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Batch: 352

Subject: Islamic Studies

## Question:

Explain the importance of Deen in human life. What factors make Islam distinctive religion in the world. Discuss

## Answer:

"Al-Deen" is an Arabic word that conveys the meaning of "the way or the manner". Thus it means the way and code of life to be followed. It keeps a man attached to the principles of morality and practical codes that are complete, comprehensive and universal. Religion or beliefs or Deen is a human need, so people in the different areas of the world have created different religions or belief systems. However, the Creator has bestowed upon the mankind, the perfect deen to fulfill human needs that is Islam.

## Importance of Deen in Human Life

### 1. Deen tells us the real purpose of life:

The real purpose of life in the light of Deen is to worship <sup>the</sup> Allah Almighty following the path of Islam. Deen focuses on helping others making life easier for others.

### 2. Basis for Spirituality:

Spiritual aspect is an important domain of human personality and this aspect is based on Deen. It provides food for the

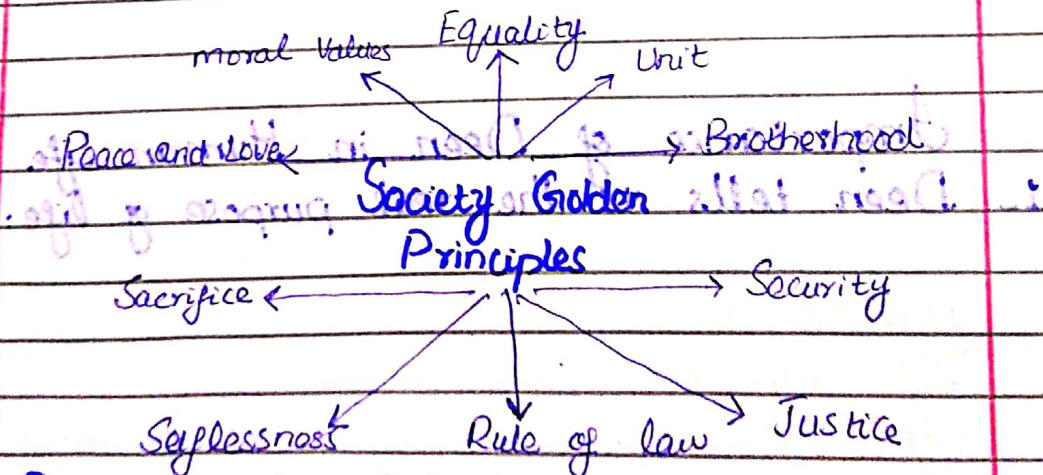
Spiritual appetite of mankind. Following the teachings of Deen gives spiritual satisfaction and happiness to its followers. God promises mercy to those who follow the guidance of the Quran.

وهذا كتاب أنزلناه مبارك فاتبعوه واتقوا العلم لترضون  
Al-Anam (6: 155)

"And this is a Book We have revealed it, blessed, so follow it and fear Allah, so that you may receive mercy."

### 3. Establishment of a Workable Social Order:

Deen establishes a complete society which is based on golden principles. These principles are a source of wisdom and knowledge for a society.



### 4. Deen is the Driving Force behind Muslim Ummah:

واقتصموا بحبل الله جميعا ولا تفرقوا - Al-Imran (3:103)

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided."

## 5- Concept of Accountability and Responsibility:

Accountability is the backbone of Islamic public administration. Every individual is accountable before Allah for his or her conduct of affairs. It is said in the context of Quran:

"Every soul will be detained for what it has done."

## 6- Define Rights and Duties of different Relationships:

Deen defines duties and rights of human beings towards each other. It defines rights and duties of parents and children; rights and duties of spouses; right of inheritance. Quran says:

Surah An-Nisa (4:31) - **يُوصِيكُمُ اللَّهُ فِي أَوْلَادِكُمْ**

"Allah thus commands you concerning your children"

## 7- Source of Divine Guidance:

Deen is a source of divine guidance.

