

Truth, Justice and Courage as Basic Elements for Leadership (In Light of Iqbal's Perspective)

Munazza Sultana, Ph.D.
National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad
Munazza_aiou@yahoo.com

Mehreen Danish
National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad
mehreendanish2037@gmail.com

Abstract

Leadership has great importance in conquering the goals or vision of any organization. Allama Muhammad Iqbal's rousing thoughts and motivational poetry influence leaders to achieve the anticipated nation's goals. His philosophical views of leadership give high vision, future hope and self-awareness to the Muslims as well as all the people around the world. Effective leadership creates an inclusive environment, creativity, encouragement and a trustworthy atmosphere. This paper illustrates the traits and ethics according to Iqbal's philosophy for good leadership. According to him, leadership based on moral values and strong objectives provides direction for the nation and motivates people to attain their objectives with strong visions. Addressing the research question, "What are the fundamental elements of good leadership from the perspective of Allama Iqbal?" Data is gathered through research and observations and from the study approaches to qualitative, descriptive and analytical methodology. It is concluded that Allama Iqbal's leadership views focus on credence in faith, Khudi, courage, moral character, justice and truth. Virtuous leaders influence others with good conduct, guide them efficiently and increase productivity. It is necessary for the reliability of a good leader that they should be responsive, a good decision maker, have an understanding of traditional and modern knowledge with honor, truth, courage, transparency, integrity and honesty. Intellectual doctrines and spiritual morality of a leader can achieve high ambitions and revive the position of the Muslim Ummah at the global level. It is recommended that in the contemporary world, people need to evoke and unite under the umbrella of Allama Iqbal's rational views of leadership, because a true visionary leader with a great mind and religious vision always raises his nation to the sky.

Keywords: Allama Iqbal, courage, leadership, Khudi, morality

Leadership is a driven motivational force to bring change in a society and to run the system of a society with strong values. Leadership plays an important role in achieving the goals and aims of a nation. A leader with high aims can take his population to the skies with high attributes and traits. Nowadays, in this complex, technological, networking, and business environment, leaders face many challenges. To reduce the ambiguity and intricacy of the people, great leadership with high qualities and vision is needed. This can be seen in the model demonstrated by our great leader, Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Dr Muhammad Iqbal is an impressive activist, proficient philosopher and important poet. He is considered as a father of the Muslim homeland Pakistan. He enraptured the attributes of a leader based on Islamic religious laws and reconciled the ideas of Muslims.

The contemporary vigorous environment demands you to have a true visionary leader having the attributes of *Mard-e-Momin*, illustrated by Iqbal's perspective of leadership. A leader who can face challenges, give solutions to the problem, is dedicated and self-determinant. There have been many studies taken before on leadership and its principles distinguished feature of this study is that it centered on leadership, specifically from Iqbal's perspective, who is our most renowned poet and leader of the nation.

Aims and Objectives

The main objective of this study is to explore the importance of leadership and Iqbal's perspective regarding leadership attributes. This study intended to answer these research questions:

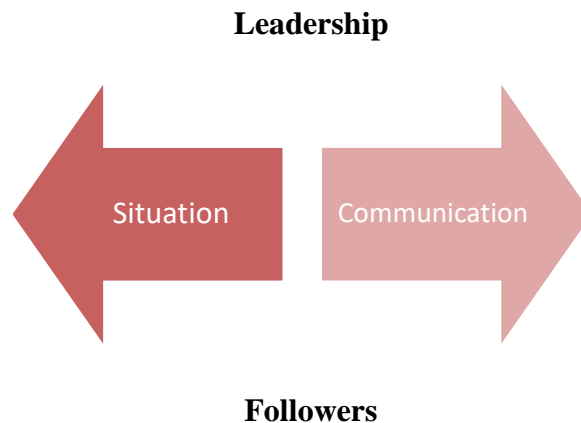
1. How leadership plays role in Nation building?
2. What is the perspective of Iqbal regarding political affairs and leadership?
3. What are the attributes of a good leader according to the Iqbal's vision?

