

Islamiyate Assignment

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Q:-

What is islam and
Enlist its salient feature?

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Introduction:

Islam is an arabic word which means "the act of resignation to God". It originates from the root word "SLM" which means "peace" that gave birth to word "aslama" means "he submitted or he resigned to Allah". Islam is the religion which brings peace to Mankind when he submitted himself to the will of Allah. It revealed to the Holy Prophet (PBUH)

when he lived in Mecca from 570 CE to 632 CE. According to the Holy Book revealed to Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) this is the true religion professed by all prophets from Hazrat Adam to Muhammad (PBUH).

"Verily, **Islam** is the Deen before Allah."

(3:19)

The religion of Islam is the complete acceptance of teaching and guidance of Allah as revealed to His Prophet.

The true love of God and submission to His commands is the guarantee of peace and harmony among his creature.

It is the religion of peace, truth and humanism that provides a complete code of life to each human being without the limit of time, space and ethnicity.

Muslims are those who resign himself to the will of God (Allah) and professes the faith of Islam thus believe in tawhid, prophethood, all holy books, the

angels and the last day of judgement. Islam is their creed which cultivate self discipline, kindness, self sacrifice and accountability among them under the pillars of Islam.

Meaning of Islam:-

⇒ Literal meaning: The word Islam has been derived from root arabic word **SLM** which means "to surrender, to submit, peace and to yield."

⇒ Contextual meaning: "To enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah" or "submission of desires to the will of Allah" is called Islam. Another meaning of Islam is "entering into a condition of peace and security with God, through allegiance or surrender to Him."

⇒ Shariah meaning: According to Shariah "voluntary submission of desires to the will of God" or "voluntary entering in peace by submitting to the will of Allah" is called Islam.

Shariah is derived from two main resources; one is **Quran** which is

considered the direct word of God and the other is **Sunna** which is the saying and practices attributed to Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Allah says in Quran:

“Let there be no compulsion in religion, for the truth stands out clearly from the falsehood.”

(2:256)

Islam is the revealed religion and this is the true religion professed by all the Prophets from Hazrat Adam to Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Before Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) it was called “Deen-e-harif”, a monotheist religion and after the prophecy of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) it was called Islam (a new name of monotheist religion). And those who believe in this faith and professes it called Muslim. Allah says in Quran:

“To you is your Religion and to me, my Religion.”

(109:106)

According to Hadith-e-jibreel, Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) define Islam as:

"Islam is the name of two things one witness of Allah & His Messengers, the other is to establish pillars and to practice pillars."

Definition from different Scholars:

1) Dr Hameed Ullah said "Islam is the monotheistdeen revealed upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)". He was an islamic scholar of hadith and law who devoted his life to religious and academic works.

2) According to Sadrudin Islahi, who was an Indian Islamic Ulema writer and was one of the early member of Jamat-e-Islami, define "islam as the combination of faith and worships". Quran also says that
"Surely those who believe, and do deed, of righteousness

, their lord will guide them by the means of their faith, rivers will flow under their feet in the Gardens of Bliss." (10:9)

3) Imam Ghazali narrated in Ihya Ul Uloom that "Islam is the combination of rights of Allah and rights of people". Right of Allah is that one should believe in oneness of God, believe that Allah is the sole creator & sustainer of whole universe. Rights of people are equality, justice, safety, security and dignity of every human being should be preserved.

4) Imam Raghīb al-Ishāhānī in his al-Mufradāt fī Gharabī al-Qurān says: "Islam, in law, is of two kinds: one is a simple confession with the tongue, the other is the belief in the heart and a fulfillment in practice, and resignation to God in whatever He brings to pass or decrees."

Concept of Islam:-

Islam is the religion of

truth. It is the embodiment of the code of life which is revealed for guidance of mankind by Allah, the creator and the Lord of the universe. Proper development of mankind requires two things (1) one is the resources to maintain life and fulfil material needs of individual and society and (2) second is the knowledge of principles of human behaviour to enable him to maintain justice and tranquility in human life and to have self-fulfilment. The Lord of universe has provided both things to mankind in full measure. To cater for the material needs of man He has provided all the resources at disposal of man. While to fulfill his spiritual, social and cultural need He raised His prophets from among men and revealed to them with the code which guides man to the Right Path. This code of life is known as Islam, revealed to Holy prophet (PBUH) and the same religion preached by all the prophets of Allah. Allah says in Quran

"Say we believe in God,
and in the revelations given
to us and to Abraham,
Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and
the Tribes. We believe in the
Revelation that was sent
to Moses, Jesus and all other
Prophets from their Lord.
We make no distinction
between them, and unto
Him we surrender."

