

What is the difference between Deen and Religion. Describe the importance of deen in human life with arguments.

Ans:-

Introduction:-

The terms "Deen" and "Religion" are often used interchangeably and are considered synonymous but are poles apart. Religion is the restricted term whereas the term "deen" is broad and covers all the aspects of life.

Religion:-

The word "religion" has Latin origin and it means "binding together". The Religion is the bond between God and his devotees. This devotion is all about the faith and rituals.

Contextual Meaning:-

The sociologist Emile Durkheim defined religion as:

"A unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred things."

Friedrich Schleiermacher defined religion as

das Schlechthinige Abhängigkeitsgefühl
"The feeling of absolute dependence."

Anthropologist Edward Taylor defined religion as

"The belief in spiritual beings."

Islamic Scholar Dr. Israr defined religion as private relationship of man with God. Religion is limited to faith, worship, rituals and customs.

Deen:-

The famous Arabic dictionaries such as Lisan al-Arab state that the term deen has been derived from the word "dana" (submit to).

The meanings include subjugation, obedience, ruling and judgement.

Contextual Meaning:

Deen means way of life | a complete code of life. Deen not only covers the individual aspects of life but also the collective aspect.

The word "deen" appears "79" times in Quran.

•) In first chapter, it carries the meaning of judgement.

قَلْبِكَ لِرَبِّكَ الْيَوْمِ (1:4)

Master of the day of Judgment.

•)

فِيكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

(109:6)

For you is your faith, ^{and} for me, my faith

Comparison / Difference:-

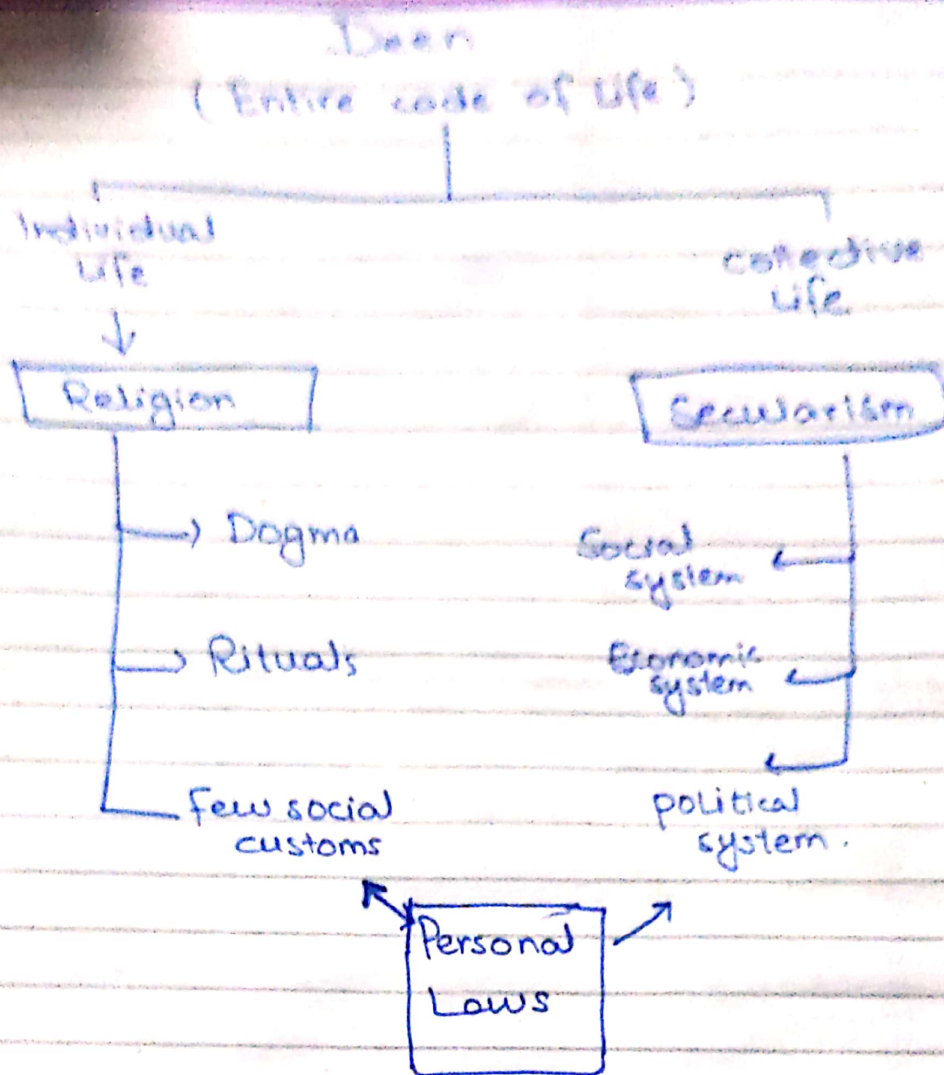
The religion focuses on the man's relationship with the supernatural.

