

What is Islam? What is meaning and concept of Islam?

The word Islam means submission and peace. Submission here means submitting of desire to the will of Allah. According to sharia voluntarily submission of desire to the will of Allah. Allah says in Quran Surah Bakrah Chapter 2 Verse No 256 "There is no compulsion in Islam". On other hand <sup>Submission</sup> Peace means Peace with his creatures, for submission of desire to the will of Allah Islam always emphasize on peace. The ideal society according to the Quran is 'Dar-al-Salam' which means the peace abode of Peace (Yunus 10:25). Therefore, those people who follow Islam is called Muslim. It is compulsory for muslim to believe in the absolute unity of Allah and believe prophet Muhammad (saw) as a last prophet, additional to that follow and obey all those rules which is laid down in Quran and Sunnah.

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## Literal meaning of Islam.

The word 'Islam' has been derived from the root of Arabic word SLM, which means 'to surrender', 'to submit', 'to yield', and 'to give one's self up'.

## What is Islam

Islam is a monotheistic religion which believe in one divine God. In Arabic Muslim called it Allah it is a universal religion that can be practiced by anyone at anyone at any time and in every place

The main basis upon which Islamic life is founded upon includes

- 1) A belief in the unity, power and mercy of Allah
- 2) Charity and brotherhood among mankind
- 3) Subjugation of Passions
- 4) Being grateful to Allah and remembering to thank him and behind humble
- 5) Accountability for human actions in another existence, being conscious of how we treat others and the sins we commit
- 6) Finality of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

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These are some famous definitions of Islam, According to Dr Hamidullah "Islam is monotheist revealed through Prophet"

According to Imam Ghazali "Islam is the combination of two, Right of Allah and Right of people"

Islam is a universal deen and complete code of life Allah says in Quran Surah Maida Verse 3

"Today, I have perfected for you your religion; Completed upon you, my favour, and chosen for you Islam as deen."

Islam can for the whole of mankind unlike discretion of Caste colour Allah says in Quran, Surah Maida Surah 5 Verse 32 "He who killed one person, killed whole of humanity; and He who save one person killed saved whole of humanity"

This verse clearly demonstrate that Islam is the religion of Peace and for whole humanity.

It is in human instinct to having peace of heart in remembrance of Allah. Allah says in Quran "It is in the remembrance of God alone, that the heart of man finds rest"

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## Concepts of Islam.

① Tawheed The basic principle of Islam is tawhid: the belief in the unity of Allah. According to Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Tawhid literally means 'making one' 'asserting oneness' and as stated in Shahadah Kalima 'There is no god but Allah and Muhammad (saw) is servant and Prophet of Allah. Allah says in Quran Surah Bagrah Verse 163 "And your God is one God; there is no god but he, Most Gracious, Most Merciful."

Tawhid is the main essence of Islam without believing and faith in Tawhid no one can be Muslim. Allah himself says in Quran Surah Nahil Verse 3 "Beware, none is your deity except me so be afraid of me. Tawheed is the core pillar of Islam. Those people who worship Idols or declared Jaser "son of God" done sever sin and Shirk, hence Allah will never forgive the Shirk until unless he repentance repent. According to Allama Shibli Numani "Tawheed is

The first Chapter of Islamic Syllabus and in another place he mentioned Islam is like a fort and the gate of that fort is Tawheed (Sirraat-Nahi by Allama Shibli Norani)

## (2) 2. Prophethood and Revelation:

No doubt we have sent the messengers into every nation

Muslims believe that God has chosen prophets that throughout history to deliver his message to humanity. According to one estimate there were approximately one hundred and twenty four hundred prophets sent by Allah to humans. According to Quran Verse 4 of Abaqra:

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِمَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا نُزِّلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ  
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And those who believe in what is descended unto you and what descended before you and believe in hereafter. It means that the men of faith possessed an attitude to believe that all the books which were revealed unto the prophets in the past in the irrespective languages of the followers of these prophets were true and were descended by Allah for the period of time of the prophethoods of the concerned prophets.

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③ (3) Quran and finality of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

Paying due regard to human nature and temperament Allah descended his commandments gradually bit by bit through Prophet and Holy Books. However, Prophets conveyed these commands unto their followers. However when this work of preaching was completed Allah stopped to send the Prophets after the Rasool Allah (SAW). "Rasool Allah himself says" There is no prophet after me and there is no Ummat after me " and in another

hadith Prophet Muhammad says "The example of I and the prophets sent before me is like a beautiful building constructed by somebody in which a space of one brick is left empty and I am that brick. After Rasool Allah (SAW)

all previous sasayat has been repealed as Rasool Allah says in one Hadith

"Even if Moses had in my time, he also followed my shariah". Furthermore, as Rasool Allah is last Prophet the Quran is also final testament. A Nevertheless, Allah himself says in Quran

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"Verily we have descended the Remembrance (Quran) and it is we who are its protectors" The Quran is more eminent than the other Holy Book revealed earlier. Quran is in the best interest of humanity. Success and Prosperity of all human kind is hidden in Holy Quran. It gives basic framework through which the modern problems of the world can be solved.

