

Khilafat

the successorship of prophethood

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What does Khalifa mean?

Khalifa

- It is an Arabic word that means successor
- Caliph is sometimes also used for Khalifa
- Khalifa refers to the Islamic spiritual successor

Khalifa

- Allah appoints a Khalifa by guiding a group of pious believers through a process of selection of the Khalifa
- It may apparently seem that the Khalifa is chosen by a group of pious people, but it is in fact the Will of Allah that guides their abilities into choosing the Khalifa of His Choice
- Once a Khalifa is selected, he remains a Khalifa for the rest of his life as a living proof to Allah's Will

What is Khilafat?

Khilafat

- Khilafat refers to the Islamic institution of spiritual successorship
- Khilafat is the most important institution in Islam
- It is established by Allah through His Divine guidance

Khilafat

- It establishes the authority of Allah on Earth, and the Khalifa strives to uphold that authority within the community of followers
- It is a personification of Allah's Unity, as believers choose to take Divine authority through the person of the Khalifa
- The believers share the blessings of Khilafat by holding firm to their faith and practices, united under the Khalifa

Khilafat in The Holy Quran

Surah Al-Nur, Verse 56

Allah has promised to those among you who believe and act righteously, that He will surely make them Successors [Khulafa (plural of Khalifa)] in the Earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion, which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely grant them security and peace in place of their fear; they will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then who so is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious.

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا
الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا
اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ ۖ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ
لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَىٰ لَهُمْ
وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا ۗ
يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا ۗ وَمَنْ
كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ ﴿٥٦﴾

What is the meaning
of this verse?

Clear Cut Promise

- Muslims are openly promised Khilafat or successorship
- This Khilafat will be physical
- A successor of the prophet will lead the entire Umma
- The fulfillment of this promise will depend on Muslims:
 - Observing the Prayer and paying Zakat (Chanda)
 - Obeying the Messenger of Allah in all religious and temporal matters concerning the population
- **Fulfil conditions keep Khilafat**
 - Also will be made leaders of nations
 - Their state of fear will replaced with a condition of safety and security
 - Islam will reign supreme in the world and over the hearts
 - Above all the Oneness and Unity of God - the real purpose and object of Islam - will become firmly established توحيد

Three kinds of Khulafa

Three kinds of Khulafa in Holy Quran

1. Khulafa, who are Prophets such as Adam and David

- About Adam, Allah says in the Quran: "I am about to place a vicegerent in the earth" (*Ch. 2, Verse 31*)
- About David He says: "O David, We have made thee a vicegerent in the earth" (*Ch. 38, Verse 27*)

2. Prophets who are the Khulafa of another and a greater Prophet such as the Israelite Prophets who all were the Khulafa of Moses

- The Quran says: "We have sent down the Torah wherein was guidance and light. By it did the Prophets who were obedient to Us judge for the Jews:" (*Ch. 5, Verse 45*)

3. Non-Prophet Khulafa of a Prophet, with or without temporal powers, such as godly people learned in the Law

- Their mission is to protect and preserve the law from being tampered with

Special Marks and Characteristics of Khulafa

- Appointed Khulafa through Allah's own decree - the hearts of believers become inclined towards them and they voluntarily accept them as their Khalifa
- The religion serving becomes firmly established through their prayers and missionary efforts
- They enjoy composure and peace of mind amidst hardships, adversities or persecution which nothing can disturb
- They worship Allah alone i.e., in the discharge of their great responsibilities, they fear no one and they carry on their duties undaunted and without being discouraged or dismayed by the difficulties that stand in their way

Khilafat in the Hadith

Prophecy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ^{saw}

"Prophethood shall remain among you as long as Allah shall will. He will bring about its end and follow it with Khilafat on the precepts of prophethood for as long as He shall will and then bring about its end. A tyrannical monarchy will then follow and will remain as long as Allah shall will and then come to an end. There will follow thereafter monarchial despotism to last as long as Allah shall will and come to an end upon His decree. There will then emerge Khilafat on precept of Prophethood." The Holy Prophet said no more (*Masnad Ahmad*)

Importance and Significance of Khilafat

