

## Q: What is Islam?

The word 'Islam' means Submission and peace: submission to the moral imperatives of the One and only God and peace with His creatures. On the ~~horizontal~~ vertical level (man-to-God relationship) Islam means submission. On the horizontal level (man-to-man relationship) it means peace.

The true love of God and submission to His commands is the Guarantor of the peace and harmony among His creatures.

Allah is al-Salam which is one of His Ninety Nine Most Beautiful names. It means He is the source and originator of all peace, the peace that needs to permeate every aspect of this cosmos, especially human society.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to recite the following supplication after performing the obligatory prayers and a muslim is recommended to do the same. It states "O Allah, You are Peace and from You emanates all peace blessed are You, O Possessor of majesty and honor"

The Quran refers to Islam as the "paths of peace" Subul-al-Salam (Al-Maidah 5:16). God abhors disturbance of peace, Fitnah (Al-Baqarah 2:205)

### Literal Meanings of Islam

1) The word "Islam" has been derived from the root of Arabic word SLM (سلم), which means "to surrender". To submit, to yield, and to give one's self up?

Thus

“اسلم امره الى الله”

"He committed his cause of God" or he resigned himself to the will of God.

i) Imam Raghīb al-Isfahānī (d. 1108) in his *Mufaḥḥat al-Gharīb al-Qurān* says, *Islam*, in law, is of two kinds,

- 1) Simple Confession with the tongue.
- 2) There is belief in the heart and a fulfillment in practice, and resignation to God in whatever He brings to pass or decrees.

iii) Syed Amur Ali (1849-1928) in his epic book "The spirit of Islam" defines *Islam* as "Salam (Salām)" in its primary sense means to be tranquil, at rest to have done one's duty, to have paid up, to be at perfect peace; in its secondary sense To surrender oneself to Him with whom peace is made.

### Conventional Meaning of Islam.

As described above, *Islam* is an Arabic word that denotes submission, surrender and obedience. As a religion, *Islam* stands for complete submission and obedience to Allah - whence the name *Islam*.

The other literal meaning of the word "*Islam*" is "peace". This signifies that one can achieve real peace of body and of mind only through submission and obedience to Allah.

### Concept of Islam.

As discussed above *Islam* signifies and requires the obedience and submission not only in belief and mode of worship but also in ethics, morality, politics, culture, social behavior, laws, economics and international affairs both in individual and collective spheres.



The fundamental concept of Islam is premised on the notion that the whole universe is created by Allah. He created man for a fixed period of life to be lived on the earth as a trust and test. Allah has prescribed a divine code of life for man and granted freedom to follow this code or not. As in Surah Al Kahf says:

مَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيُؤْمِنْ وَمَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيُكْفُرْ  
"Whosoever wants, he should believe; and whosoever wants, he should disbelieve" (Al Kahaf, 18: 29)

iii) Islam has been revealed for the guidance of mankind. For the proper development of human life, man needs two elements.

a) The resource to maintain life and to fulfil the material needs of individual and society.

b) Knowledge of principles of individual and social behavior to enable man to fulfill himself and to maintain justice and tranquillity in human life.

iv) The essence of basic Islamic concept consist of the idea that it is not enough to practice Islam in the personal life only, but that the teachings of the Quran and those of the Sunnah need also be implemented in their totality in the social, economic and political field.

v) The 2nd century (AH) work of Hanafite theology Fiqh-i Akbar II says: 'Islam is equated with the total surrender (taslim) and total obedience (Inqiyad) to the divine laws.'



## SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM

### 1. ISLAMIC CONCEPT (E) TAWHEED

Tawheed is the 1st part of Kalma.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

"There is none worthy of worship except Allah."

The importance of Tawheed is mentioned in Surah Ikhlas

Say Allah is the one

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

Allah is the eternal and absolute

اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ

None is born of him and nor He was born

لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ

And there is none like him.

لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ

Tawheed is the core pillar of Islam and it is the bed rock of Islam. All the faiths & worships, rituals of family life are based on Tawheed. Deen-e-Islam is totally based on concept of Tawheed. In the Book

Seet-ul-Nabw (Allama Shibli Nauman), mentioned "Tawheed is 1st chapter of Islam. Islam is like a fort and the gate of a fort is the Tawheed.

