

Islam and its salient features:

Introduction: The word Islam comes from the Arabic, its literal meaning is: the submission of one's will before Allah's will. And contentually it carries the meaning: the desirous submission of a person to the will of Allah. Similarly Shaxia says about Islam that "To enter voluntarily in peace by submitting to the will of Allah." Quran the holy book says about Islam in chapter Two, verse fifty six (02:56),

"ثم بعثنا من بعدك من لئلا تكونوا تكفرون"

Molana Abul Ala Maudidi translates it in the following words, "Then we raised you to life so that you might become grateful for this favor." on one another place Quran further solidifies it in the chapter 109 verse 06,

"لكم دينكم ولي دين" (109-06)

which is translated by Syed Abul Ala Maududi "To you is your religion, and to me, my religion."

Islam according to the prophet Muhammad (PBUH):

The last prophet of Allah Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) says that Islam is a

monotheistic Abrahamic religion. The concept of believing in the existence of one and only Allah and obeying His guidance is Islam. The last prophet elaborates the key pillars of Islam: Shahada, Salat, Zakat, Sawm and Hajj.

A prominent writer Doctor Hameed Ullah in his book "Introduction to Islam" declares, "Monotheist Deen revealed through prophet (PBUH). Imam Ghazali talks about Islam in the following words: "Islam is the combination of rights of Allah and the rights of people."

Islam is a Universal Deen:

Islam is not just a religion but a Deen; Religions in history can be found of different kinds, some of the religions were revealed which later on got the amalgamation of man's made rules and verses in them. And even some of the religions were man-made like Buddha found Buddhism in 6th BCE and as well as Baba Guru Nanak is founder of Sikhism. Besides, Religion favors the right of God in contrast

(1)

Deen is a revealed or pure form religion infrastructure which gives the complete code of life. It not only talks about Rights of God but also ^{the} rights of man.

It is not limited to any specific Nation or region but it is to the all Nations of the world and it is the final Deen which will last till the "day of Resurrection". Deen Islam talks about Humanity and mankind as mentioned in Surah Al-Mahida verse Thirty-Two (or:32) its contextual meaning is, "one who killed a person, killed the entire humanity and if one who saved a single person's life, saved the entire life of all!"

Salient Features of Islam:

(1) Islamic Concept of Tauheed:

The first Kalma of Islam is divided into two parts; the first part declares about the oneness of Allah Almighty. In Surah Ikhlas Quran says, which is contextualized in the following words:

"Allah is one and only who deserves to be worshipped and there

is no comparison of Him" (112:01-04)

Tauheed is the core pillar of Islam as Molana Shibli Nomani says, "Allah is the one and only and we should have the strong belief of ^{the} oneness of Allah. He further says, "Islam is like a fort and Tauheed is the gate of this fort."

2 Prophethood:

The next part of the Kalma declares that the prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet of Allah the Almighty. Here comes the finality of prophethood on Muhammad (PBUH). In Surah Ahzab, verse forty Allah Almighty says in Quran, "Muhammad is not the father of any of you, but he is the messenger of Allah and the seal of prophets; and Allah is ever aware of all things." (33:40)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) says that "I have been sent as a teacher to mankind." He teaches the way of life in every perspective and Allah says in Quran "And he does not speak words ^{of} from his own desire" (contented)

3 Islam is a complete code of life:

(3.1) Individual Life:

Deen Islam is the very religion that guides in every aspect of life, from birth of a child to the burying of a person. It teaches that how one should build his character with good morals and deeds, it educates and even tells about education that it is mandatory on both men & women. The prophet says one should get ^{Knowledge} education from the cradle to grave." It not only guides ^{furthermore,} about the livelihood but guides from one generation to the other generation in every aspect of life.

3.2: Collective Life:

~~3.2.1~~ Social affairs, political, financial affairs are taught that how all these need to be dealt respectively. It also tells us in social affairs how to take care of equality that all muslim/individuals are equal before Allah Almighty. There is no any discrimination or difference on the basis of colour, ethnicity or social status. Similarly, in political affairs there is Rule of Law and justice. And in terms of Financial Affairs Zakat &

Charity has been encouraged to keep a balanced system. Deen also emphasizes on Justice where Qisas and equality before law are respectively practiced.

(4) Islam Promotes Humanity:

The natural instinct of Deen Islam is, it is based on love, care, welfare, empathy and sympathy along with Human Rights as well as Animal Rights and Environment protection.

Abdul Sattar Edhi says, "Taking care and welfare of Humans is the religion." Nelson Mandela fights for the Human Rights; Mother Teresa gives shelter to the street children; Greta: Known for her service for the protection of Environment; Bill Gates gives Charity to the Foundations just because of Humanity. These personalities from Mandela to Gates are not Muslims but they have the empathy to give benefit to the mankind. And Deen Islam also emphasizes on Humanity, following are the some of the features that how Islam promotes Humanity:

Conclusion: Keeping all the above mentioned points in the regard of Islam, it can be wrapped up with the statement that definitely Islam is a universal Deen. It guides in every aspect of life whether any minor or major issue prevails. It is the monotheist religion of Abrahim (A.S) spread and preached ~~through~~ by the Khadim-un-Nabien (SAW), as a guidance and a torch bearer to show the righteous path to the all mankind. Islam is not a religion of limited spectrum but a Deen for all nations, ages, and so on. This is the Deen until the day of Judgement.