

# Saleent Features Of Islam

## Introduction:

The word Islam means submission and peace. Submission to the moral imperatives of the one and only God and peace with His creatures. The foundational tenets of Islam revolves around the Quran, believed to be the literal words of Allah revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and the Sunnah (teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW)).

The term Islam derives from three-letter Arabic root S (س), L (ل), M (م) which generates the word Islam (إسلام) that means 'Submission', 'surrender', 'commitment' and 'peace'.

## Saleent Features of Islam:

### 1- Tawhid:

Tawhid is the first and main principle of the Islamic faith. It means that there is only one supreme Lord of the universe and He is the creator, the sustainer and the Master of the universe. It presents a unified view of the world and offers the vision of an integrated universe. Tawhid teaches the real meaning of Unity, that all men are the creatures of one God and that they are therefore all equal. Tawhid shapes and regulates the entire course of a Muslim's life.



Allah in Quran says,

"I am God and there is no other God. Worship Me and keep up your prayers for My remembrance".  
(Taha: 14)

2. Angels:

According to the teachings of Islam, the Muslims should believe in the existence of the Angels; that they are created by Allah from light and are different from human beings, while spirits (Al-Jinn) are created from the fire. Muslims believe that the Angels can not be seen because they are immaterial beings with spiritual functions and powers. The Muslims believe that Allah alone knows what is before the Angels and what is behind them, and they cannot intercede except for whom He is pleased.

The Quran says,

"He has send down His Angels with inspirations of His command to such of His servants, as He pleases".

3. Quran: (Al-Nahl - 2)

The Holy Quran is considered by the Muslims to be the literal speech of God given to Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The chapters and verses of the Holy Quran were revealed throughout Prophet Muhammad (SAW) mission, over a span of close to twenty-three years, from 610 - 632 C.E. The word Quran literally means "the reading" or "the recitation" and refers to the divinely revealed scriptures given to Muhammad (SAW). Quran is believed to be the final revelation from



Allah to humanity.

According to the Ayah in Quran Allah says:  
"This is the Book about which there is no doubt,  
a guidance for those conscious of Allah."

(Surah Bakarah - 2)

#### 4 Prophethood:

The word 'Prophet' denotes the one who is very near to Allah through the total surrender of his entire being to Him and who receives revelations from Allah which serve as a source of guidance for men. Islam holds that a Prophet possesses the characteristics of being absolutely truthful, free of all sins and delivers the messages from Allah without any omission. According to Islam, to believe in a prophet means to believe in the revelation that he has received, to accept the law that was transmitted to him by God and to follow the code of conduct that he was instructed to pass on to humanity.

According to the Holy Quran,

"He does not speak according to personal desires but says only what is revealed to him"

#### 5 Life after Death:

Belief in Allah and accepting human accountability before Him in Hereafter is the quintessence of Islam. For the Muslims, this world and the Hereafter are two necessary stages in their existential journey. Neither of them can meaningfully be defined without appreciating the significance of the other. The Quran describes the events of the Last Day in a very clear way. It says that at a time known only by Allah this world will be brought to an



end with a deafening noise and the earth will split apart and become a level plain and the mountains will crumble to dust.

#### 6 Five Pillars of Islam:

The basis of the Islamic teaching and way of life are various obligatory acts of worship, Ibadat that are often referred to as a Five Pillars of Islam, such as, Shahada, Salat, Saum, Zakat and Hajj. According to the teachings of the Holy Prophet (saw), these principles are the basis of piety and a virtuous worldly life. The Prophet (saw) has taught us that the only difference between the individuals is the extent of their piety, not their colour or the social status. The purpose of Islamic worship is to strengthen the Muslim faith and sense of submission to Allah.

#### 7 Ehsan:

Ehsan is the highest of the three levels of faith and the closest to Allah. According to Prophet (saw) Ehsan is, "to worship Allah as if you are seeing Him, While you do not see Him, He truly sees you."

Ehsan in Islam means 'to do beautiful things'. It urges the believers to opt excellence as way of life and do things beautifully and nobly. This is the level of righteousness, perfection as well as doing and saying the ultimate good for the sake of goodness.

