

What is Islam and Salient Features of Islam?

Ans:-

The term Islam is derived from the Arabic word "SLM" which means submission or Peace. Contentual meaning of Islam is submission of desires to the will of Allah is called Islam.

Islam refers to the monotheism, belief in God's revelation, prophets, ethical responsibility, accountability and ^{the} day of judgement.

In the Qur'an (2:256) "Let there be no compulsion in religion, for the truth stands out clearly from falsehood. So whoever renounces false gods and believes in Allah has certainly grasped the firmest, unfailing hand hold. And Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing."

Prophet Muhammad PBUH mentioned in a narrative the best summary of the core of Islam as:
"Submission means that you should bear witness that there is no god but God and that Muhammad is God's messenger."

To quote Dr Hameedullah:

"Islam is mono-theist seen revealed through Prophet Muhammad PBUH".

To quote Maulana Suddar udin Islahi:

"Islam is a name of collection of belief and worship"

"Indeed actions are the result of their intentions".

Islam is a Universal Religion

Islam is a Universal religion it guides us in every aspect of life and prophet Muhammad PBUH was sent to all people of the world, regardless of their race, colour, culture, tradition and geographical location, as the Quran states, "we have only sent you (O Muhammad) as a mercy to all the world". (Suraah Al-Ambiyaa; 21: 107).

Salient Features of Islam

Thus have we made of you a Middle Ummah, that you might be witnesses over the people, and the Messenger a witness over yourselves (Al Baqarah 2:143)

1) Islamic Concept of Tawheed.

The absolute monotheism of Islam is preserved in the doctrine of the unity (Tawheed) and Sovereignty of the God that dominates Islamic ~~to~~ belief and Practice. The concept of Tawheed also given in First part of Kalma "There is no god but God". Allah is only one, who is Sole existence of the Universe and only He deserves to be worshipped. In Islam, worship is very purpose of our existence. God declares in the Quran, "I did not create... mankind except to worship Me" (51:56). In Quran Allah says "Say 'O prophet, 'He is Allah - one' and Indivisible; Allah - the Sustainer needed by All; He has never had off spring, ~~nor~~ nor was He born; and there is none comparable to Him. (112: 1-4).

To quote Allama Shibli Nomani:

- i) "Tawheed is the first chapter of Islamic syllabus"
- ii) "Islam is a fort and gate of fort is Tawheed."

2) To Believe in the Prophethood and Muhammad is Last Prophet.

The Second Part of Kalma Tayyab tells us the Hazrat Muhammad PBUH is the Messenger of Allah.

When Universe was created Allah sent His messenger for every Nation and Muhammad is the last messenger of Allah for whole mankind and he is an excellent role model for every individual.

Qur'an declares "Finality of Prophethood"

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but is the messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets.

And Allah has 'Perfect knowledge' of all things. (33:40)

This way of life is called 'Sunnah' and as a Educator: "He was the teacher of teachers"

"Verily, I have been sent as a teacher to mankind."

Qur'an says "Nor does he speak of his own whims. It is only a revelation sent down 'to him'."

(Surah An-Najam 53: 3-4).

We can say Qur'an is a theory and Prophet is Practice of that.

3) To Believe in the Angels, Books, Day of Judgment and Divine Decree

⇒ Muslims believe in angels, Unseen beings who worship God and carry out God's order throughout the universe.

• Muslim believe that God revealed holy books or scriptures to His messengers. These include the Quran (given to Muhammad), the Torah (given to Moses), the Zabur (given to Dawud A.S) and Injil revealed on Jesus (Eesa A.S). These earlier scriptures is not remain their original form, but only Quran remains as it was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad PBUH.

Belief in the Day of Judgment: Muslims believe that on the day of judgment, humans will be judged for their actions in this life. Those who followed God's guidance will be rewarded with paradise, those who rejected God's guidance will be punished with hell.

Belief in the Divine Decree:

4) Islam is the religion of truth.

It is the embodiment code of life, which Allah the Creator and Lord of the Universe, has revealed for the guidance of mankind.

5) Allah's Servants is sincere and whole-hearted

What is required on the part of Allah's servant in sincere and whole-hearted efforts to spread His message and to establish His order. His rewards are for such efforts irrespective of these results.

6) Islam has a distinct culture:

The culture in Islam is not Arabic or eastern or Middle Eastern. It is also not monolithic. It has varieties and a rich diversity. There are elements in Islamic culture that are constant and that are universally accepted by all Muslims. The universals are based on Quran and Sunnah while the variables based on local customs of various people.

7) Unity of Mankind: Human kind.