Concept of Leadership

Leadership is the progression of running an organization's system by a person in the most lucid and cohesive way. People are directed by the traits, knowledge and skills of a leader and follow his guidance to achieve a goal (Arthur, 1982). Leadership is the mode of interaction between a leader, supporters and a situation. Leadership behaviors vary from society to society.

Figure 1

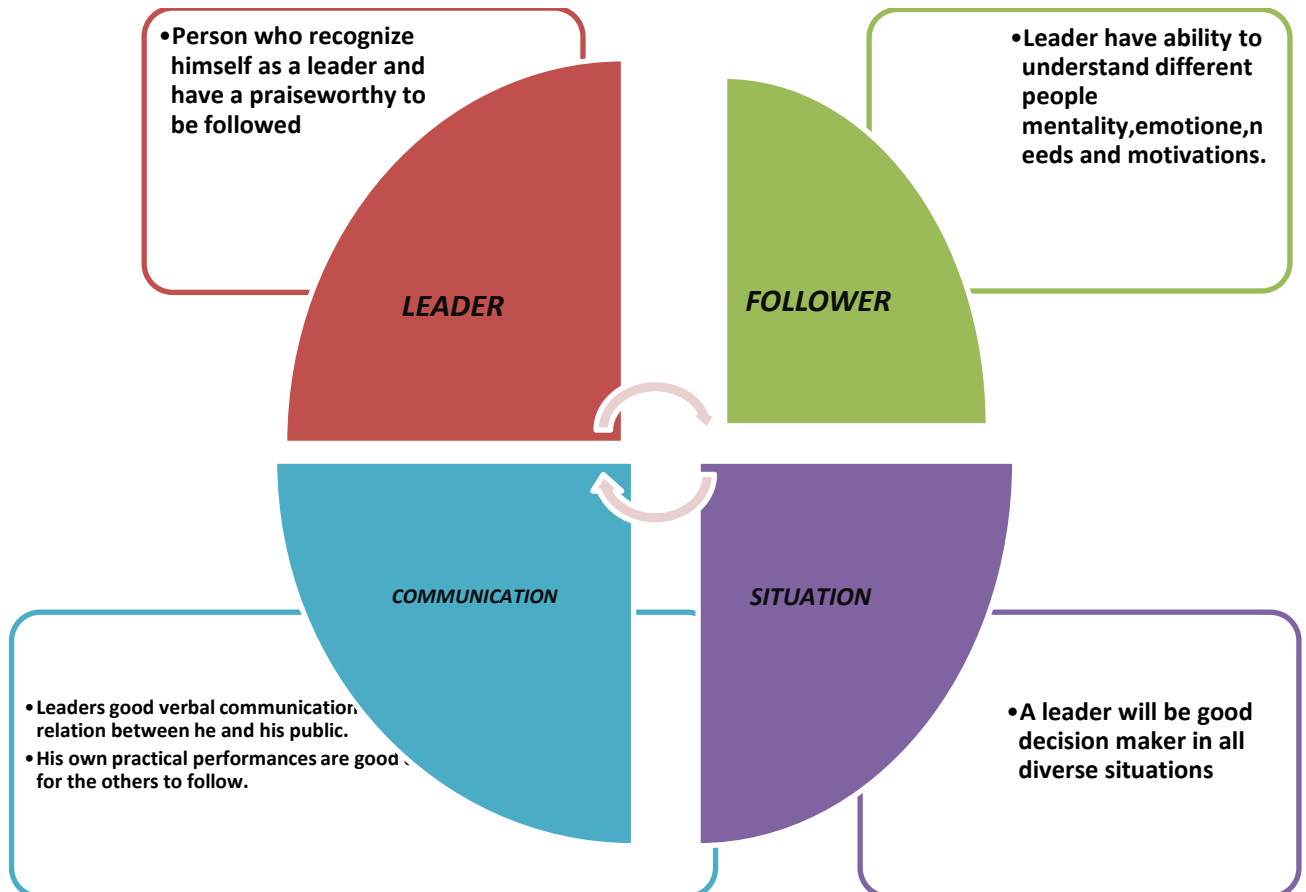
Leadership Mode



Note: This figure determines the manner of collaboration between a leader and follower by the circumstances they are facing while living in a community.

