

What is Islam? Discuss the major features of Islam.

Introduction

Islam is not merely a religion. It is a complete deen based on divine laws for the betterment of mankind. Islam is a monotheist religion based on the divine laws that are directly revealed by Allah Almighty on His Prophet (PBUH) in between 610 AD - 632 AD.

As per the Islamic scholar Dr. Hameed Ullah, Islam means monotheism, which is revealed by Allah Almighty on His last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

All the teaching and guideline provided in Islam is meant not only for the Islamic followers, but for all mankind and can be practice by anyone at any place at any time. All the teachings are exemplified by the role model Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), practically.

Flow Chart of Islam and its features



Islam with arabic origin

Islam is derive from three words which has arabic roots, S, L, M. These words are inter-related to generate meaning-ful words: "Peace", "Submitting" and "Submission". The old name of Islam is Deen-e-Hanif.

Literal meaning of Islam

The literal meaning of Islam is peace, submission and submitting. The relationship between individual and Allah is refered as submission and relationship between individual and individual is refered as peace.

Contextual meaning of Islam

The Contextual meaning of Islam is to enter peace by submitting to the will of Allah Almighty. It is also refered as the Surreal Submission of desires to the will of Allah.

Shariat meaning of Islam

The Shariat meaning of Islam is to voluntarily give up your desires or voluntarily submission of desires to the will of Allah Almighty, where submission means that you bear witness that there is no god but Allah and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is Allah's last Prophet.

Syed Amir Ali perspective of Islam

As per Syed Amir Ali, Islam means to accept monotheism. It is to admit that Allah alone is the sustainer of the world and Holy Prophet is His last Prophet. Syed Amir Ali wrote in his book "The Spirit of Islam", that Islam means to accept ~~monotheism~~ monotheism; embrace prophethood; perform good deeds and forgive evils.

Islam as a universal deen

Islam is a universal deen and not merely a religion. Likewise, other religions, Islam do not have any geographical territories. It can be practice by anyone, anywhere and at any time. It provides complete guideline on entire life, which covers every aspect of life.

Islam is for entire mankind without any discrimination

Islam teaching is same for everyone. It does not support the concept of human supremacy. In the sight of Islam, all human beings are equal, and therefore Islam is open to anyone who wishes to seek divine guidance from it. There is no ~~restriction~~ restriction to anyone. In Holy Quran, Allah Almighty have said that there is no indication for wise people, in Quran.

Features of Islam

a) Concept of Tauheed left no doubt in the existence of Allah

Tauheed is the core pillar of Islam.

Worships, faith, ritual and systems are all dependent on Tauheed. The concept of Tauheed left no residue in the existence of Allah and Allah alone is worthy for worship. Holy Prophet teachings were centric around the concept of Tauheed.

In Quran Allah Almighty said: "There is none worth of worship, except Allah"
(Kalima Tayyab)

b) Finality of Prophet to protrait that no further prophets will be send

Finality of Prophet frames that no further prophets will be send for the assistance of mankind. This belief kills all the false beliefs and claimers of prophethood. The presence of

Features

hadith and Sunnahs are more than enough for the mankind. Allah Almighty have provided indepth knowledge of every aspect of life and exemplified it. In Quran, Kalima Tayyab Allah Almighty said that Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the last Prophet.

c) Islam provides complete code of life, for all time frame

Islam provide guidance to all mankind in every aspect of life: individual, social, material, ethical, family, economical, political, and war and many more. Islam provides a complete code of life and the code is not only in accordance to the ancient life and issues, but it do have the potential to tackle the modern issue. In Surah Maidah, Allah said that "Today I have perfect your deen. I have completed my favour upon you and choose Islam as a deen for you."

d.) Quran: Ultimate source of guidance in original form

Holy Quran is the only existing divine book on the earth, that is in the original form. It is composed of Allah's Almighty word in original form, for the guidance of mankind. It is free from human creativity and will remain in its original form, till the last day, as Allah Almighty took the responsibility of its protection. In Surah Al-Hijr, Allah have clearly stated that we are the one who send the Quran and we solely are its guarantor, guardian.

e.) Concept of Day of Judgement to promote righteous deeds

Islam is the only religion which provides depth information regarding the day of Judgement along with earthly information. Islam have clearly convey that individuals are in the world for limited time and have been send with specific goals. Islam promises individual that

upon good deeds they will be awarded with heaven and upon bad deeds, they will be sent to hell. In Surah Al-Imran, it is stated that there are deeds which are acceptable by Allah and are rewarded with gardens.

f.) Islam discourage human Supremacy over others humans

Islam discourage human Supremacy over other humans based on color, beliefs, character or gender. Islam emphasis on human's rights and responsibilities. It promotes brotherhood and encourage kindness toward one another. In Surah Hujurat, Allah stated that all the Islamic followers are brothers, make settlement with them and take care of one another's right.

g.) Islam teachings for non-muslim, which can be practice without hurdles

Islam is an ideal system, which is not only meant for the muslims. It can be

freely exercise by the non-muslim, anywhere at anytime. Islam is not limited to a specific group or geographical location, but rather it is for entire mankind living in any specific area. There are many western scholar who have been studying Islam in order to compare it with different religion, can provided unbiased conclusion.

h.) Islam develops religious, as well as behaviour character of individual
Islam is the only religion which help in individual development. It keeps a balanced approach to develop religious and behavior character of individual. It dictates an individual about its role and responsibilities toward Allah, family, father, mother, neighbours, relatives, friends and other, which eventually help individual to develop a pleasant character. In Quran, it is mentioned that who ever fulfill his duties and responsibilities toward mother, will be rewarded with heaven.

i) Islam helps individual to create direct connection with Allah Almighty

Islam is the only religion which does not need anyone assistance in order to learn and obey the teaching of Islam. All the teachings are self-explanatory and can be easily practice to develop connection with Allah Almighty. It is Islam is free from any hierarchy structure in order to communicate with Allah Almighty.

ii) Provides economy system to avoid inflation and recession

Islam provides an ideal economy system to avoid inflation and recession. Islam promotes the idea of circulating the wealth rather than concentrating it. Moreover, it promote the idea of equity distribution rather than is concentrated in few hands. The concept of Zakat and Sunnat Ibrahimiyah are perfect example to rotate the wealth within the society.

Conclusion:

In the light of the above stated argument, it can be concluded that Islam is a universal ~~dean~~ ^{which} ~~that~~ is equipped with all the guidance and teaching that is essential for an individual to live a peaceful life and appease Allah Almighty at the Day of Judgement. It is a religion which can be freely exercise by anyone, anywhere at any time frame. It holds the potential to cater any modern issues, effectively and efficiently.