

Dr. Muhammad Iqbal and His Efforts to Re-unite Muslim World

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Dr. Iqbal “The poet of east” was greatly moved with down fall of Ottoman Empire and and disappointed by Muslims as a whole. He through his poetry tried to awaken the Muslims specially to youth. He reminded them their glorious period and now where they have fallen. He blamed them that it is all their fault of down fall because they forgot their religion, their traditions, ethics and character of leadership. In this article we will point out in Iqbal’s Poetry and try to motivate the youg generation.

Keywords: Dr. Iqbal and his poetry, Concept of khudi, Fall of Ottoman Empire

Introduction

Dr. Mohammad Iqbal, who is commonly known as Poet of the East. He is a national hero of Pakistan and his philosophy and poetry had no borders. He is a hero of the Islamic world, who played such a great and vital role in the birth of Pakistan. His contribution is not only limited to birth of a new state Pakistan but he worked for entire Muslim Ummah. His mind was deeply affected by down fall of Ottoman Empire and Muslim Ummah was divided into small countries and their identity was lost. His poetry is full of poems and verses to awake the Muslims and it reminds their time of glory.

He was the first person, who dreamed to advocate the formation of independent Muslim state for the subcontinent. In 1930, he was President of the Muslim League; he used this as political platform to launch the concept of a separate homeland for Muslims. The feeling of separate entity had its foundations not only in religion and culture but also in history because Muslims were inheritors of Western supremacy for more than 700 years. The Hindus aim was different; they constituted the majority community under the Indian National Congress party, and developed the concept of composite nationalism which was supposed to be broadly Indian government representing all religious communities, including Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and the rest. The masses of Muslim community did not accept the concept of composite Indian nationalism. Iqbal was the only major influencing personality in sharpening the feeling of Muslim separateness on the basis of religion, history, tradition, and culture. He believed in activism, which was the corner stone of Iqbal’s philosophical thinking. It had a direct relationship with the aspirations of the rising middle class of the Muslim Community.

As the years passed by the conflict between the Hindus and Muslims became more and more serious and bloodily acute. Thousands of Muslims were being killed on daily basis.

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Iqbal in his address at Allahabad in December 1930 voiced the demand for a separate Muslim state on the bases of their different culture, values, and religion saying “I would like to see the Punjab, North-West Province, Sind and Baluchistan amalgamated into a single state which should be the final destiny of the Muslims.”

It was apparently that the purpose of creation of a separate Muslim state was two-fold. One was to end the Hindu-Muslim rising conflict and two was to enable Islam to play its role as a cultural force.

Iqbal was greatly impressed and inspired by Kamala Atatürk’s Modern Turkey. It was the only Muslim country which was trying to fulfill Islam’s commitment to history. Iqbal’s Poetry and Philosophy was focused on following key features:

- Awakening consciousness of youth and nation.
- Character building under the shadow of Islam.
- Selfness or “Khuddi” concept.
- Reminding and connecting youth with their glorious past.
- Reunification of Muslim World.

Awakening Consciousness of Youth and Nation

Iqbal’s main target was to awaken the youth and nation. His poetry revolves around giving powerful message to youth. He believed that if youth is awakened, they would bring revolution. So in his poetry he gives them examples of their past glorious history. All our forefathers and leaders were brave warriors, true Muslims, not involved in luxuries, honest, their life according to Quran and Prophet Teachings. That’s why they ruled the world. His poetry strikes at their consciousness. Imagine about you and your present state. You are oppressed, divided, and indulged in luxuries, not following Islamic teachings is the reasons of your down fall. I will be quoting equal’s poetry in Urdu language and then translate into English.

کبھی اے نوجوان مسلم تدبیر بھی کیا تو نے

وہ کیا گردوں تہاتو جس کا ہے تو ٹوٹا ہوا تارا

Here Iqbal addresses straight to youth that you have ever concentrated and realized what is your history and background. You were a broken star of a milky way. In short, you had a bright and shiny past which have forgotten.

گنوا دی ہم نے جو اسالف کی میراث پائی تھی

ثریا سے زمین پہ آسمان نے ہم کو دے مارا

Here Iqbal says that you have lost the heritage of your forefathers and now you are like a stone thrown from sky to ground. Again he wants youth to realize their status.

زمانے میں معزز تھے مسلمان ہو کر

اور تم خوار ہو ے تارک قرآن ہو کر

Now Iqbal points his fingers to the Muslims that your forefathers were good believers of God and true Muslims; that's why they respected in this world whereas you left Quran, being disgraced everywhere.

Character Building Under the Shadow of Islam

He step by step wanted first to awaken the youth, then motivate and make them true Muslim fighter by giving their glorious historical examples in poetry and making their character so strong that they can bring the revolution. So Iqbal was a revolutionary poet.