The place's evolving culture and religion affect leadership manners. A nation's success or failure depends on leadership style. Good leadership influences and inspires others and, under positive guidance, achieves goals. Leaders are actually intuitive, not to be made, while the traits, attributes and skills regarding leadership are learned and influenced by their beliefs and character.

This shows that leadership has mainly four factors (Mischel, 1968, p. 382-384) indicated in the figure given below.

Figure 2*Factors of Leadership*

Note: This figure shows the leadership dynamics and a short briefing on their functionality.

People obey and follow a leader who is being honored, trusted and gains respect within a society by his ethical behavior and character. To be an effective leader, a person must need to follow the following ***principles*** (Sharma & Jain, 2013, p. 312-314):

- **Self-improvement:** Continually firming your own characteristics. Being responsible for your actions: take accurate actions according to the situations and being responsible for them.
- **Role model for people:** To be not only verbal but practically set examples for others to develop good traits in them.
- **Sincerity of working for the wellbeing of people:** To be loyal to your work and sincerely work for their beneficiary.
- **Good communication with people:** a leader must have a relationship with his followers through coordination, evaluation and supervision.

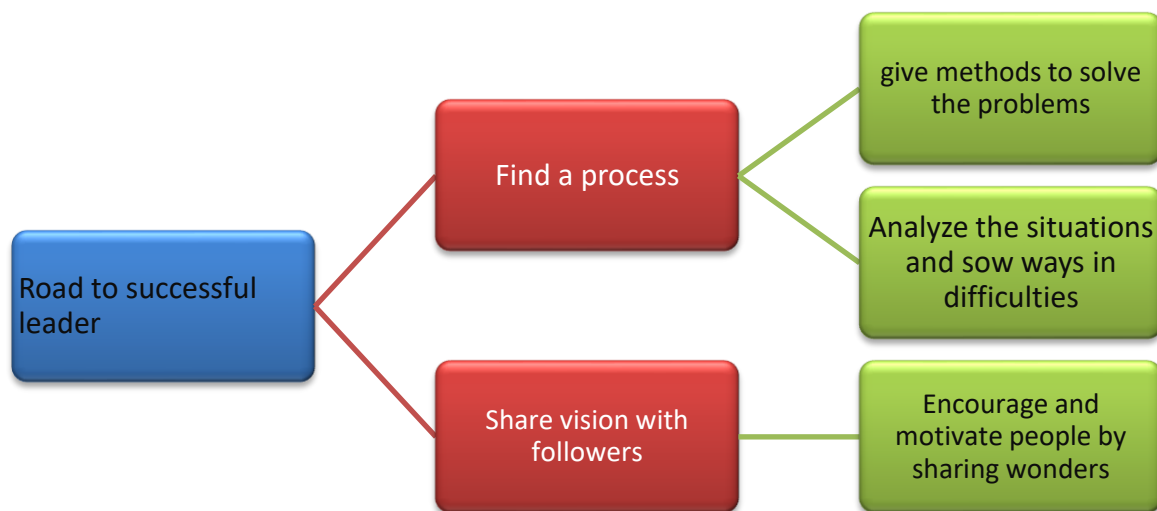
- **Set high standards and goals:** Success is based on a leader who works to achieve high-valued objectives and methods.

By following these principles, a person will be an inspiring leader, achieve his goals and motives and will be a successful leader.

Furthermore, a leader must have to go through five steps to achieve a goal. This can be explained more in the given chart (Abu-Tineh et al., 2008, p. 266-269):

Figure 3

Road to successful Leader



Note: This figure shows a map illustrating the stages, a leader must need to follow to achieve a goal or accomplish the objectives.

