

What is Islam? Elaborate salient features of Islam.

1. Understanding Islam :

Islam is the second largest religion in the world, having about 1.8 billion followers. Islam is a monotheistic religion revealed by Allah Almighty on prophet Muhammad (P.b.u.h). Islam commenced on

570 A.D with the birth of prophet Muhammad (P.b.u.h) in Mecca.

Islam means submission and the one who submit oneself is called Muslim in Islam.

2. Meaning of Islam :

↳ Literal meaning.

↳ Contextual meaning.

↳ Shariah meaning.

2.1 Literal meaning of Islam :

Islam is an Arabic word and it is composed of three words

S-L-M

thus, Islam means peace, submission and surrender.

2.2 Contextual meaning of Islam :

Contextually, Islam means ;

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

→ Submission of desires to the will of Allah.

2.3 Shariah meaning of Islam :

As per Shariah, Islam means

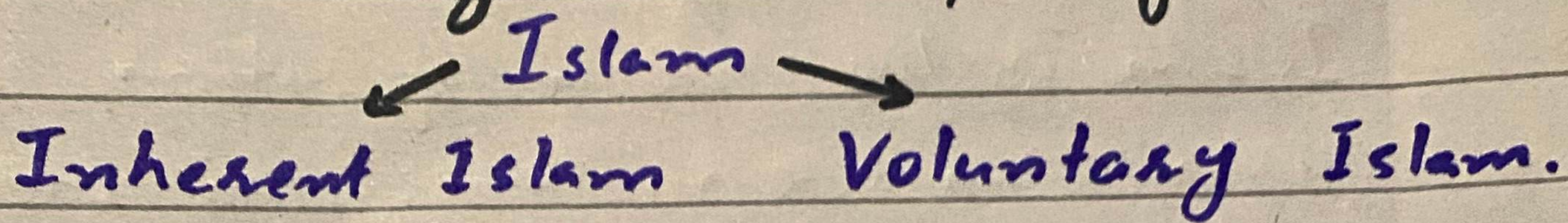
Submission of desires voluntarily to the will of Allah.

The Quran says ;

“There is no compulsion in the (acceptance of) religion”

(Surah Bakrah 2: 256)

3. Elaborating the concept of Islam:



3.1 Inherent Islam;

Inherent Islam or Inherent injunctions are those divine injunctions which can not be avoided or denied.

For instance; Man is abide to talk, see, listen and eat because of inherent injunctions.

3.2 Voluntary Islam:

Voluntary Islam or Voluntary injunctions are those divine injunctions which are avoidable and defiable.

For example; A man is subjected to worship only one God but he can worship others as per his will.

Voluntary Islam is also named as Shariah law.

4. Importance of Islam :

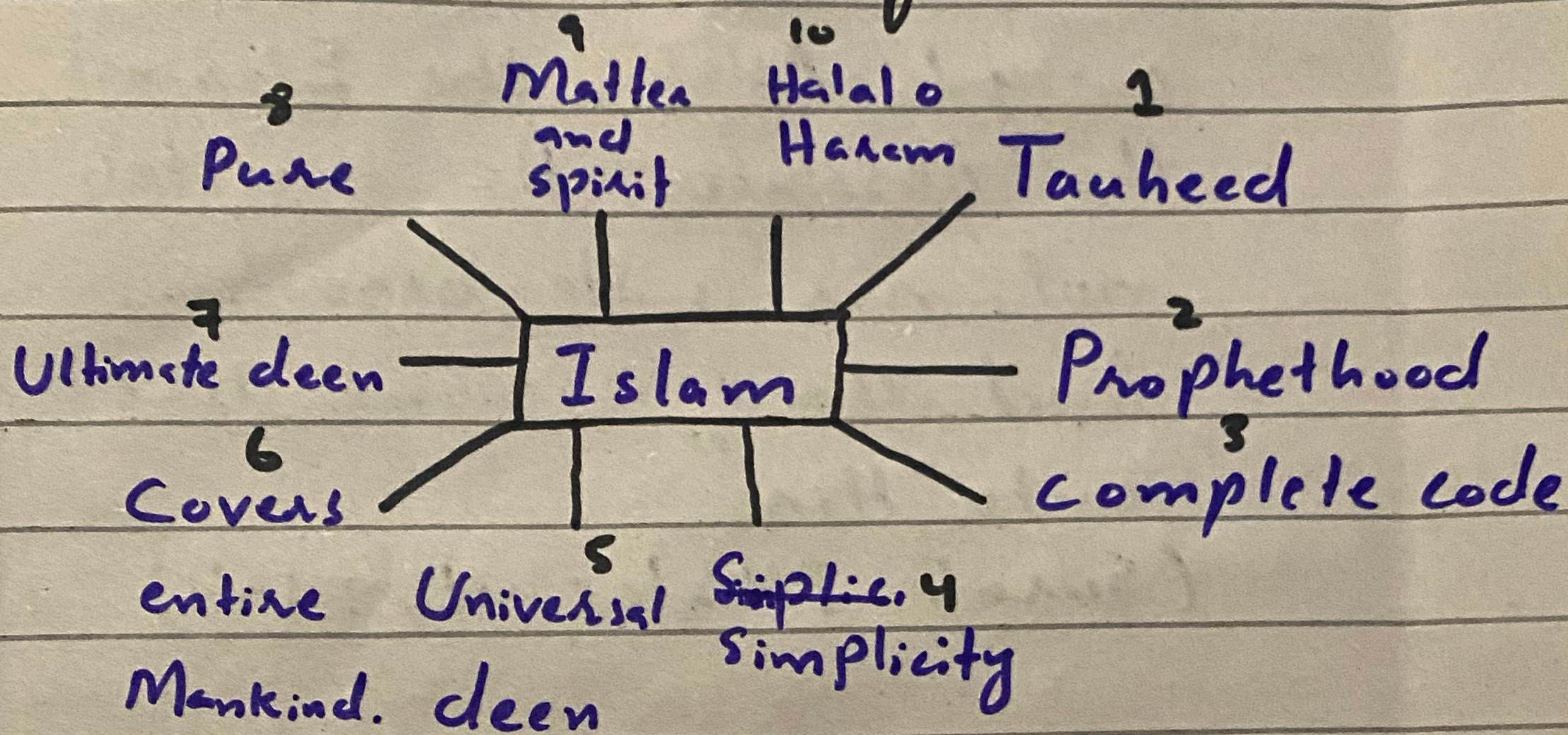
Islam is the deen of Allah which gives complete guidance in individual and collective matters. Islam addresses the queries and problems of rational spirit, for example, it gives the purpose of life. The Quran says,

