran,

"Indeed, Allah commands you to render trust to whom they are due and when you judge between people, do judge them with justice."

In another Surah, Allah says in the Quran,

"Stand out firmly for justice and do not let the hatred of a man make you avoid justice."

9) Protection of one's own honor

Allah protects the honor of human being. He condemns backbiting and false accusations. Prophet PBUH said in the Last Sermon,

"Your blood, your property and your honor are saved just like this day, this month and this city."

10) Dignity of Mankind

In Islam, every human being is worthy of honor and respect because Allah gave this status to man. Allah says in the Quran,

“Indeed, we have honoured the children of Adam.”

Conclusion:

Islam gave comprehensive human rights 1400 years ago which the West gave in 1948. Islam believes that every being should enjoy all the basic fundamental rights and these rights were given by Allah and no one can take these rights away.

~ (Q #07) ~

Governance under Khilafat-i-Rashida

Introduction

Khilafat-i-Rashida established after the demise of Prophet PBUH represents a system based on accountability, transparency and public welfare. It was led by four rightly guided caliphs. Abu Bakr

Siddique (632-634) unified Arabia, Haseet Umar (634-644) extended empire to include Persia and Egypt. He also introduced key administrative reforms, marking his era as **golden age of Islamic governance**. Caliph Hurr Uthman ibn Affan (644-656) and Caliph (656-661) further strengthened the empire. ~~The Rashidun Caliphate~~ came into to an end in 661 with the rise of Ummayyad Caliphate. Rashidun Caliphate was based on principles guided by Quran and Sunnah. As Amru Ali said,

"Rashidun Caliphs combined moral responsibility with spiritual guidance practical administration for the welfare of the public."

Features of Governance Under Rashidun Caliphs

1) Shariah as law

All the Rashidun Caliphs followed Shariah as the supreme law. Quran and Sunnah were their primary source. As Abu Bakr (RA) said,

"If I follow the Quran and Sunnah then follow"

me, If I do not then
 remove me from my
 position."

2) Shura (Consultative Assembly)

Shura was adhoc, meeting whenever necessary. Sometimes, public was also invited to voice out their opinions. It worked most effectively under Caliph Umar and then its importance decreased during Caliph Uthman and Ali (RA) times. Hazrat Umar (RA) said that **there is no Caliph without consultation**. Shura has three responsibilities: selection of Khalifah, holding him accountable and conducting ijma.

3) Rule of Law

In Islam, everybody is treated equally. No person is above the law. All the Caliphs also presented themselves before the courts and public. To hold the officials accountable, Caliph Umar RA also established ombudsman courts.

4) Dispense Justice

Justice is the central pillar

of Islam. All the caliphs made sure not to be unjust to anyone. For this purpose, caliph Umar separated ~~5) Police~~ the judiciary from the executive. He also ~~for~~ established fixed salaries for judges. Judges were also not allowed to do any trade.

5) Police and Prison Department

Caliph Umar launched night watches and patrols to ensure public safety. Moreover, a formal Police department known as Ash-Shuta was also established. Moreover, a prison was also established in Medina to lock up any person involved in Hudooh cases.

6) Rashidun Caliphate as Welfare State

All the Caliphs worked for the welfare of the public. Hazrat Umar (RA) letter to Saad bin abi Waqqas ~~was~~ stated that if you want to know about how much Allah loves you than you should ascertain that with how much public is satisfied with you. Know that welfare of public

invokes blessings of God. Caliphs made ports and canals for the public welfare. Health, education and all the other basic needs were fulfilled by the state. A famous historian, M. bin Tawar al Tabari, narrates that Sa'ad Hazrat Umar asked Salman bin Farsi that "Am I a Khalifah or a King?" To which Salman Farsi replied that if you used even one dirham from the Muslim welfare unlawfully then you are a King and not a Khalifah.

