

ZAEEMA KHUSHBAKHT

ISB-55

Question: What is Islam? Enlist the salient features of Islam.

① Introduction

Islam is a religion of peace which provides guidance in all aspects of life including social, moral, economic and political affairs. Holy Prophet (PBUH) presented God's guidance in its final form which is enshrined in the Holy Quran, known as Islam.

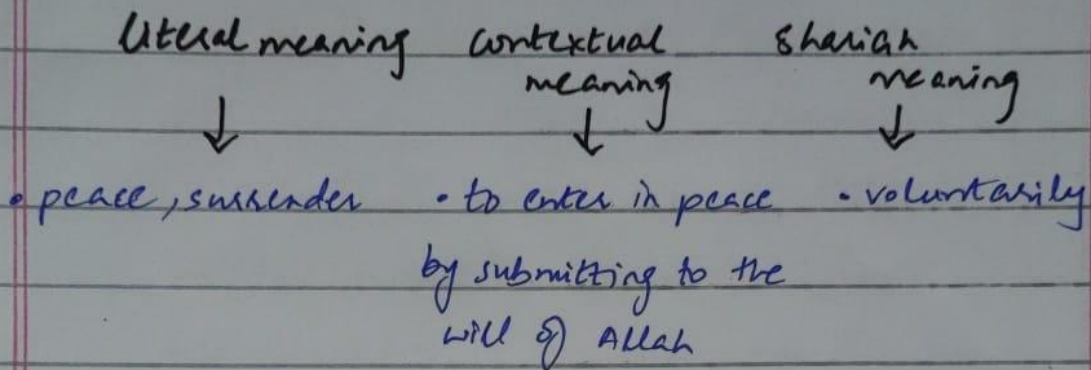
"There is no God except Allah;

Muhammed is the messenger of Allah."
(Al-Quran)

Islam is the completion of one's faith with the belief in the oneness of Allah and the finality of Prophethood. It is an ideal system of living for all of mankind and provides a set of rules to live a harmonious life. It preaches humanity without any discrimination of race, caste or ethnicity. It^{also} provides protection of human rights in social, economic and financial systems.

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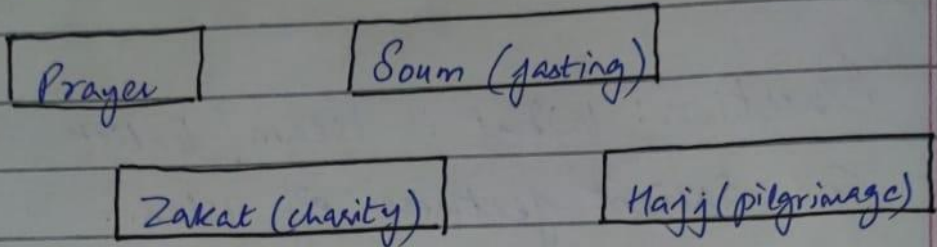
Meaning of Islam



"Allah mentions in Surah Kafiroon of the Quran, "For you is your religion, and for me is mine." (AL-Quran)

According to Holy Prophet (PBUH), Islam is the belief in Allah and his messenger. Similarly, Imam Ghazali defines Islam as a compilation of Huqooq Allah (rights of Allah) and Huqooq-ul-Ibaad (rights of man).

③ Concept of Worship in Islam



④ Salient features of Islam

(i) Belief in the Oneness of Allah (Tawhid)

Tawhid is a revolutionary concept which constitutes the true essence of Islam. It is the belief that Allah is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and the only sustainer of this universe. It is the core pillar of Islam and completes the first part of the Kalima.

"Whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth belongs to him." (AL-Uman)

Allama Shibli Nomani, in his book titled, "Sirah tun Nabi" says,

"Islam is like a fort and the gate of that fort is Tawhid."

