

Week 3

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Historical Background of Muslim Nationalism – Allam Iqbal Muslim Nationalism and Iqbal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Iqbal and Muslim Nationalism• His Political Struggle and vision for a new Muslim State• His concept of Khudi and Muslim Nationalism
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Allama Iqbal's Nationalism and Vision about Muslim State

Introduction:

Allama Iqbal is counted among the great leaders who worked hard to build Pakistan. Allama Iqbal is the National poet of Pakistan. He was not only a poet but also a politician and philosopher. He made Quran and Sunnah his guide to understand the mysteries of life. This is the reason why the reflection of Quranic thought is clearly visible in his poetry. He showed the Indian Muslims the way out of the intellectual decline at a time when darkness was everywhere.

Allama Iqbal's Nationalism:

A **Nationalist Muslim** is the one who believed in Indian Nationalism based on Indian society and soil.

A **Muslim Nationalist** is the one who considered himself a Muslim first and Indian afterwards. He believed in the separateness of Muslims as a nation.

In **1905**, Allama Iqbal traveled to Europe, which he himself says made him a Muslim. Before going to Europe, he was influenced by Western ideas. In which the effects of patriotism were prominent. And these influences can be seen in the famous poem of this period "**Tirana Hindi**".

سارے جہاں سے اچھا ہندوستان ہمارا

ہم بلبلیں ہیں اس کی یہ گلستاں ہمارا

How did the change occur?

The trip to Europe provided an opportunity to observe Western civilization with open eyes. This is the reason why, on returning from the trip to Europe, he became disgusted with Western civilization and turned to Islamic concepts. Which was expressed in the form of the poem "**Tirana Milli**". That was the era of **1908** and this is where Iqbal's poetry begins, which showed Muslims the straight path.

چین و عرب ہمارا ہندوستان ہمارا

مسلم ہیں ہم وطن ہے سارا جہاں ہمارا

The Purpose:

The period in which Iqbal born was the period of the decline of Muslims. India was out of the hands of the Muslims and after the War of Independence **1857**, the British held the Muslims

responsible for it. The British and Hindus did everything to suppress Muslims after the war. A large group of Hindus was with the Muslims but they told the government that they were not a party against the British government in the war.

- They Killed the Muslims
- Snatched their business and properties
- The Muslims were expelled from the government jobs
- They were not allowed to receive education in government institutions
- Their Massajids and Madrassas were closed
- The Muslims were made a down-trodden and suppressed race

In short, the Muslims were completely crushed economically and socially. In this situation, Allah Almighty sent many great leaders to help the Muslims. Allama Iqbal was one of them. Allama Iqbal came to protect the Muslims. Iqbal used poetry as a means to awaken the Muslim Ummah. In this poetry, his important concepts are revealed.

وہ زمانے میں معزز تھے مسلمان ہو کر

اور تم خوار ہوئے تارک قرآن ہو کر

The Concept of “Khuddi”:

Iqbal's conception of "**Khuddi**" is a mixture of two things. **Self-awareness** and **self-reliance**. Self-awareness means that a person knows his abilities and self-reliance means that a person should rely only on himself and create his own resources. Iqbal wants to say that when a person recognizes himself, he does not depend on others, does not extend his hand, but becomes self-reliant. Thus his self is awakened.

Three stages of self-fulfillment have also been described:

- The **first step** to self-fulfillment is **obedience**. It means that one's actions should be adapted according to the commands of God. Man should not do anything that is against the will of God or the Sunnah of the Prophet.
- The **second stage** is **self-control**, which means that people learn to control their desires. It does not mean that a person should not have any desire throughout his life, but that he should not have any desire that would cause him to deviate from the straight path.
- The **third stage** of self-fulfillment is divine agency, that man, being the vicegerent of Allah, **fulfills the responsibilities** imposed on him in an efficient manner.

When all these stages are completed, self-fulfillment is achieved and the entire universe comes under the control of man.