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

This verse is Iqbal famous conversation to God directly. Here Allah is telling Iqbal that if being a believer you honor and respect Prophet Muhammad (PUB) then you find me (Allah) on your side. Allah says everything of universe will be in your hands and under your control, so dividing Islam on the basis of Sectarianism and concerns of last prophet, which have destroyed our unity.

یوں تو سید بھی ہو مرزا بھی ہو افغان بھی ہو
تم سبھی کچھ ہو بتاؤ تو مسلمان بھی ہو

Here Iqbal is pointing out to Muslims that you have divided yourselves into different factions like Sayed, Mirza, and Afghans. But are you a true Muslim as well?

Iqbal wanted the youth to believe and trust in him. He wanted them to be brave, be Islamic soldiers with a faith of life after death and total surrender to God, be positive in life. He wanted to enforce in minds of youth that have self-respect and never compromise on it, have "Ishaq e Haqai" True love to God, be patriotic and loyal to God. He was always reminding youth of their glorious past to have inspiration out of it. He wanted youth to keep their aims high, look up with pride, honor, and dignity. He wanted everyone to be good and useful member to contribute in society.

Concept of Selfness or "Khuddi"

Iqbal paid lot of attention towards character building of youth. He thinks that if a person has a good character, he can conquer the world. He wants to see youth as proud, honest, looking up, standing own feet, dying before begging, dying on principals, true lover of Islam and teaching of prophet. He resembles youth like an Eagle or "Shaheen" who lives proudly at the top of mountains, fly high than all other birds. He resembles Muslim youngsters like mountains who are not shaken by small problems. Rivers, deserts, and mountains are no obstacles for them. He motivates the youngsters to an extent that if he jumps into the fire, then fire should get cold. He emphasis that your "Khuddi" and self-dependency should be so high that God should come down as ask you, "What do you want from me?"

خودی کو کر بلند اتنا ، کہ ہر تقدیر سے پہلے

خدا بندے سے خود پوچھے بتا تیری رضا کیا ہے

Here Iqbal recommended keeping your selfness, pride, self-respect, and integrity so high that Allah should come down and ask your desire:

نہیں تیرا نشیمن قصر سلطانی کے گنبد پر
تو شاہین ہے بسیرا کر پہاڑوں کی چٹانوں پر

Here Iqbal constantly pointed out at Muslim youth, that your destiny is not luxuries of life. You are a person of high aims to fly high and conquer mountains. Make your destiny at peaks.

آج بھی ہو جو براہیم کا ایمان پیدا
آگ کر سکتی ہے انداز گلستان پیدا

Here Iqbal says that life has equal opportunities for everyone, even if today you become true Muslims from your heart, even you can produce flowers out of fire, if you have belief and faith in you and Allah.

Reminding Youth for Their Glorious Past and Motivating

His poetry is full of motivation and examples of our glorious past. He was deeply impressed by Muslims of the Ottoman Empire and their time. Our caliphates were another very good example. He wanted that if the Muslims become motivated and true Muslims as per Quran and Prophet teaching, they can become glorious again and conquer the world again.

اپنی دنیا آپ پیدا کر اگر زندوں میں ہے
سر آدم ہے ضمیر کن فکاں ہے زندگی

Here Iqbal says if you are alive and dignified then you should struggle to get your dreams true legally then leave it to Allah for his final decision. He also stresses to be bold and take risk/challenges of life.

خدا جانے اسے کیا کہ تے ہیں خدا فریبی کہ خود فریبی

عمل سے فارغ ہو امسلمان بنا کہ تقدیر کا بہانہ

Here Iqbal says that our life is nothing but continuous struggle and hard work. Tragedy is that Muslims are hesitant to accept the challenges of life, thinking if it is not in my destiny, why I should try for it, whereas Allah asks to do your best and leave the result to me.

یہ غازی یہ تیرے پر اسرار بندے

جنہیں تو نے بخشا ہے ذوق شجاعی

دونیم انکی ٹھوکر سے صحرا و دریا

سمٹ کر پہاڑ انکی ہیبت سے راعی

Here Iqbal is talking about our bravery of past Muslim warriors and praising their achievements. He says that these mysterious followers of Allah, whom Allah have given might of bravery and professionalism. They are so brave and conquerors that once they decide to attack, mountains and rivers start shivering with their fear. High mountains lie down under their feet and start begging. In short, he motivates, obstacle means nothing before them. This type of bravery and believers is he wanted to see in Muslims.

ہے شباب اپنے لہو کی آگ میں جانے کا نام

سخت کوشی سے تلخ ہے انگبین زندگی

He talks to youngsters that youth means hardships, dedication, devotion, and struggle. If you think easy or luxurious life style is good for youth, then they should know that these are more harmful for you.

