

# THE RESEARCH OF THE ORIGIN OF ISTIKHARA AND ITS NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE

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## ABSTRACT

Islam guides us in every discipline of life, whereas other religions were limited to the fields of ethics and worship. The human beings were left to the mercy of other people. The west has separated religion from politics so that they may fulfil their ambitions, whereas Islam has proved itself as a complete code of life and has given clear directions in their social, political, martial, individual, collective life. It has given the humans rules regarding ethics morality, law and order. It has given details about purchase and sale. In brief, it has made each and every thing clear from birth to death, from death to resurrection and to the day of judgment alongwith Heaven and Hell. Besides Islam has removed the problems of the man and has given him a disciplined and systematic way of life to resort to Allah which is called Istikhara. In this research paper the reality and importance of Istikhara is highlighted in the light of opinion of the Holy Prophet (SAW), Jurists and The literary people. Its purpose is to give awareness to muslim Ummah regarding its relation with its Lard in this age of materialism and so called enlightened moderation, so that they may not lose their eternity.

## INTRODUCTION

The Holy Prophet (SAW) teaches about Istikhara as if he is teaching about the surah of Quran. So that his followers may succeed in their affairs and gets benefit from this blessed act. He wants the muslims to keep direct contact with Allah. In Istikhara two rakats of Istikhara are performed and then prayer is made which shows that muslims have complete trust in Allah. They make use of materialistic means and leave the result to Allah. A person who adopts the way of Istikhara remains successful in life.

## THE ORIGIN AND THE MEANING OF ISTIKHARA

### Literal Meaning of Istikhara

Istakhar (Zabar on "TA"(Arabic Alphabet))

it signifies part tense and indicates when some thing is demanded:

(Azzubaidi, 1392)

Thus it means:

demanding or asking for good from Allah.

Istakhar means when something good is asked from almighty Allah as Ibn-e-Aseer

(1342) Says:

you asked for good from Allah, and Allah will bestow upon you and it is also said:

(Abn-e-Manzoor, 1405)

Allah always sends His blessings upon Human beings when they ask for.

Istikhara (Zair on "TA" (Arabic Alphabet)) it means:

asking for something

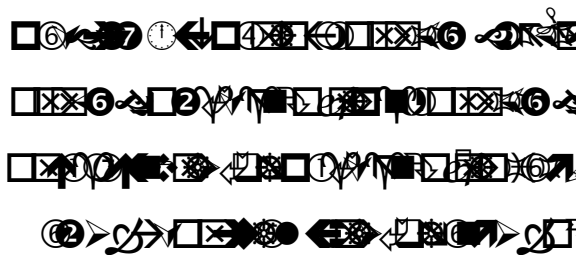


3. Third kind of Khair is attainable in this World, but it is better to attain it in the here after.

4. Fourth type of Khair is better, but it comes to a person quite late.

Above mentioned kinds of Khair are put to work while praying to Allah, it is better.

Muslim (1415) has cited from Hadith which the prophet (SAW) taught the Umma. Hazrat Abu Horaira (Razi Allah Anho) quotes from the prophet (SAW) used to say:



"O" Allah correct my religious position which depends upon my welfare and also set right my wordly affairs because I have to pass my life "O" Allah improve my life hereafter enhance the scale of betterment and save me from all sorts of Bad things.

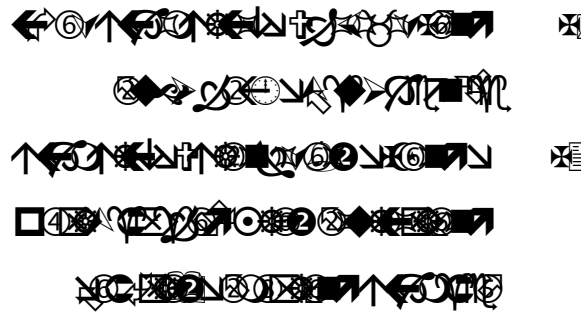
In this Dua'a Deen has been mentioned because it is important. When Deen is protected then Khair will be attained, but when Deen will be disturbed then no Khair is expected to come forth. This is entirely the same thing that has been penned down by Ibn-ul-Arabi (1415) that:



When Deen is protected Khair will be attainable, but when Deen gets Marred then

no Khair can be seen around.

Raghib described two types of Khair.



1. "Absolute type of Khair" It is a type of Khair which is favorite and acceptable under all sorts of circumstances & conditions.

2. Second kind of Khair is that which is favorable and good to one and simultaneously unfavorable and unacceptable to other. Istkhara belongs to this second kind of Khair. One does not know whether doing of a certain thing is better or not, whether one must do a certain work regardless of its repercussions favorable or adverse of being its effects.

**2. THE ORIGIN OF THE ISTIKHARA IS KHIYARA (خيرة)**

According to the opinion of some linguists, the origin of Istikhar is Khiyara. (Zair on "KHA" and Zabar on "YA" (Arabic Alphabet)) Khiyara means to choose and select.

Ibn-e-Manzoor, (1405) Says:



It means that there is no stress ( Shudd) on it. Azhery (1421) the rest of the Linguists

refer to those who were the chosen people of Allah.



Signifies that Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) is the chosen person of Allah.

Thus, from Istikhara we request to Allah about His selection. Shurtoti has attached this meaning to the maxim of the Arab:



that:



Demand humbly from Allah that He may confer upon you which may be of benefit & suit you, He will select something suitable for you.