Islam is a Universal faith Honoring humanity. It is one religion for all and Islam learnt us to Honour and respect Humanity. It also

learned us to respect gods and worship places of other religion. In Quran Allah says: "O humanity! Be mindful of your Lord who created you from a single soul, and from it He created its mate, and through both He spread ~~out~~ countless men & women. And be mindful of Allah - In whose name you appeal to one another - and honour family ties. Surely Allah is ever watchful over you (Surah An-Nisa 4:1)

8) Freedom of thought in Islam:

Islam gives the right of freedom of thought and expression to all citizens of the Islamic state on the condition that it should be used for the propagation of virtue & truth and not for spreading evil & wickedness. This Islamic concept of freedom of expression is much superior to the concept prevalent in the west.

9) Islam is a Peaceful religion

Islam gives value and Protection to human life. Allah does not like destruction, Corruption even no transgression in war, if enemy inclined to peace, Allah says in Quran "make Peace with them. And Put your trust in Allah, Indeed, He alone is

the All-Hearing-All-Knowing" (Surah Al-Anfal 8: 61)

10) Islam is a complete code of life

Islam guides us in every aspect of life.

In Individual life as well as in collective life

~~Individual life~~: It is not only confined to worship but to a daily life, a complete guide in all aspects. A guide to social, economic, and Political system. Islam being complete code of life has defined such ways of life as:

- First in moral life, Islam instructs the muslim be honest, truthful, charity, modest, pure and abiding in promise on the other hand it prohibits each & every follower to be envy, hypocrite, ridiculous and evil speaking.
- Second it talks about our intellectual life, Islam has required us to be of real knowledge which must be based on clear and indisputable evidence acquired through experience & testing.
- Third in Personal life. Islam emphasises on purity, cleaning, diet, dress, ornament and relationships. It forbids everything that affects the body as alcohol, drugs, and meat of Pork. Islam recommends

to eat healthy foods.

• Fourth is about family life, Islam consider family as a group of people whose members are united by blood ties or conjugal relationship. Allah gives much respect to the Parents, especially mother. Each member of the family has rights & duties.

• Fifth in Social life, So Allah has ordered man to work closely with all the members of his family, with relatives, servants and neighbors. Islam avoids any superiority by the reason of color, class, Caste, origin or finance, but goodness and good work of the individual.

• Sixth in Economical life, Islam urges the muslims to earn a living through honest work, this is not only a right, but a great virtue. Islam does not prevent the muslims to acquire wealth & Private projects it Prohibits any kind of selfishness and greed of Capitalism.

• Seventh in Political System, Islam says, whatever the mode of government of an Islamic state is, Sovereignty belongs to Allah Almighty alone, and the authority should be delegated to state through its people under the rule set by Allah. The main purpose of the people is to build a Islamic Society & convey the message of

Islam^m in all parts of earth the ruler is an employee representative, elected by people, to serve them according to the law of Almighty. State in Islam is obliged to administer justice and provide security and protection to all the citizens.

These all aspects proves that Islam as the Perfect religion for the whole mankind. Allah Almighty has choosen Islam because the only religion acceptable to Him. Islam is the best way of life for all.

Contemporary Challenges of Muslim Ummah & their solution according to teaching of Islam.

Through the downfall of Muslim world had started after the collapse of mighty muslim rule of Baghdad in 1258 by Mongol forces it however got a momentum after the disintegration of Turk usmani Caliphate in 1923. Since the Muslim world is an tight group of many social, political and economic problems. There was a time when the prominent scientists were muslims, they were socially and economically strong and involve in the business activities. However, now, it seems that they have diverted from their old ways of inventions, writing, research, trade and getting education.

Challenges faced by Muslim Ummah.

Challenges by Muslim world distinguish as Internal and External. Internal challenges are those faced by the Muslim world because of their internal issues and in-capabilities. External challenges are those faced by Muslim world because of International factors.

Common Internal Challenges are following:

• Lack of Unity among Muslim Countries:

↳ The main issue faced by Muslim Ummah is Unity among them, it is important factor of Islamic teaching, in order to unite Muslims, has established a bond of brotherhood and equality. Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran. "And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together don't divided And remember the favour of Allah upon you - when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you ~~became~~ became, by His favour, brother. And you were on the edge of a pit of the fire, and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah make clear to you His verses that you may be guided. (Al-Imran 3:103)

Heza Muhammed PBUH said:

👉 "The Muslim is a brother to another Muslim".

According to world population review 2020, There are around 80 Muslim majorities country having Muslim population more than 80 percent if they become united and help each other they would not require any sort of assistance from their western clients.

And on other hand Muslim leader can develop unity but we can see it from state to community level.

Majority of Muslim leaders are corrupt and incapable.
Sally Muslim Ummah today has divided into different sets.

Muslim world is divided on National basis.

