

Lecture # 1

What is Islam?

• Literal meaning of Islam:

The word Islam is from the root of Arabic word SLM, which means Peace/Surrender/Submission.

• Contextual meaning of Islam:

• To enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah.

• Submission of desires to the will of Allah.

• Meaning of Islam according to Shariha:

• To enter voluntarily in the way of peace by the will of Allah.

• Surah-Al-Baqarah (2:256)

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ ۗ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ ۗ

فَمَنْ يَلْفُظْ بِمَا تَلَفَّظْتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ

بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا ۗ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٢٥٦﴾

Let there be no compulsion in religion, for the truth stands out clearly from falsehood. So whoever renounces false gods and believes in Allah has certainly grasped the firmest, unfailing hand-hold. And Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.



- Surah Kafirun (109:06)

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ ⑥

For you is your religion, and for me is my religion.

- Hazrat Muhammad Rasoolullah Khatam-un-Nabiyeen:  
"Islam is the combination of witness of Allah and his messenger and Pillars of Islam."

- Imam Ghazali:

According to great scholar Imam Ghazali: Islam is fulfilling the rights of Allah and rights of people.

- Hadith:

It is the only prayer that creates a distinction between a believer and a non believer.

- Sadar-ud-Din Islahi

Sadar-ud-Din Islahi writes in his book that "Islam is the name of combination of faiths and Rituals.

Maki = Faiths

Madni = Rituals



● Islam is a Universal Deen:

- Because it guides in every aspect of life.
- All the religions came for a limited time. Wherease Islam is not for a limited time. It will continue till the day of judgment.
- Islam is for whole world, not for a specific geography.
- Islam is not for a specific ethnicity. It is for whole Mankind.

Ideal

System of

Living for

All of

Mankind



## Salient Features / Uniqueness of Islam

### • Introduction :

Islam is different from other religions in many ways. It is the religion of truth. It was preached by all the Prophets. The last and most perfect form of it was conveyed by Hazrat Muhammad Rasoolullah Khatam-un-Nabiyeen. Some major salient features of Islam have been pen down below:

### 1. Islamic Concept of Tauheed:

Firstly it is the first part of Kalima Tayyab that represents the concept of the oneness of Allah.

Secondly Surah Ikhlas also proclaims the oneness (Tauheed)

Surah Ikhlas (112: 1-4)

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ① اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ② لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ③

وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ④

Say, O Prophet, "He is Allah - One and Indivisible; Allah - the Sustainer needed by all. He has never had offspring, nor was He born. And there is none comparable to Him."

Thirdly Tauheed is the first and the most important / core pillar of the five Pillars of Islam. Believing and acting on

this pillar is the key to enter Islam. All the faiths, worships, rituals and systems of Islam revolve around the Tauheed.

### Allama Shibli Nomani

Allama Shibli Nomani wrote in first chapter of his book Sirah-tun-Nabi that: "Islam is like a fort and gate of that fort is Tauheed."

### 2. Prophethood:

It is the second part of first Kalima Tayyab, that represents the concept of believing Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet and messenger of Allah.

### Surah-Al-Ahzab (33:40)

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ

اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا ﴿٤٠﴾

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but is the Messenger of Allah and the seal of the prophets. And Allah has perfect knowledge of all things.

The Prophet (PBUH) is a role model for all mankind till the day of judgement. Believers look at his Sunnahs and learn how they can implement the teachings of Prophet (PBUH) in their lives.



Eventually Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is considered as the most supreme role model for Educators.

"verily, I have been sent as a teacher to mankind."

Surah-An-Najm (53: 3&4)

وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ ۚ ③ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ ④

Nor does he speak of his own whims. It is only a revelation sent down to him.

Surah-An-Nisa (4:80)

مَنْ يُطِيعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ ۗ ⑤ وَمَنْ تَوَلَّىٰ

فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِيظًا ⑥

Whoever obeys the Messenger has truly obeyed Allah. But whoever turn away, then know that we have not sent you O Prophet as a keeper over them.

Conclusively Quran and Hadiths prove that we can go through the straight path *Siraat ul-Mustaqeem* by following and practicing the teaching of our prophet (PBUH)

### 3. Complete code of life:

Islam is a constituent part of life. It tells us how to manage all activities of life in a sound and ethical way. Islam established a clear system of worship, laws about how to live life, civil rights, political rights, social issues and rights, laws of marriage and divorce, inheritance rights and all others which we deal with our daily life routine. It is not in the mosque only; it is for daily life, a guide to life in all its aspects. As we know Islam is a guide to life in all aspects so it keeps away a Muslim from the confusion of any type because Islam is logical and rational. It surely states that righteous conduct must be followed by belief in Allah. The Quran says:

Surah Fussilat (41:8)

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ

غَيْرُ مَقْنُونٍ ۝

But those who believe and do good will certainly have a never-ending reward.



#### 4. Simplicity:

Islam is a religion without any mythology. Its teachings are simple and intelligible. It is free from superstitions and irrational beliefs. There is no priesthood, no farfetched abstractions, no complicated rites and rituals. Everybody can approach the Book of God directly and translate its dictates into practice.

Jean L'hemreux says:

"Islam has the power of peacefully conquering soul by the simplicity of its theology, the clearness of its dogma and principles and the definite number of practices which it demands."

#### 5. Rationality:

Islam awakens in man the faculty of reason and exhorts him to use his intellect. Quran is a book of Wisdom; it never asks us to believe without giving the rationale of that belief. It enjoins man to see things in the light of reality. Islam advises man to pray:

"O, my Lord! Advance me in knowledge."

It asserts that those who have knowledge are not equal to those who do not have.

Those who do not observe and understand are worse than cattle

Hazrat Muhammad Rasool Ullah Khatam un Nabigeen said: "He who leaves home in search of knowledge walks in the path of God."



And

"Quest. for knowledge is a duty for every Muslim - man and women."

6. Practicalism:

Islam is a practical religion and does not indulge in empty and futile theorizing. It says that faith is not a mere profession of belief; rather it is the very mainspring of life. Quran says: "Those who believe and act righteously, joy is for them and a blissful home to return to."

Our holy prophet remarked: God does not accept belief, if it is not expressed in deeds; and does not accept deeds, if they do not conform to belief."

7. Universality:

The message of Islam is for the entire human race. God, in Islam, is the God of all the world and the Prophet is Messenger for the whole of Mankind. Quran says:

"O people! I am the messenger of God to you all."

"We have not sent you but as (source of) mercy for all the nations."





## 8. Humanism:

In Islam all men are equal, whatever be their colour, language, race or nationality. Islam addressed itself to the conscience of humanity and banishes all false barriers of race, status and wealth.

Quran says:

"All creatures of God form the family of God and he is best loved by God who loves best His creatures."

"Respect God and be affectionate to the family of God".