### 3. The Origin of Istikhara is (Khuar)

According to this the origin of the Istikhara is Khuar. In Arabic language Khuar means the cry or Sound produced by a deer. Azzubaidi (1392) explains:



The hunter used to capture the young deer deceiving and articulating that kind of sound, the Young deer it runs after that sound. The hunter thus, gets facilitated finds out the place easily where the young one of the deer is lying down.

In this way the literal meaning of Istikhara is the sound produced by a deer, but, in another sense it means to call some one, to divert the attention of other towards oneself.

Afterall, if Istikhara means khair, it is to act or abandoned something for the requisition of Khair from Allah. This is only Khair that a normal human being desires to have. If Istikhara's origin bases on Khiyara then it means that a person who does an act or gives it up, keeping himself in lines with his/her creator, leaves every thing to the will of Allah this submission to the will of Allah, is certainly an act of goodness. If the Word Istikhara is derived from Khuar then it means to call Allah for help, kindness benevolence and blessing showered upon his creatures, because man has been created weak and helpless as Allah says:



(Al-Quran 4:28)

& man is verily created weak, and Allah says another occasion:



(Al-Quran 70:19)

verily human being is impatient.

Therefore, everywhere man needs His help and in every Prayer we say:



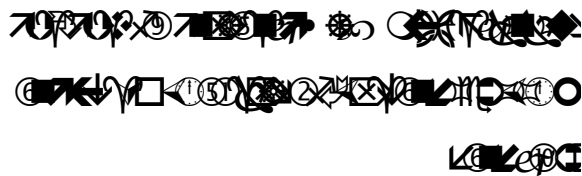
(Al-Quran 1:4)

We only pray to you (Allah) and just seek help from you. What ever might be the origin of Istikhara, it is directly related to Allah, because driving So Istikhara means getting information from Allah.

**FIGURATIVE MEANING OF ISTIKHARA**

Religious Scholars while interpreting the meaning of Istikhara, they have expressed their ideas in the following manners: Thanvi says about Istikhara “if some thing clouds the clarity or otherwise, there exists a lurking suspicion about doing or shunning of a certain act then Istikhara must be resorted after that whatever the conclusion may jump up to the mind that should be accepted as fair as genuine. Thus, this means to suspend Suspicion and does not means an inquiry into the things.

When any thing gets entangled with principles and beliefs of day to then man is required to pray to Allah to show him the right path so that he may decide to act correctly Manavi (♣1356) says:



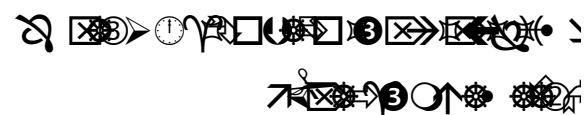
When a man submits himself to the will of Allah, because Allah knows better what is good for a man. Whatever is good for a man, Allah gives him.

If Istikhara is defined briefly then through Istikhara prayers man asks for good things from Allah. Really Istikhara is not only a prayer, before doing Istikhara two rackets of prayer is must & then there is complete Du’a, if someone is not in the position to offer prayer then only Du’a must be taken as sufficient step but full advantage can only be taken when one acts according to Hadith. According to Shariah Istikhara can only be taken in hand when one faces some

problems. To seek guidance for the problem from Allah, to obtain feasibility & handing over the matter to Allah, advice is sought from Allah whether such & such work to be taken in hand or not. Whatever response comes through Istikhara, it must be accepted without hesitation.

**ITS NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE**

It is fact that man tries to do things judiciously & wisely so that to meet success & seeks to adopt sources according to his knowledge & skill. In spite of all these he fails to secure his objective. So it means that there is some one in the universe, who controls and operates in reality. He is the creator things adopt right course & come up to expectations of the man or go otherwise, it is all due to Almighty Allah him the vicissitude; a natural process of regular succession or alternation of day & night bear a testimony of His power, man stands helpless before the will of his creator. Man wants to obtain much more & for that he endeavours & strangles a lot, but he receives only that much what his Allah wishes to dish out to him & whatever is destined to him. Because He controls each and every thing of a man. If He does not wish we can neither get success, nor can fail. Therefore, every momin man & woman without failing Says, by the grace of Allah (by the will of Allah) “if Allah wishes” before embarking on any work. This Insha Allah has been taught by Holy Prophet to his Umma. Allah says:



(Al-Quran 18: 23, 24)

Never say that I am going to do such & such work / thing myself, unless he/she does says Insha Allah, if Allah wishes so. It is because man has been created for worship. Therefore, they have to submit their wills to the will of Allah. Seeking information through Istikhara in reality means man seeks to find out from his creator.

it is not suitable for a man that he takes a decision for his betterment with out Istikhara. Qurtabi (☞1953) says:



Prophet (SAW) use to teach Istikhara, so that people may obtain benefits from it. Entrusting in everything to Allah is definite thing. Prophet (SAW) persuades people to take recourse to Istikhara & entrust everything to Allah because Allah gives every thing. When one falls in difficulties then one prays to Allah from protect one self from trouble. Allah is all powerful & He knows everything perfectly then Allah helps them.

## CONCLUSION

Those who trust Allah & submit themselves to His will whole heartedly, they never fail in their lives. During stress & strain, difficulties & anxiety, prophet (SAW) has advised Istikhara to seek His guidance. The followers of Prophet (SAW) had strictly been adhering to this principle, so this Sunnah can be brought into practice till the Day of Judgment.

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