Muslim world divided itself into Arab and Non-Arab world. This division not only divided Muslim but also create leadership Problems, The Arab world like Saudi Arabia, Iran they felt proud on its race and Holy places of Islam. where as the Non Arab are arrogant over their Scientific and technological development and success.

Weak Economic structure of Muslim countries.

Economic crises is another main issue for Muslim world today. Major reasons are political instability, weak administrative structure and weak economic policies. In today's world economic stability play main role, if country is economically independent it can take any step freely. Unfortunately majorities of Muslim country ~~just~~ today lacks economic independency.

Brain Drain

Brain Drain is one of the major reason of social, political, economic, Scientific & technological downfall of Muslim world today. Majority of our

Skilled labours and scholars in search of good life and other economic and migrate to other countries.

Failure of OIC

Organization of Islamic Country failed to play any important role in the unity of Muslim Ummah, social, political & economic uplift of Muslims, It failed to achieve its objectives.

~~Some of the major external~~ Islamophobia

In the western world rise of Islamophobia is one of major international issue faced by Muslim world. Islamophobia means ^{the} fear, hatred or prejudice against the religion of Islam. It got a momentum in recent past when some prejudice, politically ~~an~~ immature leaders such as French President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi took part in it. This act of western world hunt ~~to~~ Muslims and to face with this ~~is~~ challenge is major problem for Muslim Ummah.

Terrorist Funding by the Enemies.

Terrorist Funding by the enemies to weaken Muslims, Morally, Socially and economically. In the 21st Century, terrorism and war on terror alone has created many ~~social~~ problems for Muslim world. Terrorist groups are raised and funded in Muslim world by the enemies and then a war is started for curbing them. In this way Muslims are ~~targeted~~ targeted from two fronts.

Solution according to teaching of Islam Unity in Muslim Ummah through Connectivity:

Unity cannot occur if Muslims countries remain isolated & distant from each other in separate groups, and do not take any steps to change their situation. Practical ways and means must be found in which Muslim across countries can become more connected to each other:

This applies locally as well as internationally and is the overarching principle that cuts across all others. This is about getting to know one another and help each other in technology, economy and other good values.

Muslims must become allies of each other

It is not enough simple to do this in word, this must be bound indeed, in writing, or in treaties which then become binding particularly among Muslim Majority states.

We see how the political order of Prophet Muhammad PBUH came about because of such treaty. The Quran also places great emphasis on putting things in writing and honouring such agreements.

Economy of Brotherhood:

The overarching aim should be to be able to produce everything the Muslim world needs within Muslim Majority countries. Restrictions on inter-country trade ~~and investments should be~~ ~~increased~~ should remove and make policies for freedom of trade among Muslim countries.

Self-defence & Protection are no offense

Security and protection of life, liberty and property matter to Muslims and it does to all mankind. The ability of nations and individuals in communities to acquire the skills & means to

protect themselves, in case of threat, is a necessity in our current condition.

Muslim majority countries need to come together in military unions and act as mediators to solve the problems of other Muslim states. Muslims must build arms capacity for themselves & sell military equipment to each other and engage in science and research around defense & security.

Intrafaith more than inter-faith

There is currently interest by Muslims at both a global and local level to get involved in inter-faith dialogue. This is mainly pushed by western centres.

Yet despite deep-rooted sectarianism, there is no push to develop inter-faith understanding. Muslim need to ~~change~~ engage in intra-faith dialogue within themselves and build understanding across cultural and racial divides within the community, more than participating in inter-faith initiatives.

Knowledge and learning has no boundaries:

Muslims should gain knowledge across boundaries and not restrict themselves to the west. They

need to gain their knowledge aspect of world knowledge ~~and~~ as well as Islamic knowledge.

Media and Culture Matter

Global media can play an important role in conveying the history and culture of other people and understand issues, as well as imparting values. We have seen ~~with~~ this with the popular Turkish drama Ertugrul which has been shown and appreciated in ~~some~~ many Muslim majority countries as well as in the West. It has demonstrated a global appetite from Muslims to learn about Islamic history, culture and polity.

Understanding nationalism and Racism

Muslims in the West are uniquely placed to be able to analyze and understand the nature of racism and extreme form of nationalism and how to practically develop policies to undermine and manage them.

There are also at the epi-center of anti-Muslim and anti-Islam narrative and propaganda (Islamophobia) Anti-racist and anti-Islam hate education and

awareness is something that need to be taught
in all parts of ~~Muslim~~ Muslim world, including schools.

Justice is Central to Islam

There need to be practical focus ~~on~~ to
achieve justice in Muslim majority state and in the
fair treatment of individuals and communities in society.

There is need to develop projects based on identi-
fying injustices and establishing principles of justice,
such as due process, rule of law, fair trial, anti-
corruption, ~~are~~ and widely understood and become
part of Muslim public consciousness and culture.