Talking about Deen-e-Islam that is revealed by Allah Almighty Who is aware of everything. As Quran says:

Al-Anam (6:71) - **قُلْ إِنَّ هُدَى اللَّهِ هُوَ الْبَرُّ**

"Say, Surely Allah's guidance is the only true guidance."

## 8- Deen gives complete code of life:

Deen provides guidance on all aspects of human life whether it is individual, cultural, legal, social, economic, political etc.

9- Provide Answers to the Questions which remain Unanswered by Empirical Sciences.

There are questions that have not been answered by philosophy and empirical sciences and they are out of domain of human's intellect.

i- Who is the creator of Man and the Universe?

The Quran says that this universe, man and everything present in the universe is created by Allah Almighty.

(Al-Tin 95:4) لقد خلقنا الانسان في احسن تقويم.  
"Certainly We created man in the best form."

ii- What is the Purpose of Everything?

Nothing in this universe has been made without a purpose. Quran says:

"Surely We have created everything according to a measure."

iii- What lies Hereafter?

Life on earth is temporary and man shall be held accountable for all his actions.

It is said in the context of Quran as:

"He created life and death so that He may find which of you is best in deeds."

10- Deen Induces in Man Piety and Remembrance of God:

Piety is the inner fear that a man should have for his Creator. This fear centralizes the concept of remembrance of God.

## Factors that make Islam Distinctive Religion in the World:

Islam is a deen and a religion that covers entire code of life. It is different from religions like Sikhism, Hinduism, Confucianism etc. These religions are based on rituals, social customs and deals with individual life.

### 1- A Divine Religion and Complete Code of life:

Islam is a divine religion and a complete way of life. It is present in every field of human existence. Islam provides guidance for all aspects of life, individual and social, material and moral, economic and political, legal and cultural, and national and international. Quran says:

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام: Al-Imran: 19

"Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam."

Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran:

اليوم اكملت لكم دينكم واتممت عليكم نعمتي ورضيت لكم الاسلام ديناً: (Al-Maida: 3)

"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favour upon you and have approved Islam as a religion for you."

Islam is not the fruition of human efforts rather it consists of divine guidance.

## 2. Rationality and Practicality:

Teachings of Islam are based on reason and logic. They are free from superstitions and irrational beliefs. Islam teaches man to see things in the light of reality.

Quran says:

Surah Taha (20:114) : **دُلَّ رَبِّيَ عَلَيَّ**

"O, my God! Increase me in knowledge."

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

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

## 3. Moderation:

It refers to a justly balanced way of life and doing and experiencing things in moderation. It is said in the context of Quran in Surah Luqman

"Be moderate in your pace and lower your voice. Certainly the ugliest of all the voices is the braying of donkeys."

## 4. It teaches Tolerance:

Islam teaches tolerance as one's views are not to be imposed on others. We have to tolerate others according to their point of view.

Al-Baqarah 2:256 : **لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ**

"Let there be no compulsion in religion."

## 5. Deen of Peace with Universality and Humanism:

Islam can rightly be called as religion of peace. Incidents of terrorism are averse

to the teachings of Islam and terrorists have no religion. In the context of Quran:

"My mercy embraces all things."

The message of Islam is for the whole of the human race. God, in Islam, is the God of all the world and the

Prophet (PBUH) is a Messenger for the whole of mankind. In the context

of Quran:

وما ارسلناك الا رحمة للعالمين: Al-Anbiya - 107

"We have sent you only as a mercy for everybody in the universe."

## 6- A Religion of Equality:

Equality means every person has legally and religiously all those rights that any person within the boundaries of the same territory enjoys. A person who enters the folds of Islam becomes irrespective of his cast, colour or creed.

There is no discrimination between the rich and the poor in mosques or cemeteries.

## 7- Maintains Balance between this

### World and Life Hereafter:

Islam does not encourage us to give up this life. This life is a blessing and an opportunity to prepare for the life after death. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

"When a man dies, his good deeds come to an end, except three: Ongoing charity,



beneficial knowledge and a righteous child who will pray for him."

8- Islam has a system to keep pace with the modern world.

Through the sources of Ijma, Ijtihad and Qiyas, Islamic principles can be extended to the modern issues confronting the mankind.

