

Date
6-1-2023

Islamiyat Assignment

Q:- What is Islam? Enlist the salient features of Islam?

Outline:-

1. Introduction
2. Meaning of Islam
3. Salient Features of Islam.
 - a. Tawheed: The bedrock of Islam.
 - b. Prophet hood.
 - c. Complete code of life.
 - d. Balance between the individual and the society.
 - e. universality of the Religion.
 - f. Humanism and Islam.
 - g. Islam's foundation are beyond any Nationalism.
 - h. A religion of equality.
 - i. True spirituality
 - j. Complete record of teachings preserved.
4. Conclusion.

1. Introduction:-

Islam is the religion of truth. Islam is an Arabic word which means resignation to God. The root word is SLM, pronounced as

"Salm" which means peace. Islam is the religion of Peace and its main aim is also to establish peace and teachings of prophet (P.B.U.H). Human needs two basic things to survive in this world

- (a) material things to fulfill his needs.
- (b) Knowledge of the principle of individual behaviour to enable man to establish peace and justice.

To fulfill material needs Allah has created nature full of resources for human beings and for his spiritual and cultural needs He raised his prophets to educate them. All the prophets were messenger of Allah, conveying the same message of Islam and guided people towards right path. All of them give the same message and stood for the same cause.

2. Meaning of Islam:-

Islam is an Arabic word which means Surrender, Submission. It means completely Surrender or submit yourself to Allah. The literal meaning of

the word is "Peace", which means that a human being can only be at peace when he surrenders himself to the will of Allah. As a religion, it stands for belief in one Allah and all the prophets of Allah Almighty. Along with it the very important aspect is to accept the finality of Holy prophet (PBUH). It's a complete code of life which guides human being in every aspect of life. It integrates man with God, awakens in him a new moral insight. A man joins the folds of Islam by simply believing and professing faith in the oneness of Allah along with the finality of prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

3. Salient Features of Islam:-

Salient features are distinguish aspects that facilitate the recognition of that specific thing. As Islam is the only true, complete and universal religion it has ~~most~~ many distinguish features. Some of them are listed below.

a. Tawheed: The Bedrock of Islam:

The essence of the teachings of Islam is tawheed. It means there is ^{only} one Supreme Lord of the universe. He is omnipotent, omnipresent and the Sustainer of the whole universe.

Holy prophet (P.B.U.H) has emphasised upon tawheed by saying that:

"Islam is like a fort and the gate to that fort is tawheed."

(Hadith).

No one can enter the folds of Islam without confessing oneness of Allah.

The Balance and harmony of this world is the clear sign of presence of one God. The stars scattered through the sky, waning and waxing of moon, changing of day in night, seasonal changes all these points out towards presence of one God. Allah Almighty introduce himself in the Holy Quran as:

الشّلال الالهو العى القيوه لا تاخذو سته والو له ما فى

السّموت وما فى الارض

(البقره: 255)

"Allah! None is worthy of worship ~~is~~ but He, the Ever-living, the self-subsisting, the one who sustains and protect (the entire universe with his strategy). He is seized by neither slumber nor sleep. Whatever is in the Heavens and whatever in the earth belongs to Him alone."

b. Prophet hood:-

Another feature of Islam is prophet hood. Allah Almighty has sent almost 124,000 messengers for the mankind. All of them share the same message and were struggling for the same cause. i.e cause of Islam. Allah Almighty has not left human being without any guidance for the conduct of his life. Every prophet strove to build man's relationship with God. ~~Not only~~ Believing prophets is not enough until unless a muslim confess Muhammad (Peace be upon him) as the final prophet and last messenger of Allah. It's second part of our Kalima, and a basic article of Faith. Life of Holy prophet (P.B.U.H) is a role model for all

Muslim. We can even say that it's a practical example in terms of every aspect of life either it be social, political, cultural or economic. All the deeds and saying of Muhammad (Peace be upon him) are of so importance that they are regarded as 'Sunnah' and 'Hadith' and it's mandatory for every Muslim to follow Hadith and Sunnah. Allah himself says in the Holy Quran:

وما ادرنا الا رقة للعالمين

(الانبيا: ٤ : ١٥٧)

"And we have not sent you but as a mercy for all the universe."

c. Complete Code of Life:-

Allah says in the Holy Quran:

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام

(آل عمران)

"Indeed, the ^{Deen} religion in the sight of Allah is Islam."

