

قال الإمام الحجة القائم (عجل الله تعالى فرجه الشريف): **أما الحوادث الواقعة فارجعوا فيها إلى رواية حديثنا فإنهم حجتي عليكم و أنا حجة الله**

Imām al-Hujjah al-Qā'im (may Allāh hasten his return) has said: "As for those events that will occur in the future, (for the answer on how to deal with them), refer to those people who narrate our sayings (aḥādith) since surely they (the 'Ulamā) are my proof over you and I am the proof of Allāh."

What are the different conclusions that the Mujtahid can come to in an Islāmic ruling?

Hukm

A ruling on a particular issue that is applicable upon all people even those who do not follow that Mujtahid – such as political rulings that can be issued from our Scholars.

Fatawā

The "general" ruling that the Mujtahid gives which is only applicable to those who follow him – those who perform his Taqlid.

Iḥtiyāt Wājib

The Mujtahid does not have clear proof to issue a definitive ruling, thus, he would express a ruling and then say that according to Iḥtiyāt, the following must also be performed – his follower can EITHER act according to this ruling or follow another Mujtahid who has a clear cut Fatawā.

Iḥtiyāt Mustahab

Either before or after a clear ruling, there is a precaution (Iḥtiyāt) stated. Thus, the follower must act according to the clear ruling (fatawā) and for precautionary sake, he should also act according to the precaution that the Mujtahid has stated and he can not follow another Mujtahid on this ruling.