

Salient Features of Islam: Intro

→ Islam is an arabic word. It means the act of resignation to God. The root word is SLM, pronounced 'salm' which means the act of resignation to God. peace from which comes the word 'aslama' which means he submitted, he resigned himself.

Islam is the religion which brings peace to mankind when man commits himself to God and submits himself to his will.

According to Holy Prophet Book revealed to Muhammad, this is the only true religion professed by all Prophets from Adam to Muhammad, the Last Prophet.

⇒ Tauheed

Tauheed is the basic element it formulates the essence of the teachings of Islam.

Tauheed means there is only one Supreme Lord of the universe. Monotheism is belief in one Allah alone. It is the strong faith and foundation of Islam upon which the whole structure of Islam is based. Every prophet has taught his people the monotheism.

☞ Surah At A'raf verse 59 ☞

لَقَدْ ارسلنا نوحا الى قومه قال يا قوم اعبدوا الله
ما ليس من جنه غير ان اتوا على عذاب

We sent Noah to his people and he said:
"O my people! worship Allah! You have no other God but Him. Certainly, I fear for you the torment of a Great Day!"

In Islam there is unified view about the monotheistic God is one, though He is capable of doing all sort of things. God is not only the creator, but also the master of all. He rules over the Heavens and the earth; nothing moves without His knowledge and His permission.

Every Muslim in his five prayers confirm this belief.

“Surah Al-Fatihah 1:5”

You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything)”

All men are the creatures of one God they all are equal. This whole entire universe is created by God alone which presents a unified view of the world and offers the vision of an integrated universe. Humanity is single (one) family of God and there can be no sanction for those barriers. Men are one.

The Prophet Muhammad has said that God has ninety nine “most beautiful names” for ninety nine principal attributes. He is the Creator, the essence of the existence of all, wise, Just, Merciful, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, determinant of everything, to Whom belongs life, death, resurrection. Allah Almighty introduces himself as Quran says:

﴿﴾

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“Surah Al-Baqarah 1255”

لا اله الا الله العزيز المتكبر
 لا اله الا الله العزيز المتكبر

“Allah! None is worthy of worship but He, the Ever-living, the Self-subsisting, the One who sustains and protects (the entire universe with His strategy). He is seized by neither slumber nor sleep. Whatever is in the Heavens and whatever is in the earth belongs to him alone.”

Prophethood And Life After Death

The second part of the Kalima, signifies that God has revealed His Guidance ~~His~~ ~~part~~ through His prophets and Muhammad was the last prophet. This guidance has been sent down to the men for the conduct of his life.

To believe in a prophet means to believe in his message, to accept the Law which he gave and to follow the Code of Conduct which he taught.

The second basic postulate of Islam is to believe in the Prophethood of Muhammad, to accept the religion which he presented and to follow his commands.

“Surah An-Nisa 4:65”

فلا وربك لا يؤمنون حتى
 لا يقولوا سمعنا واطعنا
 ولا يقولوا سمعنا واطعنا

“Nay, O Muhammad: by Your Lord, they will not be believers until they accept you as the

final arbiters in all their disputes and submit to your decision whole-heartedly without any heartache."

The guidance is revealed through prophets. It is part of their mission to translate that into practice, in their own lives and in the society they try to reform. All the prophets are representatives of God, but they are human beings and their lives are models for mankind.

"Surah An Nisa 4:69"

وَمَنْ يُؤْمَرْ بِالْعَمَلِ فَلْيُحْسِنِ الْعَمَلَ ۚ وَمَنْ لَمْ يَجِدْ لِلْأَمْرِ إِشْرَارًا فَلْيُصْبِرْ ۖ إِنَّ الصَّبْرَ بِشَأْنِنَا ۗ إِنَّ الصَّبْرَ بِشَأْنِنَا ۗ

"Every Messenger who sent by Us was sent for the purposes that he should be obeyed under the sanction of Allah."

According to Quran, there were certain prophets who had received the revelation of Divine books and there were others who did not receive new books but had to follow the books revealed to their predecessors.

Muhammed is the last prophet and as such the final model for mankind. To believe in him means to accept his authority as representative of the Supreme Ruler and to follow his example in thought and behaviour.

