

Question:

Describe in detail the elements of Islamic civilization

Answer:

1- INTRODUCTION:

Civilization is a shared system of belief and culture of a particular nation. There are particular elements of any civilization. Islamic civilization has multiple elements and characteristics as well that range from: Belief in the oneness of Allah, System of beliefs, System of worships, Concept of equality, Concept of brotherhood, Provision of social justice, economic justice, universality of the

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civilization, Family system,
Welfare of society, Pragmatism
and pluralism.

2- Meaning and Definition of Civilization:

The word civilization is a combination of two words 'civil' and 'nation'. 'civil' means people, while 'nation' means

Civilization is defined as a system in which people merge themselves together and follow a particular set of beliefs, culture, values, and norms.

3- Characteristics of Islamic Civilization:

These are multiple characteristics of Islamic

civilization which are mentioned and explained under the following headings:

1) Belief in the Oneness of Allah ~ Tauheed:

Tauheed is the bedrock of Islamic civilization, because it is the declaration of an individual who enters into the Deen of Islam by reciting

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

"There is no god, but Allah"

An individual cannot claim to be the member of Islamic civilization unless he believes in the oneness of Allah in creation, in attributes, and in action.

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Surah Al - Iklas is the perfect example of Tawheed from the Quran Sharif:

قُلْ قَدْ كَفَرْنَا بِمَا كُنَّا
نَعْبُدُ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ
اللَّهَ هُوَ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَدِيمُ
لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ إِنَّ
اللَّهَ هُوَ الْكَافِي
الْمُنِيبُ

" Say it is Allah who is
at One. He neither begets
nor is begotten.

a) System of Beliefs:

Islamic civilization has the system of beliefs that range from: belief in Oneness of Allah, belief in the finality of Prophet (PBUH), belief in angels, belief in Akhirah, belief in Wahi. The system of beliefs makes Islamic civilization different from other civilizations.

3- System of Worships.

The other feature of Islamic civilization is the system of worships which are obligatory and the disobedience of which is prohibited in the religion Islam. As it is mentioned in the Quran:

وَأَقِمُّوا الصَّلَاةَ وَالآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَارْكَعُوا مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ ۝

"And establish prayer and pay Zakat and bow with those who bow." (Al-Baqarah)

The obligatory worships of the Islamic civilization include, prayer, almsgiving, fasts, pilgrimage. It is obligatory for every man and woman to obey Allah by performing these worships.

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4- Concept of Equality:

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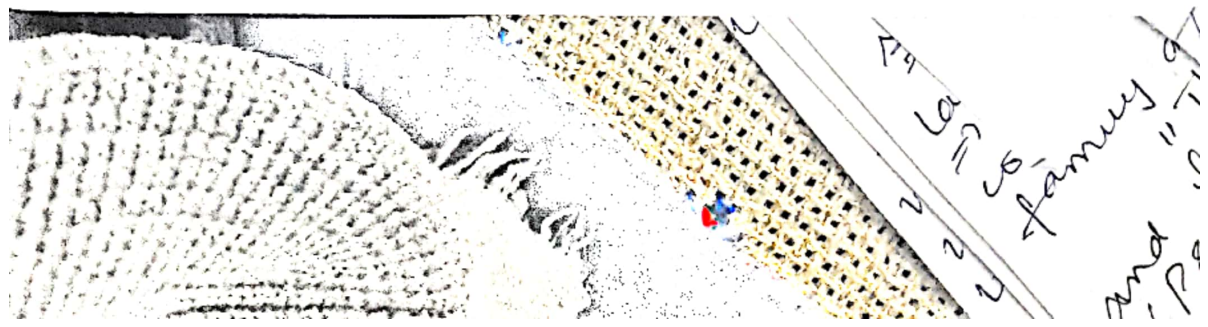
Every individual is equal in the Islamic civilization. There is no superiority of any caste over the other. It can be evidently proved from the last sermon of Holy Prophet (PBUH):

"No Arab is superior over non-Arab and no non-Arab is superior over an Arab. No white is superior over black and no black is superior over white, but by piety."

5- Concept of Brotherhood:

The concept of brotherhood is another feature of Islamic civilization. It is in the teachings of Islam

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to not indulge in any wrongdoing and rivalry amongst the Muslims. Muslims are considered spiritual brothers to one another in the Deen-e-Islam. As it is mentioned in the Quran Sharif:

وَاطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فِي شَيْءٍ
وَتَذَكَّرْ لَكُمْ وَالْمَبْرُوتِ أَنْ اللَّهُ
مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ

"And ^{obey} ~~worship~~ Allah and His Messenger and do not fall into disputes with each other lest you lose your hearts and your strength departs

6- Provision of Social Justice:

Provision of social justice is the other elem-

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ent of Islamic civilization. Islam teaches to be good in character and protect the rights of others and not to harm each other. According to the hadith of Holy Prophet (PBUH)

"The best among you is the one from whose tongue and hands other people are safe."

7) Concept of Economic Justice:

Concept of economic justice is another feature of Islamic civilization. It is ordered in the religion to provide due wages to men and women for their labour. It is mentioned in the hadith of Holy Prophet (PBUH):

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"Pay the labour before
his sweat dries."

8- Universality of the Islamic Civilization:

Islamic civilization is
universal and for the
entire humanity and for
all times. As it is
mentioned in the Quran:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

"And we have sent you as
a blessing for the entire
universe."

Our Holy Prophet (PBUH) is
the messenger of Allah
and his message is
brought to the entire
humanity and is sent as
a blessing for the entire
universe.

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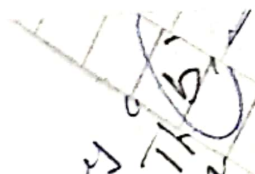
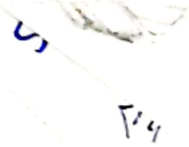
9- Family System of Islamic Civilization:

Family system through the agency of Nikah is the feature of Islamic civilization. The relationship between children and parents, wife and husband are considered sacred in Islam.

10) Pragmatism and Pluralism:

Islamic civilization merges all civilizations and is tolerant towards diversities. It respects other civilizations and minorities. It also gives freedom of religion to other minorities. As it is mentioned in the

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Quran:

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ ۖ

"For you is your religion
and for me is my
religion."

(Al-Kafirun)

Conclusion:

Islamic civilization is not the oldest civilization, but the perfect one that combines the best features of all civilizations. It has the best characteristics that makes it different and unique from other civilizations. From the belief in the Oneness of Allah is the characteristic of pluralism, it is indeed a complete civilization.

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