

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEEN AND RELIGION:

1. Introduction

The terms "Deen" and Religion are often used interchangeably, but have slightly different connotations and implications. Islam is not only a religion but also a "Deen". Deen is a complete code of life which includes religio-socio-politico-economic system. Deen cover both sacred and secular aspects of man. However, Religion deals with sacred and spiritual covering the belief system, mode of worships. It deals with private affairs of life.

2. What is Deen?

"Deen" is an Arabic word, commonly translated as "way of life".

Deen is a comprehensive system of beliefs, values, practices and spiritual dimensions, and principles pertaining to personal, social and moral. It's related to individual and collective life of a human. Deen is a "God gifted". Deen deals both man's relation with God as well as his fellow being.

a. According to Shariah:

According to Shariah, Deen is ~~divided~~ of four parts.

- ① Admit the Sovereignty of Allah Pak.
 - ② Then to follow his commands.
 - ③ Follow the defined rules
- " ~~FF~~

Example:

Nikkah, Eid.

c. Dr. Tariqur Rahman

"Deen refers to a comprehensive system of beliefs, values, practices and principles that guide an individual's life in all aspects including personal, social, moral, and spiritual dimensions. It emphasizes a holistic approach to living, integrating faith with actions and ethics."

ii. Quranic Perspective:

اليوم اكملت لكم دينكم و اتممت
عليكم نعمتي و ارضيت لكم الاسلام
دينا

(القران)

"This day I have perfected your Deen for you, completed my favour upon you, and have chosen

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to subjugate, to make followers. Subjugation of towards a Super, natural power.

ii. Contextual meaning:

The way of life or to find one's own scope.

a. Scholarly Views:

i. Karen Armstrong

Religion often tends to be limited to a particular set of beliefs and rituals, while "Deen" encompasses a broader ethical and moral framework that guides all aspects of life.

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ii- Edward Tylor:

According to Edward Tylor religion is when a person believe in ~~Spiritual~~ Spirituulism.

iii- Emile Durkheim:

To practice certain faiths related to God.

iv- Dr. Israr Ahmad

According to Dr. Israr Ahmad religion has three parts.

- (i) Faiths
- (ii) Ritual
- (iii) Certain social functions.

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4- KEY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEEN AND RELIGION:

1- Scope and Comprehensive Approach:

Deen:

Encompass all aspects of life including personal, social, moral, and spiritual dimensions.

It is a system of collective life.

Religion:

Focuses primarily on the religious doctrines, rituals and practices associated with faith. Religion is concerned only with the so-called private relationship between God and man.

2- Holistic Integration

Deen:

Integrates faith with

actions, ethics, and values;
promoting a holistic way
of life.

Religion

Often emphasizes
adherence to specific rituals
and beliefs without necessarily
integrating them into all
aspects of life.

3. Ethical and Moral Framework:

Deen:

Emphasizes the importance
of ethical behavior, sincerity,
and counsel as integral
components of a comprehensive
way of life.

Religion:

Emphasizes religious
rituals and observances as
the primary expressions of
faith.

4. Cultural Variations:

Transcends cultural boundaries, providing universal principles and values applicable to people of all backgrounds.

Can be influenced by and intertwined with specific cultural practices and customs.

5. Relationship with the Divine:

Involves a personal and transformative connection with the Divine, seeking spiritual growth and closeness to God.

Involves adherence to prescribed rituals and doctrines.

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as a means of demonstrating faith and seeking divine favor.

6. Universal Applications:

Deen:

Offers principles and values that can be applied by individuals of various faiths or no faith, promoting universal ethics and human values.

Religion:

Typically associated with specific faith traditions and belief systems, tailored to the specific teachings and practice of that religion.

7. Sense of Fear:

Deen:

Deen treats fear as a form of Polytheism and

Seeks to make men
courageous, daring and
self-reliant

Religion:

Religion induces a
sense of fear in the
minds of men and
seeks to frighten them
into conformity.

5- Critical Analysis:

A famous Islamic
scholar, Ali Shariati made
a critical assessment on
difference between "Deen"
and "Religion" that deen
transcends cultural boundaries
and promotes understanding
among different peoples
and tribes. Islam encompasses
faith, worship, ^{one's life} personal ^{to}
while religion does not.

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6- Conclusion:

Deen is a complete way of life that encompasses faith, worship, personal conduct and societal matters. While religion associated with specific faith traditions, beliefs and observances.