

Assignment no:1

Enlist the salient features of Islam.

Ans:-

Islam: The introduction:-

Word Islam is derived from Arabic language which means, "to submit / to surrender". Islam as a religion denotes submission to one and mighty God "Allah".

The fastest spreading religion with 1.8 billion followers - roughly 24% of world's population - has distinctive features which make it stand-out in the age of polytheism and atheism.

Salient features:

Islam encompasses following features

Monotheism / Tawheed:

Muslims, the followers of Islam believe in one absolute power, the creator of the universe, Almighty Allah. All the authority, sovereignty belongs to Him solely.

There is entire chapter in Quran devoted to monotheism, which is called surah "Ikhlas" or "Tawheed".

The chapter narrates:

- Allah is one.
- He is needless.
- Neither Begets nor begotten
- No one is his equal.

Surah Luqman:

"Polytheism is indeed a great injustice"

This surah is similar to I.D card of Allah, which introduces Him briefly yet comprehensively.

Prophethood:-

Risalah is the Arabic word for "message". It refers to 'prophethood' and represents ways in which Allah communicates with humanity. He sends revelations down on his Chosen human beings who are responsible for delivering and preaching the word of Allah without adding anything to it or altering it.

First prophet (PBUH) sent on the Earth was Hazrat Adam (AS) and many prophets were later sent subsequently for different tribes in different eras. The chain ended with Hazrat Muhammad (SAW), who was the last prophet for all the existing humans and the one's to come. Allah completed his guidance with Him (SAW).
through

Islam: A complete code of life:

Islam is the religion that provides the set of instructions and guidance for all aspects of life.

From childhood, to adulthood and domestic issues to international issues, Islam provides instructions.

It is an all-embracing way of life.

It extends over the entire spectrum of life, showing us how to conduct all human activities in sound and wholesome manner.

Free will and Predestination:-

The humans have been given free will to choose for themselves, after they have been guided about the rights and wrongs. Islam doesn't promote coercion in any manner or form.

"There shall be no compulsion in acceptance of religion"

(2:256)

The ayah above proves that Islam doesn't promote forceful conversions.

Good Manners:-

Manners are a person's outward ways of dealing with others. In Islam, good manners hold a great importance. As it is mentioned in hadith.

"Noble character will be the heaviest on the Muslim's scale of ^{good} deeds on the day of Resurrection"

(Tirmidhi)

Humanity:-

Islam is a beacon of light for all humanity, irrespective of color, caste or creed. It also promotes the equality among all humans. It states that all humans are born in a state of purity and no one is superior to other.

"A white has no superiority over black nor black has any superiority over white. Except by piety and good action"

(Prophet Muhammad)
SAW.

Islam and Human Rights:-

Islam has put forward a lot of rights for humans; from the rights of children to that of older generation; from rights of prisoners to that of neighbours, everyone has been granted certain rights which can't be surrendered at any cost.

"Islam has laid down some universal fundamental rights for humanity as a whole"

(Abul A'la Mawdudi)

(Progressive religion)
Islam and its relevancy in today's world:

Unlike, the rest of religions, Islam is and has been relevant for all ages. While, West is discovering and narrating the rights of different people now in the 21st century, Islam gave them rights 1400 years ago.

Islam is religion that is in accordance with the ^{natural} duty disposition of man.

While the world adopted Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, after the first World War, Islam laid universal fundamental rights for humanity 1400 years ago.

World affirming and not ascetic:-
Islam doesnot promote isolationist culture. The Muslims are ^{allowed} unforbidden to enjoy the worldly pleasures, which are not forbidden. Islam, nevertheless, praises those who shun luxury in favour of simple and pious life.

Promoter of Justice and Peace:-
The teachings of Islam invites people to live a peaceful life. Therefore, ^{peace} in Islam is an eternal constitution.

Even nature of war in Islam is defensive and not offensive. Islam has even set up some rules to follow when in war against infidels.

"Do not violate the treaties"

This was long ago before the Geneva convention came about.

Conclusion:-

Islam is a comprehensive way of life which encompasses a moral system which is not relative and clearly distinguishes right from wrong.

George Bernard Shaw is reported to have said.

"I have always held the religion of Muhammad in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to changing phases of existence, which can make itself appeal to every age."