(3:83)

The fundamental concept of Islam
is premised on the notion that the
whole universe is created by Allah Almighty
, the sustainer of all things. Allah has
created a divine code of life for man
and granted freedom to follow this code
or not.

"Whoever wants, he should
believe; and whoever
wants, he should disbelieve."

(18:29)

Those who believe in revealed religion
and follow this code of life are called

muslims.

⇒ Articles of belief:

These basic articles of belief that are credited by every muslim given as:

Belief in oneness of Allah

Belief in the Prophets of Allah

Belief in His angels

Belief in His revealed books

Belief in the day of judgment and life after death

⇒ Pillars of Islam:

The five pillars of Islam are fundamental practices in Islam, considered to be obligatory acts of worship for all Muslims.

Shahadah (declaration of Faith)

Salaah (prayer)

Zakat (charity)

Saum (fasting)

Hajj (pilgrimage)

Salient Features of Islam

Islam is different from many other religions in the world due to its

distinct aspects that are enlisted below:

1) Unique Concept of Tawhid:

Islam give us the revolutionary concepts of Tawhid means there is only one Supreme Lord of the universe. He is omnipotent, omnipresent and the sustainer of the world and mankind. It constitute the essence of the teachings of Islam as stated in Kalima Tayyab

لا اله الا الله

"There is none worthy of worship except God (Allah)."

Tawhid is the core pillar of Islam as "shahada" is the first and foremost pillar of Islam. We are the witness of this inexhaustible creativity of nature, its purposefulness and its preservation drive (that) all points toward one fact, "Behind Nature there is a God, the creator, the Governor who flawlessly run this universe in a harmony." Allah says in Quran:

"Say: He is Allah the one,

Allah is eternal and absolute,
None is born of him and nor He
born, And None like
Him."

(112:1-4)

This is the tenet to which Hazrat
Muhammad (PBUH) asked humanity to
adhere. This metaphysical concept answers
all the riddles of the universe.

Allama Shibli Nomani quoted two
Hadith in Sirat-Un-Nabi about the
importance of tawhid in Islam.

"Tawheed is the First
chapter of Islamic
Syllabus."

At another point, he quoted another
Hadith about tawhid,

"Islam is like a fort
and the gate of that
fort is Tawheed."

2) Prophethood:

The second basic postulate
of Islam is to believe in the
prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH) and
all other prophets. Second part of

Tayyabun also states that
"And Muhammad (PBUH)
is the messenger of
God."

It signifies that God has not left man without any guidance in this world. He has revealed his guidance through His prophets and Muhammad (PBUH) (was) is the last prophet. And to believe in a prophet means to believe in his message, to accept the law which he gave and to follow the code of conduct which he taught. Because Prophet conveyed message of Allah to his creature (mankind) and didn't say anything according to his will. Allah says in Quran.

"Nor does He speak
out of His desire.

This is nothing but
a revelation that is
conveyed to Him."

(53:4-5)

Every prophet of God, according to Quran, strove to build man's relationship

with God, on the principle of God's sovereignty and acknowledgement of the authority of the prophet as source of divine guidance. Every one of them said, "I am to you God's apostle, worthy of all trust. So be committed to God, fear Him and obey me. Thus the will of God fulfilled on earth. Quran says

"Every messenger who was sent by Us was sent for the purpose that he should be obeyed under the sanction of Allah."

(4:69)

3) Complete Code of Life:

Islam is not a religion in the common, distorted meaning of the west which confines its scope to individual life only. It is a religion, a complete way of life that guides in all aspects of life including individual as well as collective life. Islam provides guidance as well as direct man individual

social, economic and political, material and moral, legal and cultural, national and international affairs of man towards right path.

From birth to death, it cater for all the fields of human existence. There are two major sources of Guidance for mankind (i) Quran (ii) Sunnah. Quran is the last divine book revealed to last prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and

Allah says in Quran:

"Surely We have revealed to you the Book "O Prophet" with the truth for humanity.

