

Talat Fatima
Test #03
Islamic Studies

Question 1

What measures would you suggest to unite extremely disunited Muslim Ummah today?

Introduction

The contemporary Muslim Ummah is suffering from severe disunity manifested through sectarianism, political fragmentation, ethnic division and ecological or ideological intolerance. This condition contradicts the very spirit of Islam, which declares unity as fundamental principle of faith. The Quran, Sunnah and classical Muslim scholars provide clear guidance and authoritative directives for restoring unity among Muslims.

Measures For Unity of Muslim Ummah

1. Unity on the Basis of Tawheed

The foremost measure for Muslim unity is the revival of unity of government in Tawheed. The foundation line capable of creating the strongest bond on the basis of Tawheed irrespective of any class or region you was belonging before.

In Holy Quran Allah Said

"Indeed this Ummah of yours is one Ummah, And I am your Lord. So Wa-ship Me."

Surah Al-Ambiya

The real cause of decline among Muslim is abandoning the unity of belief and replacing it with sectarian belief

Shah Waliullah
Dehlwai



2. Promotion of Brotherhood

Islam strictly condemns division within the Ummah and direct towards the elimination of sectarianism. And promote the strong relation of brotherhood.

In Surah Al-Imran Allah said,

And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not be divided.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) also guided his companion and Ummah by saying

Do not hate another,
do not envy another
but be servants of
Allah as brothers

Sahih Muslim

Furthermore, Islamic scholars also guided the same

to their followers

"The destruction of religion begins when differences turn into hostility."

Imam-Al Ghazali

4. Establishment of Justice as a Unifying Force

Islam emphasis on establishment of justice, because justice is a binding force for collective stability and to avoid any fight or differences

Allah said in his Holy Book in Surah Nahl

Indeed, Allah commands justice and excellence

- Surah Nahl

Scholar's Saying

Ibn Khaldun in his book Muqaddimah

Injustice causes the destruction of civilizations

- Ibn-Khaldun

5. Political and Collective Unity of Muslim World

Fragmentation of Muslim political world, weakens the Muslim authority that was the core segment during Muslim golden age. By developing a unity among Muslim countries like European states will lead to revival of Muslim ruling era.

Scholarly Sayings

Individual effort is lost without collective unity

- Allama Muhammad Iqbal

The secret of Muslim strength lies in their unity not in the territorial nationalism

Allama Muhammad Iqbal

6. Revival of Knowledge and Ideological Awareness

In order to beat this fragmentation and bring collective unity, revival of knowledge is vital as ignorance breeds division, knowledge produce cohesion.

Allah said in his Holy Book
Chapter Az-Zumar

And those who know
equal to those who do
not know?

Scholarly Sayings

A community without an
ideology cannot remain
united for long.

Syed Abul Al-Mustadi

Having sound ideological awareness and
intellectual clarity is that much
essential.

Islamic unity is impossible
without intellectual clarity.

Syed Abul Al-Mustadi

7. Responsible Use of Media and Verification of Information

Considering Muslim youth about the responsible and accurate use of media, protecting them from most Influenced non-Islamic content, for which verification and keeping an eye on consumed data is very much necessary.

As false narratives deepen division Allah also mentioned in his book

O believers! if a transgressor brings you a news, Verify it.

Surah Hujrat

Scholarly Saying

Most disputes arise not from ignorance of truth, but from misrepresentation of facts

Imam Ibn Taymiha

Critical Analysis

Although Islam offers an explicit framework for unity, Muslim societies today selectively adopt religious teachings while ignoring their collective obligations. The misuse of sectarian identities and politicization of religion and neglect of justice continue to obstruct unity. Without sincere implementation of Islamic principles, unity will remain rhetorical rather than practical.