"Bukhari, Kitab-ul-Manaqib"

"I am the last in the line of the Prophets."

A belief in life after death is the last of the five fundamental principles of Islam. The world, according to Islam, is a place of trial and man is being judged in it. He will be held accountable for all of his doings in this world.

Surah Al Baqrah : 4

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ

and also have (perfect) faith in the Hereafter. Belief in an afterlife makes the man to take responsibility for their actions. They know God will hold them accountable and reward or punish them accordingly. It shows that life is a test from Allah.

Surah Al - An'am 6:160

~~وَمَا كُنَّا بِمُعْجِزِينَ لَكُمْ وَلَئِن كُنَّا لَنَافِعِينَ
لَا تَلْمِزْنَاكَ مِثْلَ لَمَزَاتِهِمْ لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ~~

مَنْ جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَاسْتَوْجِبْنَا لَهُ مِثْلَهَا
وَأَشَدُّ مِنْهَا عَشْرَ أَمْثَلِهَا

Whosoever will come with a good deed, for him there shall be the like of it tenfold, while whosoever will come with an ill-deed, he shall be requited with only one like it, and they shall not be treated unjustly.

All the actions performed by a man good or bad are recorded that will be shown before him hereafter, he will be made accountable of his action and he would not be able to deny those actions as they

would shown before him. It will be in his life after death that a man will be rewarded or punished for his deeds and misdeeds.

Those who lived this life of obedience to the Lord will enjoy eternal bliss in the hereafter and those who disobey His commands will have to garner the bitter fruits of their disobedience.

“Surah Al-Isa 17:13-14.”

وَكُلُّ انْسَانٍ اِلَيْهِ رَاجِعٌ
اَلَّذِي كُنَّا بَلَّغْنَاهُ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ
وَخَرَجْنَا مِنْهُ لِيُنذِرَ لِقَوْمِهِ
فَاذْكُرْ لِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ

And every man's deeds have we fastened around his neck and on the day of Resurrection will we bring forth a book which shall be proffered to him wide open: "Read your record: This day there need be none but Yourself to make out an account against you."

Complete Code of Life

Islam has provided a balanced, complete code for man's individual as well as collective life. This code has potential to rise up to the challenges posed by the modern times. It is a complete way of life, catering for all the fields of human existence. Islam provides guidance for all walks of life individual and social, material and moral, economic and political, legal and cultural, national and international.

In the light of teachings of Allah Almighty and the Holy Prophet Muhammad performs the function of character building and also illuminates every aspect of life, be it individual or collective, ^{societal}. It is a complete code of life, Islamic teachings have two principal aspects. On the one place, Islam throws a light on basic facts of life and defines us what is the reality of the universe and what is man's place in it, what is the purpose of life, and what is the reality of the fundamental principle involved in it. Through fundamental beliefs, Islam makes a human aware about the life and universe. On the other side it provides a detailed system of rules and regulations in order to guide them how to become successful in the worldly life and hereafter by leading a balanced life.

Surah Yousof 12:40

ما تعبدون من دونه الا اسماء سموا لها
 و ابائكم ما اتوا من سلطان الله الا الله
 هو الا تعبدوا الا اياه ذلك الدين القيم ولكن استر
 الناس لا تعلمون

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

As a complete code of life Islam provides a guideline for the balance life for all classes of the society. To balance the life of rich and poor by consisting a system

that helps the poor to meet the basic necessities of life. It teaches us how to formulate a society where a good life could be lived by the people belonging to all walks of life.

“Surah Al-Hajj 22: 41”

الذين ان كانوا في الارض اقاموا الصلوة وادوا الزكاة
وامروا بالمعروف ونهوا عن المنكر والله عليم
الذوق

“Muslims are those who if we give them power in the land, establish (the system of) Salat (prayers and worship) and Zakat (poor due) and enjoin virtue and forbid vice and evil.”

The Holy Prophet said:

“Everyone of you is a keeper or a shepherd and will be questioned about the well-being of his fold. So, the Head of the State will be questioned about the well being of the people of the State. Every man is a shepherd to his family and will be answerable about every member of it. Every woman is a shepherd to his master and will be questioned about the property of his master.”

