

LANGAT SINGH COLLEGE

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Department Of Persian



:- ONLINE CLASS E-MATERIAL :-

Topic :- Who will be considered as Caliph according to Islam?

Course No & title :- Per 104 Core (Unit 3) – History Of Islam

By

MD. IMTEYAZ ALAM

Assistant Professor (Guest), Department Of Persian

L. S. College, Muzaffarpur, Bihar

(Call + WhatsApp :- 9031203050) (Email :- imteyazjnu@gmail.com)

Caliphate (Khilaafah) is the general leadership of all the Muslims in the world, which takes care of the affairs of the people by implementing Islam internally and externally. Caliph is also mentioned by the name of Sultan, Imam and Amir in the ahadith of the Prophet (ﷺ).

Hence, anyone who does not have legitimate authority of ruling according to Islam, over the Muslims cannot be considered Caliph in Islam. This definition is derived from Quran and various ahadith of the Prophet Muhammad.

Allah says in the Quran:
“Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good that He will most certainly make them rulers (ليستخلفنهم) in the Earth as He made rulers those before them, and that He will most certainly establish for them their religion, those are the transgressors.” (Al-Quran 24:55)

Which He has chosen for them, and that He will most certainly, after their fear, give them security in exchange; they shall serve Me, not associating aught with Me; and whoever is ungrateful after this

The ayah mentions the word “ليستخلفنهم” i.e. “surely He will grant them Khilaafah” i.e. Allah will establish them as rulers on Earth. The ayah goes on to mention the results of establishment of Caliphate of Islam on the Earth i.e.:



* Their “deen” (way of life) established.

* Their condition of fear will

* They will worship Allah alone i.e. they will implement Islam only.

* They will not associate anyone with Allah i.e. they will not implement any other rule except Islam.

i.e. Islam will be firmly

be replaced with security.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "The Israelis used to be ruled by prophets: Whenever a prophet died, another would take over his place. There will be no prophet after me, but there will be Caliphs who will number many

" The people asked, "O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! What do you order us (to do)?" He said, "Obey the one who will be given the pledge of allegiance first. Fulfil their (i.e. the Caliphs) rights, for Allah will ask them about (any shortcoming) in ruling those Allah has put under their guardianship." (Bukhari)

The two prominent aspects of Caliphate mentioned by the Prophet (ﷺ) in the above hadith are:

1. He will be the ruler who takes care of the affairs of the people.
2. His rule will be established after pledge of allegiance is given by the Muslims.

Regarding Khalifah being a ruler who takes care of the affairs of the people, the greatest evidence of this is Khilafat-e-Rashida after the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) which had rule and authority of Islam, and which defeated both the superpowers (Persia & Rome) and established authority of Islam firmly in the land.

The point regarding pledge of allegiance is that it can only be given to one Caliph at a time. This is because all Muslims are one Ummah, and it is mandatory to have unity of rule in Islam.

Thus there is no concept of multiple states in Islam, whether based on race, nation, region, or language, etc. The obligation of unity of rule in Islam by limiting pledge of allegiance to one Caliph at a time is explicitly mentioned in ahadith of the Prophet

When oath of allegiance has been taken for two caliphs, kill the one for whom the oath was taken later.” (MusliM)

Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: “When you are holding to one single man as your leader, you should kill who seeks to undermine your solidarity or disrupt your unity.” (Muslim)

In another hadith the Prophet (ﷺ) mentioned various stages of rule through which Islamic world will pass till the end of times. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

“The Prophethood will remain amongst you for as long as Allaah wills it to be. Then Allaah will raise it when He wills to raise it. Then there will be the khilaafah upon the Prophetic methodology. And it will last for as long as Allaah wills it to last. Then Allaah will raise it when He wills to raise it. Then there will be biting kingship, and it will remain for as long as Allaah wills it to remain.



Then Allaah will raise it when He wills to raise it. Then there will be tyrannical (forceful) kingship and it will remain for as long as Allaah wills it to remain. Then He will raise it when He wills to raise it. Then there will be a khilaafah upon the Prophetic methodology.”
Then he (the Prophet ﷺ) was silent.
(Abu Dawud, Ahmad)

This hadith clarifies that true Caliphate is in fact establishing the rule upon the Prophetic methodology. Caliphate on the methodology of Prophethood means rule based on Quran and Sunnah. Therefore, any other form of rule based on atheism, communism or secularism e.g. kingship, dictatorship, democracy etc. cannot be considered Caliphate.



Caliphate upon the methodology of Prophethood remained for 30 years after passing away of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) as also mentioned in the hadith i.e.: “The Prophetic khilaafah will last for thirty years. Then Allaah will give the dominion to whomever He wills.” (Abu Dawud). This included the first four Caliphs i.e. Abu Bakr (2 years), Umar (10 years), Uthman (12 years), Ali (6 years) (radiAllaahu anhum).

The later Muslim rulers during Umayyad, Abbasid and Ottoman rule also adopted the title of “Khalifah” but they were deficient to varying degrees in implementing Islam, except a few rulers e.g. Khalifah Umar bin Abdul Aziz (rh), who established the rule completely upon the Prophetic methodology.

This continued for 13 centuries and there were over a hundred Khulafah; thus fulfilling the prophesy of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ): “There will be no prophet after me, but there will be Caliphs who will number many”. The Caliphate of Islam was demolished in 1924 when the last Ottoman Khalifah was removed and exiled.



The above ahadith also make it clear that any self proclaimed individual or leader of a group, or religious leader etc. cannot take the title of Caliph of Islam.

Presently there is no Caliph of Islam, but the above mentioned hadith (...Then there will be a khilaafah upon the Prophetic methodology...) gives glad tidings to the Muslim Ummah of re-establishment of rule of Caliphate upon the methodology of the Prophethood near the end of times, after demise of the present “tyrannical rule” - in sha Allah.

