

Q#1

# Concept of Islam

note: Definition should not be the part of your introduction, write in 2nd heading

## Synopsis

### 1. Introduction

- (a) Definition
- (b) Literal meaning
- (c) Conventional meaning
- (d) Explanation.

### 2. Principal bases of Islamic System

(will be included in conclusion)

### 3. Exposition/Elucidation of Religion of Islam

#### (i) Beliefs (الإيمانات)

- (a) Belief in Oneness of God
- (b) Belief in Prophets (Risalat)
- (c) Belief in Books
- (d) Belief in Angels
- (e) Belief in Day of Judgment.

#### (ii) Concept of Worship/Deviations (عبادات)

- (a) Recital of Creed
- (b) Prayer to God (Namaz)
- (c) Paying legal alms (Zakat)
- (d) Fasting in month of Ramadan (Soam)/siyam
- (e) Pilgrimage (Hajj)

#### (iii) Transactions (معاملات)

- (a) Social Sphere
- (b) Devotional Sphere
- (c) Dietary sphere
- (d) Hygiene Sphere

#### (iv) Moralities (اخلاقيات)

#### (v) Punishments (لقوبات)

### 4. Critical Assessment

### 5. Conclusion

# 1. Introduction

Islam is defined in these ways:-

"the religion of the Muslims, a monotheistic faith regarded as revealed through Muhammad as a prophet of Allah." (Cozfeed)

or

"The Code of life (deen), Allah (SWT) Almighty has revealed for humanity so that they may attain peace and stability in individual life and harmony in the society, which is bequeathed by Holy prophet (PBUH)"

• **Literal meaning:** The word "Islam" has been derived from the root of Arabic word "س-ل-م", (SLM) "سلم", which means "to surrender", "to yield" and "to submit one's self." Aslama alone would mean "he submitted himself to the will of God." Another meaning of the word "Islam" is "peace." Hence the word Islam means submission and peace. Submission to the orders of one and only God and peace with His creatures.

→ **Sayed Ameer Ali** in his book "The Spirit of Islam" defines Islam as:

"Salam, in its primary sense, means to be tranquil, at rest, to have done one's duty, to have paid up, to be at perfect peace; in its <sup>secondary</sup> sense to oneself to Him with whom peace is made"

• On the vertical level (God-to-man relationship) Islam means submission. On the horizontal level (man-to-man relationship) it means peace. This signifies that one can achieve real peace of body and of mind only through submission and obedience to Allah. Such obedient way of life results in mental peace, stability in individual life and harmony in the society.

Allah is "as Salam", which is one of the <sup>43</sup> "ninety nine" Most Beautiful Names. It means that He is the <sup>Source</sup> Greater and originator of all the peace. ~~The~~

• → The Quran refers to Islam as

«سَبِيلُ السَّلَامِ»

«The former of Islam» "The path of peace". (al-Maidah)

• Muslims believe in the absolute unity of God (Tawhid) and also in the associated belief in the messengers, the Angels, the Revealed Books, the Last day and the Predestination of Good and Evil as the starting point of their faith. The followers of Islam are called Muslims. Muslims believe in Hazrat Ibrahim (ع), Moosa (ع), Isa (ع) and prophethood of other messengers but they follow the final revelation through Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) which is known as Islam.

• The Islamic devotional system is comprised of daily prayers, alms giving, fasting the month of Ramadan, and pilgrimage to Makkah. All these devotions inculcate/cultivate self-discipline, self-sacrifice, kindness and self-accountability. The essence of basic Islamic Concept consists of the idea of establishment of sovereignty of Allah in the "Sacred" as well as "mundane" domains and removal of "the dichotomy" between collective life and state authority.

→ Allah Almighty mentions in Al Quran: as:

«أَيُّوْمَ أَتَمَمْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ السَّلَامَ دِينًا»

"Today I have perfected for you your religion; Completed upon you, my favour; And Chosen for you Islam as Deen" (al-Maidah 3)

as kafar... The person who does not believe in unity of Allah is called as...

# Elucidation of the Religion of Islam

The religion of Islam is based on five pillars which are given as follows:

- (i) Beliefs
- (ii) Practical devotions / worship
- (iii) Transactions
- (iv) Moralities or customs / etiquettes
- (v) Punishment / Retribution

(i) Beliefs: These are the basic articles of faith. Muslims believe in the unity of God, Holy books, Prophets, the angels and the day of judgment. The detail of each is discussed below:-

## (a) Belief in Oneness of Allah Almighty:-

Muslims believe in the Oneness of God. A man needs to testify the unity of Allah Almighty to join the fold of Islam. This belief is epitomized in the first part of Kalimah (the profession of faith) in this way:

“لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ”

“There is none worthy of worship except God (الله) (قوله طيبه) or

“There is no god except Allah”

Muslims have nothing in common with atheists, polytheists, and those who associate others with the One God we know very well. The one cannot be the creator of one's own self, hence Allah Almighty is the creator of all of the universe. He is capable of doing all sort of things. He is alone and have no offspring.

