

WHAT IS ISLAM? ENLIST THE SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM.

Islam is an Arabic word. It means the act of resignation to God. The root word is SLM, pronounced 'salm' which means peace from, which comes the word 'aslama' which means he submitted, he resigned himself. Islam is the religion which brings peace to mankind when man surrenders himself to God and submits to his will.

According to the Holy Book revealed to Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be on him), this is the only religion professed by all prophets from Adam to Muhammad, the last Prophet. A muslim therefore, believes that Allah sent the prophets to all corners of the earth to preach and convey the message of Islam to mankind.

ISLAM ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT SCHOLARS.

The Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) defined Islam as a complex of two things

- o witness of Allah and his Messenger
- o To establish pillars of Islam. B

According to IMAM GHAZALI (R.A)  
 Islam is a complex of "HAQOOB-UL-ALLAH  
 and "HAQOOB-UL-IBAD". In other words  
 it is the complex of the rights of  
 Allah and the rights of human beings.  
 Dr. Hameed Ullah defines Islam  
 as a monotheist deen revealed through  
 Prophet (Peace be upon him).

Islam is a universal deen because  
 it guides in every aspect of life.  
 It teaches us to be patient and  
 thankful to the Almighty for all the  
 blessings that he showers on us.  
 Islam is a beautiful deen which  
 is for everyone regardless of the  
 ethnicity and geography. According to  
 Islam, when faith, action and  
 realization are in perfect harmony,  
 Man manifests that the fact that he  
 is the vicegerent of God on  
 earth. Man derives everything from  
 Allah, he is the most complete  
 manifestation of the attributes of Allah  
 as such he is Allah's representative  
 on earth. Allah guides man in  
 each and every aspect of life  
 that is why Islam is called  
 the "Ideal system of living for all  
 of mankind."

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## PILLARS OF ISLAM.

The five pillars are the core beliefs and practices of Islam. These five pillars are as follows:

1. Profession of Faith (Shahada).

This is the belief that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad (P. B. U. H) is the last Prophet and the messenger of Allah.

- Prayer
- Alms
- Fasting
- Pilgrimage.

## SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM.

1. TAUHEED

2. PROPHETHOOD

### TAUHEED

The starting point of Islam is the belief in the Unity of God. Tauheed means "unity of Allah". Tauheed is the first chapter of Islam. The one who understands Tauheed will understand the Deen.

It is the first part of our Kalma. The basic Islamic concept is that the entire universe was created by Allah, who is the Lord and Sovereign of the Bi

universe. He is the Lord of the universe which He alone sustains. He created man and appointed for each human being a fixed period of life which he has to spend on the earth. Tauheed is the foundation of Islam. All other beliefs are because of the concept of Tauheed. Everything in Islam is based on Tauheed. All the beliefs, rituals, systems are because of Tauheed.

In Surat Ikhlas Allah says He is God, the One God, the Absolute. He begets not, nor was He begotten. And there is nothing comparable to Him.

There is a clear statement by God describing Himself to humanity without any room for confusion. God is One and is exalted above everything He creates.

This chapter of the Quran is about the oneness of God. There is no plurality of gods. There is only one God. All are dependent upon Him, but He is not dependent on anybody.

The doctrine of God's pure unity

or The Divine oneness, is clearly stated here: God is not many, He is only One. Every one is in need of Him, but He is not in need of anyone. He reigns over all things of the heavens and the earth. He has no father or son, He is eternal without beginning or end, and is thus a unique being with no equal.

[There is nothing similar to Him]  
The Quran 42: 11

## 2) PROPHETHOOD

The second part of the Kalma is Prophethood. It means to believe in the finality of Prophethood. To believe in the fact that Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is not the father of any of you and is the final Prophet. There is no Prophet after Him.

Allah revealed His Guidance through His prophets and Muhammad (Peace be upon him) was the last Prophet. And to believe in a prophet means to believe in his message, to accept the Law which he gave and to follow the code of conduct which he taught.

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Thus the second basic postulate of Islam is to believe in the prophet hood of Muhammad (peace be upon him), to accept the religion which he presented and to follow his commands.

Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the last prophet and as such the final model for mankind. To believe in him means to accept his authority as representative of the Supreme Ruler and to follow his example in thought and behavior.

To believe in him means to accept his authority as representative of the Supreme Ruler and to follow his example in thought and behavior. The code of behavior, the law which is to decide the righteous or otherwise (halal and haram) of things, is given by God through the prophet and is known as the Shariah. Every muslim should follow the path guided by our Holy Prophet and implement all the teachings of him in all walks of life. This is how Allah's will is fulfilled on earth.

About the last prophet it is explicitly stated that

'Nay, O Muhammad: by your Lord, they will not be believers until they accept you as the final arbiter in all their disputes and submit to your decision wholeheartedly without any heartache.' (AL QURAN 4:65)

Thus belief in Allah and His Prophet ~~is~~ means commitment to obey and to fashion individual and collective life in the light of His law and guidance provided by them.

### BELIEF IN THE HEREAFTER.

The world, according to Islam is a place of trial and man is being judged in it. He will have to give account of all that he does herein. Life on earth will one day, come to an end. After that a new world will be resurrected. It will be life after death that man will be rewarded or punished for his deeds and misdeeds.

'Whosoever will come with a good deed, for him there shall be the like of it tenfold, while whosoever will come with an ill deed, he

day/date

shall be requited with only one  
like it, and they shall not be  
treated unjustly.' (Al-Quran 6:160)

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