خودی کو کر بلند اتنا کہ ہر تقدیر سے پہلے

خدا بندے سے خود پوچھے بتا تیری رضا کیا ہے

The Concept of “Nationhood”:

The concept that Iqbal emphasized the most on his return from his trip to Europe was the concept of nationhood. In his poetry, Iqbal pointed out that **Muslims are an ummah** instead of a nation. The basis of which is not based on color, race, language, or geography, but on faith.

ایک ہوں مسلم حرم کی پاسبانی کے لیے

نیل کے ساحل سے لے کر تابخاک کا شجر

Iqbal stressed that the Nation of Islam should not be treated like the Western nations, which are entangled in the division of color, language, and race. In his opinion, the composition of the Muhammadan Ummah is different from that of the western nations.

اپنی ملت پر قیاس اقوام مغرب سے نہ کر
خاص ہے ترکیب میں قوم رسول ہاشمی

The Message of Iqbal:

Iqbal's message was the message of Islam. He has chosen pearls from the sea of the Quran for his poetry. Quran is a constitution of life that is needed by every human being. Which dominates every field of life, be it religious or worldly, political or social, intellectual or theoretical. Through his poetry, Iqbal told the Muslims that if they want to survive, they have to take guidance from the Quran.

کی محمد سے وفا تو نے تو ہم تیرے ہیں
یہ جہاں چیز ہے کیا لوح و قلم تیرے ہیں

The Concept of "Two Nation Theory":

Allama Iqbal categorically stated that the Hindus and the Muslims could not coexist in one state and that Muslims would sooner or later succeed in establishing their own independent state. He rejected the idea of one nation in the sub-continent and advocated the separate nationhood of Muslims. Muslims claimed an independent state and were determined to remain an independent organization. Muslims believe in their own religion, practice different traditions, and have their own history and cultural heritage. Continuing an independent existence and enjoying all human rights was their right and that was not possible in undivided India.

Allama Iqbal, at the annual general meeting of the All India Muslim League held in Allahabad in 1930, declared Islam the complete norm of life and called for the establishment of a Muslim state in the north-west of the subcontinent. **Iqbal clarified:**

"India is not a country, it is a sub-continent of human beings belonging to different languages and practicing different religions. The Muslim nation has its own religious and cultural identity."

The Concept of "New State":

Iqbal had a painful heart. His heart was full of love for the nation. He used to agonize after seeing the devastation of the Muslims. He saw that Hindus were united and Muslims were scattered in the Indian subcontinent. He carefully examined the reality and came to the conclusion that Hindus and Muslims cannot be one and it will be impossible for them to live together. The culture, society, and religious values of both are different. They have no common value. On the other hand, Hindu's narrow view cannot see Muslims flourishing in any field of life. Therefore, his intellectual nature dreamed of a free homeland for Muslims in which they would live according to their history, traditions, and civilization.

The suggestion for the establishment of a **"Unified Muslim state"** in India, contained in his presidential address at the All India Muslim League session at Allahbad in 1930, was not only visionary and creative but also pragmatic. He delivered his historical speech, in which he laid down his conceptual scheme with these words:

"I would like to see the Punjab, NWFP, Sindh, and Baluchistan amalgamated into a single state, self-governing within the British Empire or without the British Empire.....The formation of a consolidated North-West Indian Muslim state appears to me to be the final destiny of the Muslims at least of North West India."

For the realization of this dream, his foresight chose a person like Quaid-e-Azam. Who fought the case of Pakistan with great success. His sincerity was so attractive that all the Muslims of India were drawn to him like a thirsty person to water. Under the vision of Iqbal and the

guidance of Quaid-e-Azam, Muslims demanded Pakistan. For this, they sacrificed their life, wealth, and honor and laid the foundation of Pakistan.

Conclusion:

In short, Iqbal is not just a poet but he is a great poet who lights a lamp on dark paths. Who shows the way to the lost. Who informs about destinations in darkness. Undoubtedly, such great leaders are born only in centuries.