Thus Islam provides a complete code of life for man in all spheres of life.

Islam and Humanity:

Islam is a religion which has provides its services not for only Muslims, for its followers but it has provided its guidance pathway for the whole mankind.

Islam is a religion for whole humanity, it is not specific towards its followers but for the whole mankind. Islam recognizes no distinction among human beings based on color, language or tribe. According to Islamic teaching, no privileged or chosen class exists except those having piety or moral excellence.

“Surah Hujurat 49:13”

يا ايها الناس انا خلقنا من ذكر واثني ووجعنا
 من ذكر واثني ووجعنا شعوبا وقبائل لتعارفوا
 ان اكرمكم عند الله اتقى الله ان الله عليه

“O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each other). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you and Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).”

Development of Society

Society formulated by the Islam is the most essential effective support for human values.

In Islam society is to be formulated which shows a unity and where there is no place for conflict and rankings based on social class.

In Islamic society no one has any advantage over another. No class has superiority over another. This society is for all the human beings living there. Islamic society ~~is~~ helps

in character building of an individual.

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

“According to Surah Humaza 1 to 4”

وَيْلٌ لِّمَنْ أَكْبَدَ
وَيْلٌ لِّمَنْ أَكْبَدَ
وَيْلٌ لِّمَنْ أَكْبَدَ
وَيْلٌ لِّمَنْ أَكْبَدَ

“Woe to every backbiter, slanderer, who amasses wealth ‘greedily’ and counts it repeatedly, thinking that their wealth will make them immortal. Not at all! Such a person will certainly be tossed into the crusher.”

Islamic Society emphasizes on the character building and morals of the human in spite of the pride of wealth and worldly things. It shows that a moral and character makes the man different and piety makes him superior so, Islamic society makes the person's morals high and works on the character building of

Protection of Rights

Islam is a religion which has provided the charter of rights for all the classes of society that exist in the universe. It has provided the rights of human beings for all over mankind.

Human rights in Islam stem from two foundational principles: dignity and equality. Dignity is a fundamental right of every human being merely by virtue of his or her

humanity. All human beings are created equal only their actions differentiate them from one another. As Allah said in the Holy Quran,
 "Surah Al Isra 17:70"

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَرَفَعْنَا مِنْهُمُ ابْنَيْ آدَمَ
 وَرَفَعْنَا مِنْهُمُ ابْنَيْ آدَمَ وَرَفَعْنَا مِنْهُمُ ابْنَيْ آدَمَ
 وَرَفَعْنَا مِنْهُمُ ابْنَيْ آدَمَ وَرَفَعْنَا مِنْهُمُ ابْنَيْ آدَمَ

"We have honored the children of Adam and carried them by land and sea; we have provided good sustenance for them and favoured them specially above many of those we have created."

Islam has provided the rights for every man equally without any kind of discrimination which have its evidence in the Last Sermon of Holy Prophet Muhammed

"No Arab has any superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab, nor does a white man have any superiority over a black man, or the black man any superiority over the white man. You are all the children of Adam; and Adam was created from clay."

Women Rights

Islam is a religion which has provided rights to the women 1400 years ago. Islam has given women right to own property, receive inheritance, engage in financial transactions, right to obtain education. Both men and women have responsibilities towards their

families. According to the Holy Quran,

Surah Taubah 9:71

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ
يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْعَدْلِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُقِيمُونَ
الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَيَطْعَمُونَ الْأَوْلِيَاءَ
وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالسَّبْيَ بِمَا لِلَّهِ عَزِيزٌ حَقِيمٌ

The Believers, men and women, are protectors one of another: they enjoin what is just, and forbid what is evil: they observe regular prayers, practice regular charity, and obey Allah and His messenger, on them will Allah pour his mercy:

for Allah is Exalted in power, wise.