9- Complete Record of Teachings Preserved.

The teachings of the Islam have been preserved in their original form.

The Holy Quran is the revealed book and word of God and it is still available in its original form for the last fourteen hundred years. Teachings of the Prophet are also available and there has not been made even one change in this record. In the context of Quran:

"Allah says He has revealed the Quran and He will protect it."

**Conclusion:**

Islam is the natural religion of man and have many distinctive aspects. It is a religion which is not associated with any person, period or place. Professor Montet writes:

"In the best sense of the word, Islam is basically rational both ideologically and historically"

## Question:

Explain philosophy of Hajj. Discuss its social, moral and spiritual impacts.

## Answer:

Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam and is an annual pilgrimage to Makkah. It is obligatory only for those who can afford it and that too only once in a lifetime. The pilgrimage is a five days activity that occurs from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of Dhu al-Hijjah.

## History of Hajj:

Elements of Hajj trace back to the time of Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH). According to tradition, Ibrahim was ordered by God to leave his wife Hajara and his son Ismail alone in the desert of ancient Makkah. In search of water, Hajara desperately ran seven times between the two hills of Safa and Marwah but found none. When she returned to Ismail, she saw the baby scratching the ground with his leg and a water fountain sprang underneath his foot. Later, Ibrahim was commanded to build the Kaaba which he did with the help of Ismail and to invite people to perform pilgrimage there.

## Importance of Hajj in Quran and Hadith:

- i- Allah says in the Holy Quran:  
"Allah has made the Kaaba, the Sacred house, the center for permanent stability of mankind."
- ii- The Prophet (PBUH) have said:  
يا ايها الناس قد فرض عليكم الحج فحجوا!  
"O people! Hajj has been made essential for you, therefore perform Hajj"

## Conditions for Hajj:

- 1- A pilgrim must be a Muslim, free, responsible, healthy and has a proper amount of money for travelling, staying for Hajj and for returning home.
- 2- The travelling route should be safe.
- 3- He should have some conveyance or expenditure for the said purpose.
- 4- If the pilgrim is a woman, she should be accompanied by her husband or any other sensible Mahram man.

## Kinds of Hajj:

### 1- Hajj al-Afrad:

It is simple Hajj. A pilgrim before passing through the Miqat - the place for assuming Ihram enters into the state of Ihram with the intention of performing Hajj alone. He does not combine it with

Umrah. The person who performs Hajj al-Ifrad is called Mufrid. This kind of Hajj is allowed to the residents of Makkah and Jeddah.

## 2- Hajj al-Qiran:

A pilgrim who performs this kind of Hajj combines Hajj and Umrah, that is he assumes the Ihram with the intention to accomplish both of them. The person who performs this kind of Hajj is called Qarin.

## 3- Hajj al-Tamattu:

A pilgrim who performs this kind of Hajj, combines Umrah with Hajj in such a way that before passing through the Miqat, he assumes Ihram for Umrah only. Then after he accomplishes Umrah at Makkah having his head shaved or hair cut short, he take off his Ihram but does not come back home. Then on 8<sup>th</sup> of Dhul Hijjah he resumes Ihram, this time with the intention of Hajj. The person who performs this kind of Hajj is called a Mutamatti.

## Faraiz of Hajj:

Faraiz of Hajj are three as given.

### 1. To Assume Ihram:

It is to form intention to perform Hajj and to recite Talbiyah.

# لبيك اللهم لبيك لبيك لا شريك لك لبيك

## 2- Wuquf at Arafat:

Continuously staying at Arafat from the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> Dhul Hijjah to the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> Dhul Hijjah. This is the Rukan of Hajj.

## 3- Tawaf al-Ziyarah:

It may be performed any time from the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> Dhul Hijjah till the sunset of the 12<sup>th</sup> Dhul Hijjah after ritual shaving.

## Wajibat of Hajj:

### 1- Wuqf at Muzdalifah:

That is Qiyam, to stay, at the appointed time during the halt at Muzdalifah.

### 2- Sa'ey:

Running seven times, between mount Safa and Marwah. It is to be performed after Tawaf al-Ziyarah, if it was not already performed before departure for Mina.