1) Authority of a Khalifah

All the Rashidun caliphs were not aristocrats rather autocrats rather their power was balanced between religious and secular roles. At the religious level, they used to guide Muslims by Quran and Sunnah-Sunnah. and they used to lead Friday prayers. Moreover, they used to deliver Khutbah and had the ability to perform ijtihad and qiyas. At the secular front, they used to act as religious to military commander and judicial chief justice.

They also used to represent the Muslims as the Head of the state.

8) Criteria of Caliphs

All Caliphs were selected based on the needs of the community at that time. All were sane, possessed good moral character and had the ability to perform *ijtihad* and *qiyas*. *Shurah* was responsible for their election. Hazrat Abu Bakr was selected at *Saqifah*. Hazrat Umar by Hazrat Abu Bakr and other people who gave their *bay'ah* (pledge of loyalty). Hazrat Uthman by *Shurah* and Hazrat Ali by *Shurah* as well.

9) Bait ul Maal (State Treasury)

As the Islamic empire extended, the economic resources also increased. So *Bait ul Maal* was established. Every Muslim was given an allowance of 2000-2500 *dirhams*. Hazrat Umar also forgave many non-Muslims and did not collect *jizya* from them due to their poor condition. All the salaries

of the governors, judges and military personnel used to receive their salaries from this.

10) Military Commandments:

Conclusion:

Rashidun Caliphate worked for the welfare of the public. Their system of governance was based on transparency. No one was above the law. Even the Head of the State was ~~an~~ accountable ~~for~~ responsible for his own actions.

~(Q#02)~

Fasting

Introduction

Fasting in Islam enables humans to experience pangs of hunger, thirst and deprivation. It enables humans to ~~rea~~ sympathise with the underfed and underprivileged people. Despite its ~~moral~~ and

spiritual benefits, It ~~and~~ has immense social benefits as well.

Meaning of Fasting

Its mean literal meaning is 'to abstain' or 'to be at rest'. It means that to abstain from eating and drinking from dawn to dusk.
 * (It also prevents human beings) Not only drinking and fasting, muslims should also abstain from indulging into any evil thoughts. ~~Accord~~

Philosophy and Importance of Fasting

According to Imam Ghazali, ~~in~~ fasting means to abstain from any worldly pleasure to seek Allah's pleasure. ~~Also~~ Prophet PBUH says in the Hadiths ~~th~~

"Do not indulge into any evil nor raise your voice. If someone abuses you or picks up a fight with you, then say that you are fasting."

Fasting improves and strengthens a

person's will. It purifies its soul. The smell from the mouth of a fasting person is more pleasant to Allah than any fragrance or musk.

Spiritual Impacts of Fasting

1) Fasting induces fasting piety

Fasting induces piety in a person. It encourages a person to follow the commandments of Allah and avoid any evil-doing. He knows that by doing this, he will become more closer to Allah.

2) Fasting ~~increases~~ causes self-purification

When a person ~~when~~ refrain himself from any worldly pleasures, he purifies his soul. This purity makes him more spiritual and avoids doing any evil even after Ramadan ends.

Moral Impacts

1) Fasting increases willpower

Fasting increases willpower of a person. He becomes more conscious and even after any pleasures come before him, he easily avoids them.

2) Fasting makes a person time conscious

Fasting a The timing of suhoor, iftar and five daily prayers make him punctual. This discipline helps him in his other personal and professional life.

Social Impacts

1) Brotherhood

Fasting induces brotherhood throughout the globe across all Muslim countries. All Muslim observe fasts according to their time zones.

2) Socio Economic Benefits

Zakat, and other goodly loans and ushr are usually given during Ramadan. Muslim also give other charities to the needy people. Universities conduct ration drives and help try to help everyone.

Conclusion

Fasting has immense spiritual, moral and socio-economic benefits. Muslim all across the world observe ~~the~~ fasts during Ramadan, which invoke a sense of ~~bro~~ brotherhood among them.