So whoever chases to be guided it is for their own good.

And whoever chases to stay it is only for their own loses. You are not a keeper over them."

(39:41)

Hadith also guide man in religious and particular matters because it is collection of sayings or traditions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) who is a role model for all mankind. As it is obvious

from this hadith from Sahih Bukhari
on economic aspect:

"Save yourself from
Hell-fire even by giving
half a date-fruit in
charity."

4) Promotes Humanity:

Humanity is understanding
and show kindness towards Allah's
creature without any discrimination.

And Islam teaches its followers that
all humans are equal regardless of
race, class, colour or nationality. It
encourages them to be kind (to people and
animals), doing charity, respecting parents
and elder, keeping promises, controlling
one's anger, doing justice and adopts the
habits of forgiveness, honesty, telling truth,
and don't harm anyone. Islam addresses
itself to the conscience of humanity
and banishes all false barriers of
race, status and wealth.

The Holy prophet said (PBUH):

"All creatures of God
form the family of God"

and he is the best
loved of God who
loved best His creature."

Holy prophet (PBUH) also advice muslims
to treat animal with kindness as
clearly define through one of His
Hadith

"A good deed done to
an animal is as
meritorious as good deed
done to a Human being."

Islam also teaches its followers to
protect environment and nature. Hazrat
Muhammad (PBUH) said.

"Planting a tree is a
best charity."

5) Religion of Peace:

As obvious from its
meaning "Islam is a religion of peace".
The true love of God and submission to
his commands is the guarantee of peace
and harmony among his creatures. In its
purest sense Islam is nothing but the act
of devoutly loving God and being just
and benevolent to his creatures. Allah is

Al-Salam means the source and originator of all peace, the peace that needs to permeate every aspect of this universe, especially human society. It is significant that the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to recite the following supplication after performing the obligatory prayers.

"O Allah, You are peace and from you emanates all peace, blessed are you, O possessor of Honour and Majesty."

The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is mentioned in the Quran as mercy for all creation.

In short, Almighty God and His teachings are geared to bringing harmony and peace.

Even war in Islam is geared to the actualization of peace and justice. The

Quran refers to Islam as

"Subul al-Salam

The path of peace"

(5:16)

Allah says in Quran:

"Hold tight to the rope of God, altogether and never

let go again."

(3:103)

6) Quran Last H. Book:

Holy Quran is the last revealed book that was revealed to "last prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH)" during the sacred month of Ramadan. The literal meaning of Quran is "reading or recitation", it is believed to be the word of God as dictated by angel **Gabriel** to Muhammad. Different books and scriptures revealed on different prophets in different eras but Quran is superior to the other Holy books that had been revealed previously. It is not just a combination of worship, historic events and beliefs but it is a complete source of guidance that is universal in its teachings. The original form of Quran has been preserved that even a letter of Quran has not changed until today and is kept under the divine preservation until the last day. As Allah says in Quran

"Verily, We have sent
down this book and
verily We shall Safeguard
it."

(15:10)

1) Eternal Religion:

Islam is the first and last religion revealed by Allah to Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) and the same religion professed by all previous prophets. Its teachings have no time limit and remain same until the day of judgement. It is a complete faith that was revealed many times through earlier messengers of Allah but finalized upon Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Allah says in Quran

"Today I have perfected
your faith for you,
completed my favour
upon, and chosen Islam
as your way."

(5:3)

2) Universal Religion:

The Message of Islam

is for the entire human races in Islam all men are equal whatever be their colour, race, ethnicity, language or nationality. That's why it is called universal religion. It can be adopted by any man and followed by anyone who believe in islamic faith. And according to this God is the God of all creatures and His prophet is The prophet for whole mankind. As Allah says in Quran:

"Lord, the sustainer of
all the worlds."

(1:2)

"Message, a message for
all the worlds."

(81:28)

"Prophet, Messenger for
the whole humanity."

(7:159)

9) Seal of Prophecy:

The believe on the finality of prophethood on Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) and considering Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) as last prophet of Allah is

essential to enter in Islam. There is no prophet without Muhammad (PBUH) and there will be no prophet come after Muhammad (PBUH) until the day of judgement. As Quran state about seal of prophecy:

"Muhammad is not the Father of any of your men, but he is the messenger of Allah and The Seal of the Prophets."

