

## Iqbal's concept of Ego

Allama Iqbal was the greatest philosopher poet of the modern era. In his famous poetic work **Asrar-e-Khudi**, Iqbal gave his concept of **Self** and **Ego**. According to Iqbal, the whole universe obeys the will of the **"Self"**. He condemns self-destruction. For him, the **aim of life** is **self-realizing** and **self-knowledge**. The significance of the Self in an individual is that it is the source through which one can bring oneself closest to the Ultimate Self. Iqbal calls Ego (**Khudi**) the highest form of the self in which the individual becomes a self-contained exclusive centre. Physically as well as spiritually, man is a self-contained centre, but he is not yet a complete individual. According to Iqbal,

***"The greater his distance from God, the less his individuality. He who comes nearest to God is the completest person".***

According to Iqbal man is the **care-taker of all possibilities of life**; (in a verse he says: '**Tiree fitrat ameen hai mumkinat-i zindgani Ki,**'

***(Your nature is care-taker of the possibilities of life).***

In fact the human being is the master of both the seen and the unseen as well as capable of exploring what is still not known to the temporal eye. It is one's self which is capable of seeing and doing what apparently looks a miracle. The self in an individual is **speculative and also possesses a sharp insight** that sees the whole. It sees not merely the observable part of an object but the whole of it. There are **signs of God's existence everywhere** in the universe even in man himself. God says to us:

***"ON EARTH AND IN YOURSELVES, THERE ARE SIGNS FOR FIRM BELIEVERS. CAN YOU NOT SEE?"***

Therefore man has to understand himself first in order to have an understanding of the ultimate self i.e. God.

According to Iqbal,

***"The Ego is fortified by love (Ishq)".***

Iqbal has used this word in the sense of the **desire to assimilate, to absorb**. Its highest form is the creation of values and ideals and the endeavor to realize

them. Love individualizes the lover as well as the beloved. This means that love is the foundation material of every thing including self-knowledge. Iqbal says in ***Asrar-e-Khudi***:

***“Love is the foundation of life, Love is the flashing sword of death.***

***The hardest rocks are shivered by love’s glance.”***

According to Iqbal, the *Ego* has to pass through three stages to attain uniqueness:

- 1 – Obedience to the law
- 2 - Self control which is the highest form of self-consciousness and Ego-hood.
- 3- Divine vicegerency

This divine vicegerency (*niyabat-e-ilahi*) is the third and last stage of human development on earth. The *na’ib* is the vicegerent of God on earth. He is the completest Ego, the goal of humanity, the acume of life both in mind and body; in him the discord of our mental life becomes a harmony. And this highest power is united in him with the highest knowledge

