WHAT IS TAQLID?

Taqlid is to choose a Mujtahid who meets certain qualifications and to follow his views in Islamic laws. This Mujtahid is called Marja al-Taqlid, or simply the Marjaa.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A MARJAA

He must be a MUJTAHID, in other words qualified to exercise Ijtihad.

He must be the MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE amongst all Mujtahids.

He must be JUST. This means he performs all obligatory acts, and refrains from all forbidden acts.

He must be MALE. Men and women have to follow the male Mujtahid.

He must be ALIVE. Following a dead Marjaa, only accepted in one specific condition.

He must be at the age of PUBERTY (Bulugh).

He must be SANE (Aql).

He must be SHI’AH ITHNA ASH’ARI (Iman).

He must be of LEGITIMATE BIRTH.

He must have a retentive MEMORY.

THE BOOK OF ISLAMIC LAWS

A Marja typically publishes his legal views in a book usually known as Al-risalah Al-amaliyah or the practical guide.

A believer must learn the rules he frequently needs, for example trade and commerce rules for a merchant, marriage rules for spouses, etc.

What is Ahwat Wujubi?

A Marjaa may not reach a conclusion in a certain issue, thus he may not give his view on it, or may take a precautionary approach which in Fiqh is called obligatory precaution or ‘Ahwat Wujubi’.

For the relevant issue only, you are allowed to refer to the second most knowledgeable Mujtahid after your Marjaa.

DON’T WANT TO DO TAQLID?

Deduce the Ahkam from original resources by yourself. But this requires a high academic qualification called Ijtihad or independent reasoning.

Obtaining this degree requires a long journey of thoroughly studying Islamic jurisprudence, Hadith, Arabic language and several other Islamic sciences at Hawza or Islamic Seminary.

If the Marjaa loses any of the qualifications, one is no longer allowed to follow him. For example, if another qualified Marjaa becomes the most knowledgeable, one must switch to him.

OR

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A MARJAA

First method is that we ourselves become certain that a said person meets all the requirements.

This needs to have enough knowledge in Islamic sciences that allows us to identify these qualifications.

At what age shall we start Taqlid?

At the age of puberty.

The testimony of two just, reliable, and honest experts is enough.

Some Jurists consider even one testimony permissible.

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Ahkam in Brief