

Topic: Religious Duty

- ✚ As for the Rulings of Islam (*ahkām*) and *foroo' al-deen*, it is obligatory upon the *mokallaf* (one who is responsible with the religious duties) to be one of the three:
A: *Mujtahid* B: *Muhtat* C: *Muqallid*

A) *Mujtahid*

A *mujtahid* is a fully qualified scholar/jurist, who is competent and **expert** to deduce rulings and legal matters from the Holy Qur'an and the teachings of the Prophet and Ahl al-Bayt.

B) *Muhtat*

A *muhtat* is one who acts upon the most cautious verdicts (*ihhtiyat*) in order to assure himself that he has fulfilled his religious obligations. By being on the 'safe side' he always takes the 'more cautious' route of the possible ruling concerned.

C) *Muqallid*

A *muqallid*, or follower, is one who fulfils his religious duties in accordance with the verdicts of a *mujtahid*.

- ✚ A *mujtahid* is a fully qualified scholar/jurist, who is competent and **expert** to deduce rulings and legal matters from the Holy Qur'an and the teachings of the Prophet and Ahl al-Bayt (peace be upon them).
- ✚ *Taqleed* is to act according to the judgements/verdicts of a fully qualified *Mujtahid*.
- ✚ The followed *mujtahid* should be *a'lam* or 'most learned' i.e., he should be more learned than all other *mujtahids* of his time.

✚ Identifying a *Mujtahid*

1. If one is convinced of the *ijtihād* of a candidate; this is achieved if one is himself a religious scholar and thus he can identify a *mujtahid*.
2. If two just scholars, who are able to identify a *mujtahid* confirm this – provided that their testimony is not contradicted by two other just scholars.
3. If an expert individual who is competent to identify a *Mujtahid*, who also is reliable and trustworthy, testifies the superiority of a *mujtahid* and one becomes certain of it.

4. If the *ijtihad* of a *mujtahid* is [widespread](#) among people and scholars that one becomes certain of it.