

## Islam And Its Salient Features

### Islam:

Islam word is derived from the Arabic root word SUM which denotes submission, surrender and obedience to Allah. The other literal meaning of Islam is 'peace' and this signifies that one can achieve real peace of body and mind only through submission and obedience to Allah.

"Those who believe and whose hearts find rest in the remembrance of Allah - Indeed it is the thought of Allah alone that the heart of man really finds rest"  
(13: 28 - Quran)

This message was preached by all the prophets of God, who guided men to the right path. The basic concept of Islam is that the entire universe was created by Allah, He is the ultimate sovereign and sustainer of this universe. Allah has prescribed a certain code of life for all mankind to follow.

## \* Characteristics of Islam And Its Ideology

### 1) Tawhid - The Bed-Rock of Islam

Islam is a monotheistic religion which believes in one God only (Allah). Tawhid is the revolutionary concept of Islam and it constitutes the essence of teachings of Islam. It means that there is only one Supreme Lord of the universe. He is omnipotent, omnipresent and sustainer of the universe. Tawhid is the foundation of Islam. The belief in one God is reflected in the first part of Islamic creed (shahada) which states that  
"There is no God but Allah and  
Muhammad (SAW) is His last messenger".

Tawhid is the basic tenet to which Prophet Muhammad (SAW) asked the humanity to adhere to. It is an important metaphysical concept and answers the riddles of universe. It points to supremacy of law in cosmos. It presents a unified view of the world and offers the vision of an integrated

universe. After centuries of groping in the dark, man is now coming to ~~realize~~ realize the truth of this concept and modern scientific thought is moving in this direction.

“Oh, mankind. worship your lord, who created you and those before you. Who has appointed the earth a resting place for you; the sky a canopy, and who causes water to pour down from the heavens, thereby producing fruits as food for you. So do not Setup rivals to Allah.” (Quran 2: 21-22)

It is not merely a metaphysical concept. It is a dynamic belief and revolutionary doctrine. It means that all men are creatures of one Allah, and they all are equal - there is no discrimination on the basis of color, caste, race or ethnicity. Humanity is one single family of Allah and there are no social classes of bourgeois and proletarian, ~~white~~. There are no blacks or whites, ayyan or non-ayyan or westerner and easterner, all are one.



This concept defines the true position of man in the universe. It says that God is the creator and sovereign and man is His vice-gerent on earth.

## 2) Prophethood:

The second part of kalma, on the other hand, signifies that Allah has not left man without any guidance for the conduct of life. He has revealed His Guidance through His prophets and Muhammad (PBUH) was the last prophet. And to believe in prophet means to believe in His message to accept the law which he gave and follow the code of conduct which he taught.

Thus, the second basic postulate of Islam is to believe in the prophethood of Muhammad (SAW) and to accept the religion which he presented and to follow his commands.

"Every Messenger who was sent by us was sent for the purpose that he should be obeyed under the sanction of Allah".  
(Quran 4:69)

Every prophet of Allah, according to Quran, strove to build the relationship of men with God. The Guidance by Allah is only revealed through prophets.

It is part of their mission to translate this in their own ~~lives~~ lives and in the society.

All the prophets are representative of God and they are models for all-mankind.

Muhammad is the last prophet of Allah and final model for all-mankind. About the last prophet, it is explicitly stated in Quran.

"Oh, Muhammad, by your lord, they will not be believers until they accept you as the final arbiter in all their disputes and submit to your ~~decision~~ decision whole-heartedly without any heartache"

(Quran 4:65)

The test of acceptance of Allah and His prophets lie in conducting all the affairs in accord with law revealed by them.

"And those who do not make their decision in accordance with that revealed by Allah, they are disbelievers".

(Al-Quran 5:44)



### 3) Rationalism And Practicalism:

Islam is a religion without any mythology. Its teachings are simple, rational and practical. It is free from superstitions and irrational beliefs. The unity of Allah, the prophethood of Muhammad (SAW) and life after death are the basic articles of faith. They are based on reason and sound logic. There is no hierarchy of priests, no abstractions and no complicated rituals and rites. Islam awakens in men the faculty of knowledge and reason. It allows him to see the world in reality.

Quran advises men to pray  
"Oh my lord advance me in knowledge  
(20: 114)

It also asserts that those who have knowledge and those who don't are not equal. (39: 9)

Those who don't observe and understand are worse than cattle (7: 179)

The meaning of revelation becomes manifest to those who have knowledge"  
(6: 97)

Prophet of Islam ~~says~~ said

"He who leaves his home in search of knowledge walks in path of God".

"To seek knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim".

This is how Islam takes men out of the world of superstitions.

#### 4) No Asceticism or Monasticism:

Islamic ideology has no room for ascetic or monastic life. Islam prizes many worldly actions. Hadithes says - that those who work hard for their parents serve God, those who work for their children serve God. Islam does not believe in asceticism. It does not ask men to avoid material world.

It holds that spiritual ~~world~~ elevation is to be achieved by living piously in the rough and tumble life and not by renouncing the world.

"Eat and drink, but ~~do~~ do not exceed the limits of moderation and decency" (Quran 7:31).

Holy Prophet (PBUH) said

"A Muslim who lives in the midst of society and bears with patience the afflictions that come to him is better than the one who shuns society and cannot bear any wrong done to him"

### 5) Complete code of life:

Islam is a complete way of life, catering for all kinds of human needs. Islam provides guidance for all walks of life - Individual and social, material and moral, economic and political, legal and cultural, nation and international. The scope of Islam is not just confined to either ~~spirit~~ spiritual life or private life. The objectives of Islam are purification of the soul and reconstruction of society.



every department of human life is guided by the detailed code and instructions of Islam and it does not leave out any field of human existence to become a playground for satanic forces.

Islam's code of conduct are perfect. Islam is faith (dean) and is complete faith (dean-e-kamil).

## 6) Balance Between Individual and Society:

Another unique feature of Islam is that it establishes a balance between individualism and collectivism.

It believes in individualism of man and holds him accountable to God. It ~~guarant~~ guarantees the fundamental rights of individuals and does not permit anyone to temper with them. It does not subscribe to the view that man must lose his individuality in society or state.

"For each is that which he earns and against each is only that which he has deserved" (Quran 2:286).

On the other hand, it also awakens a sense of social responsibility in man, organises human beings in society, and asks individuals to subscribe to the social good. Namaz is offered in congregation to help inculcate social discipline among Muslims. Everyone is enjoined to pay Zakat, Jihad has been made obligatory which means that the individual should, when needed offer his life for the defence of Islamic state or society.

### 7) Universality - And Humanism:

The message of Islam is for the entire universe and human race. In Islam, Allah is the God of all the worlds and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a Messenger for all mankind.

"Oh, People I am the Messenger of God to you all" (Al-Quran 7:158)

In Islam all are equal and banishes all the false barriers like race, status, language, ethnicity. Islam removes all these impediments and proclaims the idea of

the whole of humanity being one family  
of God. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.)  
said

"All creatures of God ~~form~~ form  
~~are~~ the family of God".

Islam wants to unite all ~~human~~  
human beings under one banner.

To a world torn by national rivalries  
and feuds, it presents a message of  
life and hope.