(AL-Madith)

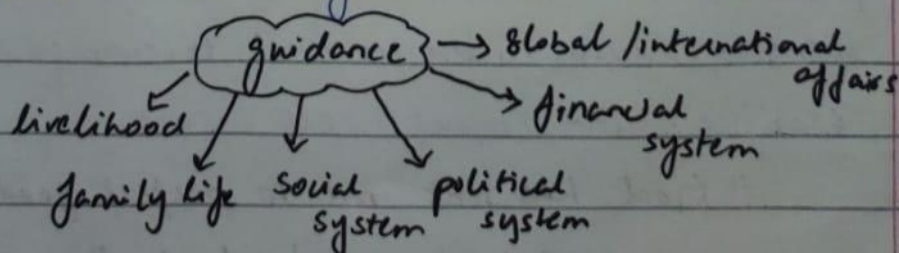
(ii) Belief in the finality of Prophethood

Belief in the finality of Prophethood or Risalat completes the second part of one's Kalima. The Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) provides a set of rules and guidance in all matters of human life. It takes man towards "sirat-e-mustakim" (the path of truth).

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the messenger of Allah." (AL-Quran)

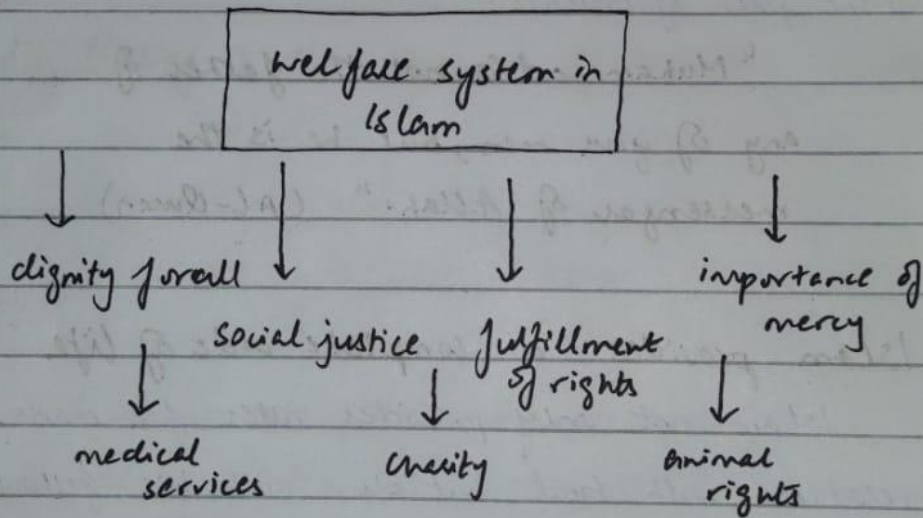
(iii) Islam provides a complete code of life

Islam not only provides rules for man's relations with God but also with his fellow beings. Man needs a path to maintain and run his domestic life, family relations, economic matters and state administration; it is only Islam which fulfills all his needs in this regard.



(iv) Islam preaches humanity

Islam answers all spiritual and secular questions and offers humanity a new metaphysical outlook with a comprehensive code for the revolution of human life. Islam teaches us to live without discrimination and to provide equal rights to all.



(v) Provides sanctions for the principle of morality

Islam stresses on the importance of practicing kindred virtues such as justice, honesty, equality, brotherhood, tolerance and sacrifice. Holy Prophet (PBUH) says,

"God has sent me to perfect good manners and to do good deeds."

(Al-Madith)

(vi) Simplicity, Rationalism and Practicalism ⑥

Islam professes simplicity, rationalism and practicalism; the whole life of Holy Prophet (PBUH) presents a sublime example of it. Islam awakens in man the faculty of reason and exhorts him to use his intellect.

Holy Prophet (PBUH) says,

“to seek knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim.” (AL-Hadith)

(vii) Unity of matter and spirit

Islam does not believe in asceticism — the separation between “material” and “spiritual” life. It does not ask man to avoid material life or to isolate. Holy Prophet (PBUH) says,

“A muslim who lives in the midst of society and bears with patience the afflictions that come to him, is better than the one who shuns society.” (AL-Hadith)

(viii) Transcends all limitations

Islam presents an ideology which satisfies the demands of stability as well as of change. Quran and Sunnah contain the eternal guidance given by the Lord of the universe. This guidance is free from the limitations of time and space.

(ix) Complete record of teachings preserved

The teachings of Islam are preserved in their original form without any alteration. It is available in pristine purity and handed down to us with unprecedented precision and authority, authenticity.

(5) Conclusion

Islam is the only rational and logical religion which highlights and addresses all problems of the contemporary times and provides guidance in all spheres of life. It provides a framework for the establishment of a peaceful and harmonious society.