

# ***Leadership Dynamics and The Poetics of Iqbal***

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## **ABSTARCT**

*The paper focuses on the meaning of leadership or imamate. Besides this it tries to figure out the reasons behind failed leadership. The paper sheds light on steps how a particular leadership can be made stronger by getting guidance from the poetic verses of Allama Iqbal. Leadership is an essential element for all organizations and development of the society. For the progress of any organization or a state a strong leadership is required. Leadership is only possible when a bond is created among the leaders, the followers and important organs of any organization or state. A true quality of leaders is that they think in a broader perspective. Their thinking is not limited or it is not confined to a particular level. The passion for growth and development of the people grants the leaders with this added trait of being visionary. They think out of the box and create magic's.*

## **Introduction**

Leadership means guidance towards the path of prosperity and progress. The leader of a particular state is wise in making decisions which can help the state to move on the path of success. Leaders scratch the best out of a state. They lead a nation with complete faith and confidence. A leader which carries wisdom will help a nation to survive during the hardest phases.

## **Historical Background**

When we peep into our history we find ourselves deeply connected with the Holy Prophet (ﷺ). The life of our beloved prophet has provided us guidance in all aspects of life. The actions of our beloved prophet has impacted the lives of many.

After the departure of our Holy Prophet, a system of Khilafat was adopted so that the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunna can be spread among the people and the principles of Islam can be implemented. Like the Holy Prophet, the four Caliphs; Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (R.A), Hazrat Umer Farooq (R.A), Hazrat Usman Ghani (R.A) and Hazrat Ali (R.A) set fine examples of Leadership.<sup>1</sup> They provided us a path that in which manner states should be governed.

## **Causes of Failed Leadership**

Irrespective of all the poetic verses and booklets about leadership, when we analyze the political scenarios of different states, we find that leadership is almost absent. At present we witness a shift in the interest of Heads of States and Head of governments. The major causes of failed leadership are:

### **i. Self-Centeredness of Politicians**

Now the politicians are more focused towards their personal well-being. Once an individual comes in power loves to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://searchcio.techtarget.com/definition/leadership;>  
<https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/70045>

gather assets which can be enough for his up-coming generations. The politicians are not loyal towards their people and land.<sup>2</sup>

### **ii. Competition in Achieving Power**

Among the major causes of failed leadership, another reason is war among politicians to gain power. In the process of acquiring a greater position the politicians are unable to make timely decisions for the people and the state.<sup>3</sup>

### **iii. Inability to Organize Details**

The politicians are unable to collect all the information regarding the needs of the citizens, early birth rate, requirements of educational institutions, and conditions of the health sector etc. When the politicians are unaware of all the important information it leads to failed leadership.

## **Allama Iqbal and Leadership**

The most influential philosopher and poet of east Allama Iqbal described the importance of Leadership through his poem “Mard e Musalman” which is a part his work “Zarb e Kaleem”, written in 1936.

## **Characteristics of Leadership**

The characteristics of Leadership are defined by Allama Iqbal. Four characteristics of Leadership are: Power, Forgiveness, Purity and Persuasiveness.<sup>4</sup>

### **i. Power**

Power according to Allama Iqbal is the first and foremost characteristics of a Leadership. The Leaders of an Islamic state carry the quality of power through which they run the

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2 <https://smallbusiness.yahoo.com/advisor/resource-center/10-causes-leadership-failure-110036714/>

3 <https://smallbusiness.yahoo.com/advisor/resource-center/10-causes-leadership-failure-110036714/>

4 <https://sahibkarimkhan.wordpress.com/2012/12/11/iqbal-leadership/>

affairs of the state. They implement all the laws which can lead a nation on the path of prosperity.

### **ii. Forgiveness**

The second characteristics of Leadership described by Allama Iqbal is forgiveness. The Leaders of any state has to face opposition. It is a quality of a Muslim leader to forgive people more often and focus on the development of the nation.

### **iii. Purity**

The third characteristic of a leader according to Allama Iqbal should be the purity of the heart and soul. A leader always carries an intention of being loyal towards his people and the land.

“Leaders always help nations to flourish whereas politicians always destroy nations.”

### **iv. Persuasiveness**

The forth character of a leader is Persuasiveness which means the leader carries an authoritative power of legislation. The laws which are formed by a leader are followed by all factions of the society without any resentment.

