

# SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM

## (1) ISLAMIC CONCEPT OF TAWHEED

The first part of Kalima presents the concept of Tawheed and its second part affirms the prophet-hood of Muhammad (PBUH)

- Tawheed is a core pillar of Islam, it means that there is only one Supreme Lord of the universe. He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and the sustainer of the world. Quran says:

In the name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful.  
Say, "He is God, the One. God, the Absolute.

He begets not, nor was He begotten. And there is nothing comparable to Him."

In sirah tun Nabi, Allama shibli nomani said:

- (1) Tawheed is the first chapter of Islamic syllabus
- (2) Islam is like a fort and the gate of that fort is Tawheed.

## (2) THE CONCEPT OF PROPHETHOOD

Its our second part of kalma, Believe in prophet-hood is incomplete without believe in finality of prophet-hood.

The Quran said:

"Every Messenger who was sent by Us was sent for the purpose that he should be obeyed under the sanction of Allah". (al-Quran, 4:69)

"And those who do not make their decisions in accordance with that revealed by Allah, they are the disbelievers."

Muhammad is not the father of (any) one of you men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And ever is Allah's of all things - knowing.

Quran is a theory and Prophet (PBUH) is the practice of that theory.

### (3) COMPLETE CODE OF LIFE :-

Islam is a complete code of life. It guides in every aspect of life from birth of children to upbringing and character building of a person.

EDUCATION - prophet (PBUH) said

"Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every muslim man and women".

- Livelihood

- Family life → Rights of husband/wife, parents etc

→ Collective life → social, political, financial systems of justice and global affairs

"The command is for none but Allah; He has commanded that you obey none but Him; that is the right path."

### (4) ISLAM AND HUMANITY:

Q What is humanity? How Islam speaks for humanity?

There are some attributes in humans without any discrimination. Showing love, care, welfare, tolerance, sympathy, empathy, fulfilment of human rights, Animal rights and work for environmental protection are some of them.

The Holy Prophet said:

"All creatures of God from the family of God and he is the best loved of God who loveth best His creatures?"

#### (i) CHARACTER BUILDING

In hadith Holy prophet (PBUH) said:

"The perfect among the believers are those who are best in character."

Allah said in Surah: Al-Hujurat

"And if they had patience till you could come out to them, it would have been better for them, And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."

"Verify those who call you from behind the dwellings, most of them have no sense?"

#### (ii) WELFARE OF MANKIND

Scholar Dr. Wasiullah M. Abbas said in his book

"key feature of Islam" that:

"Real beauty of Islam is practice of social services."

### (iii) CHARITY IS HUMANITY:

"Muslims are those who give wealth in spite of love for it."

Surah - Al Baqarah  
"Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but righteousness is (in) one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy."

### (iv) MEDICAL SERVICES:

According to Hadith: "Allah shows displeasure from a person who never visits a sick person."

### v FULFILMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS/ANIMAL RIGHTS

Islam gave to mankind an ideal code of human rights. Quran says "whosoever kills a human being, ~~manslaughter~~ or corruption on earth, it is as though he killed all mankind".

### (vi) ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Prophet (PBUH) said: "planting a green tree is a best charity." "Don't cut green tree even if you are in case of war." "Don't waste a single drop of water even if you are sitting on a running stream."

(5) THE CONCEPT OF FREEDOM: The Quran says "The truth is from your Lord. Let him who will, believe, and let him who will disbelieve".

### (6) THE CONCEPT OF EQUALITY:

"O mankind, verily we have created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and have made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other. Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is the most righteous."

### (7) THE CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY:

"You should be kind to those who are on earth and He who is in Heavens will be kind to you" Sahih Bukhari

### (8) THE CONCEPT OF BROTHERHOOD:

"One Muslim is like a building brick to the others; one part strengthens the others" - Sahih Bukhari.

### (9) THE CONCEPT OF MORALITY: - Quran says

"prohibition of certain things: All kinds of intoxicating wines, liquors, and spirits."

### 10 THE CONCEPT OF PIETY (Taqwa): Allah said

"Lo! the noblest of you, in the sight of God - Almighty is the best in conduct."

## → CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF MUSLIM UMMAH AND THEIR SOLUTION ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.

The contemporary challenges faced by Muslim Ummah includes:

- 1) Disunity among Muslims.
- 2) Rapid rise of extremism and terrorism
- 3) Lagging Behind in Education
- 4) Weak economic status of Muslim countries
- 5) Un-Islamic authoritarian rule

### → DISUNITY AMONG MUSLIM:-

The most serious challenge faced by Muslim Ummah is disunity among them. It is contrary to the teaching of Islam. Islam, in order to unite Muslims, has established a bond of brotherhood and equality. Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran, "And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided. And remember the favor of Allah upon you - when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you became, by His favor, brothers. 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."