As Islam is the only Deen in this world it is providing guidance to men

in every aspect of Life. Either it be the birth, Marriage, death, economic issue, Political issue, Financial issue. Islam is complete code means it has solution of every difficulty. Islam taught rituals at the time of birth of a baby. It has even taught us Sunnah way of Bathing and cutting nails. The teaching of Holy prophet (Peace be upon him) illuminates every aspect of life be it individual or collective, social or societal, mental or spiritual, economic or political with the light of divine guidance.

d. Balance between the individual and the Society:-

Another unique feature of Islam is that it established balance between individualism and collectivism. It believes that every individual personality is accountable to Allah. It also guaranteed the fundamental rights of the individuals and does not allow any one to temper them. On the other hand it also awakens a sense of responsibility in men. He would also be accountable ~~towards~~ for his deeds and acts towards

society. By living in a society a man has various responsibilities on him. He would then try to establish a balance between his individual and societal life by completing his roles towards society. That can include praying in mosque, paying zakat, visiting the sick, helping the poor, etc.

e. universality of the Religion:-

Islam is the only universal religion in the world. This religion was ~~sent~~ revealed for the whole mankind and in fact the religion of all the prophets was Islam. This religion is not limited to any part or any country of the world. Neither is it for Arabs only. The message of Islam is for entire human race. God, in Islam is the God and the creator of all the world and the prophet is the Last messenger for the whole mankind.

f. Humanism and Islam:-

In Islam all men and women are equal. These

is no room for discrimination in Islam. It speaks for the rights of Humans without emphasizing upon the colour, caste and nationality. Along with human rights Islam strongly supports rights of Animals.

"Holy prophet (P.B.U.H) reprimanded a person just because his camel was thirsty."

Islam emphasizes Muslims to be empathic, loving, kind and caring not only for humans but also for animals. These attributes has high rewards in Islam.

Along with this Islam also emphasize upon protection of the environment.

It's a famous saying that:

"Do not cut green trees even if you are in the state of war."

on emphasizing upon the importance of humanism Holy prophet (P.B.U.H) said:

"All creatures of God form the Family of God and he is loved by the God who loves his creatures."

g. Islam's foundations are beyond any Nationalism.

There are three things

that are basis of rule in this world. =

1) Race 2) Language 3) colour

and so far in this modern world no one has dare to come out of these.

But Islam has erased all prejudicial distinctions. It does not profess any kind of discrimination between the weak and powerful. No any Nation either it be Pakistani, Indian, Bangladesh, Indonesia etc has superiority over other. Muslims of every country and every region are equal.

h. Religion of Equality:-

Islam is the religion of Equality. Equality does not mean that an ignorant and learnt are equal, traitor and a loyal portrait are equal. Having this equality means there are no human rights or moral values. Equality means every person legally and religiously will get all the same rights in the territory of Islam. Similar was the message of Holy prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) in his Last Sermon:

"An Arab has no superiority over

a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab has any superiority over Arab; also a white has no superiority over black, nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety (taqwa) and good action."

i. True spirituality:

The quintessential quality of a true religion is that it must have a spiritual aspect. Human being is a combination of body and soul. The Bodily needs can be fulfilled easily by using various things. But how can a spiritual need of a soul can be fulfilled. Only Religion to give soul its food is the Islam. It has forbidden various acts like adultery, theft, cheating all such vices as the immoral acts. Along with this it has also shown righteous path of offering prayers, observing fast, paying zakat, performing Hajj etc. All these acts helps a man in attaining spirituality. As it is mention in Holy Quran.

الاذكر الله تلهن القلوب
(سورة الرعد)

Truly, only through the remembrance of Allah

do hearts find peace?"

3 Complete record of teaching preserved.

The teachings of Holy Quran have been preserved in their original form and God's Guidance is available without adulteration of any kind. Books revealed to other prophets are not in its original condition. But in the teachings of Islam there is not even an iota of change and it will remain same till the day of judgement.

4. Conclusion:-

Islam is the religion of truth which means to surrender.

These features of islam establish it as the religion for the entire universe and for the mankind. These features have appealed thousands of people in the past and this will continue to appeal them in the future. Men with pure hearts sincere longings for truth will always continue to say:

لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله