**Ijtihad-Personal Reasoning**

The main difference between Ijtihad and the revealed sources of Shariah:

* Ijtihad is a continuous process of development
* Divine revelation and Prophetic legislation stopped with the prophet’s demise.

The validity of Ijtihad:

Its harmony is checked with the (Quran and Sunnah-monolithic).

-Harmony between revelation and reason.

The difference between maslahah and istihsan is largely procedural, for they are essentially the same, the one being reflective of the Maliki and the other of the Hanafi approach to ijtihad.

Root word:

**Jahada-** striving, or self-exertion, in any activity which entails a hardship.

Juridically, Ijtihad is not only physical but also intellectual exertion.

Ijtihad is defined as the total expenditure of effort made by the jurist in order to infer with a degree of probability, the rules of shariah from their detailed evidences in the sources.

Inference-istinbat

Probability-zann

Ilm-positive knowledge

Ijtihad essentially consists of an interference (istinbat) that amount to a probability(zann) thereby excluding the extraction of ruling from a clear text.

Ijitihad is basically a formation of an opinion in regard to hukum shari.

The definition of ijtihad precludes self-exertion by a layman in the interference of ahkam.

Detailed evidence found in the Quran and Sunnah are:

* Evidence which is decisive both in respect of authenticity and meaning
* Evidence which is authentic but speculative in meaning
* That which is doubtful in authenticity, but definite in meaning
* Evidence which is speculative in respect both of authenticity and meaning

Ijtihad applies to all three except the first one.

The practice of ijtihad is a religious duty(collective obligation)

Wajib on a person(mujtahid having most of the knowledge with evidences)

When a mujtahid exerts himself and derives the ruling of a particular issue on the basis of probability but after a period of time changes his opinion on the same issue he may set aside or change is the initial ruling if this would only affect him personally/