

Islamic Assignment #1

Q) What is Islam and its salient features?

Ans) Islam is an Arabic word derived from s-l-m which means submission. So Islam means submission and total surrender to Allah (S.W.T) and to all His rules that have been revealed to His chosen Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). Islam is to enter in peace by submitting all desires to the will of Allah.

According to the Holy Quran,

"There is no compulsion in religion." (2:256)

In this Ayah, Allah clearly states that in religion there is no compulsion, and only Islam is the accepted religion, and blessed by Allah (S.W.T).

"To you is your religion, and to me, my religion." (109:6)

In this Ayah it is being said my religion is entirely distinct and separate

from your religion. I am not a worshipper of your gods and you are not worshippers of my God.

According to Holy Prophet (PBUH) Islam comprises of 2 things :-

1) To bear witness to Allah and His messenger (PBUH)

2) And to establish pillars of Islam and implement them.

According to a Hadith:- Once a man asked, Messenger of Allah, tell me, what does al-Islam signify. He Prophet (PBUH) replied:- Al-Islam signifies that you worship Allah and do not associate anything with Him and you establish obligatory prayer and you pay the obligatory poor-rate (Zakat), and you observe the fast of Ramadan.

According to Dr. Hamidullah, a scholar of hadiths, Islam is a monotheist deen, focused on Tawhid, revealed through Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

According to Imam Ghazali, Islam comprises on 2 things: rights of Allah and rights of people.

Islam is a complete deen which is sent for all mankind and for all times.

Islam is a religion beyond boundaries and limitations and is not specific to a race, cast or creed.

Characteristics or Salient features of Islam :-

Characteristics of Islam are special characteristics possessed by Islam and not possessed by other religions.

1) Islamic concept of Tawhid :- The concept of Tawhid is the core pillar of Islam and is also the first part of our Kalimah. Belief in the oneness of Allah is the core concept of Islam.

As it is narrated in Surah Fatihah
"It is you we worship and you we
ask for help."

According to a Hadith, the Prophet
Muhammad (PBUH) stated that, Islam is
like a fort, and the gate to that fort
is Tawhid.

2) Belief in Prophethood :- Islam
completes when the belief in Tawhid
combines with belief in Prophethood, and
the finality of Prophethood on Prophet
Muhammad (PBUH), which is also the second
part of our Kalimah. Even the
primary sources of Shariah in Islam are
Quran and Sunnah. The Prophet (PBUH)
was a prophet sent for all mankind and
His life is an example for everyone to
follow.

In a Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH)
said verily, I have been sent as
a teacher.

Islam also says that belief
in all the prophets who have come

before. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a
core pillar of Islam.

3) ~~Universality~~ Universality :- Islam
was revealed in this world as a guide
through Prophet (PBUH) as a guide for
all mankind, not for one specific group or
race or time but for all mankind and
for all times without any discrimination.
In the presence of Allah (S.W.T), humans
have no advantages to each other except
for the factor of piety.

According to a Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH)
said, all the prophets before me were
sent to their people in specific, whereas
I have been sent to all mankind.

4) Humanity :- Islamic teachings on
humanity and human welfare have
been revealed in Quran and exemplified
through the life of Prophet (PBUH).
Whether be it individually or in
a community the idea of human
welfare is one of Islam's principal value.
A Muslim religious life remains incomplete
if not attended by service to humanity.

Duties to parents, neighbors, community, relatives, sick people, work, money have all been defined in Islam.

According to a Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "The perfect among the believers are those who are best in character."

5) Complete and Comprehensive:- Islam encompasses a variety of system, law, regulations and reforms in all aspects of life both worldly and religious. All the laws, fundamentals of governments, economic principle and noble social values are all contained in Islam. According to Holy Quran

"We have not neglected in the Register a thing." (2:282)

Islam teaches are easily to implement and follow, and are for all mankind.

6) Democratic and Flexible :- The main purpose of Islamic law is to uphold the rules of deliberation that are carried out democratically, while the means and implementation of these democratic deliberation are left to the wisdom of those who have authority.

Islam is a religion for all mankind and all times; Islam establish every problem through general rules and principles. While the details, elaborations, and technical implementations are adjusted to the best experience ever done by mankind. Just like the Sunnah of Prophet (PBUH).

7) Justice :- Islam aims to uphold justice absolutely. All humans are equal and that to establish brotherhood, as well as maintaining blood, honor, wealth, humanity, in addition to protecting their religion and morals. There is no one above anyone when concerning the matters of justice.

8) Balance :- All Islamic teachings maintain a balance between personal and public; body and spiritual; and spiritual; worldly and hereafter. Islam with its integral set of laws does not at all justify the attitude of avoiding material enjoyment, so that one adopts a single life or isolate from society, nor does it condone the attitude of immersing one self completely in material life, so as to forget Allah (S.W.T) and days to come. Islam encourages to harmonize both worldly life and hereafter life according to the laws and obligations.

According to Holy Prophet (PBUH), "You owe a duty to your Rob; you owe a duty to your body; you owe a duty to your family; so you should give to everyone their dues."

9) Complement, Closing :- Islam complements the ^{revealed} teachings of all the other religions that existed before Islam came. Therefore the teachings of Islam and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) complements the teaching of all the religions and prophets that existed before (I).

Since the teachings of previous religions were flawed and ~~were~~ made imperfect, Allah ~~reveals~~ revealed Quran through Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and made Islam the last eternal religion and Holy Prophet (PBUH) as the last of messengers. So no other religion is accepted except for Islam.

10) Original ~~and eternal~~: - The teachings of Islam will never be changed and falsified by anyone and will remain original. ~~and~~ In Quran Allah says, "indeed, it is We who sent down the Quran and indeed, We will be its guardian." (15:9).

We can see for ourselves that Quran was revealed almost fifteen centuries ago, and till date the Quran has remain unchanged. Thus the authenticity of Islam will continue to remain throughout the ages and till the day of judgement.

11) Eternal :- Islam is a religion which was not ~~sent~~ revealed for any specific time or nation instead it was revealed for all mankind and for all times. The Islamic laws and teachings are eternal.

and are to be implemented in all times and ages to come.

12) Sourced from Allah (SWT) :- Islam is both in terms of source and destination ~~is~~ is from Allah, and it is not from human origins. Humans cannot possibly create Shariah laws because of their weakness and limitations such as space, time, civilization etc. Allah is the only perfect and all-knowing being. In Quran Allah says,

"Who perfected everything which He created, and began the creation of man from clay."
(32:7)

So in conclusion Islam is a religion that guides the human being to submit to Allah and to do good to others. The teachings of Islam are eternal and for all mankind in every aspect of life. The lifestyle of Holy Prophet (PBUH) is an exemplary role model to follow. Therefore, Islam is the only complete, and purest religion, and only accepted religion.