Allah Almighty says in Quran:-

قل هو الله أحد ۝ الله الصمد ۝ لم يلد ولم يولد ۝ ولم يكن له كفوا أحد ۝

"Say: He is Allah, the Only One. Allah, the One,  
taking care of everything. He did not give  
birth and He was not born. And He never  
had any equal at all!"  
(سوره اخلاص)

- Certain thinkers have had thought of two different gods: a god of the good and a god of the evil. But when we rationalise their thoughts then it becomes clear that division of power between several gods can arise conflict between them. Hence Muslims believe in the unity of Allah SWT. He rules over the heavens and earth. Nothing moves without His knowledge and His permission. The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said that Allah Almighty has ninety nine "most beautiful names" for ninety nine principle attributes:-

## (b) Belief in Prophets

- For proper development of human life, man need two elements: (a) Resources to fulfill the material needs, and (b) Knowledge of the principles to maintain justice and tranquility in human life. Allah Almighty has provided man with both. To fulfil material needs, He has put all of nature's resource at his disposal in order to fulfill social, spiritual and cultural needs. He has raised His **Prophet** from among men and has revealed to them the Code of life. Prophet is a Chosen man to whom an angel brings the message of God. In Quranic terminology, this human agent of the message is differently called: **nabi** (Prophet), **rasool** (messenger), **basha** (announcer), **nadhia** (warner).

Prophets are the men of great piety, and models of good behaviour. Miracles are not necessary for them.

According to Quran, there were certain prophets who had received the revelation of Divine Books, and there were others who did not receive new Books but had to follow the Books revealed to their predecessors. The Divine message of all prophets was based on the Oneness of God, demand for doing good and abstaining from evil. Certain prophets had the divine mission of educating members of a single tribe or clan or of single race or region.

• Muslims also believe in the Prophethood of Hazrat Ibrahim (A.S.), Hazrat Moosa (A.S.), Hazrat Isa (A.S.) and many others but they solely believe in the final revelation by Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H.).  
Allah Almighty says:-

ووهبنا له اسحق ويعقوب مكرهين لهما ولنا محمد بن مريم قبل  
ومن ذريته داود وسليمان واليوب ويوسف وموسى وهرون  
ولذلك نختار الصالحين

"And we bestowed upon him (Ibrahim) Ishaq and Yaqub and blessed all of them with guidance. Also before we provided guidance to Nuh and amongst his progeny Dawud, Sulayman and Ayyub and Yusuf and Moosa and Haroon. And thus do we reward the pious" (الانعام 84)

(d) Belief in Angels:- The celestial messengers who brought the message of Allah SWT to the prophet as Nahi. God is invisible and beyond all physical perceptions hence in order to establish a contact between man and God, He appointed angels. Angels are created of light (Noor)

The human spirit is capable of both good and evil  
inspiration Muslims believe in angels and have strong  
faith in their duties. There are uncountable angels  
in the universe but four are most important  
mentioned in the Quran.

- Hazrat Jibrail (AS):- brought message to Prophet (PBUH)
- Hazrat Mikail (AS):- incharge of weather, natural forces
- Hazrat Israfil (AS):- incharge of blowing the trumpet on the day of judgement
- Hazrat Azrael (AS):- The angel of death

(d) Belief in Revealed Books. Allah Almighty is the creator  
of this universe and it is the  
duty of man to obey Him. He sends His messengers for  
the benefits of man. The angels brought the message  
of Allah Almighty to the prophets. Prophets collected  
and compiled all revelations in the form of  
holy books.

Quran says:-

اص ال رسول بما انزل اليه من ربه والمو منون كل امن  
بالله وعلته وكتبه وقرينه  
(البقره)

"The messenger (Muhammad SAW) believes in what has  
been sent down to him from his Lord, and so do  
the believers. Each one believes in Allah, His angels,  
His books and His messengers"

The four divine books are (a) Quran, revealed to Hazrat  
Muhammad (PBUH) (b) Torah, revealed to Moses  
(c) Bible or the Gospel of Jesus (d) the psalter of  
David.

Muslims follow Quranic teachings but they also believe  
in the divine message of other Books. But only Quran  
is seen as superior to other holy books.

(e) Belief in Resurrection / Hereafter - A belief in the life after death is the last of the five fundamental beliefs/principles of Islam. It is only this belief that makes a man conscious of the responsibility of human actions. A life after death, according to Islam, begins after death but complete manifestation of which will take place on the day of Judgment when all mankind gets what they did throughout their life.