(33:40)

10) Unprejudice Religion:

One meaning of prejudice is that while giving one is awarded more than his due share while the other one is awarded less than what he actually deserves. Another meaning of prejudice is that one only feels oneself deserving the blessings of religion negating others rights in this regard. These are some allegation that was levelled on islam by its enemies but islamic teachings are

completely free of these flaws and prejudice. The Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet (PBUH) always spurned prejudice and all its forms as clearly define in Quran

“O, you who ^{have} believed,
fulfil [all] contracts.”

(5:1)

“And co-operate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression.”

(5:2)

11) Simplicity, Rationalism and Practicalism:

Islam is a religion without any mythology. Its teachings are simple and intelligible. It is free from superstitious belief and illogical rituals. The concept of tawhid, prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH) and life after death are the basic articles of its faith, that are based on reason and sound logic.

All the teachings of Islam flow from these basic beliefs and are straightforward.

Everybody may approach the Quran directly and translate its dictate into practice.

Islam awakens in man the faculty of

Reason and exhorts him to use his intellect. The Quran advises him to pray

"O my Lord, increase me in knowledge."

(20:114)

The most striking and most prominent feature of Islam is that it is not only the religion of knowledge, but also is a religion of practice. The Holy prophet (PBUH) used to say:

"O Allah, I ask you for beneficial knowledge, acceptable action, and good provision."

12) Unity of Matter and spirit:

A unique feature of Islam is that it does not divide life into watertight compartments of matter and spirit. It stands not for life-denial, but for life fulfilment.

Islam does not believe in asceticism. It does not ask any man to avoid material things. It holds that spiritual elevation is to be achieved by living piously in the rough and tumble of life and not by renouncing the world. The Quran advises us to pray as follow:

"Our Lord! Give us the good in this world and the good in the hereafter."

(2:201)

Allah strongly censures those who refuse to benefit from His blessings. The Quran says:

"Say (to them): By whose order have you denied yourself those amenities which God has created for His people and those good things to eat and use?"

(7:32)

13) Balance between Individual & society:

Another unique feature of Islam is that it establishes a balance between individualism and collectivism. It believes in the individual personality of man and holds everyone accountable to God. It guarantees the fundamental rights of the individual and does not permit any one to tamper with them. Proper development of man's personality is one of the prime objectives of its educational policy.

According to Quran:

"Man Shall have Nothing
but what he strives for."

(53:39)

On the other hand, it also awakens a sense of social responsibility in man, organises human beings in a society. Prayer, in Islam, is offered in congregation which inculcates social discipline among the Muslims. Every one is enjoined to pay Zakat and it has been laid down in the Quran that:

"The alm-seeker and the
destitute have their due
rights in their wealth"

(51:19)

4) Revealed Book in living Languages

The Quran is God's final revelation and revealed to Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) in Arabic language. Arabic is a living language because it is spoken and written by more than 400 million people, in countries stretching from the middle east and arabian peninsula to North Africa and across Asia. It is one of

the oldest language in the world and it has played essential role in the development of many other language. The Holy Quran was revealed in this language because it is a living language and no other language was provided with the atmosphere and conditions to grow which were ordained for the Arabic language.

15) Complete record of teachings preserved:

The teachings of Islam have been preserved in their original form and God's Guidance is available without adulteration of any kind. The Quran is the last revealed book of Allah which has been in existence for the last fourteen hundred years and the word of God is available in its original form. The saying and the entire record of the life of Holy prophet have been handed down to us with unprecedented precision and authenticity in works of the Hadith and the Sirah.

Conclusions

The salient features of Islam establish Islam as religion of man, the religion of today and religion of tomorrow. "Gustav Le Bon" wrote about the reasons behind the spread of Islam as follows:

In addition to the justful and benevolent treatment of people, simplicity and clarity of the islamic principal beliefs were the main factors that caused Islam to spread. The very simplicity, clarity, good manners made Egyptians who had been christian since the time of Byzantine emperors, embrace Islam the moment they were invited to it. No Muslim tribe, whether victorious or defeated, was seen giving up Islam for christianity. The impact of Islamic civilization and politics is really astonishing."
