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Batch 50.

Islam and its salient features:

Introduction to Islam.
Meaning of Islam.

Islam is an Arabic word means total submission of an Abd (slave) before his Rab (Master), obeying ~~to~~ and worshipping Him with humility. The word Islam has taken from the root word S-L-M - pronounced as ~~slam~~ ^{been} salm; means peace and from which the word Aslama is derived which means to submit or surrender.

Concept of Islam

Islam is a deen of peace which bounds a believer to surrender ^{himself} completely before ~~his~~ His Master. To believe that Islam is the only deen professed by all the Prophets from Hazrat Adam to Hazrat Mohammad and all the divine books ~~tell~~ inform the entire humanity about one God that is Allah; the Almighty and ^{All-}powerful, and that Quran is the last message sent to all mankind ^{to} which they are obliged to follow.

Salient features of Islam

Allah's perfectly declared deen has all the qualities which ~~that~~ make it superior to all other religions. As

Allah himself says in the Holy Quran

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ • سورة آل عمران ١٩

Indeed, the deen in the sight of Allah is Islam

وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ •

If anyone desires a deen other than Islam will never be accepted from him (Surah Al-Imran - 85)

1) Islam as universal deen

Islam is for all times, for all places, and for all peoples. It provides panacea for all problems. That is the reason Holy Prophet's message of Islam was not limited to people of Arabia, but he sent his letters and his representatives to many Emperors and Kings in his time, ^{to embrace Islam} for instance, to Byzantines (Roman Emperor), Egyptians, Ethiopians, etc.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ • سورة الانبيا ١٠٩

And we have not sent you (O, Mohammad!), but as a mercy to the worlds.

2) Islam as simple and practical deen.
 Undoubtedly, the first step to enter Islam is Tauheed (belief in the oneness of God) but belief without A'amal (Actions) is like a man knows the right path but does not walk on it. ~~Saying~~ To accept Allah as the Master is not enough unless one practices the commandments He has given. The reward is for those who believe and obey.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ
 سورة فطمت

"Those who believe and do righteous deeds - for them is a reward uninterrupted."

The orders of Allah are simple yet powerful to enrich the entire life and those who implement them know quite well what are their ^{Positive} effects on an individual as well as social life. There are a few things forbidden for the believers, they can enjoy the rest which Allah has bestowed upon them.

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ ... وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ
 سورة الاحقاف

And eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He does not like those who commit excess.

3) Islam as a rational deen

Free from all superstitious elements, Islam teaches and emphasizes rationality. On one hand, it permits all humanity to interrogate regarding Allah's commandments to seek knowledge and on the other hand, it also puts stress on using one's intellect that humans have been ~~best~~ gifted from ^{the} Almighty.

الآن في اختلاف الليل والنهار وما خلق الله في
السموات والأرض لآيات لِقَوْمٍ يَتَّقُونَ (10:6)

verily, in the alternation of the night and the day and in all that Allah has created in the heavens and the earth are signs for those people who keep their duty to Allah, and fear Him much.

Similarly, for those who do not use their intellect are rebuked by Allah.

أُولَئِكَ كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلٍ هُمْ أَقْلٌ ۚ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْغَافِلُونَ
(7:179) ~~(7:179)~~

Those who do not understand and observe (heedless) are worse than cattle.

فَلْ يَسْتَوِ الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ
سورة زمر 9

Are those who know equal to those do not know?

4) Islam as a complete code of life.

A deen that has been declared perfect by Allah ~~must~~ can never be incomplete and this wholeness marks its supremacy.

Islam guides mankind from all aspects of life; from private to public, social to political, national to international - hence from every minor to significant thing, Islam ~~is~~ tops the list. For instance, ^{From} giving Azan during birth of ~~a~~ ^{the} child ~~and~~ ^{to funeral prayer on} his death, every matter is instructed by Islam.

5) Individualism in Islam.

Islam's main concern is to teach ^{the} ~~man~~ individual about the accountability of his actions to Allah; whatever he does, no one is going to be responsible but he himself. Similarly, the right to freedom is also given to each individual - but ^{Allah} has also warned him about the consequences. It is his responsibility to correct himself and contribute to the betterment of society.

وَأَنْ لِّيُؤْتِيَنَّ لِلنَّاسِ إِيَّاهُ مَا نَسَبُوا
سورة نجم 39

And each person will get what he has strived for.

وَمَا إِلَهُكُمْ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَنْ تَكُونَ
سورة شورى 30

And whatever suffering you suffer, it is what your hand have wrought.

