

In the light of Islamic teachings; concept of Ummah and its duties? Explain.

INTRODUCTION:

Islam is a religion of equality and brotherhood. All people are equal in the eyes of Allah and are vicegerent of Allah on earth. Hence, all Muslims are a single Ummah that obeys and follows the commands of one leader and one religion. According to a Hadith in Sahih Muslim, the Muslims are like one body. Based on this Hadith, it is crystal clear that all Muslims are a single community. One's sorrow is another's sorrow and one's happiness is another's happiness. Therefore, Ummah is a term used to represent a community based on single religion.

UMMAH: MEANING AND CONCEPT

01) Literal Meaning of Muslim Ummah:

The word 'Ummah' is derived from 'amm' which means "to attend to" or "to aim to". Hence, Ummah, in literal meaning, can be defined as:

"Ummah means the people who intend to follow a leader or a religion".

02) Conventional Meaning of Ummah:

• In the Light of Holy Quran:

There are several places in Quran, where the term Ummah is used. Almost sixty four times the term Ummah is used in Holy Quran. Allah represents every community of people with this term. Moreover, Quran terms Ummah to a nation, to a group or a community who belongs to a single religion. In Quran, Ummah is not specifically used to refer the Ummah of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW), but the community under every Prophet. As Holy Quran says:

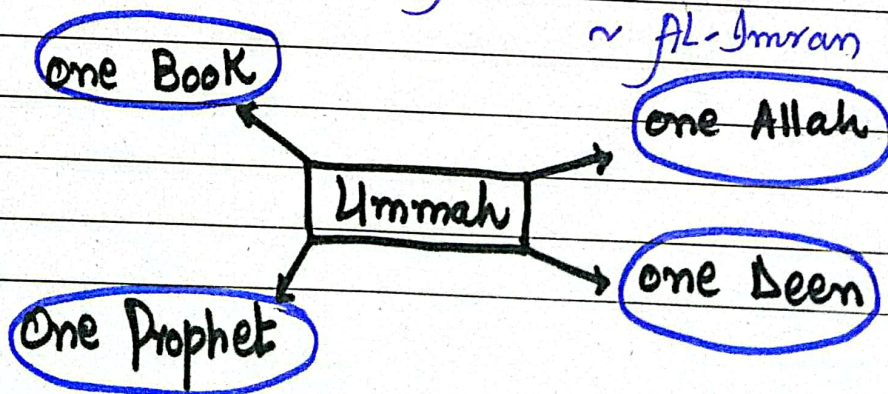
“To every Ummah (people) we sent a Messenger...”

(Surah Nahl 16:38)

Also, Quran refers the Ummah of Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) as the best. In the following verse, it is clearly written:

“You are the best community (Ummah) raised up for humanity; enjoying what is right and forbidding what is wrong and believing in Allah”.

~ Al-Imran 3:110 ~

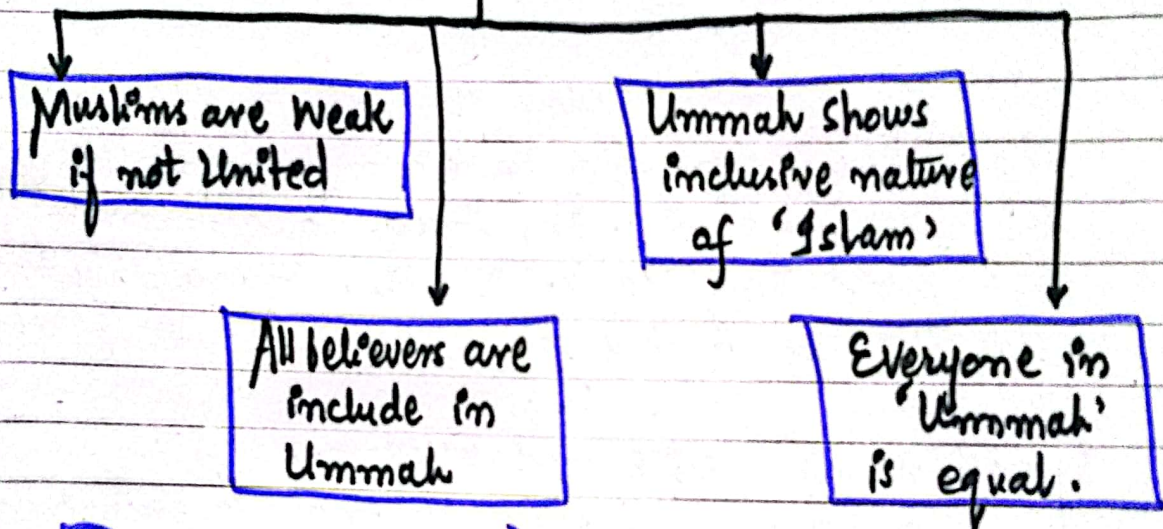


• In the Light of Hadith:

