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Islamic Worships: Social, Spiritual, and Moral Impact :-

Concept of Ibadah:-

The word 'Ibadah' literally means obedience, submission, servitude. In Islam, 'Ibadah' is the ultimate obedience, the ultimate submission for Allah. Worship, according to Islam, is a means of the purification of man's soul and his practical life.

We are servants to our Creator, therefore we must do as we are told by our master, and lead our lives according to the purpose given to us by Him.

I did not create the Jinns and the humans except for the purpose that they should worship me.

(Az-Zariyat - 56)

Nature of worship in Islam:-

The Islamic concept of worship is a beautiful mix of all definitions of worship. The Muslims are blessed with a set of different worships that help us stay in constant touch with Allah. Some are to be performed daily, some once a year, and some in a life-time.

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Worships can be categorized into three types. These are:

Physical worships:-

These worships include Salaat and Saum.

Financial worships:-

These worships include Zakaat.

Physical and Financials-

The physical and financial worships include Hajj.

Fundamental Islamic Worships:-

The religion of Islam stands on five pillars. These are described below:

Prayer (Salah):-

Introduction:-

In literal sense, the word 'salah' refers to dua/prayer. In Terminology, it refers to the obligatory five daily prayers. It is the most important pillar of Islam, and is the most regular compulsory action in a Muslim's life. It is the one act that must be fulfilled at least five times a day, regardless of the circumstance.

The Prophet PBUH said:

The first of his deeds for which a man will be called to account on the Day of Resurrection

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will be the prayers. If it is found to be perfect, he will be safe and successful. But if it is defective, he will be unfortunate and a loser.

Prayer was obligated ^(Tabnaani) in the 10th year of Prophethood when Prophet RBUH was called upon skies (Mairaj). Moreover, it was the only worship to be obligated in Maliki era.

Fajr - Dawn to Sunrise

Zuhr - After noon until the shadow of everything is ^{twice} its size.

Asr - From the time the shadow of everything is ^{thrice} its size until sunset.

Maghrib - From sunset until complete darkness

Isha - From complete darkness until dawn.

Importance :-

'Salah' is important due to many reasons. These are:

1) The word 'Salah' has been mentioned in Quran more than 60 times.

2) It is the first deed which will be accounted for on the Day of Judgement.

3) It is a distinguishing factor between a Muslim and a non-Muslim.

Between man and polytheism and disbelief is the abandonment of salah. (Muslim)

Impacts :-

Salaah has spiritual and social impacts. These are: moral

1) Spiritual and moral impacts:-

- Spiritual elevation:-

'Salah' or 'prayer' is the way or a source of getting close to Allah. It is a mean of talking to Allah SWT. Hazrat Ali (RA) says that when he wants Allah to talk to him, he recites the Quran, and when he wants to talk to Allah, he offers salaah.

The nearest servant comes to his Lord is when he is prostrating, so increase your prayers (in this state). (Muslim)

- Cleansing from sins:-

Allah has provided Salah as a source of atonement of sins. The Messenger gave a beautiful example when he said to his companions:

Consider if one of you had a river by his door in which he bathed five times a day. Would any filth remain on him? They said, No! Then the Prophet PBUH replied: Likewise,

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Allah wipes away sins with the five daily prayers.

- Source of purification for the body -

'Salah' is the source of purification for the body. Because Muslims are ordered to do wuzu which purifies the body.

O you who believe! When you rise to pray, wash your faces and your hands and arms to the elbows, and wipe your heads, and your feet to the ankles. If you had intercourse, then purify yourselves. (Al-Maidah - 6)

- Direct communication with Allah:-

Through prayer, a Muslim is able to connect with his Lord. The Messenger PBUH of Allah SWT said:

When anyone of you stands to pray, he is communicating with his Lord, so let him pay attention to how he speaks to Him.

- A way to seek help from Allah:-

Salah is actually a way to seek help from Allah when you are depressed and helpless. Allah SWT is always there to help you.

O you who believe! Seek help through patience and salah. (Al-Baqarah - 45)

- Shield against evil:-

Man was created weak and without seeking help from Allah, it will be impossible to refrain from evil. There is no doubt that the one who stands in front of Allah willingly will be different from the one who does not.

Surely salah restrains one from shameful and evil acts. (Al-Ankaboot - 45)

- Makes one punctual:-

Prayer keeps a person punctual as he knows that he has to do all his works at time because he has to perform the prayer on a fixed time.

Prayer is enjoined upon believers at a stated time.

(An-Nisa - 103)

- Sense of contentment and satisfaction:-

Prayer brings a sense of contentment and peace in the life of a believer.

Surely, it is in the remembrance of God that hearts find comfort. (Al-Ra'd - 28)

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2) Social Impacts:-

- Strengthens The social setup:-

Salah strengthens the social setup of the Muslim community. It provides the opportunity to the lowest as well as the highest personalities of the place in perfect equality. The social aspect of the service of the prayer is that the believer feels around him the sovereignty of God, and lives in a state of military discipline. At the call of Muezzin, all rush to the place of assembly, stand in serried ranks behind leaders, doing acts and carrying on movements in common with others in perfect uniformity and coordination. It depicts the unity of world community of Muslims without distinction of class, race, or region.

- Instills modesty:-

Salah brings modesty in believers. As they see everyone praying equally before Allah, the ego in their minds starts reducing. As they come to know that before Allah everyone is equal and has no superiority.

- Instills love and affection for other Muslim brothers:-

When the prayer is performed in

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Congregation, it cultivates brotherhood, equality and humility between Muslims. The worshippers stand shoulder to shoulder in rows, of race, nationality, color, wealth, family, status etc. This act of unity helps demolish all barriers which stand between men. The Prophet PBUH said:
Prayer in congregation is better than praying alone by twenty-seven degrees.