وَلْيَنْظُرِ الْإِنْسَانُ مَا قَدَّمَتْ لِحُرِّه
سورة الحشر 18

And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow.

6) Islam and Kindness.

Human is a slave to kindness
(Hazrat Ali)

The important component of Islam is that it educates us to be kind to all the creations of Allah and empathize with others' feelings as each act of kindness is considered charity whereas, in Islam, cruelty or mistreatment is considered a sin.

لا يرحم الله من لا يرحم الناس
ابن ماجه البقارى

473 Hadith

Allah's messenger; "Allah will not be merciful to those who are not merciful to mankind"

وقولوا للناس حسناً.

And speak good to people.

Regarding Animals Holy Prophet said.

"May the curse of Allah be on the one who treats an animal harshly"

7) Against all types of discrimination

The reason why Iblees got Mardood by Allah was not polytheism, murder, rape, etc, which are considered as the gravest sins.

It was his Kibr (pride) which distanced him from his Rab. When all the angels were asked to prostrate before Adam out of respect, Iblees ~~remained~~ defied. When Allah asked the reason, he replied

أنا خير منه، خلقتني من نار، وخلقته من طين

"I am better than him, you have created me from fire and created him from dust."

It was his pride which expelled him from the seventh sky. Islam is the deen of equality, therefore, any discrimination against one another is considered repugnant; be it racial, gender, tribal, or social, etc. It only favors the supremacy of right over might.

إليها الناس أنا خلقناهم من ذكر و أنثى و جعلناهم
شعوباً و قبائل... إن الله عليم كبير

Indeed we have created you from one male and female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may know one another. Surely the most noble of you in Allah's eyes is the most righteous among you. Allah is truly All-knowing, All-Aware.

Here the righteousness can not be decided by individual himself and so that he may start considering himself superior, which is again the ^{Presence of} Kibr in his heart. Allah says in Surah Najm.

"He has the most knowledge of you, when He first produced you from the earth, and when you were still in your mother's womb and not born yet, so do not boast ^{about} purity of your souls."

8) Islam and justice

The sole purpose of the Prophets for sending them down on Earth was to establish justice in the world and wipe out all acts of injustice. The books were sent to ^{the} Prophets in revelation to inform people and educate them about what is right and wrong. ~~■~~ A believer is bound to do justice even if it goes against his relative or favours his enemy.

فَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا الْهَوَىَٰ أَنْ تَعْلَمُوا (4:135)

Therefore, do not let your desires make you deviate from justice.

ان الله يحب المتقين (5:42)

Indeed Allah loves those who do justice.

a) Islam reforms the nafs (soul).

Allah has made humans Ashraf-al-Makluqaat. Allah sent humans on Earth with free will as well to ~~test~~^{test} them how they reform. He also warned them against their indulgence of their selfish desires. There is no doubt in it that reforming nafs is the hardest task humans have been given by Allah, that is the reason it is considered as Jihad-e-Akbar.

In Surah Yousuf, Allah makes it clear that this job is not going to be easy but humans must struggle against their temptations.

when Hazrat Yousuf said

وما أبرئ نفسي ان النفس لماراة بالسوء 53

I do not claim my nafs was innocent; # Verily the nafs incites to evil.

b) Islam and humanity Huqooq-ul-Ibad.

Islam is strict with respect to fulfilling the rights of humans. There is no leniency in Huqooq-ul-Ibad. Although some deficiencies of Huqooq-ul-Allah may be forgiven. From the rights of parents to the rights of animals; i.e. from major to minor creatures, no negligence is

is acceptable in Islam, regarding their rights.

ووهبنا الانسان بوالديه حملته امه
وارة لقمان

And we have commanded people to honor their parents. Their mother bore them through hardship upon hardships.

ولا تقتلوا اولادكم خشية اطلاق اموالهم

And do not kill your children for fear of poverty.

فاما اليتيم فاما

فاما اليتيم فلا تقص (93:9)

And as for the orphans, do not oppress (him)

Conclusion.

Islam is the deen of peace which gives complete code of life. A perfect deen that educates man which he did not know before. The message of Islam is universal.

It is against all discrimination. As a believer, if we follow Islam; most of our problems will ^{not only} be solved but in the future we may not go through such ~~problem~~ issues again.

Our society is in need of Islam which many of us ^{have neglected} do not ~~pay heed to~~

Awareness of Islamic teachings is the basic right of every muslim child ^{and man} which will shape his entire personality.

in the future.