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Q# What is Islam? Enlist the silent features of Islam.

Introduction:

Islam is a religion revealed by Allah throughout the world and is followed by Muslims in all aspects of life. Islam is an Arabic word which means peace and submission. The relation between man and God is called submission, and the relation between man and man is called peace. Islam is guarantee of peace as the first verse of Holy-Quran is translated as: In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful and the Most Compassionate. In Quran Islam is called as "Subul-al-salam" "Path of peace" (Al-Maidah 5:16). At another place it is called as "Flood of peace" (Yunus 10:25). All prophets of Allah from Adam to Muhammad (SAW) preached the same religion. Islam is not only to believe Allah rather it is a wider term applicable in all aspects of life: social, political, economic, national, international, behavioural affairs, individual and collective life. By following Islam, one can achieve self-discipline, self-sacrifice and kindness as they can bring harmony in the universe.

Literal Meaning of Islam:-

Root word of Islam is SILM, pronounced as silm means peace. From silm, the word

al-salam originates which means "submission to God."

Contentual meaning:-

To enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah.

OR

Submission of desires to the will of Allah.

Shariah:-

Voluntary submission of desires to the will of Allah.

Islam and Quran:-

Quran says:

"There is no compulsion in religion. The right way stands clearly distinguish from the wrong. Hence, he who rejects evils and believe in Allah has indeed taken hold of the firm unbreakable handle. And Allah is all knowing all hearing."

(2:256)

At another place Quran says:

"For you is your religion and to me my religion"

(109:6)

Hadiths:-

Narrated by Umer Bin Khatab, Holy Prophet

Said: "Islam is to believe none is to be worshipped except Allah, Muhammad (SAW) is His Prophet, keep Prayers, observe fasts during month of Ramadan, Pay Zakaat and offer Hajj if the way possible"

Explanation of Islam by different Scholars :-

Islam is explained by various scholars as follows :-

Syed Ameer Ali :-

Defines Islam in its primary sense as "peace, tranquility or to do one's Job". In its secondary sense it is "submission to Him from whom peace is achieved".
"The Spirit of Islam"

Dr. Hamid Ullah :-

Says: Islam is a monotheist Deen revealed through Prophet (SAW).

Sadr-ud-Din Ghalibi :-

Says: Islam has two components; Beliefs (explained in Madari Suah), and rituals (explained in Madari Suah).

Basic concept of Islam and its explanation :-

The basic concept of Islam is to believe in Allah and admit the Prophethood of His Prophets. Allah has sent His Prophets to all corners of Earth and the continuation

of this revelation has stopped after the last revelation on Holy Prophet (SAW). Islam is universal in its teachings as well as in its implications. Before Muhammad all the Prophets were sent to specific nations in specific area and for a limited time. But the teachings of Prophets (SAW) are for all the humanity till the last Day. Islam unites Muslims under the banner of a Muslim Ummah.

About the teachings of Islam Quran says:

"Those who do not make decisions according to what revealed on them are actual disbelievers."

(Al-Maida 5:44)

Islam is actually formulated on following fundamental principles: The unity of Allah, Pay charity and be benevolent to people, Pay gratitude to Allah as Quran says: Praise to be Allah

(Surah Al-Fateha 1:1)

and believe in the reward or punishment at the resurrection.

Salient Features of Islam:-

The attributes of Islam are as follows:-

① Tawheed (Oneness of Allah) :-

Tawheed is the most significant attribute of Islam as Islam is a religion of truth. It

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explains the sovereignty of Allah who is the Lord of whole universe. The enchanting beauty of nature, the starry sky, green plains, sky-rocketing mountains, the revolution of earth around the sun and changing seasons all occur in beautiful pattern and they are pointing towards the perfection of their creator. The whole world look like a fascinating novel so there must be Author of this story, and that author is God. Quran says:

Say, "Who provides for you from the Heaven and the Earth? Who controls Hearing and Sight and who brings the livings from the dead and the dead from the livings and who arrange matters?" They will say, "Allah", so say, "then why will you not fear of Him?"
(Yonus : 31)

Man enjoins Islam when he believe in Allah and his Prophet (SAW). This is epitomized in Kalima as

La - illaha - illaLa - hu, Muhammad - Ur-Rasulullah.

"There is no God but Allah, Muhammad (SAW) is His Prophet."

9th part of Kalima indicates the Tauheed of Allah.

2) Prophet hood of Muhammad (SAW) :

Allah revealed His Message to man through His Messengers at different times. Holy Prophet said; ^Q "I am God's apostle to you, of all trust worthy, be committed to God and fear Him and follow me"

In Quran the arrival of Prophet (SAW) is explained as
Indeed, Allah has conferred a benefit upon them by sending among them a Messenger from among them, reciting to them His communications, purifying them and teaching them the book and the wisdom.

(Al-Imran : 164)

Prophet (SAW) practically performed the teachings of Islam to reform the world. We can take guidance from his life in every aspect of life from moralities to punishment, performing of rituals, transactions and believes.

Moralities: all the ethical codes taught by Islam, practically performed by Prophet (SAW).
Kindness, generosity, sincerity, trust in Allah, love to mankind and ethics in social life.

Holy Prophet (SAW) said;

^Q "The perfect among believers are those who are best in character."