Its deeply personal and private relationship between man and his the "Divine". It focuses only on the Rights of Almighty.

The term "Deen" however, not only encompasses the man's relationship with the "Almighty" but also includes the his worldly relationships, his way of living and rights and duties towards other fellow beings.

Deen is a complete way of life: an embodied spiritual, social, political and economical guidance.

Unlike religion it doesn't focus on rites and rituals but also on the thoughts and actions in every walk and sphere of individual as well as collective life.



Importance of Deen in human life
As deen encapsulates both individual and collective life, its significance lies in every aspect.

→ In Individual life:-

Deen holds great importance in individual life, it makes them more hopeful, humble and grateful.

A study carried at Stanford University showed that having a faith/deen is important. ✓

for the individual's mental health.
Tanya Lubirman, Stanford anthropologist
claims

"A prayer is a lot like
a cognitive behavioural
therapy."

In Quran, it's mentioned that the
individual's restlessness and anxiety
(referred as the disease of the
heart) have only one cure: the
remembrance of Almighty Allah.

الذِّكْرُ لِلَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ

Verily in the remembrance of Allah
do hearts find rest
(13:28).

Sense of hope and Purpose:

Deen provides an individual with
a sense of purpose which keeps
him driven and provides him a
clear way to follow. The purpose
driven person is intrinsically
motivated and it also
provides relief to the lost,
astray souls as it promises
them mercy and forgiveness. As
Quran promises.

ان مع العسر يسرا
(91:5)

Verily with hardship comes
ease.

A Spiritual Cure:-

Deen provides restless, depressed souls a spiritual cure and aids their mental and spiritual well-being.

As George Bernard Shaw said.

"In the future, Doctors will provide prescribe Muslim Prayer and Fast as a medication."

Collective Life:-

→ Ethics and morality:-

A society can only thrive if there are certain rules that everyone needs to uphold. Ethics help us strive and adhere to these rules.

When ethics and morality is practiced by each and every individual a society as a whole becomes more secure and stable.

→ Social Life:

Deen provides the set of instructions to follow in social life. Every familial relation has been given a set of duties and rights to enjoy.

Muslims are advised to say salam to each other as a greeting. It also teaches social rules and morality.

"Do not spy on one another; nor backbite one another."

→ Economic Life:-

Islamic economic system, tolerates the minority of the rich, it imposes heavier obligations on them; paying zakat in the interest of the poor and also prevents from practicing hoarding and accumulation of wealth.

It also forbids interest on money-lending

"God Permitted trading and forbiddeth interest."

(2:275)

Islamic deen promotes the equal distribution of wealth.

→ Establishment of Justice:-

No society, community can exist peacefully without the establishment of justice system. Deen includes the reward and punishment system which ensures that legislations are followed in a social framework.

"We have sent to you the Book in truth that you might judge between men, as guided by Allah."

(4:105)

Conclusion:-

While religion provides an individual with a sense of purpose, the deen clarifies and guides the individual to carry out his role in all domains of life, ensuring his role in the collective broader aspects of life. Without the deen, one would wonder the walks of life all clueless and astray.