Islam has protected the rights of women in all spheres of life. Islam has protected the women in marriage and have mentioned their rights of bridal gifts, According to Holy Quran,

Surah An-Nisa 4:4

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنُكَفِّرَنَّ عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمُ الْحَسَنَ الَّذِي كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ
وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنُدْخِلَنَّهُمْ الْجَنَّاتِ
الْحَدِيدِ وَأَجْرُهُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدِينَ
وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمُ الْحَسَنَ الَّذِي كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ
وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنُدْخِلَنَّهُمْ الْجَنَّاتِ
الْحَدِيدِ وَأَجْرُهُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدِينَ

And give the women (upon marriage) their (bridal) gifts graciously. But if they give up willingly to you anything of it, then take it in satisfaction and ease.

Islam has protected the rights of orphan women and to be kind with them and to deal with them in Justice. They are to be dealt fairly and if Justice can not be done then do not marry them.

Environment Rights:

Islam has protected the production of environment which could be evidentiary from the sayings of Holy Prophet.

“Planting green tree is the best charity.”

It shows that how the production and conservation of environment is necessary.

In another saying Holy Prophet about water,
“Do not waste a single drop of water, even if you are sitting on a running stream.”

It shows the importance of protection of Environment.

War Rules

Islam has provided the rules of war, Even during a ~~time~~ war Islam enjoins that one deals with the enemy nobly on the battlefield. Enemy-soldiers and prisoners of war are not to be tortured or mutilated under any circumstances. Islam has also drawn a clear line of distinction between combatants and non-combatants.

Comparison with other Religions:

Islam is a religion which is for whole humanity without any kind of discrimination, it has provided the rights for not only human beings but also animal rights, environment rights as well.

Holy Prophet Muhammad in his last sermon talked about the rights of whole mankind without any kind of discrimination but if we look at the other modern reformers from different societies like Nelson Mandela

He fought for the 27 years only for the rights of black people in Africa. Martin Luther for the rights of Black People in British but if we look at the Last Sermon of Holy Prophet 1400 years ago he talked about the rights for whole mankind.

Islam is a religion for whole humanity, if we look at the Hinduism, it has divided its people in 4 classes. Christianity lacks the women rights, according to them, women is the mother of evil. In Judaism, they consider themselves superior, and say we are the chosen, all others are inferior. Islam is the only religion who speaks for the whole humanity and has protected the rights of every man. Islam has classless society, in Islam all humans are equal.

The classical example to understand humanity is Holy Prophet Muhammad, He was an orphan but established Riyasat-e-Madina which is the Custodian of Orphans. Islam is a religion which has prohibited slavery and provided right to life, right to dignity to every human being.

Hence it could be Islam has provided guidance in all spheres of life.

Islam is the only religion of the world that has been a flag bearer of the humanity for the last 1400 years.

Islam is only religion of Humanity.

Social Services:

Islam's biggest quality is practice of Social Services. Islam emphasizes on the charity so the people who are deprived of finance so the people themselves for that Islam they can benefit Zakat, Sadqa, Khairat, Fitas which could be given on the basis of one's wealth he may distribute in deprived class of the society so that no one feels inferior, and they fulfill the necessities of life with dignity.

Universality:

Islam is a universal religion, it ~~is~~ is not for the any particular community but it is for the whole mankind. The message of Islam is for the entire human race.

In Islam all men are equal, whatever be their colour, language, race or nationality.

Holy Prophet Muhammad is the messenger and guidance for whole humanity. According to Quran,
 ﴿Surah Al-A'raf 7: 158﴾

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ فَأَلْبِسُوا مِنْ عِبَادَتِي مَا يَسَّرَ لَكُمْ وَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلدِّينِ عُرْشًا شَدِيدًا كَمَا جَعَلُوا لِلدِّينِ عُرْشًا شَدِيدًا لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

“O people! I am the Messenger of God to you all.”

Islam is a religion for the whole mankind. Islam addresses itself to the conscience of humanity banishes all false barriers of race, status, wealth.

Date: _____

Day: _____

Islam is a religion of peace. It is a universal and for the whole mankind. Its features and services for the mankind makes it unique and superior. Islam protects the every creature of the Universe. It works on the development of individual to collectively on society. Islam is a only religion which is based on humanity without any kind of discrimination. Holy Prophet Muhammad is the ideal for whole mankind. The life of Holy Prophet - Muhammad is the guidance for whole mankind.

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