Prophet PBUH said:

"The Muslim is a brother to another Muslim".

In His last sermon, our prophet (PBUH) said:

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

Internally, Muslims are divided on the basis of sects. It is irony of fate that sectarian violence in Muslim countries has caused more deaths of Muslims than US military interventions.

### → RAPID RISE OF EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM:-

The poor governance of Muslim countries and their failure to prevent spread of radical material in their educational institutions caused the rise in extremism in Muslims.

Rapid rise of extremism was seen during Soviet's invasion of Afghanistan. To prepare local people to fight with the army of Soviet Union, around 1000 Madrasahs were established along Pak & Afghanistan border.

The resistance from local people in the form of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan in 2007, pointed their weapons at the govt and desired to replaced the un-Islamic govt run by capitalism with their so called Islamic rule by acting on Qutb's ideology.

Terrorism is directly linked to the extremism. It is caused when some extremists try to give practical shape to their radical thoughts like Al-Qaeda started to target American people after its formation.

#### → LAGGING BEHIND IN EDUCATION

The daunting problem encountered by the ummah, today, among others, is their lagging behind in education. Benazir Bhutto has written in her book, "It is notable that fifty seven member countries of OIC have approximately 500 universities, compared to 5,000 universities in the United States and 8,000 universities in India. In a compilation of the academic ranking of world universities conducted in 2004 by Shanghai's Jiao Tong University, not a single university from the Muslim world was included

in the top 500 universities on the earth.

#### → WEAK ECONOMIC STATUS OF MUSLIM COUNTRIES

Most of Muslim countries are economically weak. For instance, the total world's trade of OIC countries is less than a single country, China.

The average per capita income of Muslim world, a part from their oil revenue, is below the world's average. The combine GDP of OIC countries is less than the total GDP of the United States.

#### → UN-ISLAMIC AUTHORITARIAN RULE:

Arab countries are run by authoritarian rule that is condemned by Islam. Owing to one man or family ruling system, there is seen a grossly misused of govt's authority and power. In some countries, it has led to the growing human rights abuses and suppression of minorities. Middle class people are pushed back and are not given opportunity to run the state.

## SOLUTIONS ACCORDING TO TEACHING OF ISLAM

- 1 Unity through connectivity
- 2 Muslims must become allies of each other
- 3 Economy of brotherhood
- 4 Self-defense & protection are no offense
- 5 Intra-faith more than inter-faith
- 6 Common language binds separate states together
- 7 Knowledge and learning has no boundaries
- 8 Beyond borders
- 9 Media and culture matter
- 10 Understanding nationalism and racism
- 11 The rights of the ruled
- 12 Justice is central to Islam.

### → UNITY THROUGH CONNECTIVITY:-

Practical ways and means must be found in which Muslims across countries can become more connected to each other. Allah says in Quran

"And hold fast to the rope of God, all together, and be not divided".

### → MUSLIMS MUST BECOME ALLIES OF EACH OTHER

#### AS REQUIRED BY THE QURAN:-

It is not enough simple to do this in word this must be bound in deed, in writing, or in treaties which then become binding particularly

communities across borders. Allah says "O you who have believed, do not take the disbelievers as allies instead of the believers. Do you wish to give Allah against yourselves a clear case?"

### - 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 limited to those necessary.

"The believers are but brothers, so make settlement between your brothers."

### → SELF DEFENSE AND PROTECTION ARE NO OFFENSE

Muslim majority countries need to come together in military unions and act as mediators to solve the problems of other Muslim states.

### → INTRAFaITH MORE THAN INTER-FAITH

Muslims need to engage in intra-faith dialogue within themselves and build understanding across cultural and racial divides, within the community, more than participating in their inter-faith initiatives.

### → COMMON LANGUAGES BINDS SEPARATE STATES AND PEOPLE TOGETHER

According to Muslim world published in 2004:

The dominant language of the Middle East is Arabic, Arabic unifies disparate populations and helps them transcend national borders.

#### 7 KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING HAS NO BOUNDRIES

"And those who strive in our (cause), - we will certainly guide them to our paths: For verily Allah is with those who do right".

"They could devote themselves to studies in religion, and admonish the people when they return to them, that thus they (may learn) to guard themselves".

#### 8 BEYOND BORDERS

#### 9 MEDIA AND CULTURE MATTER

#### 10 UNDERSTANDING NATIONALISM AND RACISM

Anti-racist and anti-Islam hate education and awareness is something that needs to be taught in all parts of the Muslim world, including schools.

#### 11 THE RIGHTS OF THE RULED

#### 12 JUSTICE IS CENTRAL TO ISLAM

"O you who believe, be upright for Gods and be bearers of witness with justice!"

"God commands justice and fair dealing"...