

Islamiyat

Q.No# 01

What is Islam? Enlist the salient features of Islam?

Meaning of Islam:-

"Islam" is an Arabic word. Islam stands for "Complete submission and obedience to Allah". That is why it is called Islam.

Literal Meaning of Islam:-

The literal meaning of the word "Islam" is "Peace".

Conceptual Meaning of Islam:-

"Submission or obedience to God."

Thus, "اسلم امره الى الله" means "he committed his cause to God" or "He resigned himself to the will of God". Aslama alone would mean "he committed himself

to the will of God," or "he became a Muslim."

Imam Raghīb al-Iṣṭahānī:

According to Imam Raghīb al-Iṣṭahānī, Islam, in law, is of two kinds:

- ⇒ One is a simple confession with the tongue.
- ⇒ 2nd is along with confession, there is belief in the heart and a fulfillment in practice.

Basic Building Blocks of Islamic Belief System:

a) "Tawhīd: The Bedrock of Islam"

Tawhīd is a revolutionary concept and constitutes the essence of the teachings of Islam. It means that there is only One Supreme Lord of the universe. He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and the sustainer of the world and of mankind.

Truly Allah said:-

O Mankind: worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, so that you may ward off evil. Who has appointed the earth a resting place for you.

(Quran, 2: 21).

This is the basic tenet to which **Muhammad** (Peace be upon him) asked humanity to adhere.

Tawhid is the bedrock of Islam and it states that it is Allah who has created the universe with whatever is in it and administers it."

What we deduce from the operation of the universe and call "natural laws" are, in fact, Allah's regular ways of creating things and events and administering the universe.

b) Prophethood

The second part of the Kalimah signifies that God has not left man without any guidance for the conduct of his life. He has revealed His guidance through His prophets, and **Muhammad** was the last prophet.

Every prophet of God, according to the **Quran**, strove to build man's relationship with God on the principle of His sovereignty and the individual's acknowledgment of the authority of the prophet as a source of divine guidance.

Every one of them said:-

"I am to you God's apostle,
worthy of all trust. So be
committed to God, head him,
and obey me."

All of the Prophets are representatives of Allah, but they are human beings and their lives are models for mankind.

Muhammad, since, he was the last prophet, is the final model for the mankind.

C. Life After Death

من جاء بالحسنة فله عشر أمثالها

(Quran 6:160)

"Whoever comes with a good deed will be rewarded tenfold."

The world, according to Islam, is a place of trial and man is being judged in it. He will have to give account of all that he does herein. Life on the earth will, one day, come to an end. And after that a new world will be resurrected. It will be in this **Life-After-death** that man will be rewarded or punished for his deeds and misdeeds. Those who live in the present world a life of obedience to the Lord will enjoy eternal bliss in the hereafter and those who disobey **His Commands** will have to garner the bitter fruits of their disobedience.

Salient Features of Islam:-

Here are some salient features of Islam.

(i) A divine Code
Islam is not the fruit of human efforts rather it consists of divine guidance. This religion has been revealed by Allah Almighty who is aware of everything in past and present and knows what the future holds.

اليوم اكملت لكم دينكم واقمته عليه
تعتني ورضيت لكم الاسلام ديناً

(Surah-Almaida-03)

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

(ii) A complete Code of life

Allah says in Surah Aal-e-Imran:

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام

(آل عمران: 19)

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

Islam is the religion which presents a

complete code of life based on Allah's sovereignty and requires from humans to adopt and follow it wholeheartedly. Because bowing before Allah and acting upon His commandments is the true meaning of Islam.

At another place in Surah Aal-e-Imran Allah says:-

ذَٰلِكَ نَتْلُوهُ عَلَيْكَ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ (58)

"This is what we recite to you of the verses and the Message that is full of wisdom."

(iii) A Universal Code

Prior to prophet Muhammad (PBUH), all prophets were sent towards specific people's or territories but he has been sent as a messenger to the entire humankind.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

(الانبياء: 107)

"And we have not sent you but as mercy for all the worlds."

(iv) The most perfect code

If there is a flaw or defect in a thing that is called defective or imperfect but if it is perfect, it becomes beautiful and adorable.

Allah says in the Holy Quran:-

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

(v) A code that unifies religion and worldly life:-

Islam rejected the man-made dichotomy between the world and the religion as was prevalent in some religions. For instance, **Islam** criticises **Christians** for their own-imposed religious restrictions on themselves. Allah Almighty says in this regard:-

ربنا اتنا في الدنيا حسنة وفي الآخرة
حسنة وقنا عذاب النار (البقرة: 201)

"Our Lord! Give unto us in the world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and guard us from the doom of fire"

(vi) A Comprehensive Code for both Individual and collective needs

By making man responsible individually as well as collectively, Islam holds man accountable before Allah.

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) has said:-

كلكم راع وكلكم مسئول عن بعته

"Everyone of you is shepherd and is responsible for his flock."

(vii) A Balanced Code

From all its aspects and dimensions, Islamic code of life is a balanced and moderate one. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) has said:-

خير الامور اوسطها

"The best of all dealings
is the one which is mo-
-derate."

(viii) Simple yet rational code

Islam professes simplicity and the whole
life of the **Holy prophet (PBUH)**
presents a sublime example of it.

It has been said in the Holy Quran:-

وما جعل عليكم في الدين من حرج (الحج: 78)

Moreover, all its teachings are
rational and logical.

"And did not impose any hardship
on you in the religion."

As is said in the Holy Quran:-

اولا تعقلون

"Have you then no sense?"

Final thoughts:-

To conclude that, Islam, which means acknowledging the sovereignty of Allah, is first and foremost a monotheistic system of belief and practice. In the simplest sense, then a muslim is a person who submits to Allah. Followers of Islam aim to live a life of complete submission to Allah. They believe that nothing can happen with Allah's permission, but humans have free will.

