

Q: What are the Date

Salient Features of Islam?

Islam is an Arabic word - It means the act of resignation to God - Islam is the religion that brings peace to mankind after ^{they} submit to will of Allah.

A. Muslim is one who believes in oneness of Allah, submits himself to His will and believes in all the Prophets sent by Allah for guidance.

Following are the key features of Islam:-

① Faith:-

Faith is described in Qur'an as "Iman" which consists of two parts ① Believing that Allah alone is worthy of worship ② Muhammad (PBUH) is the Messenger of Allah.

Only by believing in the Oneness of Allah and the ~~Prophet~~ Prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH) can one be regarded as Muslim.

Faith implies a firm belief in the true existence of Allah, in Him being the Master of all mankind.

Faith or Iman is completed when one ~~realizes~~ responds to the message of Allah and this is only possible when believes in Muhammad (PBUH) as the last prophet who completes the process of revelation.

(2) Action:

Action or Amal is the ~~the~~ manifestation of how far we are true servants of God. The revelations and the actual physical embodiment of these revelations in the action of the Prophet provide both basis and structure of the Law of human conduct - This is known as Shariah.

Besides Faith (Iman), which is the central pillar of Islam, Salah (Prayer), Sawm (Fasting), Zakat (Charity) & Hajj (Pilgrimage) are four other pillars that sustain the whole structure of the religion.

Prayer → A Muslim prays five times a day, implying his need and dependence on Allah through this remembrance.

Fasting → A Muslim has to fast one lunar month during Ramadan. Physically, he refrains from eating, drinking, smoking etc. Spiritually, he refrains from evil thoughts, actions & says - In doing so, he tries to realize his true self by striving to realize within himself the divine character.

Charity → A Muslim is bound to give a part of his property to those in need. This implies that everything that Man possesses belongs to Allah and therefore should gladly give it to the needy.

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Pilgrimage → This implies Man's temporary suspension from all worldly affairs and his realization of himself as a naked soul in front of Allah.

(B) Realization :-

All four of these are tied together and form the individual & social behaviour of Man. By following these and submitting to the will of the Lord, a person becomes a true Muslim.

(3) Realization (Ihsan) :-

Realisation or Ihsan means being aware that Allah is seeing all that Man does, good or bad. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) explains Ihsan in the following way :-

"You should worship Allah as if you are seeing, or He sees you though you don't see Him".

Realisation is regarded as true devotion. It implies that Man has brought himself completely in tune to what is liked by Allah. He then consciously strives hard to promote good and wipe evil from the surface of earth. Man identifies his will with the will of Allah, and hence comes closest to the God. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the perfect example of a person to have achieved this level of closeness & devotion to Allah.

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④ Man as vicegerent of God on Earth:

Man is the representative of the attributes of Allah. Therefore, according to Islam, after faith, action & realisation are in perfect harmony, Man manifests the fact that he is the representative of Allah on Earth. For this reason, Islam has not set any limits to ~~po~~ Man's power & capability & knowledge except that they are all derived. Allah can take away that power anytime He wills.

⑤ Equality: - Since every power that Man possesses is derived from the Supreme Being, Islam also confers equal rights on all without any discrimination of sex, color, caste, subjects, the highest & ^{the} humblest, the richest and the poorest and the king & the commoner to the sovereignty of Allah.

~~⑤ Equality~~

~~⑤ Life~~

~~⑤ Equality~~

⑥ Social Justice: -

Social Justice refers to equity & fair play for every individual with respect to equal economic, social & other opportunities.

One of the key features of Islam is to establish social Justice. ~~is~~ Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was ordained by Allah to establish a just social system.

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"Certainly We have sent Our Messengers with clear arguments and sent down with them the Book and the balance that men may conduct themselves with equity; and we have made the iron; wherein is great violence and advantages to men."

(Al-Hadid 57: 25).

Three things are mentioned in this ~~verse~~ verse; the book, the balance & the iron which mean divine guidance, Justice and Authority of law, respectively.

This verse explains the task of the prophets and to achieve their objectives they are given the Book and the Balance so that they may eradicate evil caused by Man, and keep them balanced.

⑦ Tolerance:-

Islam exercises and promotes culture diversity and vows to protect the places of worship of other religions. While diversity among religions and cultures exist, all humanity is unified under the Oneness of Allah.

Therefore, Islam accommodates other religious beliefs and cultural diversities.

The Quran states:- "Unto you, your religion, unto me, mine" (Al-Kafiroun).

8) Rule of Law:-

Islam promotes just and equal law for everyone irrespective of their gender, race or color. Everyone is subjected to rule of law, from privileged to the humblest.

Thus the authority of Allah and His messenger (PBUH) is the final authority in the Islamic State and no one shall step outside of the domain of the Divine Law. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) explained this phenomenon by these words:-

"Even if Fatimah, the daughter of the Prophet, had committed a theft, I swear by God, I would have cut off her hands".