Allah says in Quran Surah An-Nahl 16: 89. "And we have revealed the book to you explaining clearly everything, and a guidance and mercy and good news for those who submit".

#### (4) Five Pillars of Islam

These are the essential acts of worship that Muslims are obligated to perform. They include the declaration of faith (Shahada), prayer (Salat) giving of alms (Zakat), fasting during Ramadan (Sawm) and the Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj) for those who are able.

(a) Faith Faith is the main pillar of Islam. In Faith firm belief on the oneness of Allah and prophet hood of Rosool Allah is compulsory element.

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As mentioned in 2nd Kalima " I bear witness <sup>that</sup> there is no God but Allah and prophet Muhammad is the Servant and Rasool of Allah .

① Salat <sup>the</sup> Second most Important pillar of Islam is Salat. It is a obligatory worship. It makes a man closer to his creator. According to Rasool Allah (saw) " Prayer is mercy for the believers " Prayer has very importance not only in Ibadah categories but also in our daily life. It teaches us discipline, brotherhood, patience tolerance and unity among the Muslims. As Allah mentioned in Quran Surah Al-Mumnoon - Chapter 23 verse 1-2 " Successful indeed are the believers who are humble in their prayer "

② Zakat Zakat is the third pillar of faith and around 30 times Zakat are mentioned in Quran. It is compulsory act of worship for Muslims. It involves the giving of a portion of one's wealth to help those in need and to fulfill welfare obligations. Zakat is both a spiritual and social .

*Salat*



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and obligation, aimed at purifying one's wealth and achieving social justice. As Allah mentioned in Quran Surah Al-Baqarah Chap 2 Verse 43

"واقيموا الصلاة وآتوا الزكاة واركعوا مع الراكعين"

"And keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate and bow down with those who bow down" Rasool Allah emphasis on Zakat in his life time.

The importance of Zakat can be by looking at historical examples like during the reign of first caliph Abu-Bakkar he declared Jihad against those who refused to pay Zakat. This demonstrates the significance of Zakat in Islam and its role in supporting the community and fulfilling the community financial needs of the less fortunate.

① Siyam. Siyam, or fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam and is considered a fundamental act of worship. It is observed by Muslims worldwide during the month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, Muslim fast from dawn until sunset, refraining from eating, drinking, smoking and engaging in intimate relations.

The purpose of fasting in Islam goes beyond abstaining from food and drink. It carries spiritual, physical, and social significance. Furthermore, Fasting was not obligatory to this Ummah but also to all Ummah's who have passed before. As Allah mentioned in Quran Surah Baqarah Chap 2 Verse 183

" يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ "

" O you who have believed, decrees upon you in fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous "

② Hajj Hajj is one of the four pillars of Islam and is considered a sacred pilgrimage to the city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. It is obligatory act of worship for physically and financially capable Muslims to perform at least once in their lifetime. Allah mentioned in Quran Surah Al-Imraan Chap 3 Verse 97

لَا مَكْرَهَ فِيهِ لِمَن اٰتَىٰهَا مِن قَبْلِهَا سِوَىٰ مَن اٰتَىٰهَا مِنۢ بَعْدِهَا سِوَىٰ مَن كَانَ عَنۢ وَّجْهِهَا مَسْكُوتًا

" Pilgrimage there for is a duty men owe to Allah - those who can afford the journey. "

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Rasool Allah (SAW) also emphasizes the importance of Hajj, because it brings unity, brotherhood to the whole of the Muslim Ummah. Hajj is like a powerful show of <sup>strength</sup> all the Muslims of the world in Makkah. Rasool Allah (SAW) said

لقد افطنت في يومي هذا  
@ People! Hajj has been made incumbent on you, therefore perform Hajj.

Those people who are physically and financially capable to perform Hajj, still they didn't perform Hajj. There is Hadith for them.

"Whoever possesses provision and conveyance for a journey to the House of God and in spite of this does not perform Hajj then his death in this condition and death of a Jew and a Christian are both are similar."

Conclusion Islam is a comprehensive religion that encompasses belief, practices and a way of life for its followers. Islam emphasizes the submission to Allah's commands, the pursuit of righteous deeds, and the establishment of justice and compassion in society.

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It encourages individuals to strive for spiritual purity and moral excellence, and to fulfill their obligations toward Allah and fellow human beings. Islam has 5 pillars faith, Salah, Zakat etc, all these pillars promotes peace tolerance, brotherhood in Society. Previous all divine books and Prophets was for specific time and for particular people but Quran and the Last Prophet (SAW) is for the whole of humanity and <sup>guidance</sup> till day of judgment. This is the reason success in this world and after world is only Islam