Allama Iqbal as A Political Philosopher:

Allama Muhammad Iqbal, a prodigious philosopher, thinker, national poet and a lawyer. He participated with his poetry in the ideology of Pakistan. He has an ardent attention towards political issues and solving the social matters of the people. He guided people through proses. His thoughts and process were based on Islamic values, and he tried to solve political and social affairs in the light of Islam. According to his philosophy, politics and religion have a strong relationship. Both cannot be separated. As Iqbal said:

"Islam has a far deeper significance for us than merely religious; it has a peculiarly national meaning, so that our communal life is unthinkable without a firm grasp of the Islamic principle. The idea of Islam is, so to speak, our eternal home or country wherein we live, travel and have our being. To us, it is above everything else, as England is above all to the Englishman and Deutschland uber allesto the German. The moment, our grasp of the Islamic Principle is looseness that solidarity of our community is gone" (Sherwani, 1995, p. 125).

جلالِ پادشاہی ہو کہ جمہوری تماشا ہو
جدا ہو دیں سیاست سے تو رہ جاتی ہے چنگیزی

(Khazni, 2006, p. 387)

It means that if the state parted away from religious conviction, then it will turn itself into an autocracy. When religion and political affairs get separated, then the rubrics of materialism and voracity are set. Iqbal gives importance to both the state and individual at an equal level. According to his sayings, both are interdependent on each other, the state's progress depends on the individual's worth and individuals their survival and self-spirituality depends on society or state. A society establishes rules and legislation for the welfare and obeying of man and a man under these regulations can utilize his aptitudes to achieve his aims.

افراد کے ہاتھوں میں ہے اقوام کی تقدیر
ہر فرد ہے ملت کے مقدر کا ستارا

Fortunes of States through individual prowess ripen
Each man one star of their ascendant (Destiny) (Khazni, 2006, p. 320)

Iqbal was always in favor of a democratic state or government based on *Aqeedah Tawheed* and the Islamic creed. In his view, no doubt, the public has the right to choose its leader or representative representatives, but both leaders and the public will work by following the commands of Allah Almighty, as the absolute power is of God Almighty. This concept of Democracy is called, in Iqbal's view, democracy as "*Spiritual Democracy*", which can be better understood in his sayings as:

"The democracy of Islam did not grow out of the extension of economic opportunity, it is a spiritual principle based on the assumption that every human being is a center of latent power, the possibilities of which can be developed by cultivating a certain type of character, out of the plebeian material. Islam has formed a man of the noblest type of life and power." (Sherwani, 1995, p. 125)

Iqbal wanted this point of spiritual democracy to be followed by every Muslim in the whole world to regain their position, dignity, prosperity and peace. He actually desires the eradication of every type of monarchy or feudalism. In his view, a man's faith, religious values and culture are above all patriotism or nationalism (Tayib & Perveen, 2018).

Allama Iqbal's Perspective on Leadership

The philosophical and poetic work of Iqbal was not limited to the individual level, but he actually wanted to reform the whole Muslim society through his work. Allama Iqbal's concept of *Mard-e-Momin* brings an exemplary model of leadership in front of Muslims to face without any fear and release them from the foreign rulers at that time. He raises the voice for liberty and self-determination of humanity.

Moreover, his idea of *khudi* led him to the concept of leadership. He demonstrated that for a good leader, self-realization is needed. A leader must have ideology, vision and spiritual values to achieve the goals of the nation. A nation's success and deterioration depend on the role of leadership. He further explains traits of leadership through his perception of *Meer-e-Karwan*, *Khudi* and *Mard-e-Momin* in his writings, such as:

Table 1

Iqbal Books on Leadership

Sr.No	Names of Books	Main Ideas
1)	<i>Bal-e-Jabril</i>	In this book he promoted right idealistic Muslim leader. According to his thoughts, a religious leader can raise his nation to the sky more than an average leader.
2)	<i>Ilm-ul-Iqtasad</i>	It discusses Economic matters, wealth and its consumption by human beings.
3)	<i>Bang-e Dara</i>	First poetic exertion of philosophy of Iqbal. It discusses culture, human behaviors, faith, ethics, religious moral character conveyed with actual leadership to achieve community goals and objectives. He always encourages his people to face hardships and challenges with courage and bravery. (Mohomed, 2014, p. 317-339) This book explores his vision of unifying every Muslim believing in Divine power living independently or socially.
4)	<i>Zarb-e-Kalim</i>	This book consists of poems demonstrating leadership such as <i>Mard-e- Musliman</i> (describe spiritual and ethical characteristics of a true leader who follow orders of Allah Almighty.

