

Q. What is Islam? Enlist its Salient Features.

Ans. **ISLAM:**

World Islam is the derivative of three arabic root words 'SLM', which connote interrelated meaning of surrender, submission, commitment, and peace. It means to completely submit before the will of Allah - The Almighty, and to make peace - with one's self, with Allah, and with the creation of Allah - through wholly surrendering before Allah's command, and seeking His divine guidance.

The teachings of Islam are divine revelations, and comprise of a combination of rights of people and rights of Allah. As Dr. Hameedullah states: Islam is a monotheist religion, revealed by Allah The Almighty, through Quran; on Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Thus, Islam is not a man-made religion, but revealed for mankind by the Only Creator of Universe; The Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and the sustainer of mankind.

→ **SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM:**

Following are the distinct features of Islam which

glorifies its status.

### 1) TAWHEED:

As seed is to tree,  
Tawheed is to Islam. The first  
part of Kelime, presents the concept  
of Tawheed.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

There is no God but Allah

It is a revolutionary concept, and  
it carries the essence of teachings  
of Islam; which signifies oneness  
of God. One cannot enter into  
Islam without having faith in this  
concept of One God.

### i) Oneness of God in Universe:

The inexhaustible  
creativity of nature, its purposefulness,  
and its preservation being useful to  
mankind, all that signifies that  
there is Only One Supreme Lord  
of the Universe: Allah - The Almighty.

تُوجِبُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَتُوجِبُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ  
وَتَخْرِجُ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ وَتَخْرِجُ مِنَ النَّهَارِ مِنَ النَّهَارِ  
مِنَ اللَّيْلِ وَتَرْزُقُ مِنْ شَاءِ بَغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

You make the night enter into the day,  
and make the day enter into the night,



and You bring out the living out of the dead, and bring out dead out of the living; and You bless without measure whom you wish.

(Al-Imran: 27)

The scattering of the stars in the space, smooth transitions of night and day, and the harmony with which the universe governs itself, all that compels us to feel that there is only One God sustaining the universe. Otherwise the harmony would have collapsed.

### ii) Oneness of God in individual life:

Tauheed

does not only mean One God, rather it means oneness of God in every aspect of individual life. It signifies that Allah alone is maintainers, and sustainer for mankind. All the individuals are dependent upon Him for fulfillment of their needs, of every kind.

وَاللَّهُ مَلِكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

All that is in heavens and in on Earths belongs to Allah alone; He is in perfect control of everything. So focus your attention and trust in Him alone. (Al-Imran: 189)

2) Prophethood:

As the teaching of Islam are being spread by messengers of Allah; the last among those Prophets is Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)

أَلَمْ يَكُنِ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْبَيْتِ رَبُّكُمْ وَالْمَلَكُ نُجُومًا  
وَأَنْتَ كَلِمٌ مَقْسُومٌ ۚ لَلْأَسْمَاءُ بَيْنَنَا

Today, I have perfected your religion, and completed my favours upon you; and chosen for you Islam as your deen. (Al-Maidah:5)

This signifies that the prophethood has reached to finality, as the deen e Islam has reached to its perfection by revelation of Allah Almighty.

i) Following Sunnah:

The teachings of Islam are being revealed by Allah; through Quran; on Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). Whatever would be the message in Quran; Prophet Mohammed practically performed in his life. The purpose of which was to guide the mankind; the believers to follow his way of life, in order to lead life accordingly to Islam.



## ii) Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) as mercy for mankind:

As the life of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is the practical demonstration of the teachings of Allah; It also provides guidance in all aspects of human life. The ideal life of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is not limited to believers only, rather it is open to be incorporated as well as to be imitated by all mankind.

As it is mentioned in the hadith, Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) says that I have been sent on earth as mercy for all mankind. This signifies that ideal life practices of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) provide practical guidance for every being; in all aspect of life.

## 3. Islam is a Complete Code of Life:

Unlike all other religions, commonly distorted, and confined to particular group of people or time; Islam is not confined into boundaries of time, specific group or generation.

## i) Guidance for individual life.

The teachings of Islam cover all aspects of human's private lives. It provides a complete way of life covering all fields of human existence.

That too without any discrimination on the basis of race, caste, colour. As Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) said.

An Arab is no way greater than a non-Arab; and a non-Arab is no way greater than an Arab.

## ii) Guidance for Social life:

The guidance of Islam is not confined to particular generation, or time frame, rather it covers aspects of social life; rights and responsibilities towards community as well. It comprehensively provides guidance to lead a responsible social life along with economic and political spheres.

## 4) Islam is a Rational religion:

Unlike other religion; which are branched in



superstitions and irrational beliefs, Islam is without any mythology. Its teachings are simple and intelligible. Its teachings; Unity of God, Finality of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is based on reason and logic.

### i) Practical religion:

Islam is a practical religion and is not based on mere theorising. Its teachings are practical in character, which anyone can approach and directly translate its teachings into practice.

### ii) Awaken faculty of logic:

Islam awakens in man faculty of reason and exhorts him to use his intellect. It enjoins him to seek things in the light of reality. The Quran advises man to pray (At Tahajjud)

وَقُلِّبْ زُنُوبِي لِي

Oh Lord, Advance me in knowledge.

It emphasizes on to seek knowledge, and that those who have it are better than who do not strive for it. That is how Islam brings man out of darkness of superstition.

## 5) Complete Record of Teaching Preserved:

The teachings of Islam, unlike other religions, whose message have been distorted and change, its teachings have been preserved in original form. The guidance of Allah will be available without adulteration of any kind till the day of judgment.

## i) Teachings in Quran:

The Quran is revealed book of Allah, which has been in existence for more than last fourteen hundred years. The words of Quran are still, and will be in its original form.

As Professor Reynald Nicholson in his book Literary History of Arab says:

Quran is an exceedingly human document, reflecting every phase of Muhammad's (PBUH) relationship to outward events of his life; so that we have materials of unique and incontestable authority to figure out the origin and early development of Islam, such material do not exist in Buddhism or Christianity or any other ancient religion.



## ii) Teachings of Sunnah:

Detailed account of the life of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) has been available in its purity. The teachings are preserved in the books of hadith, for example Sahih al Muslim, Sahih al Bukhari and many more. There has not been an iota of change in this unique historic record.

## 6) Islam promotes humanism:

Islam is the religion which laid the foundation stone of human rights charter. The divine teachings of Islam by all means promote, and advocate humanism in the world.

## i) Advocacy of human rights:

The message of Islam is for entire human race. Allah is the Only God for all the universe, and Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is the messenger for all mankind.

In Islam, all men are equal, and addresses itself to the consciousness of humanity. It banishes all false barriers of race, status, and wealth.

As Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)

Among people these are beloved to Allah, who are best in behavior with fellowmen.

So, teachings of Islam emphasize on good conduct with every being regardless of discrimination. The extinction of race consciousness between Muslims, is the greatest achievement of Islam.

ii) Advocacy for environmental rights:

Along with rights of human beings, Islam also panders upon consciousness of taking into good account of ~~environment~~ rights of animals, as well as protection of environment. As it is mentioned in the hadith: Do not waste water; a single drop, even if you are sitting beside a running stream.

7) Conclusion:

The unique features of Islam establish its credentials as the religion of mankind, religion of today, and religion of tomorrow. Islam is the religion of truth and the right path, and will continue to appeal mankind till the judgment day.