### 3- Ramyul Jamar:

Pelting stones at Jamarat i.e. stoning Satan.

### 4- Nahr / Sacrifice:

It is to offer a sacrifice. It is Wajib only on Qarin and Mutamatti. It is

Mustahabb for Mufrid:

### 5- Halq / Taqsir:

Have the head shaved or hair cut short.

### 6- Tawaful Wada:

It is called farewell Tawaf. It will have to be performed before one leaves for home.

## Social Impacts of Hajj:

### 1- Development of Awareness of History:

Hajj contributes in developing awareness in Muslims about their history. When Muslims see Maqam Ibrahim, Mount Safa and Marwah, the Black Stone, Cave of Hira and the cave of Thaur, they relive these historical events.

### 2- Disciplined and Organised Lifestyle:

As rituals of Hajj are to be performed on a specified time, it infuses an understanding of disciplined and organised life in Muslims.

### 3- International Islamic Brotherhood:

When Muslims see each other dressed in two white clothes representing the state of Ihram irrespective of cast, colour and creed, all reciting same Talbiyah creates an environment of Islamic brotherhood.

#### 4- Unity of Thought:

The meeting of common men of all nations with a pure heart, with unity in thoughts, deeds and aims always at the same centre every year in Islam reflects one aim and thought at one Centre.

#### 5- Awakening of Islamic World:

As the month of Ramadan is a season of piety throughout the Islamic world, in the same way the season of Hajj is the period of liveliness and awakening of Islam in the entire world.

### Moral Impacts of Hajj:

#### 1- Commitment to a Superior Morality:

During Hajj, a pilgrim is asked not to do anything which would deflect him from the path of his act of worship. He must not talk foolishly or commit any sin which will detract from his obedience to God. This commitment to a superior morality is reflected in the Muslims.

#### 2- Ethical Principles:

The discipline shown by the pilgrims during Hajj truly reflects the ethical principles and values incorporated in Muslims.

### 3- Pilgrimage Teaches Self - Sacrifice in the Line of Duty:

Hajj makes Muslims pious and they become generous. They believe in giving as much of their money, effort and energy with a desire to find favour with God. In the context of Qur'an:

"Neither their flesh reaches Allah nor their blood, it is the piety that reaches Him."

### 4- Kills Greed:

It is said: "Greed is a curse".

Hajj prohibits Muslims from being greedy and selfish and enforces a character of morality that makes Muslims generous.

### 5- Pilgrimage Reconciles Conflict between Worship and Work:

The pilgrimage combines worship and the blessings of this world in their various forms. When Muslims go for Hajj they would refrain from working. During their sitting they exchange opinions and agreements for co-operation with each other. Hence pilgrimage brings together religious and worldly affairs and does not accept their separation.



## Spiritual Impacts of Hajj

### 1. Purification of Soul:

After performing Hajj, man is just like a new born baby. All of his sins are forgiven that purifies his soul and provides inner consciousness and humility.

### 2. Connection with Allah Almighty:

The Hajj is a complete worship and signifies total submission before Allah. It is an effective ritual to get closer to God.

### 3. Spiritual Rejuvenation:

Hajj is a worship that strengthens one's belief and protect him from disbelief.

The Prophet (PBUH) said:

"When a man dies and he has not performed the pilgrimage, let him die, God willing as a Jew or God willing as a Christian."

Conclusion: Hajj is that pillar of Islam through which all previous sins of man are waived by Allah Almighty. It develops morality, makes man socially strong and spiritually clean.

## Question:

Explain the difference between Deen and Religion.

## Answer:

### Introduction:

The terms "Deen" and "Religion" are often used interchangeably but have slightly different connotations and implications. Deen is a complete code of life which includes religio-socio-political-economic system. Religion deals with sacred and spiritual covering the belief system, made of worships.

### What is Deen?

"Deen" is an Arabic word commonly translated as "way of life." It is a comprehensive system of beliefs, values, practices and principles pertaining to personal, social, moral and spiritual dimensions.