The Quran asks mankind,

"Is there any reward for Ehsan except Ehsan?"  
(al-Rahman: 60)



## 8 Self Purification (Tazkiyah Al-Nafs)

The purification of soul is the most important theme in Islamic theology. Tazkiya originally means pruning the plant to remove what is harmful for its growth. When the term is applied to the human personality, it means to beautify it or to remove from it all the evil traces and spiritual diseases. Tazkiya al nafs refers to the process of transforming the nafs (desires) from its deplorable state of ego-centrality through various spiritual stages towards the level of purity and submission to the will of Allah.

Tazkiya al nafs has been explained by the Quran:

"He who purifies it will indeed be successful, and he who corrupts it is sure to fail."

(as-Sham: 1)

## 9 Dignity of Man

Allah has created man as His representative. The underlying principle guiding man's life and relationship with all the other creatures is that everything in the universe is a trust (amanah) from God to man, and as representatives of Allah on earth, man has been assigned the duty of establishing civilization and a peaceful society. The entire philosophy of Islam is based on human creation and dignity.

Honor has been conferred on whole of mankind since Allah does not discriminate among men and women in matters of dignity on the basis of creed, colour, caste etc.

## 10 Equality:

All men and women are equal in the eyes



of Allah. Islam upholds inherent equality of mankind in general and of both genders in particular. The principle of equality is one of the most important constitutional principles upon which the contemporary system rests. No distinctions in fundamental rights between one man and another on the basis of race, sex, blood relations or wealth is allowed.

#### 11 Social Justice:

Social justice refers to equality and fair play for every individual of Islamic society with respect to equal economic, social, political and other rights and opportunities. The establishment of social justice is one of the important functions of Islam.

Prophet Muhammad (saw) was ordained by Allah to establish a just social system to be followed and passed on the succeeding generations of Islam.

According to the Quran, it is incumbent upon the Islamic society to provide for the basic necessities of each and all the members and make suitable provisions for the development of their human potential.

#### 12 Tolerance and Co-existence:

Islam not only tolerates followers of other religions but also bestows upon them all the rights of humanity to protect and guard their places of worship and also believe in the concept of co-existence. In Surah Baqarah: 256 Allah says, "There is no compulsion in Din". Islam preaches tolerance and coexistence by recognizing cultural and religious diversity. It believes that, while differences among cultures exist, humanity is ultimately united under the oneness



of God. It is therefore necessary to accommodate cultural diversity. Under the centuries of Muslim rule, Islamic, Jewish, and Christian cultures not only coexisted but flourished in an environment of relative tolerance, from 711 to 1492 AD.

### 13 Rule of Law:

For the first time in history of mankind, Islam established the uniform rule of law for all, irrespective of race, colour, creed and nationality. All citizens of the state were subjected to the same law and no one was above the law. Citizens with wealth, status or privilege were treated the same as an ordinary man. Caliph Umar and Caliph Ali appeared in the courts of Qadi as ordinary citizens. The letter written by Caliph Umar to Abu Musa Ashari contains the cardinal principles to pertain rule of law. The Prophet (saw) said, "Even if Fatimah, daughter of Muhammad, had committed a theft, I swear by Allah, I would have cut off her hands."

### 14 Morality:

The rapid spread of Islam was due to the observance of highest moral values expressed in Quran. It is also based on justice, equality and moral values. These very principles attracted people who were suffering oppression at the hands of the emperors and considered Islam to be the call of freedom. The moral code of Islam covers the smallest details of domestic life as well as the broad aspects of national and international behavior. It guides us in every stage of life.



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## 15 Universality:

Universality is a core principle of Islam, emphasizing that the religion's message is intended for all humanity, transcending cultural and ethnic boundaries. Islamic teachings promote the idea that Allah's message is not limited to a specific people or time period but is for everyone throughout history. Universality is a significant aspect of Islam that attracts people from diverse backgrounds, who find resonance with its message of oneness, guidance and equality.