

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

Ans: **Introduction:-**

Islam is the natural Deen of mankind. Deen is not limited to a particular person, period, time or nation but it is a universal Deen for the world. In every age, in every place all God-Knowing and truth loving people believed in this ~~religion~~ ^{Deen}. It is a divine Deen bestowed by Allah almighty. On the other hand, Religion is a self-created means ^{path} of establishing relations with God. Religion is not universal and is only specific to particular religion doctrines, values, practices and observances. Deen has immense importance in the human life as it guides about every aspect of life.

Elucidating the terms "Religion" and "Deen":

There are various definitions associated

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with "Deen" and "Religion". Some of them are given below

Literal meaning: The literal meaning of religion is (الدين) which means "to run on a told way". However, Deen is an arabic word which means "to attain supremacy" or "to attain dominion status".

Contextual meaning: According to Oxford dictionary Religion ~~means~~ is a set of beliefs. On the other hand, Deen in arabic language means "Judgement" or "recompense". It refers to the final judgement or recompense that one will receive based on their deeds.

Scholarly definition:

According to Dr. Isma

Ahmed "Religion" is a set of beliefs, practices and values that revolve around the relationship between the human and the divine.

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On the other hand, "Deen" is a comprehensive system which encompasses all aspects of life social, political and economical dimensions.

Deen goes beyond the mere concept of religion and guides individuals and societies about establishing a harmonious and just way of life.

Importance of Deen in the light of Quran and Ahadees:

There is no doubt that "Deen" is of utmost importance which is evident from the verses of the Holy Quran and Ahadees.

"This day I have ~~com~~ perfected your Deen, and completed my favor upon you, and chosen for you Islam as your Deen"

In the same way, in another place the Holy Quran again described

"Indeed, the Deen before Allah is Islam"

The Holy Quran reiterated again the importance of Deen in the following words

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"And whoever seeks Deen other than Islam, it will not be accepted from him"

Similarly, The Holy prophet (PBUH) also described the importance of Deen

"When Allah wishes good for someone, He bestows upon him the understanding of Deen"

In another place Holy prophet said

"The Deen is naseehah (advice, sincerity)..."

In the same way the last prophet said

"Deen is ease ----"

Key differences between Deen and Religion:

1- Scope and Approach:

Deen: Deen encompasses all aspects of life including personal, social, moral and spiritual dimensions.

Religion: Religion primarily focuses on

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religious doctrines, rituals and practices associated with faith.

2- Holistic integration:

Deen: Deen integrates faith with actions, ethics, values, promoting a holistic way of life.

Religion: Religion emphasizes adherence to specific rituals without integrating them in all aspects of life.

3- Ethical and Moral framework:

Deen: It emphasizes on the importance of ethical behaviours, sincerity and counsel as integral components of a comprehensive way of life.

Religion: It emphasizes on religious rituals and observances as the primary expressions of faith.

4- Cultural variations:

Deen: Deen is not bounded in cultural backgrounds. it provides principles and

values applicable to people of all backgrounds.

Religion: Religion can be influenced and twisted by specific cultural values and practices.

5- Universal Applications:

Deen: Deen offers principles and values that can be applied to people of all faiths or no faith, promoting universal ethics and human values.

Religion: Religion is associated to specific faiths, traditions and practices which cannot be applied on the people with different faiths.

Importance of Deen in human life:

1- Deen provides Guidance to Mankind:

The primary function of Deen is to guide people towards the right path as said in the Holy Quran:

"Surely, this Quran guides to what is most upright, and gives good news to

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the believers' (Al-Israa 17:9)

2- Deen provides clear Path.

It is the Divine light of God which shows the clear path the right from the wrong, the true from the false.

"So believe in Allah and His messenger and in the light we have revealed."

(Al-Taghabun 64:8)

3- Deen sets criterion for Right and Wrong:

The Deen provides guidance on judgement and justice.

"The Quran (is) a guidance for mankind, and clear proofs of guidance and criterion (of right and wrong)."

(Surah Baqra: 185)

4- Deen is a spiritual cure of Modern Man:

Almighty Allah promises mercy to those who follow the guidance of the Quran.

"And We send down the Quran as

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~~the~~ healing and mercy for the believers
-- " (Al-Isra 82)

5- Deen helps human to guard against Evil:

Deen develops fear of God and reverence and love for Him and guards believers against evil.

"It is the 'Qur'an' revealed in Arabic without any crookedness, so perhaps they will be conscious 'of Allah'."
(Al-Zumar 39:28)

Critical Analysis:

A famous Islamic

Scholar Ali Shariati made a critical assessment on the difference between 'Deen' and 'Religion' that Deen transcends cultural boundaries and promotes understanding among different peoples and tribes. Islam encompasses entirely of ones life while religion does not.

Conclusion:

Deen is a complete code of life that encompasses faith, worship, personal and societal conduct and matters. On the other side, Religion is restricted to / limited to religious faiths, practices and doctrines. Deen has immense importance in human life as it guides one in every aspect of life.