#### Quranic Perspective:

اليوم اكملت لكم دينكم واتممت تكملي ورضيت لكم الاسلام ديناً  
(Al-Maida: 3)

"This day I have perfected for you, your Deen, completed my favour upon you and have approved Islam as a Deen for you."

## Hadith Reference:

الدين النصيحة  
"The deen is advice."

## Scholarly Perspective:

"Deen refers to a comprehensive system of beliefs, values, practices and principles that guide an individual's life in all aspects including personal, social, moral and spiritual dimensions. It emphasizes a holistic approach to living, integrating faith with actions and ethics." - Dr. Tarique Ramadan

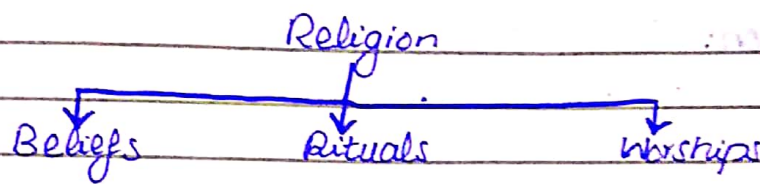
## What is Religion?

The term "Religion" in English is often used to refer specifically to the set of beliefs, rituals and practices associated with faith in higher power. It tends to focus more on the religious observances.

## Scholarly View:

"Religion tends to be limited to a particular set of beliefs and rituals, while "Deen" encompasses a broader ethical and moral framework that guides all aspects of life."

(Karen Armstrong)



## Why Islam is called "Deen"?

Islam is a complete code of life. It includes the teachings regarding all socio-political-economic dimensions. It encompasses entirety of one's life.

## Qur'anic Reference:

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام

"Indeed, deen in the sight of Allah is Islam."

## Key Differences between Deen and Religion:

### 1- Scope and Comprehensive Approach:

**Deen:** Encompasses all aspects of life including personal, social, moral and spiritual dimensions.

**Religion:** Focuses primarily on the religious doctrines, rituals and practices associated with faith.

### 2- Holistic Integration:

**Deen:** Integrates faith with actions, ethics and values promoting a holistic way of life.

**Religion:** Often emphasizes adherence to specific rituals and beliefs without necessarily integrating them into all aspects of life.

### 3- Ethical and Moral Framework:

**Deen:** Emphasizes the importance of ethical behavior, sincerity and counsel as integral components of a comprehensive way of life.

**Religion:** Emphasizes religious rituals and observances as the primary expressions.

### 4- Cultural Variations:

**Deen:** Transcends cultural boundaries, providing universal principles and values applicable to people of all backgrounds.

**Religion:** Can be influenced by and intertwined with specific cultural practices and customs.

### 5- Relationship with the Divine:

**Deen:** Involves a personal and transformative connection with the Divine, seeking spiritual growth and closeness to God.

**Religion:** Involves adherence to prescribed rituals and doctrines as a means of demonstrating faith and seeking divine favor.

## 6- Universal Applications:

**Deen:** Offers principles and values that can be applied by individuals of various faiths or no faith, promoting universal ethics and human values.

**Religion:** Typically associated with specific faith traditions and belief systems.

### Quranic Reference:

In the context of Quran

"And whosoever seeks a deen other than Islam, it will not be accepted from Him."

### Hadith Reference:

"Islam is built upon five pillars: testifying that there is no worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad (PBUH) is the Messenger of Allah, establishing prayer, giving zakat, making the pilgrimage to the house of Allah and fasting in Ramadan."  
(Sahih Al-Bukhari)

### Scholarly View:

"The word 'Deen' comprehends everything that concerns the servant and his Lord

in this world and the hereafter. It encompasses both the external and internal aspects of human being."

- Imam Ali Ghazali

### Critical Analysis:

A famous Islamic scholar **Ali Shariati** made a critical assessment on difference between 'Deen' and 'Religion' that deen transcends cultural boundaries and promotes understanding among different people and tribes. Islam encompasses entirety of one's life while religion does not.

### Conclusion:

Deen is a complete way of life that encompasses faith, worship, personal conduct and societal matters. On the other hand religion is associated with specific faith traditions, beliefs and observances.