

L19

Topic: **Successorship of the Prophet**

A group of Muslims (Sunnis) believe that the Prophet of Islam (PBUH&HP) died not having selected his successor and they believe that this responsibility belongs to Muslims themselves to select their leader through *'ijma* (consensus).

**Who gets to choose the successor of the prophet?**

This position is not like any other political power, so the successor of the prophet i.e., the Imam must have all the mentioned conditions such as infallibility and divine knowledge which can be known only by Allah, so He is the only one who has the right to choose the prophet or the imam.

Did not the Prophet select a person to succeed him? The Prophet of Islam had provided commands for all the affairs of life. Could it be possible that he would not have provided for the important issue of the person who was to succeed him?

✚ In a mutawatir hadith, the Holy Prophet says, “Whoever dies while he/she does not know the imam of the time, has died the death of ignorance.”

If it's our important duty to know and obey our imam, isn't it the Prophet's duty to introduce him?

✚ When the Prophet left the city for just a few days such as for the Tabuk war, he used to assign someone to manage the issues. How is it possible for him to abandon the Muslims with no leader as successor to guide them?

## Consensus and Council

If we assume that the Prophet left the successorship to be decided by the consensus of Muslims, but **no consensus was established** as Ali (PBUH), Bani Hashim and many others did not participate in it.

Why did the second caliph not use the method which was used to select the first caliph? Neither did he choose consensus nor did he chose election of an individual but chose a council to do so. If a council or the idea of consultation is correct, then **why just six people?** And how can the vote of **three people out of six** be sufficient? If the determination of one person (in the second caliph's case) is sufficient, the Holy Prophet knew better who to choose. Then why did not the second caliph use the same method? So **none of these methods were authentic.**