

## Salient Features of Islam

Islam means 'peace'. It is the true religion revealed by Almighty Allah for the guidance of mankind. After its <sup>peaceful</sup> revelation in Arab it kept spreading throughout the globe & a report published by wikipedia in 2022 claim that the growth rate of Islam in 2022 was 70% making it the fastest growing religion of the entire world.

The question is what makes Islam so appealing to the modern age? what are those distinctive features of Islam that are winning so many followers even in this era of science & technology?

### 1- Divine revelation:

Islam is a divinely revealed ideology, revealed on prophet Muhammad (PBUH) the last messenger of Allah.

The written manual of Islam the Holy Quran has massive evidence supporting its divinity. The spiritual appeal of the Quran, its theological rationality, its cosmological description, the way it describes God, and its prophecies, all of which came true, & the amount of knowledge it provides are all outside human capacity. As Allah, in Quran challenges openly:

"and if ye are in doubt as to what we have revealed from time to time to Our servant then produce a surah like the breunto and call your witnesses ~~our~~ or helpers (if there are any) besides Allah if your (doubts) are true." (2:23)

## 2. Aligns with human nature:

From the trappist monks & nuns who ~~keep~~ take the vow of silence to the pops in christianity who keep themselves from marrying, A Hasidic jew is restrained from consuming wheat or any wheat-based product & hinduism keeps omnivorous human beings from ever consuming <sup>every other ancient relig</sup> meat, Islam aligns completely with human nature & ~~is~~ doesnot impose any extreme restrictions. ~~with a right amount of~~ \* Islam has a set of rules & regulations which makes muslims capable of distinguishing between wrong & right, halaal & haram but none of the restrictions ~~restrain~~ muslims from doing anything that forces humans to go against their nature.

### 3. Simplicity:

The teachings of Islam are simple & intelligible. The Oneness of God, the prophethood, life after death, books & Angels are the basic building blocks of Islamic belief system. There is no hierarchy of priests, no detached abstractions and no complicated ~~leg~~ rites & rituals.

Allah says clearly:

"Those who believe and act righteously, joy is for them, and a blissful home to return to" (Ar Raad 13:29).

### 4. Rationality & practicality:

Islam invites man to think & to use his intellect. Unlike other ancient religions who promote superstitions & irrational beliefs. Allah clearly says:

"This is a communication to be transmitted to mankind so that they can be warned by it and so that they will know that He is One God and so that people of intelligence will pay heed" (Al-Quran 14:52).

Allah encourages those who seek knowledge and declares <sup>that</sup> men of knowledge are better than those who don't know in az-Zumar 39:9 He says:

"Says: Are those who know and those who don't know alike?"

man ~~is~~ is superior ~~of~~ all beings, even angels & Allah says in al-Baqarah: "of all things it is by virtue of knowledge that man is superior to angels and has been made vicegerent of God on earth" (2:30)

Therefore, Islam is easy to follow & guides man to direct his free will for good purpose by providing him with the complete code of life and a manual in the shape of quran which every man can approach directly & seek guidance from it.

## 5. Balance:

The teachings of Islam are an embodiment of balance in individual's <sup>own</sup> life & between ~~man~~ <sup>him</sup> & society. Islam does not support austerity. It wants man to maintain a balance between his religious & worldly affairs & to practice them all ~~as~~ piously. A man who lives in a society, bears the hardships & challenges it ~~has~~ offers and

remains true to his beliefs and follows the will of Allah in every task he performs is far more superior than the one who abandons the world & everything in it in the name of Allah.

Our Prophet (PBUH) said:

"A muslim ~~who bears~~ the lives in the society and bears with patience the addictions that come to him is better than the one who shuns society and cannot bear any wrong done to him"

Same is the case with man and society rights, in Islam, are divided into 2 basic classes, i.e; Rights of Allah and rights of fellow humans. Rights ~~and~~ of humans are give more importance

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

"All creatures of God form the family of God and he is the best loved of God who loves best His creatures!"

Moreover, social responsibility is in the source of religion Islam. The ~~1st~~ pillars of Islam are a major representative of this fact. Namaz is offered in congergation, a situation that inculcates social discipline among muslims. Zakat, on the other hand,

ensures the circulation of wealth & betterment of poor in the society hence awakens the spirit of love and kindness towards fellow humans.

## 6. ~~Universality~~ Universality:

وما ارسلناك الا رحمة للعالمين (21:107)

"We have sent you only as a mercy for everybody in the universe"

Allah has declared Muhammad (PBUH)  $\text{رحمة للعالمين}$ , which means 'mercy for the whole universe' and every creature living or in this universe including human beings of all cultures, societies, religions & races. Islam wants to join <sup>all the</sup> scattered and disoriented human beings under one flag without the distinctions of color, clan, creed and race.

Modern world is all scattered & humanity is suffering because humans are divided based on fake, material standards. Islam has a very simple solution for this problem as Allah says:

"The most honourable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has taqwa."

Islam also offers<sup>a</sup> solution to many problems of the present world, as a non-Muslim historian A. J. Toynbee in 'Civilization on Trial' writes;

"The dominant elements in our western society are race consciousness and alcohol and in struggle with each of these evils the Islamic spirit has a service to render which might prove, if it were to be accepted, to be of high moral & social value."

## 7. Flexibility:

The Islamic principles have a perspective so wide that they can be applied in any age & time, they are free of the chains of age and time and are flexible enough to be moulded accordingly. It is through Ijtihad, intellectual effort to arrive at the truth, that people of every age try to implement & apply the divine guidance to the problems of their times.

The basic guidance is the same while its methods of application may vary in accordance with the peculiar needs of every age. That is why Islam remains as fresh and modern as it was yesterday.

## 8- Well preserved:

last but not the least, the teachings of Islam are very well preserved. Allah says in Al-Hajj : 09 :

ان نحن نزلنا الذكر وانا له لحفظون

"It is certainly We who have revealed the Reminder and it is certainly We who will preserve it"

and therefore the Holy Quran, even after the passing of 1450 year, still remains in its original form. Moreover, detailed accounts of the Prophet and of His teachings are available in pristine purity. The fact that the Holy Quran was revealed and noted down in the life of Muhammad (PBUH) and was not added to or changed afterwards, ~~add~~ unlike other Holy books, adds to the authenticity of Holy Quran and the well preservation of Islamic teachings. argument of