Punishments: For larceny punishment in Islam is cut off hands.
Banu Makhzum tribe women committed robbery. Holy Prophet said
"9. swear to God, if my own daughter (Fatima) ^{would} commit the
same mistake, I will give her the same punishment."

Transactions: It is man to man relation in worldly affairs and
is divided into three categories: Contracts, Securities, Murqabats.

③ Islam is a divine religion:-

Chinese follow Confucious, Buddhism follow Buddha,
Sikhism follow Guru Nanak and Muslims follow Islam.

The teaching of all other religions are man-made. While
principles of Islam are directly revealed by God to
His people through His Messengers.

Quran Narrates

"Nor does he ^(Muhammad) speak out of his desire."

Allah created whole universe including man, then for
this he sent prophet and him free either to
follow His teachings or not. It is explained in Quran
as follows

"Who so ever, wants he should belief, and
who so ever, wants he should disbelief."

So the followers of Islam are Muslims and who renounce
it are disbelievers.

④ Islam is simple and intellectual based religion:-

The teachings of Islam are not based on a myth.
Rather, they are intelligible to a common man. Islam
is based on logics and reasoning and it enables

it follows to understand it and explore the world.
Knowledge of Islam is immortal and it keeps
people away from superstitions. It is sufficient to
solve the worldly affairs with satisfaction.

About knowledge verses of Quran are as follows:-

O my Lord, increase me in my knowledge
Taha 20:114

Are those who have knowledge, and
those who have not, are alike?

The meaning of revelation become
manifest to those who have knowledge.
(Al-An'am 97)

Those who can't observe and understand
are worse than cattle
Al-Araf (7-179)

5) Implications of Islam in Practical Life :-

Islam is helpful both in mundane and spiritual
affairs. From individual to society, it can be applicable
in all aspects of life. A man can make decisions
according to Islam teachings in his state affairs
as well in his personal life. Islam is a rational
religion, so, people can choose their path according
to their understanding. As it explains the rewards
of goods and punishment of evils.

Imam Ghazali says: Islam is a combination of

of Rights of Allah and Rights of People.

When all rights are fulfilled there will be harmony, tranquility and justice in our society.

Islam guides us in rituals as well as in it gives moral codes of life.

Quran says:-

"Do not backbite about each other and don't spy about one another (Mufarat : 12)"

and further says:-

"Fullfill your promises and commitments" (17 : 34)

⑤ **Equilibrium between Individual and Community:-**

Islam doesn't intermingle individual and collective life. Each individual has its rights and certain

duties. Right of freedom, right of education, right to earn, right to marry, right to live.

Similarly when men organized they form a society. So a man and a society has a correlation which must be balanced. In Islam this balance

is observed at various events. Like five times prayer.

Hajj is a great example of unity as it includes color, creed and border differences. Similarly wealth circulates between rich and poor to achieve a balance.

Quran says:- "And in their property, was a portion for those who beg and for the destitute" (an - zaariyat)

⑦ Unity of soul and body:-

Islam enticulates the differences in body and soul and unite them in one sphere to attain success in this life and Hereafter. Piety is not achieved by staying away from the world. Rather excellence is achieved when people perform their worldly affairs with Islamic teachings and also keep their rituals.

Qur'an Verse:

O' Lord, Give us something fine in this world and something fine in the Hereafter.
(Al-Baqarah)

Hadith:

"Keep fast and break it, keep prayers and devotions in night and sleep, as your body has right upon you, your eyes has right upon you, and your wife has a claim upon you and the guest who visits you also has a right upon you."

⑧ Universality and Humanity:-

Islam is universal Deen. As Qur'an says:

"God in Islam, is the God of all the world"
(1:1)

Hold the rope firmly and never let it go and remember our benefits upon you, when you were enemy and we forged

your hearts with love¹⁹

(Al-Imran 3:103)

Islam is a religion of Muslim Ummah. Whosoever recite Kalima enter in the circle of Ummah irrespective of color, creed and clan differences.

① Permanence and change :-

Permanence means invariant which leads to orthodoxy. And constant change in mythology make it shapeless and disarray. Islam maintain the balance between the two. As beliefs in Islam are permanent its basic principles (Prayer, Fasting, Hajj, Zakat) are also permanent. When Muslim Ummah face any difficulty, they make consensus called Ijtihad. An intellectual effort to arrive at truth. So Islam is applicable in every age and for everyone.

② Complete Way of Life :-

In Islam humanity is way of life. Islam gives a complete code of life as its teachings are complete and flexible for all Muslims.

Quran Says :-

Don't confound truth with falsehood

(2:42)

and further says :-

Don't insult others with nicknames.

①① Teachings of Islam are Preserved-

The teachings of Quran and Hadith of Holy Prophet (SAW) are still preserved since 1450. While the books of former Prophets are not preserved in their original form like Torah, Zabur and Bibel as many changes were made in them by their followers. Even before the arrival of Jesus many religious sects were made. But in Quran all previous events have been explained.

Quran says-

Quran is preserved in Lauh al Mahfuz with God.

(85 : 21-22)

and further explains at other place as
It is we who revealed this book and we will surely protect it.

(MiTr : 9)

Conclusion

God gave a complete Code of Life to humanity in the form of Islam, and for the practice of its beliefs and rituals Allah has chosen His messengers from among them. Islam is universal both in beliefs as well as in practice as it prohibits social discrimination and entitles all muslim as one Ummah.