There is a famous Hadith referring to the unity of Muslims. Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said:

"All Muslims are a single body. If one part of body aches, the whole body experience pain."

Concept of Ummah in Islam



RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF UMMAH:

As illustrated in above graph, Ummah is that, who follows single leader (Allah) and religion (Islam). Hence, according to Islamic teachings, following are the responsibilities and duties of Muslim in this material world:

01) Unity and Support among Muslims:

It is obligatory to the Muslim Ummah that stand unified and

Support others in every time. Also, it is the duty of Ummah to stay on the principles of Allah and support other Muslims in their time of crisis. As Quran pointed out:

“Hold the rope of Allah, all of you together and don't be divided”

~ Al-Imran 3:103 ~

02) Promoting Peace and Harmony; Forbidding Evil:

Muslim Ummah has a collective responsibility to promote peace and harmony in this maternal world. They should do good deeds and avoid bad deeds. Also, they have a duty to stop the bad if they see.

03) Spreading Knowledge and Wisdom:

Muslim Ummah is entrusted with the ability of intelligence and better knowledge. They are Ashraf-ul-Makhlokat (اشرف المخلوق). It is the duty of the Ummah to spread knowledge and wisdom around their surrounding. As Holy Quran says:

“Allah raise the ranks of those who gave knowledge to others; knowledge of good deeds and harmony”

~ Al-Quran ~

04) Propagating the Message of Islam:

It is the duty of Muslims to spread the true message of Islam through words, actions and good deeds. Hence, Allah is with those who are with good and doing better actions and spreading the message of Islam, as Islam is a complete code of life.

05) Creating a 'Just' Society on Earth:

Muslims are viceroy of Allah on the Earth. It is their responsibility as a single Ummah to create a 'just society' and spread the message of Allah and Islam to everyone present around them.

06) Supplication (Dua) for one another:

There is a hadith in Sahih Muslim, which says, The supplication of a Muslim to his brother (all Muslims are brothers) in his absence will be answered in Life Hereafter. Hence, it is one of the beautiful duties in Islam to praise their brothers in their absence.

07) Promoting Justice and Fairness:

Allah emphasizes on doing justice in every sphere of the life. Allah is with those to do justice and do fairness in conflicts. Its Holy Quran says:

"Whenever, O people, you encounter any issue resolve it with justice and fairness"
~ Quran

08) Supporting the needy and give charity:

In Islam, there is a separate system of charity to support the poor or needy in the society. Also, there is a system of voluntarily contributing in the society (Sadaqah) to help the needy people. Hence, it is one of the obligatory duties of Ummah.

09) Work to eradicate Menace of Extremism from the Society:

It is also the duty of the Muslim Ummah to remove the menace of extremism from the society by promoting the peace and harmony and by spreading the true teachings of Islam.

10) Strive for Equality and Brotherhood:

In today's globalized world, everyone is divided and a hostile environment prevails. Hence, it is the duty of Ummah to strive for Muslim unification and brotherhood. To remain united and provide equal rights as mentioned in Islamic teachings.

11) Establishing a Consultation-Based System:

Moreover, the Muslim Ummah is assigned with a duty to establish a system of Mushawarat for better decision-making for the prosperity and betterment of Muslim Ummah.

CONCLUSION:

In a quintessence, Islam is a religion of peace and equality. It spreads the message of brotherhood and justice. There is no place of extremism, racism in Islam. For this purpose, Allah sends His viceroy on Earth and termed them as 'Ummah'. A single community under the principles of a single teaching and leadership to spread the message of just system. They have several duties assigned, such as, united with each other, care for others and have Ehsas for other Muslims. Hence, according Allah, He is the only superior and virtuous and provider of everything to everyone on the Earth.

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