Nations are born in the hands of poets, but prosper and die in the hands of politicians

Allama Muhammad Iqbal

Conclusion

The unity of Muslim Ummah is Quranic demand or Allah's command, prophetic mission and scholarly consensus. By reviving Tawheed based identity, eliminating sectarian hostility ensuring justice, strengthening collective leadership and promoting

knowledge - the Ummah can overcome fragmentation. Unity is not optional it is obligation essential for Muslim survival and revival.

Question #2

Explain concept of Ijtihad and highlight its importance.

Introduction

Ijtihad is a dynamic mechanism within Islamic jurisprudence that enables the application of divine guidance to evolving human circumstances. It reflects Islam's adaptability and intellectual vitality. In the absence of explicit rulings from Quran and Sunnah, Ijtihad ensures continuity of Islamic law while preserving its objectives that are Maqasid-Al-Shari'ah.

Concept of Ijtihad

1. Definition of Ijtihad

Literal Meaning

Ijtihad means "To exert maximum intellectual effort"

Concept of Ijtihad

Ijtihad can be defined as The exertion of qualified jurist to derive legal rulings from primary source where no explicit text exists.

These definitions clearly states the importance of ijtihad in matters not discussed in Quran under scholar supervision.

2. Quranic Basis of Ijtihad

Allah has mentioned in Quran to seek guidance from the knowing person in matters not familiar to you. So that the one shouldn't get mis

guided.

So take warning, O
people of insight

Surah - Hashr

If you differ in anything
refer to Allah and his
messengers

Surah - Nisa

These Quranic verse refer
one to jurist for cases like
crypto currency, seragation to
get knowledge according to
Islamic laws.

3. Sunnah Evidence Supporting Ijtihad

There are authentic Ahadith
confronting the importance and
significance of ijtihad for any
contemporary issue of time.

The incident that embark
the acceptance of ijtihad

from prophet's life Hadiths of Muadab Ibn Jabal

When Muadab (r.z) sent
to Yemen, the Prophet (SAW) said
how he would judge

I will judge by the book
of Allah, if not found
by the Sunnah, if not
found will exert my op-
inion.

Abu-Dawood

The Prophet (SAW) approved
this approach.

4. Ijtihad As Source of Islamic Law

After Quran, sunnah, ijma. Ijtihad
serves as an operational source
addressing new realities such
as

- Bioethics
- Technology
- Governance
- Financial System

Their acceptance and implementation is also witnessed in era of many great Muslim scholars

Imam Abu Hanifa extensively use Qiyas and Ijtihad to solve new legal issues during his time.

5. Role of Ijtihad in Contemporary Muslim World

There is a significant role of Ijtihad in contemporary muslim societies for

- Prevent rigidity and stagnation
- Enable Islamic solution for modern challenges
- Protect relevance of Shariah

Imam Ibn Tayimah

Also stressed that Ijtihad changes with time, place and circumstances.

6. Conditions and Limitations of Ijtihad

Ijtihad is something that not everyone is eligible to do it.

A mujtahid or the person that can do ijtihad must possess some qualities

- Mastery of Quran and Sunnah
- Knowledge of Arabic
- Understanding of Maqsid Al-Shariah

All Three are equally essential that is also reflected from the Yemen incident of Maudah Ibn Jabal to whom Prophet (SAW) permitted ijtihad was capable of all these 03 qualities.

The one who lack any of it will lead to wrong or inappropriate outcome.

Critical Analysis

The decline of Ijtihad has led to blind imitation and intellectual paralysis in muslim societies. However unrestricted Ijtihad without scholarly discipline risks misinterpretation. A balanced revival under qualified scholarship is essential.

Do not raise your children according to your own times for they are born for a time other than yours.

Hazrat Ali Ibn

Talib (r.a)

Conclusion

Ijtihad is the intellectual life line of Islamic law. It preserves the universality, flexibility and time less relevance of Islam.

Reviving responsible Ijtihad is indispensable for addressing modern challenges while remaining faithful to divine knowledge and guidance.

When its exercised by qualified scholars within the framework of Maqasid - A-I-Shariah its safeguards the balance between permanence and change.