

Q. What is Islam? Enlist the salient features of Islam.

Ans:

1. INTRODUCTION:

"I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favours upon you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion." (al-Quran, 05:03)

2. SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM:

2.1. TAUHEED

And your God is one God. There is no deity (worthy of worship) except Him". (al-Quran, 2:163)

2.2. PROPHETHOOD

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets; and Allah has full knowledge of all things. (al-Quran, 33:41)

2.3. A COMPLETE WAY OF LIFE

It is He who sends down upon His Servant, verses of clear evidence that He may bring you out from darknesses into ^{the} light. (al-Quran, 57:9)

2.4. UNIVERSAL AND ETERNAL

'We have not sent thee but as a (source of) mercy for all the the Nations' (al-Quran 21:107)

2.5. UNIQUE CONCEPT OF WORSHIP

Everything a human being does with the pure intention of pleasing God is an act of worship.

2.6. Moderate and a Positive Outlook:

Allah burdens no person beyond his scope.
(al-Quran, 2:286).

'Don't lose hope, nor be sad' (Quran, 3:139).

3. CONCLUSION

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام

Truly, The religion with Allah is Islam.
(al-Quran, 3:19)

1. INTRODUCTION :

The word Islam is originated from an Arabic word **SLM** which means **Peace**. As a religion, Islam stands ^{for} complete submission and obedience to the will of God. Islam is a religion which believes in the Oneness of Allah and the finality of our Prophet Muhammad **SAW** as the last messengers of Allah. Islam is a complete, perfect, universal, an eternal religion which provides complete way of life from the birth of a child to the death of a person and promotes not only human and fundamental rights of human being but also animal and environmental rights. In Quran, Allah say, "I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favours upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion." (Al-Quran, 05:03).

The concept of worship in Islam is very unique as everything a human being does with the pure intention of pleasing God is an act of worship. Similarly, it is moderate and provides a very positive and optimistic outlook, as Allah says in other verses of Quran, "Allah burden no person beyond his scope. (Al-Quran, 2:286) and, "Don't lose hope, nor be sad." (Al-Quran, 3:139)

So, from every angle of life, Islam is the religion which provides a complete way to live a meaningful and peaceful life here and hereafter.

2. SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM

2.2 TAUHEED: It is the gateway and core pillar of Islam. It means that Allah alone is supremely powerful, the omnipotent, omnipresent, and the sustainer of the whole universe. As Allah says in Quran, "And your God is one God. there is no deity (worthy of worship) except Him." (Al-Quran, 33:14). This is the basic tenet to which prophet (SAW) asked humanity to adhere. One can't be a muslim if one does not believe in the oneness of Allah and one who associates someone with Allah in person, attributes, and actions is called Mushrik. So, belief in the oneness of God is called Tauheed which is the core pillar and gateway to enter into Islam.

2.2. PROPHETHOOD: Belief in prophets is one of core belief of Islam. Allah sent His prophets for the guidance of human beings to live their lives according to the will of their Lord. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) sealed this long line of prophets and was sent to the whole humanity and his teachings are considered as complete, universal and eternal.

As Allah says in one of many verses of Quran, "Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the messenger of Allah and the seal of the prophets and Allah has full knowledge of all things." (33:41). Anyone who is not believing in the finality of prophet Muhammad (SAW) is not considered as a muslim. Hence, belief in the finality of Muhammad (SAW) as a prophet is the second postulate of Islam.

2.3. COMPLETE WAY OF LIFE:

"It is He who sends down upon His servant, verses of clear evidence that He may bring you out from darknesses into the light". (al-Quran 57:9). Islam provides guidance for all walks of life; individual and social, material and moral, economic and political, legal and cultural, national and international. From the birth of a child to the death of a person, everything is guided by Islam. It not only protects human and fundamental rights of a person but also protects animal and environmental rights. As prophet Muhammad (SAW) said in one of hadiths, "Planting tree is an act of charity." (Sahih Muslim). It proves that Islam

that guides human in every way of life.

2.4. UNIVERSAL AND ETERNAL:

The finality of prophet Muhammad (SAW) sealed the long line of prophets and all old shariyah. This made prophet (SAW) the last prophet of Allah for all the nations of the world and Islam came as a complete, perfect, universal, and eternal religion. Allah says in Quran, "we have not sent thee but as a (source of) mercy for all the nations." Every nation and every person of the world are supposed to follow the shariyah of prophet Muhammad (SAW) and this shows the universality and eternity of Islam.

2.5. UNIQUE CONCEPT OF WORSHIP:

According to Islam, worship is a means for the purification of man's soul and practical life. worship is an indispensable part of all religions of the world. In different religions, worship is motivated by different objectives; in some it is a means to develop in man the attitude of asceticism and isolation from life and some have the view that worship should be performed only under the leadership of a particular class of people. So the nature and

and form of worship is from one another. Islam is a religion where everything person does with pure intention of pleasing God is an act of worship. You eat, drink, sleep, fulfill your own desires and all other acts of life, if they are according to the true Islamic religious motives, they will become acts of worship. In Islam, there is a direct relation between God and human and no intermediaries is there between Him and human being. So in these ways, Islam presents a unique concept of worship.

3. CONCLUSION :

Truely, the religion with Allah is Islam. (Al-Quran, 3:19). Islam is a religion which is complete, universal, and eternal in nature. It guides a person in every way of life i.e from the birth of a child to the death of a person. It provides a very positive outlook to live a life according to the will of Allah. So, from every angle Islam is a religion which provides guidance for a meaningful and peaceful life here and here after.