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Q: Define the belief in tauheed and its impacts on individual and collective life?

Ans:-

1- Introduction:

The concept of belief in tauheed revolves around the "oneness of God". Tauheed is the core principle of Islam and it is also the starting point of Islam. It is a differentiating factor between being a "muslim" or a "Kafir". Tauheed is the belief in ^{Allah Almighty} ~~one God~~ which is omnipresent, most powerful, unique, magnificent and merciful. Tauheed imparts various positive impacts on individual as well as collective life.

2- The concept of tauheed:

Although the concept of tauheed revolves around the oneness of Allah. The Comprehensive definition of tauheed is given by syed Arneer Ali in his book "The spirit

of Islam"

"Tauheed is the ^{name of} explicit belief in the oneness of Allah, that there is no authority than Allah Almighty"

Similarly, another definition is given by Prof. Khursheed Ahmed that "Tauheed is the belief in the oneness of Allah who is competent, Merciful and Magnificent"

3- Importance of Tauheed in the light of Quran and Sunnah:

Tauheed has immense importance in Islam and it can be concluded from the verses of the Holy Quran:

"قل هو الله احد، الله صمد"

"Say He is Allah (who is) one Allah, the eternal refuge" (Al-Quran)

In another place the Holy Quran states

"لا اله الا الله"

"There is no God, but Allah" (Al-Quran)

In the same way the Holy Quran says:

"لا حول ولا قوة الا بالله"

"There is no ~~God except~~ power or strength except Allah" (Al-Quran)

Similarly it has been reiterated in Surah Ahzab

"Your God is one God and there is no God except Him"

It is also evident from the Ahadees of the Holy prophet PBUH. At one place the Holy prophet PBUH said

"The testimony regarding the oneness of Allah is the Key to paradise" (Ahadees)

Also, in another place the Holy prophet PBUH stated

"The best of the human virtue is the belief in the oneness of Allah" (Ahadees)

4- Impacts of Tauheed in individual life:

① Peace of heart: Allah states in the Holy Quran "Truely, the hearts finds peace in the remembrance of Allah"

(Surah ar-rad 28)

② Love for God: Similarly in the belief of tauheed the believer gets to know about the abundant blessings of the Allah Almighty which inculcates love for the creator in them.

③ Inculcates a Sense of accountability:

Tauheed is a responsibility rather than a privilege. The one who believes in tauheed has to transform him and live the life according to the codified laws of the Allah Almighty, which makes him watchful towards his actions and stops him from evil works and introduces a sense of accountability in the believer.

④ Induces self respect:

Tauheed is the belief in the oneness of Allah Almighty which induces a high level of self respect in believers because ~~they~~^{one} becomes aware about the fact that only Allah is the

Highest power and nobody else is above Him. He created all men equal and nobody is above each other. So a sense of self-respect is developed in the believers.

5) Satisfaction and Hope:

The one who believes in tawheed never becomes dispondent or dishearted because he gets to know that his creator is the God of all things and he is Merciful, beneficent and custodian / owner of unlimited treasures. The believer knows that Allah never leaves his creature alone and He is the only authority who can ease hardships and remove problems. This belief satisfies the person and always give him hope. As mentioned in the Holy Quran

"Whoever renounces the false gods and believed in Allah, has grasped the firmest and unfailing hand-hold" (Al-Baqarah 285)

5- Impacts of Tauheed in Collective life:

The belief in tauheed has positive impacts not only in individual life but also in collective life.

① Concept of Equity and Social Equality:

Tauheed is a revolutionary concept which states that all men are equal and created by one God. There is no Bourgeoisie and no proletariat. There is no kind of discrimination of race, creed, color in front of Allah Almighty and everyone is equal unto one and another. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) came to unite the humanity on the word of God. As mentioned in the Holy Quran

“ And hold firmly the rope of Allah all-together and do not become divided and remember the favor of Allah upon you when you were enemies, and He brought your hearts together, ^{and} by His favor you become brethren, and you were on the brink of

pit of fire and He saved you from it'

(Al-Imron 103)

② Social Justice:

The doctrine of tauheed connects Islam and the believers with the socio-political and economic justice. Injustice leads to the disruption of peace and anarchy in the society which must be confronted and corrected. It is stated in Holy Quran

"O believers! Stand firm and bear true testimony. Do not let the hatred of people lead you to injustice"

(Al-Maeda 5:8)

③ Is Brotherhood:

The unity of God leads to the unity of His creation. Tauhid inculcates a sense of cooperation which leads to Brotherhood. As the Holy Quran states

"Surely, the believers are none but brothers unto one to another, so set things right between your brothers ~~so that~~ and have fear of Allah that you may be

shown mercy" (Al-Hujraat 49: 10)

④ Cooperation:

When people believe in tauheed it creates a sense of cooperation among them because they realise that they are the creation of one Lord and all are equal and brother to each other.

⑤ Tolerance:

Due to realization of the fact ~~of~~ that all are the creation of one God and brother to each other under the belief of tauheed, a sense of Tolerance and love for ~~God~~ ^{others} is developed among the believers.

⑥ Eradication of extremism:

When the people come under the belief of tauheed and there cooperation, Brotherhood and tolerance for others is developed then ~~extremism~~ hatred for other people will be eradicated

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and there will be no extremism in the society.

6-Conclusion:

Briefly, tauheed is the belief in the oneness of Allah Almighty which is the sovereign, most merciful, Beneficent, All Knowing, and All seeing. This belief also describes that Allah is the creator of the universe and all things in it. The belief in tauheed has many positive impacts on the life of individual and also in the collective life. As John gloves stated in his book "The evidence of God in the expanding universe" about the oneness of God. He says "If we see the expanding universe it is evident that there is ^{only} one God behind it, otherwise there have been chaos in it."