Leadership Traits According to Iqbal's Perspective

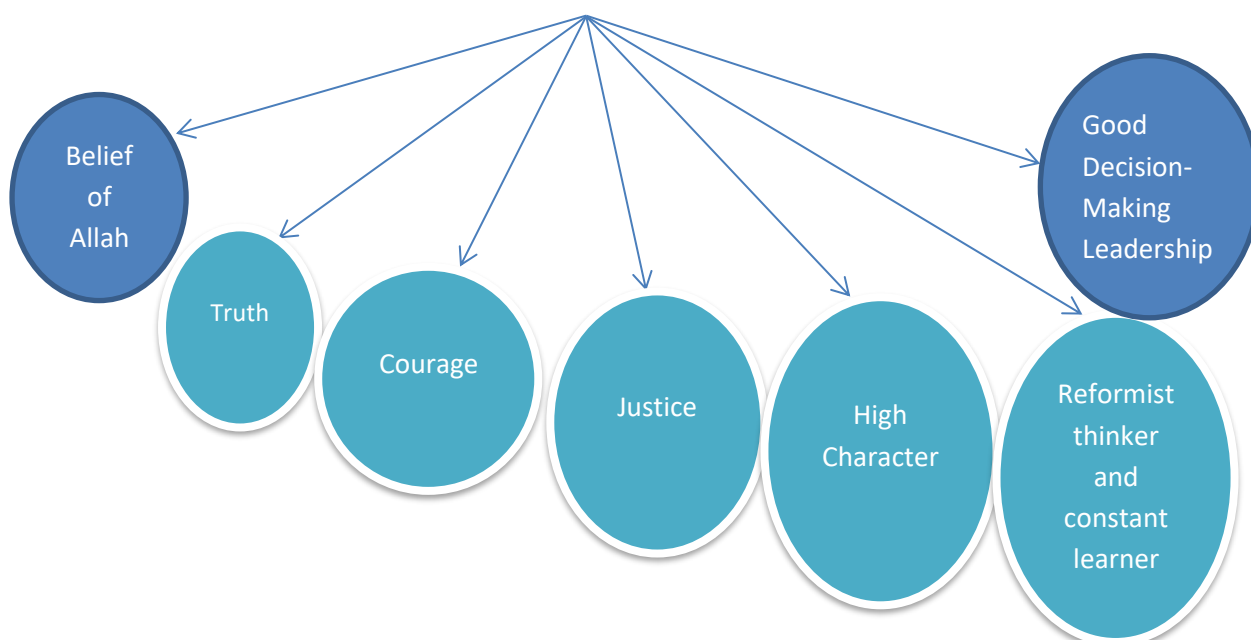
Allama Muhammad Iqbal promoted his philosophy of leadership through his poetry. He explains the traits and qualities of leadership that a true leader must have for the nation's success and achievement of goals. His main theme regarding leadership is a true visionary religious leader. According to his perspective, a leader with high ambitions, visions, self-reclamation, moral character and righteousness can achieve high goals and ambitions. (Bibi, 2013).

According to Iqbal's perspective, leadership is not just giving orders, scheduling meetings, making rules to subordinates and giving opinions on yearly performances, but it's more than this, a difficult job with special learning, skills, dedication and working for the human welfare and high achievements. For a true leader, you must have the following qualities:

Figure 3

Leadership traits in light of Iqbal's perspective- Meer e Karwan

(A leader who set aims before moving ahead and work hard with the nation to achieve the goals)



Belief in Allah

Faith in Allah is the root of all other traits of a virtuous frontrunner. A leader with a strong belief in Allah Almighty who has the supreme power to control and manage all Universes. He is the only Creator, and every human being will be accountable on the Day of Judgment for his or her good or bad actions. Deep conviction of a Muslim leader conducting these sets of beliefs and principles can give more reliance and foster them towards good conduct and behavior (Safi, 1995).

فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ

“And when you are resolved on a course of action place your trust in Allah; surely Allah loves those who put their trust (in Him)” (Al Imran; 3:159)

Truthfulness and Courage

A true leader always believes in reality, he himself is a man of faith, belief and surrender in front of God's will. While utilizing his power, he remembers to act like a servant of Allah almighty. According to Dr. Muhammad Maruf:

"Religious experience differs from various types of non-religious experience in that it involves an intimate union with some divine object, or at least a search for such a union. But for this, the experience would have to be religious in the proper sense" (Maruf, 2003, p. 202)

A leader fears to be asked for all his sayings and actions which lead him towards piety, truthfulness and righteousness. He knows that Allah is one Divine power, nothing can do without His will and order, a man is His creation that is answerable in front of Him for all his deeds and sayings.

ہر لحظہ ہے مومن کی نئی شان، نئی آن
گفتار میں، کردار میں، اللہ کی برہان!

A leader is a man following Gods order in every moment of his Life.

In his speaking, character, he is representative of God Almighty (Khan, 2022, p. 126-128)

Iqbal's *Mard-e Momin* is very polite, soft-spoken and very conscious while choosing words based on truth and reality. Truthfulness leads to honesty and trustworthiness. A leader with a high moral truthfulness has an inspiring and effective influence on others. The spirit of truth and fact took him on the road of fearfulness, confidence and impudence.

آئین نو سے ڈرنا، طرز کھن پہ اڑنا
منزل یہی کٹھن ہے قوموں کی زندگی میں

To be afraid of the new ways, to insist on the old ones

This is the only difficult stage in the life of nations (Iqbal, 2014, p. 185)

A true farsighted leader always faces problems and difficulties with bravery, truth and fearless.

Justice

Justice is another important characteristic that a leader must retain. Islam is the religion of equality; all human beings are equal with no discrimination of color, caste and race. Human beings are created without any nationality discrimination and race differences. All are equal in front of Allah; the preferences are based on the level of belief and faith. A good leader possessing this Islamic law tries to raise justice and equality within a society. While practically implementing this law, there will be no difference between rich or poor, and black or white is taken into account.

Dr. Iqbal's perspective about the Caliph's fortunate position is the same as the other ordinary wealthy people within the state. He is honored and respected but, in a way, to give separate dignity and facilitations in respect of his position. Moreover, every Muslim has a right to criticism or legal objection of the leader. In return, he is responsible for answering without any personal rage or revenge. Equality and justice are the main factors bringing peace, harmony and success to society.

High Character

A leader is a role model for his followers. He set examples for others by his character and acts. Through his daily vows and deeds, he creates momentum and improvement. A worthy

leader lives through values, standards and advocates that pursue his goals and aims. Moreover, it motivates others to work and behave with principles. A practitioner leader believes that the reliability between words and deeds builds his sincerity as a metamorphosis leader. (Abu-Tineh et al., 2008, p. 269)

Iqbal emphasizes that an ethical leader plays a vital role in future progress. With the advancement of modern technologies in society, high character, standards and ethical considerations are very crucial to be seen. Iqbal moral teachings on performing responsibilities and decision-making, even in more difficult situations, are guidelines for future leaders. (Butt & Aijaz, 2023, p. 18)

Reformist Thinker and Constant Learner

Iqbal stated that a true leader is very innovative who always derives visions and inspires others through his dynamic thoughts and ideas. A good leader curious to learn about developmental changes and advancements. He always gets close to the upcoming inventions. He tries to learn not when it is required, but he is always keen to learn about new things.

ترے علم و محبت کی نہیں ہے انتہا کوئی
نہیں ہے تجھ سے بڑھ کر سازِ فطرت میں نوا کوئی

No edges are there to your acquaintance and affection

No descant in the environment is superior to you (Kezar, 2004, p. 10-31).