Allah Almighty describes characteristics of believers in Quran as:-

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ

"and also have faith in the hereafter" (al-Baqara)

(f) Belief in Pre-destination

Along with the beliefs in five fundamental pillars, Holy prophet (PBUH) also demanded faith in predestination (Qadr) and that the good and evil is from Allah Almighty. It means nothing is good or evil in itself but it is so only because God has declared it to be, man has nothing to do with it but observe it.

(ii) Practical Devotions / Worships

Islam has prescribed five services of worship daily in order to provide proof of one's submission and gratitude to Allah Almighty, our creator. That applies to every adult man or woman to abandon worldly affairs and spend few minutes in service of Allah Almighty. The Quran came out of worship hundred times by calling it an



Salat (inclination), dua (prayer), dhikr (remembering)  
tasbeeh (glorification)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) says:-

"Worship is the pillar of the religion."

Devotions are divided into five articles of practices:-

- Recital of Creed (Kalimah)
- Prayer to God (Salat)
- Paying legal alms (Zakat)
- Fasting in the month of Ramadan (Siyam)
- Pilgrimage (Hajj)

Note: write 2-3 lines  
in explanation

### (iii) Transactions

Transactions required such duties which are required between man and man. These are further divided into following categories:-

#### (a) Devotional Sphere:-

The following devotional practices has been given to us through Sunnah and Hadith:-

- The prayer
- Zakat and Sadqa-ul-Fitr
- Fasting and Itikaf
- Hajj and Umrah
- Animal sacrifice and Takbir during the days of Tashreeq
- Eid-ul-Fitr
- Eid-ul-Adha
- Jaza prayer and burying of dead

#### (b) Social Sphere:-

- Marriages and Divorce and other relevant details.
- Abstention from coitus during the menstrual and

### (c) Dietary Sphere:-

- prohibition of pork, blood, meat of dead animals and animals slaughtered in the name of other than Allah
- Slaughtering in the prescribed manner of *Tazkiyah* by pronouncing Allah's name.

### (d) Security Sphere:-

- Civil jurisprudence relating to bases
- *Salaah*
- *Zakat*
- agency
- Shariah laws of property distribution.

## (iv) Moralities

Moralities include all the ethical instructions and rules of conduct relating to everyday life which are enjoined in the Quran and in teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH). It includes

- Sincerity
- Confidence in God
- giving good counsel and advice
- Contentment
- Liberty
- Remembering Allah's name before eating and drinking and using right hand for eating or drinking.
- Greeting one another with *al-salamu 'Alaykum* (peace be upon you) and responding with *Wa'Alaykum al-salam*.
- Saying *Allhamdulillah* (Praise) after sneezing and responding *Yahakumu Allah* (May Allah have mercy on you).

### (a) Hygiene Sphere:-

- Keeping Moustaches trimmed
- Shaving Pubic hair
- Removing hair under armpits
- Cleaning the body after excretion & menstruation
- Bathing after menstrual period.

## (v) Punishments / Retributions

Allah has also prescribed Punishments for crimes which are equitable and serve reformative purpose in the society. At first sight they might seem harsh but in fact these manifest the God's love for victim for He wants to ensure justice and provide a life of peace and security to all. The ideal society according to Al Quran is:-

“دار السلام”  
“The abode of Peace” (سورة يونس)

Quran says clearly as:-

God abhors disturbance of Peace: *fitnah*

Lal-Bangla

Punishments include:-

- (i) Penalties exacted for manslaughter or serious bodily injuries
- (ii) Punishment of theft by loss of hand
- (iii) Punishment for fornication and adultery:- Stoning for a married person and 100 lashes for unmarried person
- (iv) Punishment for slander by eighty lashes.
- (v) Punishment for inebriation (drinking) by eighty lashes.

## 3. Critical assessment

George Bernard Shaw in his 1936 opus *The Genuine Islam* is reported to have said:-

“I have always held the religion of Muhammad in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to changing phases of existence which can make

they appeal to every age. I have studied him the wonderful man, and in my opinion far from being an Antichrist, he must be called the savior of humanity. I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it much needed peace and happiness. I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning of the to be acceptable to the Europe of today."

#### 4. Conclusion (Need to work more on conclusion)

It is a fact that teachings of Islam have been preserved in their original form as Quran which has been in existence for the last 1400 years. The detailed account of Holy Prophet's life has been handed down to us with unprecedented precision and authenticity in the work of the Hadith and the Salsah. The principal bases on which Islamic system is based are following: (a) a belief in the unity, immortality of creator (b) charity and brotherhood among mankind (c) subjugation of passions (d) outpouring of man's heart to the Giver of all good. (e) Accountability for human's action in another existence.