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Q# 08

Describe the importance of Deen (Doctrine of Life) in human life? Differentiate between Deen and Religion?

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INTRODUCTION :- Islam is both a religion and a Deen. Deen is a complete code of life. Deen explains the purpose of life and covers both the spiritual and material needs of humankind. It encourages good deeds and morality and leads to the purification of the soul. Religion and Deen are often used interchangeably, but there are many differences between the two. Religion deals with man's relation with God; while Deen deals with both man's relation with God and man's relations with his fellow beings. Religion generally consists of a set of dogmas, some rituals for worship, and several social customs to celebrate. Whereas, Deen covers both spiritual matters and mundane affairs of this world.

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Concept of Deen :- Deen is an Arabic word that generally means "Religion" or "Belief". All the prophets from Hazrat Adam to Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) preached the same Deen. According to Islam, the word refers to the path of life Muslims must embrace to obey to the divine law. It consists of beliefs, moral codes, Ibadat, Transactions (عقوبات), and punishments. It gives much emphasis to the amelioration of society and the welfare of the entire mankind. The ultimate aim of Deen is the welfare and progress of Human-kind.

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IMPORTANCE OF DEEN :- Deen has vast importance in individual life and human society. Deen

exhibits the right way to spend life affairs though spiritual or mundane. Deen's importance can be seen from following parameters.

- Explains the purpose of life:- Deen explains the purpose of life to its believers. A person gets to know that he is not a useless creature but there is a reason for his creation. This belief motivates them into transforming positive persons.

In Islam Deen is all guided by the divine book of Allah that is Quran and it answers to the all questions of man is curious about.

Such as, who is the creator of man and the universe? and Quran says; "اللَّهُ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ" Allah is the creator of all things.

What is purpose of life? and Quran tells; "عِبَادَتِكُمْ لِيَالْتَمِظُ مِنْكُمْ" what! did you then think that we had created you in vain and that you shall not be returned to US? Then Allah

says again in Quran "وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِي" And I have not created the jinn and men except that they should serve me. Again man asks himself that what is objective and purpose of everything and God says in Quran; "لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ يُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ وَيَرُدُّكُمْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ" Surely we have created everything according to a measure. In last he asks himself that what

lies after death? and Allah tells him in Quran that; "الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۗ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ" who created death and life that He may try you - which of you is best in deeds; and He is the mighty, the forgiving.

The Quran makes the religion Islam as

- Gives Mental and Spiritual Satisfaction:- Belief in Deen gives strength to believers. A person gets to know that he is not a useless creature, they know that there is a reason for everything to happen and that their good deeds will never go wasted, but will be rewarded one day or the other. Al' Allah says in Holy Quran; "وَالَّذِينَ سَاءُوا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ" And as to those who are made happy, they shall be in the garden.
- Promotes Moral Development of Society:- A true Islamic Society will always follow the teachings of Islam which will lead to the development of a morally strong and just society.
- Teaches Equality and Dignity of Humankind:- Deen teaches that all humans are equal and no one has superiority over others in any aspect. The same idea was narrated by Holy prophet (PBUH) in his last sermon as well.
- Leads to Purification of Soul:- Deen teaches the concepts of judgement and accountability in this world and the world hereafter. This encourages believers to do good deeds to be rewarded in both worlds which leads to the purification of soul.
- Instills Qualities of Peace, Empathy, and Cooperation:-

reasoning and knowledge, allows full freedom to accept or reject ideas and beliefs based on reason and arguments, and encourages investigation and discovery of all the natural phenomenon to illustrate the way of human life and its evolution.

- Religion makes people ignorant of the responsibilities of life. Deen guides them to meet face to face the realities of life with self-dignity and perseverance.
- Religion gives more importance to the worship system and mediation which sometimes leads to ~~meet face to face~~ self-deception. Contrarily, Deen teaches to struggle to establish the true divine laws and just social order on earth in addition to prayers and worship.
- ~~Religion~~ Religion generally nullifies every new thing and asserts all innovation as sin. Deen acknowledges the fact that human life keeps evolving with the change in the conditions of life; change and innovation are inevitable, and only the Divine laws are eternal.
- Religion promotes belief in pessimism and this tends to dissuade the man from active life to and self-development. Deen gives man the power to challenge fate and provides energy for self-development.

6- ISLAM IS A DEEN - NOT MERELY A RELIGION :-

Islam is not a religion but a Deen and a complete code of life. Allah Almighty has mentioned several times in Holy Quran that Islam and only Islam is a complete religion

"And whosoever adopts any other way except Islam that shall not be accepted from him and in the Hereafter, he shall be among the losers."

(Al-Quran 3:85)

Allah Almighty sent prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to preach the teachings of Islam to the entire humankind.

"Today, I have completed your Deen, and have completed my bliss upon you and accepted for you Islam as a Deen".

(Al-Quran 5:3).

7- CONCLUSION:- In a nutshell, Deen is a complete code that covers all aspects of life. It explains the purpose of life of every creature and focuses both on human-to-God relations and man-to-man relations. Islam is both a religion and a Deen and its teachings are eternal. True believers believe in the teachings of Islam in letter and spirit and never doubt its meanings. As mentioned in Quran (about the believers):

"They alone are the believers who come to believe in Allah and His Messenger and afterward never doubt, and who strive in the way of Allah with their wealth and their lives. Only they are truthful and sincere."

(Al-Quran 49:15)