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Batch-44

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Q What is Islam. Enlist salient features of Islam

Islam is a universal faith for all times, all places and all people. It is predicated on the belief that there is but one God, Allah, the creator of the universe and of human kind.

• Linguistic Definition of Islam

The word Islam is derived from the arabic root word "aslama" which has wide range of connotations. It is associated with obedience, submission, peace, prosperity, purity and sincerity in faith. dedicated to Allah.

• Three original meanings of Islam:

Obedience and Compliance

Sincere worship — Islam — Security and Safety of Allah

Contextual Meaning: معنى

In contextual meaning, it emphasizes that Islam symbolizes surrender and obedience, submission to Allah, implementation of Shari'ah, a commitment to the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U:4) ملائي

• Islam according to Quran:

In Surahs, Allah has mentioned about Islam and how the Muslims can practice Islam properly

Say, "O people of the Books, come to a word that is between us and you - that we worship none but Allah that we associate not partners with Him, that none of us takes others as lords besides Allah." If they return away, then say, "Bear witness that we are Muslims"

- 3 : 68 + 69

Islam as the only accepted religion
by Allah:

The Quran asserts that Islam is the
only religion accepted and blessed
by Allah

"Indeed the religion in the
sight of Allah is Islam. And
those who were given the
Book did not differ except
after knowledge had come to
them - out of envy among
themselves. And whoever disbelieves
in the verses of Allah, then indeed,
Allah is swift in account"

3: 69

The Quran opens up with the words:

"In the name of Allah, the
Merciful, the compassionate."

So, the believers would know that the
Islam is all about faith in Allah and
submission to Allah. The relationship which
exists between Allah and his creation
is based on one religion. (Islam).

Salient Features Of Islam:

Islam is one of the world's prominent monotheistic faiths.

Islam is practiced by 1.8 billion Muslims globally, making it the second largest religion worldwide.

Three fundamental unities of Islam

Islam
Allah, Humankind, Religion.

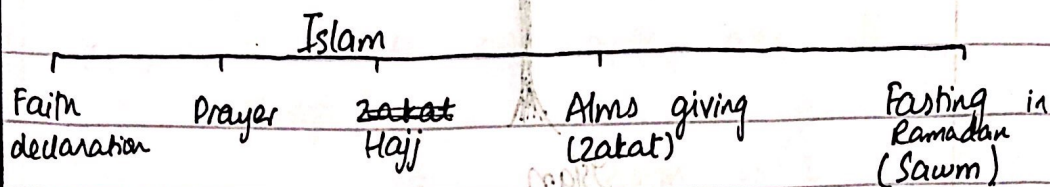
These fundamental unities are a foundation of faith. Following are some of the salient features of Islam.

1) Monotheism:

Tawhid is the most fundamental concept in Islam, postulating belief in the singularity, omnipotence, mercy, and compassion of Allah. The Tawhid encapsulates this doctrine: "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the last messenger of Allah". This belief is the core aspect of Muslim life.

"He is Allah, the one and Only; Allah, the Eternal, Absolute; He begetheth not, nor he is begotten; And there is is no - one like unto Him"
(Quran 112:1-4)

2. Observance of the Five Pillars of Islam



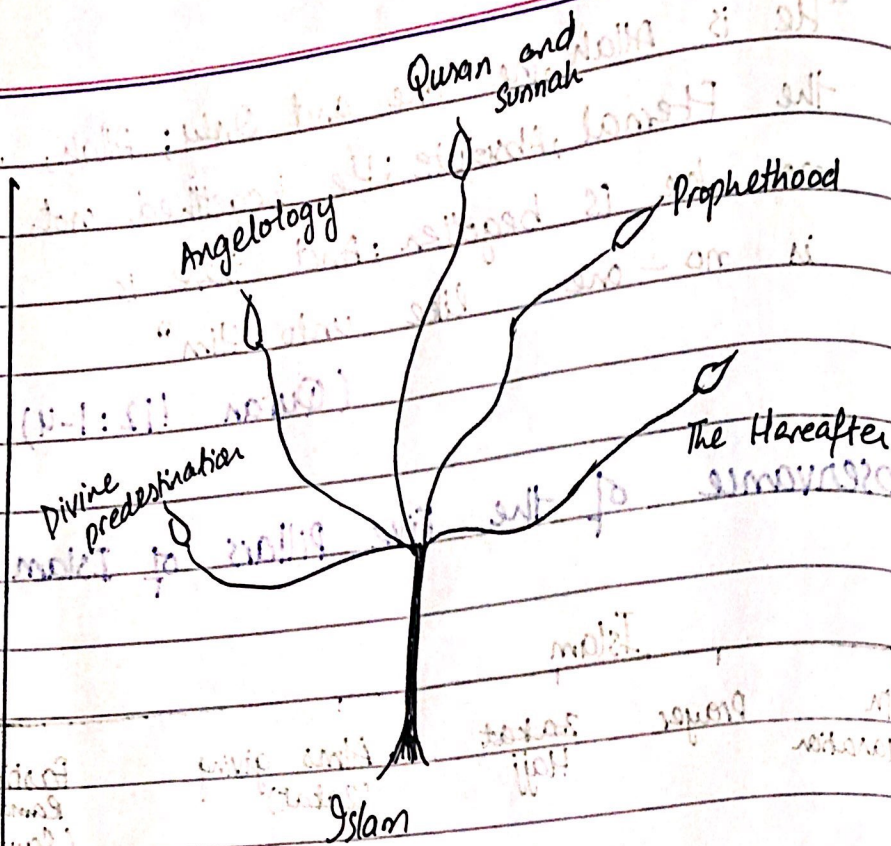
These form the foundation of a Muslim's life, expressing and reinforcing their cultural and religious identity and practice.

