

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

What is Islam?

Meaning of Islam

Literal Meaning: → Derived from Arabic word SLM → peace from which comes the word 'Aslama' which means he submitted means submission to the will of Allah.

Contextual meaning: Islam is the religion which brings peace to mankind. when man commits himself to God and submit himself to his will.

Shariah: voluntarily submission of desires to the will OF Allah.

As a religion Islam stands for complete submission and obedience to Allah. one can achieve real peace of body and mind only through submission and obedience to Allah.

↳ The one who surrender become a muslim

A man joins the fold of Islam by honestly believing in and professing faith in the unity of God & the prophethood of Muhammad.

"La illaha illallahu Muhammadur-Rasulullah"

Dr Hamidullah's definition of Islam:

"Islam is a monotheist Deem revealed through prophet"

Imam Ghazali:-

Islam is the combination of two things
right of Allah and right of people.

Salah or Din Islahi:

Islam is the combination of two things

- ↳ Faith (As per Maki surah)
- ↳ Rituals (As per Madni surah)

SALIENT FEATURE OF ISLAM

1- Islamic concept of TAWHID: The first part of our Faith. There is one only supreme lord of the universe and he is the sustainer of the universe and of mankind. Tawhid is the core pillar of Islam. The concept of Tawhid is beautifully explained in surah Ikhlas

قل هو الله أحد

say: he is Allah the one

الله الصمد

Allah is eternal and Absolute

لم يلد ولم يولد

None is born of him and nor was he born

ولم يكن له كفوا أحد

And there is none like him

Tawhid is the core pillar of Islam among the five fundamental beliefs. The five pillars are

- (i) Tawhid
- (ii) Prayer
- (iii) Alms giving (Zakat)
- (iv) Fasting
- (v) Pilgrimage

2- Prophethood: The second part of the Kalima, on the other hand signifies that God has not left man without any guidance for the conduct of his life. He has revealed his guidance through his prophet and Muhammad was the last prophet. And to believe in prophet means to believe in his message to accept the law which he gave and to follow the code of conduct which he taught. We learn what should be our way of life from holy prophet.

Every prophet of God, according to Quran strove to build man relationship to God on the principles

of God sovereignty as a source of divine guidance
 Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet and as such
 the final model for man kind

Qyat:-

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِنْ
 رِجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ
 وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ
 بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا

Translation:

Muhammad is not the father of
 any one of your men, but (he is)
 the messenger of Allah and last
 of the prophets. and ever is Allah,
 of all things, knowing.

(i) As a role model:

The guidance is revealed through the prophet, it is
 part of their mission to translate that into practice,
 in their own lives and their society. They try to reform
 Muhammad is sent as an exemplary role model
 for the mankind. every muslim should practice his
 behaviour and thoughts in life.

(ii) As an Educator:

verily I have been sent to the mankind
 as an educator

(iii) As a law giver:

The law which is to decide
 the rightness or otherwise (Halal, Haram) of things
 is given by God through the prophet. and is
 known as shariah. Belief in the prophet involve
 acceptance of shariah, the path he has conveyed
 and to implement that in all walks of life
 this is how the will of God is full filled on the
 earth, **The Quran said.**

(4)
(iv) Complete code of life
(v) Guidance to the straight path
Islam provide guidance for all walks of life individual & social, mental & moral economic and political, legal and cultural national and international. It is simple a complete way of life.

Hadrat Aysha said:
"Quran is the theory and prophet is the

upbringing practice of that theory."
i.e. the complete code of life from birth naming to upbringing which start in the lap of mother which is the first institution
Islam always emphasizes on education.

• Education: seeking education is obligatory for all men & women.

• Family Life Islam gives direction on family life relationships of husband-wife, rights on one another.

• Character building: do's and don't, Islam prohibit men from bad deeds, lie, backbiting and encourage good ones.

• Justice system: Islam guides mankind to observe justice and right measures.

• political system:

Based on three principles

↳ Tawhid ↳ Risalat ↳ Khilafat.

• Economic Aspects: zakat vs interest; save your self from hell fire even by giving half a date fruit in charity - (Sahih Bukhari)

5- ISLAM AN ETERNAL RELIGION:

This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed my favour upon you and have chosen for you Islam as a religion (5:4)

6. A RELIGION OF PEACE:

The holy prophet said that a muslim is he whose word and deed do not harm to others. Farewell pilgrimage, is a eternal charter of peace for all mankind.

7. ISLAM & HUMANITY: In Islam all men are equal whatever be the color, language, race.

take care of fellow human being w/o any discrimination in Quran there is saying;

The best among the believers is the one who is best for his family.

◦ charity

implies that everything he possessed belongs to Allah and therefore anyone in need has a share in it and he should willingly and gladly help individuals and society when they are in need.

in 2:177 muslims are those who gives wealth inspite of love for it.

◦ practice of social service

Islam awaken a sense of social responsibility in man. organises human being in a society and a state and enjoins the individual to subscribe to the social good.

◦ Animals right: Islam enjoin man to take care of the animals. The holy prophet reprimented a person just because his camel was thirsty.

◦ environmental protection

planting a green tree is the best charity and focus on environmental protection. It gives the lesson of sustainable development goal for future generation. Islam teaches a man as do not cut a green tree ^{evenly} if in condition of war

(6)

8 - BALANCE B/W INDIVIDUAL & SOCIETY
It establish a balance b/w individualism and collectivism. It guarantees the fundamental rights of the individual and does not permit anyone to temper with them
According to Quran:

Man shall have nothing but what he strives for

(AlQuran, 53:39)

In short Islam neither neglects the individual nor the society. It establish a harmony and balance b/w the two and assign to each its proper due.

9 - COMPLETE RECORD OF THE TEACHING PRESERVED
Teaching of Islam have been preserved in its original form and God guidance is available w/o adulteration of any kind
The Quran and the word of God is available in its original form

10 - UNITY OF MATTER & SPIRIT

It does not ask man to avoid things material. It hold that spiritual elevation is to be achieved by living piously in the rush and tumble of life and not by renouncing the world. The Quran advice us to pray the follow

"-our lord! Give us the good in this world and the good in the hereafter;"

(AlQuran, 2:201)