### 2) PROPHETHOOD:

It is the 2nd part of Kalma.

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

"Muhammad (SAW) is the messenger of Allah (SWT)."

Islam is incomplete without having faith on finality of Prophethood. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is the

example to live life as per Quran and Sunnah.

He taught us importance of education. Holy Prophet (SAW) said, "I have been sent as teacher to man."

Primary sources of Shariah are Quran and Sunnah.



وَمَا يَتَّبَعُ عَنِ الْقَوْلِ

• Nor doth he speak of (his own) desire.  
Holy Prophet (SAW) is considered as Sunnah for us, and  
life of Holy Prophet (SAW) gives straight path to live.  
Islam is the practical deen. All rules mentioned in Quran,  
and Holy Prophet (SAW) implemented/practiced those rules  
in his life. He is also called the "Live version of Holy  
Quran".

### 3) COMPLETE CODE OF LIFE

Islam gives complete guidance in every aspect of  
life. It guides in individual life, like Rites of  
a newly born baby and his upbringing. It also emphasize  
on brotherhood <sup>and</sup> concepts of education.

Holy Prophet (SAW) said, "Seeking knowledge is mandatory  
on each man and woman."

Islam provides complete guidance from per livelihood cradle  
to grave and also provide collective system of life.

It guides in Social system, Political system, Financial  
system and Justice system and provides global world  
policy.

### 4) ISLAM & HUMANITY:

Humanity is having qualities without any discrimination  
means having love, care, sympathy, empathy and patience  
for others. It is also means fulfilling all kinds of rights  
from human rights to animal rights, even world is focusing  
on Environmental protection.

Humanity in Islam.

Human must be characterful



يا ايها الذين اءامنوا لا يفتخر قوم من قوم عسى ان يكون  
خيرا منهم ولا نساء من نساء عسى ان يكن خيرا منهن  
ولا تفتخروا بفضلكم ولا تتمايزوا بالالقب بتس الاسم  
الفتوق به الا ليمان ومن لم يتب فاولئك هم  
الظالمون  
(Surah Hyraah : 12)

O believer! Do not let some "men" ridicule others, they  
may be better than them, not let "some" women ridicule  
other women, they may be better than them. Do not  
defame one another, not call each other by offensive  
nick names. How evil it is to act rebelliously  
after having faith! And whoever does not repent, it is  
they who are the "true" wrong doers.

As per Holy Prophet (SAW) "Perfect among believers  
are those who are best in character."

It is mentioned in Holy Quran "Charity is humanity  
means spending money on other human beings is best  
aspect of humanity."

Social work: Scholar of Al-Azhar University Dr  
Wasiullah Muhammad Abbas's Book (Key features of  
Islam said, The best quality of Islam is practice  
of social work even it gives you reward after  
death.

The Hadith ~~551~~ of Sahih Bukhari volume 3:  
states that Holy Prophet (SAW) said that Muslims will be  
rewarded for their good deeds with animals as well.

Social work is considered of high importance in Islam  
and Muslims should 'involved' in serve the people regardless  
of their religion.



Human Rights. Holy Prophet (SAW) in last sermon said that these every one is equal no matter which ethnic groups or color he/she belongs to. There is according another hadith of Holy Prophet (SAW) is the greatest sins are to associate someone with Allah and to kill human beings.

In Holy Quran in Surah An-Nisa 4:148 Allah said:  
لَا يَحِبُّ اللَّهُ الْجَهْرَ بِالسُّوءِ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ إِلَّا مَن ظَلَمَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَظِيمًا

"Allah likes not the utterance of harsh speech save by one who has been wronged Allah is ever Heavens Knower."

#### Animal Rights:

In Islam working for animal rights is also Humanity. Holy Prophet (SAW) premasked a person whose camel was thirsty. Moreover, In hadith of Holy Prophet (SAW) said, Woman was send to hell because her cat was died due to hunger and thirst.

#### Environment's Right:

Islam teaches to fulfil the rights of plants as well. As Holy Prophet (SAW) said. "Don't cut green trees even in the time of war" and for water He said "Don't waste single drop of water even if you are sitting at running street."

In a nut shell, Islam is the only religion in the world which emphasize on the Humanity.