## **Dimensions of Leaders**

Leaders don't highlight or propagate what they will be doing or on which projects they are working. The efforts of real leaders become their identity. Instead of wasting time on promotional campaigns, leaders focus on productive ideas and developments that may lead a state towards prosperity.<sup>5</sup>

An individual who has real leadership qualities always focuses on his actions. As a leader he does not feel a need to remind people about his position. His work and his efforts

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5 <https://searchcio.techtarget.com/definition/leadership;>  
<https://smallbusiness.yahoo.com/advisor/resource-center/10-causes-leadership-failure-110036714/>

speak for himself. He set short-term and long-term goals and then makes his strategy accordingly.

According to Vince Lombardi; an individual is never a leader by birth instead leaders are made by sheer hard work and dedication. They carry passion to work harder so that they can guide the factions of a society towards prosperity and welfare.

A true quality of leaders is that they think in a broader perspective. Their thinking is not limited or it is not confined to a particular level. The passion for growth and development of the people grants the leaders with this added trait of being visionary. They think out of the box and create magic's.

### **Theories on Leadership**

The theories of Leadership have been defined briefly. The interest in the Leadership has increased during the time span of hundred years. There are eight theories of Leadership which include; Great Man Theory, Trait Theory, Contingency Theory, Situational Theory, Behavioral Theory, Participative Theory, Management Theory and Relationship Theory.<sup>6</sup>

#### **i. Great Man Theory**

This theory focuses that individuals are born leaders. Leaders are not made they have a capability of leading the country by birth. They have intelligence, character, charisma, and foresight and courage to guide people on the path of progress and prosperity.<sup>7</sup>

#### **ii. Trait Theory**

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6 <https://www.verywellmind.com/leadership-theories-2795323https://www.wgu.edu/blog/leadership-theories-styles2004.html#close>

7 <https://www.verywellmind.com/leadership-theories-2795323https://www.wgu.edu/blog/leadership-theories-styles2004.html#clos>

The trait theory is similar to the great man theory. Under this head particular aspects of a personality are highlighted like courage, wisdom and self-confidence.<sup>8</sup>

### **iii. Contingency Theory**

The contingency theory of leadership analyses the traits of leaders which are best for the environment. The individual personality traits are not important instead the thing which matters is that the leader's flexibility of personality is monitored. The leader carries how much capacity to change his personality traits according to the situation.<sup>9</sup>

### **iv. Situational Theories**

The situational theory discusses that leaders are chosen according to particular situation. In a democratic system different leaders are suitable. While authoritative governments are capable of changing their approach according to changing scenarios then the Leadership is considered a strong leadership.<sup>10</sup>

### **v. Behavioral Theories**

The behavioral theories focus on the behavior of the leaders. The actions, attitudes and reactions of the leaders are critically analyzed under this theory. The behavioral theory has many advantages which features or habits should be adopted by the leader to form what kind of personality.<sup>11</sup>

### **vi. Participative Theories**

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- 8 <https://www.verywellmind.com/leadership-theories-2795323https://www.wgu.edu/blog/leadership-theories-styles2004.html#clos>
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Participative theory discusses the political conditions of the corporate world. These theories are implemented in the democratic states. People can participate in the political system through different means which include the electoral process, voting, referendum, elections of the grass route level, public opinion etc. The greatest example of participative theory is that of Bill Gates.<sup>12</sup>

### **vii. Management Theories**

Management theories of leadership focus on the performance of all organization which are active in a political system. The leader's managerial skills are taken under account under this theory. These theories discuss about the organization, performance and progress of the different institutions. The management leadership style can be extremely effective. It can bring a positive change in an organization and help out the employees to utilize their abilities.<sup>13</sup>

### **viii. Relationship Theories**

The relationship theories describe the leaders who are willing to maintain relations with the other people, organizations and countries. These leaders have a friendly approach towards everyone. They have a special quality of working peacefully with different institutions under all circumstances. Such leaders are very much popular among the common people.<sup>14</sup>

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12 <https://www.verywellmind.com/leadership-theories-2795323https://www.wgu.edu/blog/leadership-theories-styles2004.html#clos>

13 <https://www.verywellmind.com/leadership-theories-2795323https://www.wgu.edu/blog/leadership-theories-styles2004.html#clos>

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**Conclusion**

Leadership is an essential element for all organizations and development of the society. For the progress of any organization or a state a strong leadership is required. Leadership is only possible when a bond is created among the leaders, the followers and important organs of any organization or state.