He encourages the work of others and does not even hesitate to learn from subordinates. A great leader believes that learning and awareness today will make use of tomorrow, which motivates him to acquire knowledge, informative and innovative

Good Decision Maker

A sound body has a sound mind. Physical strength with mental health is more important for a good leader so that he will be able to take the right decisions at the right time. Iqbal emphasizes that a righteous leader can make the right decisions with mutual consultation (Hoque et al., 2020, p. 92). The Holy Prophet (PBUH) also asks his companions to know their opinions before making the final decision. Allah also said in the Quran:

وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورَىٰ بَيْنَهُمْ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ

“Who obey their Lord and establish Prayer: who conduct their affairs by consultation, and append out of what We have bestowed upon them” (Al Shoorah: 42/38)

Challenges Faced by Leadership in Contemporary Era

In the contemporary world, the Muslim Ummah is inciting various issues like radicalism, a frail economy, sectarianism, ignorance and ethical uncertainty. In these circumstances, Iqbal's thoughts are more applicable to resolving these problems as, at this time, is the same situation encountered by Muslim communities. Iqbal is an honest forerunner of his time. His fantasies and thoughts reflect his vision of Islam as a pacesetter youth of the Muslim

Ummah. His Islamic perspective depends on the comprehension of the Quran with conventional qualities and logical methodology. His philosophical notions were influenced by the conventional familial Islamic society and revitalized an ethical framework. His psyche comprehends the present marvel and world occasions. He thought that the western world was affecting the current Muslim societies. He was displeased with the materialistic perspective of western culture which turned humans as a tool gyrating around his own body, which results in the distinction of soul, religion and body, deterioration of individuals and separation of Divine salvation. Despite criticism of all Western society components and premises, he identifies their endeavors in science and innovation.

Iqbal indicates that the contemporary world needs to reestablish a moral framework and strong faith in today's youth. Iqbal emphasizes that following Islam, which is the modern world requisite for the deliverance from the current topographical constraint. Islam is the communal binding power religion that establishes ethnicity standards. (Abassi, 2021, p. 270). The current community occasions and situation we all live in is in need to grasp Iqbal's vision. According to him, today's leaders should need to show high moral standards and character by following God's ascribes and ought to be exemplary in front of other nation to regain his worth and independence. A true Muslim leader is not a ruler but a man who values communism, patriotism and a truly insightful forerunner. While utilizing Iqbal's thoughts, we can struggle together for the nation's progression.

Conclusion

Allama Iqbal gives, through his poetic work, a model of leadership which is at a high level of righteousness. He understood that Muslims were facing territory, cultural and racial differences. Gradually, they are losing their position and this deterioration of the Muslim Ummah is due to lack of true guidance and leadership. It's time to awake Muslims and remind them of their current duties and current the welfare of the whole humanity based on just faith. Through his poetic writings he motivates Muslims and strengthened them with true religious norms and values. In the contemporary world, it is required to raise the Muslim Ummah as a nation built on Divine laws and commands through true visionary leadership. Leadership on Iqbal attributes can retain their identity and political power. According to Iqbal, political thoughts are based on religious thoughts, and both cannot be separated, Iqbal called it spiritual democracy. Individuals utilize their abilities and can survive within a society. A social man with true norms and values such as truth, justice, courage, morality and continuous learning etc. can lead the whole Muslim Ummah as a servant of God Almighty and bring peace, power, security and prosperity.

Today, Pakistani leaders forget the message of Iqbal for which a separate Islamic state is established. Political leaders depend on Western thoughts and power, due to which Pakistan's honor at international level is totally damaged. Pakistan is facing a political crisis: extremism, provincialism and terrorism. For the reconstruction of Pakistan's state with resilient Islamic ideological norms and the regain of lost glory, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal's vision and guidance for strong visionary leadership must follow.

نہیں ہے نا اُمید اقبال اپنی کشتِ ویراں سے
ذرا نم ہو تو یہ مٹی بہت زرخیز ہے ساقی

Iqbal is never forlorn of his desolate lands,
with a tiny moistness, this earth is tremendously productive. (Khazni, 2006, p. 311)

In the contemporary world, the Muslim community is facing various issues of radicalism, ignorance, sectarianism and philosophical uncertainty. In these circumstances, Iqbal's moderate content of thinking and revolutionary measures, studied as a worldwide are substantially more pertinent to fixing the problems and turn out to be auxiliary applicable. Iqbal raises young people's spirits to advance the nation by employing their strong imaginations and ideas. It is needed to teach Iqbal theory and contents to the youth generation through genuine motivational elegies by instructing them in our fundamentals rather than few conventional limericks.

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