

Q) What is Islam? Salient features of Islam?
features

Ans. Islam is an Arabic word mentioned in the Holy Quran which denotes \rightarrow surrender or submission. The erstwhile name of Islam was *deen-e-hanif* which ~~the~~ ~~refer~~ means monotheist. In general the meaning of Islam is ~~to~~ submit one's the submission of an individual's desire to the will of Almighty Allah. The literal meaning of Islam is the word Islam is peace which refers to the peace ~~one~~ ~~can~~ of ~~achieve~~ mind and body one can achieve only through submission & obedience to Allah. As mentioned in the Holy Quran "Those who believe and whose hearts find rest in the remembrance of Allah - indeed it is in the remembrance of Allah alone that the heart of man finds rest - those who believe and act vigorously, joy is for them, and a blissful home to return to" (13:28-29). According to Islam, the message of Oneness of Allah was preached by through many the prophets but along the way this message was distorted so there fore there was a need for a new the prophet to remind ~~the~~ people the true message of Islam whenever it got corrupted. The final Prophet, Muhammad ^{Pbuh} was the last messenger sent by the ~~ex~~ creator of worlds, ~~A~~ ~~the~~ Almighty Allah to remind the mankind ~~the~~ about the true message of Islam. A Person can enter the fold of Islam by believing and having

Oneness of

faith in Allah, who is the lord of and sovereign of the universe. and also to Along with this one must also believe in the finality of prophet hood and have faith that Prophet Muhammad ^{Pbuh} was is the final and last messenger of Allah. As the first Kalimah These believes are also rehearsed in the shahada which translates to "I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad ^{Pbuh} is the messenger of Allah. In Islam one can only enter by their own desire, meaning that one cannot be forced to ~~have~~ accept Islam. The reason is that believe and faith in Allah and his messenger Prophet Muhammad ^{Pbuh} should come from the heart and not by being enforced by someone else. Regarding this the Quran says "There is no compulsion in religion" (2:256).

Islam is a universal deen, meaning that it for people ~~for~~ of all times, ethnicities and has no geographical limitations. You don't have to be born in an Islamic family in order to accept Islam unlike some other religions such as judaism as according to Halakha, one must be born to a jewish mother in order to be a jew. Islam is more than a religion, it is a complete code of life which not only instructs individuals on how to worship but also guides them on how to live their life and what responsibilities they have both as an

individual and as a part of a community/society. The first and most important feature of Islam that distinguishes it from the rest of religions is the Islamic concept of Tawheed. This signifies the oneness of Allah and that He is One and One alone as according to the Quran mentions in Surah Al-Ikhlâs (112) "Say, He is Allah the One, Allah is eternal and absolute, None is born of Him and nor was He born, And there is none like Him". Another very important feature of Islam is to have faith in the finality of the Prophet hood of messenger ^{Pbuh}. These two features are the building blocks of Islam and ~~one~~ one cannot enter the fold of Islam unless he believes in these two features. Islam also emphasises places ~~on~~ a great deal of emphasis on an individual's character as the prophet ^{Pbuh} ~~as~~ has also said "The best among you is the one who is the best in character. Human rights is also considered very important in Islam and ~~all~~ ~~human~~ humans are considered equal in ~~the~~ ~~right~~ Islam enjoys the concept of equality without any discrimination regarding one's ~~ethnic~~ ethnicity, wealth etc as the Prophet ^{Pbuh} said in his ^{Pbuh} last sermon "All mankind is from Adam and Eve, 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. Islam also encourages charity such that zakat has been made obligatory ~~in~~ on muslims. The Quran refers to this as following "You shall observe the contact prayers (salat) and give the obligatory charity (zakat), and bow down with those who bow down" (2:43)

The five obligatory prayer (salat) is another very important feature of Islam. The importance of salat can be ~~judged~~^{determined} by the fact that the first question asked from ~~the~~ humanity on the day of judgement would be regarding the five daily prayers. Jihad is another concept that segregates Islam from other religions. Jihad means to struggle in the path of Allah, The Quran says in this regard "Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress. Indeed Allah does not like transgressors" (2:190).