

Q#02. Define Tawhid. What is its impact on individual life and the society? Elaborate.

INTRODUCTION:

The concept of TAWHID in its broad sense affirms the belief on the Oneness and uniqueness of Allah — the sustainer and the manager creator of this entire observable and un-observable horizon of universe. To a person, the belief on Tawhid brings multiple impacts on his life ranging from love for Almighty to sense of accountability. Whereas, Tawhid's impact isn't limited to an individual but expands towards entire society, beginning from priority in justice delivery to embracing diversity of beliefs prevailing in an Islamic oriented society. The all encompassing influence of ^{Tawhid} belief on society as well as individual entails how putting firm belief on Oneness of Allah can alter the fate of society in whole.

"And your god is one God [Allah].
There is no deity [worthy of worship]
except Allah, the Entirely Merciful,
the Especially Merciful."
[Surah-Al-Baqarah]

THE MEANING OF TAWHID :

In order to grasp concept of Tawhid,
it is essential to look at the
etymological or semantics of word
Tawhid (تَوْحِيد) in Islam.

To put it simple, there exist
not a direct existence of word
"TAWHID" in Quran. However, the elaboration
concept exist on multiple surahs/
chapters like surah-Baqarah, surah-Naml,
surah-Ikhlās etc. Whereas, etymologically
the word "Tawhid" as per English/
linguistic perspective it means ;
"the knowledge one has
Unity (entirety) of a thing".

Furthermore, the first Kalimah, "La ilaha
illa Allah" bluntly demonstrates

Tawhid which means, "there is no god, but Allah". The only Allah.

DEFINITION OF TAWHID:

After understanding Tawhid from a linguistic perspective it has become clear that Tawhid is a fundamental concept of monotheism in Islam.

The definition of Tawhid can be put into following words that

"The belief in and declaration of the belief in the oneness of Allah in terms of His essence, attributes and actions."

- M. Asad in Islam - at the Crossroads

Tawhid encompasses the understanding that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that He has no partners or equals. The belief on the unity of Allah forms the core

of Islamic belief and is a preliminary belief principle in the Quran. As the Quran says,

"Say, He is One God, the self-sufficient One."

[112: 1-2]

In Surah Maryam, God asks the sceptics that,

"Do you know any similarity of Him?" [19:65]

To further extend the concept, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) clearly demonstrated in one of his Ahadith that

"Tawhid is a foot of Islam and one who enters into it, enters into the world of Islam."

A) IMPACTS ON INDIVIDUALS:

There is no denying the fact that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) presented before the world the purest accomplished belief of Tawhid. He clearly reflected that these cannot be any personification of Allah and He alone is the Creator and ~~destroyer~~^{sustainer} of the worlds.

“Nothing is like Him.”
[Al-Quran]

The belief on Oneness of Allah brings tremendous effects / impacts on individuals leading from the day one embraces Tawhid to the last of his breath. Some of the essential impacts are elaborated following,

01) LOVE FOR ALLAH:

One who embraces Tawhid instills in him a love for Allah. The frustration and chaos of every day life

do not deviate him from Allah's remembrance. He is clearly aware of the fact that no matter how much hardships toil him his love for Allah would intact him all the while. This is the reason the Quran says on an individual that ;

"No matter how much the business or a merchandise toils the man, they won't distract him from the remembrance of Allah"
[Al-Quran]

02. DEVELOPS ACCOUNTABILITY

IN ONE SELF :

- The belief on Tauhid for an individual restricts him to pursue an action that brings difficulties for himself but for a society at most. He keeps making himself away from a behaviour that might bring away for him.

Hazrat Ali (RA) on an occasion of interaction with believers propounded that

Find a place for sin where no one can see you but a believer would realize there is a deity [Allah] who sees him."

03.

BRINGS BROAD M INDEDNESS:

For an individual, the belief on Tawhid brings a sense of farsightedness in him. He becomes aware that his actions are being looked by Allah. The universe and its workings questions him - that was all this constructed without any purpose? The belief empowers him to look at the complexities with keeping in mind the Oneness of Allah, not with his finite capacity of mind.

04.

INTEGRATES PATIENCE AND TRUST

IN ALLAH:

Owing to firm belief on oneness of Allah, a true believer enjoys quality of patience and trust. The hardships and challenges of the world do not put him into any form of existential crisis. The Quran says clearly that

“And the believers should put their trust in Allah”

[Surah Al-Imran]

B) IMPACTS ON A SOCIETY:

Society is comprised of individuals with their unique and versatile qualities. A true belief on Tawhid by a group of individuals in society has stunning impacts on society at whole. Some of impacts are discussed below:

01. DEVELOPS JUSTICE BASED SOCIETY:

A person entitled with power to decide the course of any individual's life would ensure justice delivery in the society. A group of believers with Tawhid in their belief system won't assist tyranny to prevail over justice. Quran on multiple occasions instructs men to remain true to each other and hold God's rope with firmness.

02. ENSURES UNITY AND EQUALITY:

Tawhid emphasizes ~~in~~ the unity of Allah, which translates to the unity of humanity. This entails every one is equal in the eyes of Allah regardless of their background and social status. Holy Prophet (PBUH) addressed to the believers that

["No one is superior over other ie neither an Arab over Ajam or Ajam over Arab."]

03.

PROMOTES DIVERSITY AND

INCLUSION:

The belief on Tawhid by a society teaches us that Allah is the creator of all people and diversity is the sign of his greatness. Such belief can foster tolerance, inclusiveness, and acceptance of people of different class, race and creed.

04.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP:

Tawhid underscores the idea that ultimate authority belongs to Allah. This belief in large compels leaders to deliver their responsibilities to public by keeping fear of Allah in their minds.

CONCLUSION:

To conclude, the all encompassing belief of Tawhid forms the essence of Islamic belief system. By means of Tawhid an individual in general and a society in particular can expect the bounties that Allah brings for the believers. An individual can enjoy a life of bliss amidst hardships by putting trust on Oneness of Allah. On the otherhand, a near to ideal society can be ensured if Tawhid is part of a system at whole.