Iqbal Efforts to Reunite Muslim World

It was Iqbal's great desire to reunite the Muslim world. He visualized that Ottoman Empire down fall was due to division in Muslims. Enemy penetrated into our rows and divided us. Even now, his thoughts are very true. Look at Muslim world of today. We are into luxuries and life style of Arabs in Middle East. They are divided and other nations are kicking us, making fool out of us. Muslims are being dehumanized and labeled as terrorists. Our countries are being invaded on one pretext or another i.e. having weapons of mass destruction. Our sentiments and reactions are being tested after throwing Mother of all bombs. Weapons are being sold showing neighboring Muslim countries as threat for Billions. On the other day, same weapons are being sold to other countries as happening in the cases of Saudi Arabia and Qatar. We are being ruled on sectarian basis like Shia, Sunni, and wahabism. Just look at Condition of Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan. The message given by Iqbal is also given in Quran that "remain united, even if you are small in numbers". Examples are that Muslims won the Battle of Uhad where Muslims were 313 against 1,100 and Battle of Badar. This was the awakening Iqbal wanted to give to Muslims. He was the poet of past, present and future.

ایک ہوں مسلم حرم کی پاسبانی کیلے

نیل کے ساحل سے لیکر تابا خاک کاشگر

Here Iqbal shows his utmost dreams that Muslims should be united as one nation from shore of river Nile to deserts of Kashghar.

صدق خلیل بھی ہے عشق ، صبر حسین بھی ہے عشق

معرکہ وجود میں بدر و حنین بھی ہے عشق

Iqbal narrates story of Prophet Ibrahim that he was true in his belief in Allah so he accepted the challenge of jumping into fire and that fire turned in cold. Then he narrates story of Prophet Hasan and Husain in Karbala. He also believed strongly in Allah and sacrificed his life for Islam. He talks about Battles of Badar and Hunnain where Muslims were 313 against 1,100. They defeated enemy with more strength and weapons at the basis of faith and belief.

Indonesia independence was inspired by Iqbal's poetry. It played a great role in their struggle for independence from colonialism. They studied Iqbal's philosophy and implemented into their country politics. The name of Iqbal was often mentioned in radio and press of Indonesian in the early 1945.

Iqbal's perceived that there are links between religion and politics. He was sad about situation of Muslims, fall of Ottoman Empire. Muslims Ummah was scattered into many states and the idea of nationalism was raged by west into Muslim countries. So Iqbal was a pioneer who raised his voice to reunite Muslims Khilafah. The symbol of the unity of the Muslim *Ummah*, Iqbal believed that it had become an impediment to the development of Islamic thought. To meet the challenges of the modern world, he advocated the use of *ijtihad* (fresh thinking and independent judgment). He believed the example that Turkey should be followed by Muslim countries in order to rebuild and strengthen their states on modern lines. In the same vein he hoped that with the disappearance of the institution of the Khilafat the unity of the Muslim world will have to be derived from the independent and sovereign status of individual Muslim states. Iqbal wrote "It seems to me that God is slowly bringing home to us the truth that Islam is neither Nationalism nor Imperialism."

Conclusion

To conclude, the real causes of Muslims down fall at present age are:

- Corrupt and bad leadership who are more worried about to save their Kingships and regimes.
- Way of life not according to teaching of Islam and Quran/Sunnah.
- No attention being paid on character building of youth.
- Division in faith like Shia, Sunni, Wahabi, Barelvi, Deobandi, etc.
- No self-dependency in weapons and protecting own states. Still many Muslim countries look towards superpowers to protect.
 - No efforts being paid to educate our youth on history and research of our history.
 - Most of leadership maintains their personal accounts out of country as discovered in Panama case. Pakistan is one of the victims.
 - Our youth is into luxuries, entertainment, and in habit of easy going life.
 - Lack of justice, poverty, unequal division of wealth, and resources is also contributing factors.
 - Unjustified wars imposed to control Muslim states resources on one pretext or another, not allowing Muslims states to prosper, destruction of Muslim states like serial killer, sometimes on the pretext of "war on Terrorism", sometimes Al Qaida, sometimes Daish or ISIS.
- I would strongly recommend including Iqbal philosophy in Muslim country's policy making and his poetry/character building and teaching in students' syllabus in each class up to graduation.

To conclude, Iqbal says:

شاہیں کبھی پرواز سے تھک کر نہیں گرتا

پر دم ہے اگر تو ، تو نہیں خطرہ افتاد

If you are motivated and have high aims, you can never fail, no matter how difficult challenges you face, like eagle who never gives up, and reaches his destination.

جب اس انگارہ خاکی میں ہوتا ہے یقین پیدا

تو کر لیتا ہے یہ بال و پر روح المین پیدا

When a human achieves his belief and faith, he achieves his destiny.

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