

Q: What is Islam? Discuss its Salient Features.

## Introduction to Islam

Islam is an Arabic word having root word **SLM** which means peace.

Literal meaning of Islam: To surrender, submit or peace.

Contextual meaning: To enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah.

According to Shariah: Islam means to enter in peace according to one's own will by submitting to the will of Allah.

According to the definition defined by Dr. Hameedullah (Introduction to Islam)

“Islam is a monotheist din revealed through Prophet (P.B.U.H.)”

Imam GHAzali; a great Muslim Scholar defined Islam as: Islam is a combination of rights of Allah and human rights.

In Surah Bakrah (2:256) Allah says that

“There is no compulsion in the choice of religion.”

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# Salient Features of Islam

## 1) Tauheed - Oneness in Allah

It is a belief that there is deity except for Allah, He is only worthy of worships and all praises, He is the Only Creator of this universe, He has no beginning and end.

Allah says that

“He neither begets nor begotten.”

Surah Ikhlas (112:3)

He is only worthy of all the worships and all praises should only <sup>be</sup> for Allah Almighty.

“God, there is no God but He, and His are the most beautiful names”

Surah Taha (20:8)

In Surah Al-Maidah (5:120) Allah says that

“

To Allah belongs all the sovereignty of Heaven and Earth and whatever lies in them and He has power over everything”

Important

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## 2) Prophethood

It is another salient feature of Islam that makes it different from other religions. It is second part of our "Kalma". The faith of Muslims is not completed until they believe in prophethood. This <sup>creates</sup> difference between Muslims and Qadyani.

In Surah Ahzab (33:40) Allah says that

“ Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets ”

Moreover, Allah says about his Prophet (P.B.U.H.) that

“ Whoever obeys Messenger has truly obeyed Allah. But whoever turns away, then 'know that' We have not sent you 'O Prophet' as a keeper <sup>Best Quality Notes</sup> over them ”

### 3) Islam is a complete code of life

Islam is the only religion that guides about each and every aspect of human life; that how to deal in his personal life as well in social life. It gives guidance about protection of animal rights as well as <sup>it</sup> builds responsibility towards environment. Moreover, Allah has blessed this religion with faiths, rituals and worships that restrain Muslims from doing evil deeds.

Allah says that

“Surely salaah restrains one from shameful and evil acts.”

(Al-Ankaboot 29:45)

### 4) Protection To Minority Rights

Islam is the only religion that gives us lesson of “Equality”. Allah gives no preference to anyone whether he is rich or poor, black or white, muslim or non-muslim. All these things are of no importance to Him. The only

thing that matters to Allah Almighty is the actions of humans and how much pious they are.

“He is more dearer to me who is more pious.”

Surah Al-Hujarat - 13

### Sermon of Prophet (P.B.U.H.) on Hajj

“All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a Black nor a Black has any superiority over a white except by piety and good action.”

#### (4) Sense of Accountability

Islam is the only religion that creates a sense of accountability in humans because believers have firm faith in Allah and the Last Day. They believe that Allah is watching their all deeds and actions so one day they will have to pay for their sins.

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## Allah says that

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Whoever has done an atom's weight of good will see it. And whoever has done <sup>an</sup> atom's weight of evil will see it." (Al-Quran)

## 5) Inculcates Trust and Hope

This is the only religion that gives peace of heart to humans. Those who believe in oneness of Allah and His supreme power; that he can perform miracles <sup>less than</sup> in nanoseconds without any help so He will never leave <sup>them</sup> ~~him~~ alone in the time of difficulties.

## Allah says that

ee "Those who believe and whose hearts find comfort in the remembrance of God. Surely it is in the remembrance of God that hearts find comfort." (Al-Quran)

## 6) Instills Brotherhood

Islam is the only religion that gives lesson of equality and brotherhood to its believers.

Allah says that

“Certainly all Muslims are brothers.” (Al-Hujaraat - 10)

## 7) Gives Purpose to Life

The belief in oneness of Allah, oneness in His attributes, oneness in His actions give a firm faith to a believer in a fact that one Supreme entity has created him for a certain reason and definitely there is a purpose of his life.

## 8) Instillates Humility and Modesty

The belief in supreme power of Allah makes a person to believe in a fact that he has no value in front of Allah. He believes that who I am in front of Allah, He is watching

my every step and is aware of what goes in my head.

## Hadith

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Allah says: "Pride is My cloak and greatness My robe and whoever competes with Me with regard to either of them, I shall throw him into Hell."

(Ibn Maajah)

## Conclusion

Islam is the only religion that guides its believers about every aspect of life. It shapes <sup>their</sup> evil deeds into good deeds. It guides them towards righteous path. Its beautiful salient features distinguishes Islam from other religions like Christianity and Judaism. Islam is a complete universal Din that teaches lesson of equality to all mankind and forces Muslims to become brothers and get unified as a whole body.