"And I (Allah) created not the jinns and humans except they should worship Me (Alone)."

(Surah Az-Zariyat : 56).

Islam prevents wrongdoing, teaches us morals and establishes a peaceful society. For instance; the last sermon of prophet Muhammad (P.b.u.h) gives the whole concept of equality to the world.

5. Distinctive Features of Islam:



1. Tauheed as a fundamental belief of Islam:

Islam is primarily based on the concept of Tauheed (Oneness of Allah Almighty). The importance of Tauheed is entailed by the prophet (P.b.u.h) when he describes Islam as;

“The witness of Allah and His prophet and establish and practise pillars of Islam.”

The concept of Tauheed has been beautifully defined in the Quran

"He is Allah, the one and only! Allah, the Eternal, the Absolute. He begetteth not, nor is He begotten. And there is none like unto Him"
(Surah Ikhlas 112:1-4)

2. Prophethood is an other pillar of Islam;

The concept of prophethood is a fundamental of Islam. Belief in all the prophets sent by Allah specially belief in the finality of prophethood is the major component of Islam. In the Holy Quran Allah says,

"Muhammad is not the father of (any) one of your men, but (he is) the messenger of Allah and last of the prophets..."
(Surah Ahzab 33:40).

The life of prophet Muhammad (P.b.u.h) teaches Muslims how to live life as it is the live implementation of the Quran.

Allah says, in the Quran;

"Nor does he speak from his own inclination. It is not but a revelation revealed"

(Surah 53: 3-4)

3. Islam as complete code of life;

From birth to death and from individual to combined all the matters of man are covered in Islam.

Guidance to individual;

- Builds character
- Preaches education
- Gives purpose of life
- Prohibits evils
- Gives rights and duties of individual

The Holy prophet Muhammad (P.b.u.h) says,

"Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every muslim."

Collective Guidance :

- Mutual obligations in social system
- Khilafat as a political system.
- Financial system of Islam prohibits interest
- Justice system is based on equality.

The "Queen" says,

"And when you judge between people, judge with justice."

(Surah Nisa 4:58).

4. Islam promotes simplicity:

Islam itself is simple thus, it promotes simplicity.

- (i) There is no complexity in Islam.
- (ii) Islam is understandable

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iii) Quran and Sunnah as simple source of guidance.

iv) Islam is easy to practise.

“Simplicity is a part of the faith”
(Prophet Muhammad P.b.u.h)

5. Islam as a universal deen ; covers entire universe :

Islam is not only the religion of man but also the religion of whole universe from lifeless things to angels. It is not limited to a specific time, geography, and ethnicity. The Quran says,

“The seven heavens and the earth and all that therein praise Him, and there is not a thing but hymneth His Praise; but ye' understand not their praise.”
(Quran 17: 44)

6. Islam is for entire Mankind;

Islam covers the entire mankind because all the social, economical, political, legal, spiritual and moral aspects of man's life are covered in Islam. For instance,

the title of Holy Quran is

Human it means all the problems and faced by humans and their solutions are mentioned in Quran.

7. Islam is the last and perfect deen;

All the ^{deens} religions sent by Allah were Islam but the name 'Islam' was specifically entitled to the deen revealed on the Prophet Muhammad (P.b.u.h)

About the prophet Abraham the Quran says,

"Abraham was not a jew, nor yet a christian,

but was an upright man who had surrendered (to Allah)."
(Quran 3:67).

8. Islam is pure from adulteration:

Islam is free from changes, it is pure from its arrival and will be same till the day of judgement. Quran, for instance, was revealed more than 1400 years ago, but there is no single adulteration in it as was done by with other divine scriptures.

Allah says in the Quran;
"He has revealed the Quran and He is will protect it"
(Quran 15:9).

9. Islam gives the unity of matter and spirit:

→ Islam prohibits extremism

"And do not exceed the proper limits, for He does not love those who exceed the proper limits."
(Quran 6:141).

→ Islam gives equal importance to spiritual and material life.

"And when the prayer has been concluded, disperse within the land and seek from the bounty of Allah."
(Quran 62:10).

10. Concept of Halal or Harem as Permissible and forbidden:

Islam describes Halal as permissible and Harem as prohibited. Like, muslims are allowed to eat the meat of cow, buffalo and goat because they are Halal food in Islam. On the other hand,

Muslims are forbidden to eat the meat of swine as it is considered as Haram.

Conclusion.

Precisely, Islam means voluntarily submitting desires to Allah Almighty. It is the ultimate deen of Allah sent on the prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H), the last of prophets. It is the deen of entire universe. All the matters of universe are discussed in Islam.