Prominent Islamic scholar Ibn Ashur says

"The basis of deen are five; Tawheed, Prophethood, the performance of prayer, giving of zakat, fasting Ramadan and Hajj of the Sacred house".

3) Beliefs that are backbone of Islam:

The most important belief in Islam is Monotheism in Islam but there are other beliefs as well that are the backbone of a strong faith.



- **Prophethood:** It refers to the belief in prophets chosen by Allah to guide mankind. Islam recognizes many prophets but Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is regarded as the final prophet.
- **Quran and Sunnah:** The Quran is considered the word of Allah, revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). It is considered as primary source of Islamic Theology and law.

"This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of Allah"

Quran 2:2

The secondary source considered for

- guidance is Sunnah of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H).
- **Angelology:** Islam acknowledges the existence of angels as messengers and servants of Allah.

"Praise be to Allah, who created (out of nothing) the angels, messengers with wings, - two, or three, or four (pairs):

He adds to creation as He pleases:

for Allah has power over all things"

Quran 35: 1

- **The Hereafter:** It is the belief in life after death, divine judgement, heaven and hell. This belief encourages moral and ethical behaviour, promoting the idea of accountability.

"And indeed the Hereafter is better for you than the present (life of the world)."

Quran 93: 4

- **Divine Predestination:** It pertains to the belief that all events good and evil are predestined by Allah.

"Verily, we have created all things

with Qadar (Divine Preordainments) of

all things before their creation, as written in the Book of Decrees (Al-Lauh Al-Mahfuz)"

Quran 54:49

4) Concept of Egalitarianism:

As Islamic Culture is theocentric, believing in strict monotheism and divine guidance, it also introduced the concept of egalitarianism (the doctrine that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities). Islam introduced this concept thousands of years ago and other human rights charters like Magna Carta were introduced a lot later.

"You have two characteristics which God likes; gentleness and deliberation."

(Hadith: Muslim)

5) Morality and Humanity:

Islam places a high emphasis on moral conduct and personal behavior. It promotes virtues like honesty, truthfulness, patience, humility and kindness and discourages vices like lying, cheating

arrogance and envy.

"Truly, Allah loves those who turn unto Him in repentance and loves those who purify themselves"

Quran 2:22

The Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said

"Help your brother, whether he is an oppressor or he is an oppressed one"

Hadith: Bukhari

Islam has always highlighted the importance of a kind heart and humanity whether

it be with humans or animals because

"anyone can feel the pain in someone's own heart, the true humanity is feeling the pain that lies in the heart of another person"

Accountability and Justice:

Islam places a strong emphasis on personal accountability and social justice. Each individual is accountable

for their actions in this world and will be judged accordingly in the Hereafter. Islam provides a legal framework for a harmonious society, outlining rights and duties, permissible and forbidden (haram) actions and laws related to marriage, inheritance and crime punishments.

“O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witness for Allah, even if it be against yourself or parents and relatives”

- Quran 4:135

7) Political and Economic Guidelines:

Islam provides a unique economic model that promotes ethical and fair business practices, prohibits interests, encourages charity and advocates for wealth circulation to prevent socio-economic disparities. Islam offers principles for establishing good governance and political justice.

“God permitteth trading and forbiddeth interest”

- 2:275

8) Islam as Complete Code of Life:

Unlike some religious traditions that separate the sacred and the secular, Islam provides comprehensive guidance for all aspects of life - social, spiritual, economic, political and cultural. It encompasses both private worship and public conduct, offering detailed guidelines for personal ethics, family relationships, social justice, economic equity and governance.

"Islam is a comprehensive ideology."

It is a *deen* a way of life encompassing all fields of human existence. It includes guidance in all walks of life, individual, social, material and moral, economic and political, legal and cultural, national and international."

- Abu Ala Maududi

9) Family and Social Relations

Islam guides its followers on how to interact and behave within society. It encourages respecting the rights of others, those from family and from social circle.

Islam provides comprehensive instructions for maintaining harmonious family relationships. It outlines the rights and responsibilities of spouses, parents and children. Islam stresses the importance of mutual respect, love, and care within the family.

“And among His signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them and He has put love and mercy between you (hearts): verily in that are signs for those who reflect”

- Quran 30:21

10) The essence of Islam as Deen:

“Rather than just a “religion” underscores its holistic approach to life. Islam is not simply a set of beliefs and rituals but a complete way of life that guides all aspects of human existence in a coherent and integrated manner. This concept is captured beautifully in the Quranic universe.

"Today, I have perfected your Deen (way of life) for you, and I have completed My favor upon you, and I am satisfied with Islam as a Deen (way of life) for you"

Ala supra baa Quran 5:3

at test you in world

11) Concept of Ummah and "Brotherhood"

The Ummah and concept of brotherhood is the global community of Muslims bound together by the ties of religion. It underscores the principles of brotherhood, unity and mutual support in Islam.

"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."

- 3: 103 Quran.

12) Optimistic Outlook:

In Islam, a believer is always confident on the decisions of Allah Almighty and he is optimistic about every phase of life. The optimism in Islam encourages that

"truth will ultimately triumph, encouraging continuous striving, patience and complete trust in Allah."

"Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction and argue with them in a way that is best"

16:125 Quran.

Conclusion

Islam is perceived as a comprehensive way of life, seamlessly blending spiritual obligations with worldly affairs, and setting forth an ethical code that promotes peace. In conclusion, Islamic culture embodies a comprehensive approach to life informed by divine guidance. Despite its variety across regions, it maintains constant, core features that align with its foundational principles.