

L 18

Topic: **Requirements of Imamate**

**Necessity of Imamate**

1. Spiritual perfection and divine leadership
2. **Guarding the Heavenly Laws**

An infallible leader must always act as a guardian of the authenticity of a school so that they guard against any deviation, extremism, alien ideas and superstitions.

3. **The Political and Social Leadership of the *Ummah***
4. Providing complete proof for the right path to block excuses

***Imamah, the Highest Position***

According to the Holy Quran, leadership is the **highest position** that a human being can possibly attain. For example, it says that when **prophet Ibrahim** went through some divine tests and thrived, Allah gave him Imamate. The conditions and qualities necessary for receiving any position relates to the duties and responsibilities which a person must perform in that position; **the higher the position the more the conditions**. For instance, being a judge or bearing witness has a number of conditions in Islam that are required. It is clear that the conditions required in order to qualify for the position of imamate -with the extraordinary importance which it has- are numerous and so high.

In general, some **conditions** are vital **for Imamate**:

**1. Infallibility or being free from sin and error**

The Imam should be **obeyed in all matters** without questioning, so like the prophet, he must be **infallible from sin and error** in order to be wholeheartedly **trusted by people**.

**2. Divine knowledge**

The Imam, like a Prophet, must know all principles and practices of the religion, the external and internal meanings of the Holy Quran, the Traditions of the Prophet and whatever relates to Islam and guidance of people.

### **3. Courage**

The Imam must be the bravest individual of Islamic society because without that courage, it is not possible to accept him as a leader.

### **4. Austerity**

The Imam must be free from any chains or bonds of the material world, all whims and lusts and any ambition toward the worldly desires.

### **5. Noble ethical characters**

Any kind of harshness and evil intentions towards the people is a great defect that the prophet and the Imam must be free from and they should have the noblest characters so that the people get magnetized toward them.