

Q Deen and Religion

① Introduction

Deen and religion are different as deen is divinely revealed in its purpose, worships and societal systems. It is made by God and free of corruption. The importance of deen in life is that it gives purpose to life, satisfaction to the soul, it gives hope as well as dispelling despair and suicidal thoughts. For the collective life, it organises society through its systems, it promotes equality and tolerance as well as protecting fundamental human rights.

② Meaning of Religion

Religion is an Latin word that means 'to subjugate'. Religion is the name given to Faiths that worship a spiritual entity often referred to as God

③ Meaning of Deen

Deen comes from an Arabic word which means 'to perfect'. Deen is a complete code of life

"Deen comprises of faith, worship, social functions along with social systems, financial and political systems, and justice."

~ Dr. Israr Ahmad

④ Islamic Elaboration of Deen

In Islam, Deen refers to the complete and willful submission to Allah and His commandments as stipulated in the Quran

and communicated by His Prophet.

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah and do not let yourselves be divided."

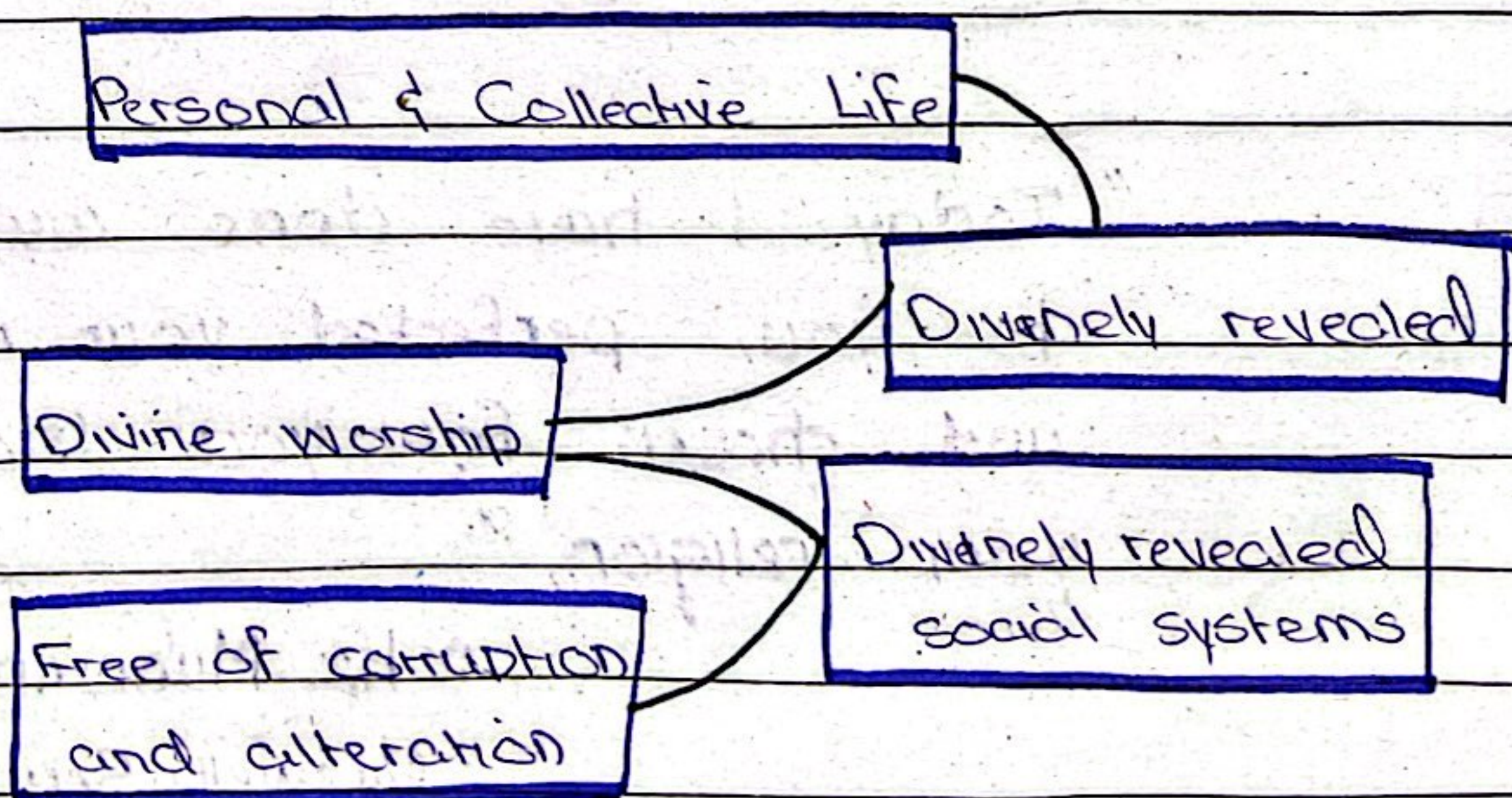
[Al-Imran]

~~But~~ Deen depends on recognising the sovereignty of Allah over all matters of worldly and spiritual life.

"Master of the Day of Judgement.
You alone do we worship and
You alone do we ask for help."

[Fatiha]

④ Difference between Deen and Religion



a) Personal and Collective Life

Deen is unlike religion in that it involves not only the personal life and beliefs of an individual but also society in general.

Religion only covers the personal sphere

Deen consists of the rights of God, Man, and Mankind while religion only deals with the rights of God and Man.

b) Divinely Revealed

Religion is a tool of social control and improvement that was developed by humanity itself.

But Deen was divinely revealed by God to mankind through the Quran and the Prophet.

"Today I have done my duty to you, perfected your religion and chosen for you Islam as your religion."

~ Hz. Muhammad
Farewell Sermon

d) Divinely Revealed Worship

The worship of Deen: prayer, zakat, Hajj, fast were all revealed by Allah to mankind unlike the "worships" of religion which were constituted by mankind.

d) Divinely Revealed Societal Systems

Deen brings systems of society: political system, economic system, justice system and rules of war to perfect human society and ensure a better society.

e) Free from Corruption

Deen is entirely free of corruption or alteration since the day it was revealed.

⑤ Importance of Deen

A) In Personal Life

i) Satisfaction of the Soul

With deen, man receives satisfaction when he knows that

Allah is always with him to support him.

"For those who find satisfaction in the remembrance of Allah."

[Al-Quran]

ii) Purpose of Life

with a clean life is a greater purpose that extends beyond the biological needs of the body.

"Lord! Give us something fine in this life and in the Hereafter."

[Al-Quran]

iii) Gives Hope

with a clean man is given hope with the prospect of deliverance and forgiveness.

iv) Dispels Despair

Man does not fall victim to despair when he knows Allah is always there to guide him

"Verily with each hardship comes ease."

[Al-Quran]

a) In Collective Life

i) Promotes Equality

In the eyes of Allah, all creations are equal except in piety

ii) Provides Social Systems

The social system of deen organise society

iii) Dual Concept of Accountability

Man knows that his deeds are being judged by God as well as by worldly authorities

⑥ Conclusion

Deen is broader than religion and it is divinely revealed, making it free from corruption. It carries with it social systems and "worships" that are also revealed by Allah while religion is manmade.

The ^{importance} ~~difference~~ of Deen is that in personal life, it gives satisfaction and purpose to life, gives hope and dispels despair. In collective life, it promotes equality, organises society, and provides a dual system of accountability.

