

-: ASSIGNMENT 01 :-

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Subject: Islamic Studies

Q- What is Islam? What are the salient features of Islam? Elaborate them.

ANSWER:-

ISLAM:-

Islam is an Arabic word which originates from the triliteral root S-L-M (س-ل-م) which means peace, submission and surrender.

In a religious context, it means that "the total surrender to the will of Allah".

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

The old name of Islam is "Deen-e-hanif".

Islam is a monotheistic religion. The name Islam was instituted by the Quran, the book revealed to Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H).

The scholar Dr. Hamidullah said that:-

"Islam is a monotheistic deen revealed upon Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H)"

① In Quran Surah Baqarah Ayat 256 :-

Translation:

"There shall be no compulsion in (acceptance of)

the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong! So whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it. And Allah is hearing and knowing."

In Surah Al Kafirun Quran said that there is a freedom of religion.

Surah Al Kafirun Ayat no 6

Translation:

"To you be your religion, and to me my religion"

So Islam gives us freedom, so by the end of this world we all will hold accountable for what we did.

② Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) defines Islam in Hadees Jibrael :-

"It is to worship Allah and accept that he is the only Supreme being. No other can be worshipped other than him which is also the first pillar of Islam Tauheed." The

The Hadith Jibrael defines Islam through its five pillars:

Declaration of faith, prayer, charity, fasting and pilgrimage.

These pillars are essential for any Muslim as these are the foundations of Islam. To believe in Allah means having faith in Islam and to believe in Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) as his last Prophet and Quran is revealed upon Him.

ISLAM IS A UNIVERSAL DEEN:-

Islam invites all human beings. Everyone regardless of race, skin color, gender, or national origin can become a Muslim. Islam classifies humanity according to their responsibilities and right.

In the Quran, it is expressed that our Prophet was sent to invite all the human beings as follows:

"(My messenger!) say: "O men! I am sent upto you all, as the Messenger of Allah, to whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth." (7:158).

"(O Muhammad!) We sent you not but as a Mercy for all creatures (21:107)

For this reason, the Messenger is invited not only Arabs but also others.

SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM:-

1- TAWHEED:-

Tawheed in Arabic means attributing Oneness to Allah and describing Him as being One and Unique, with no partner in His Essence and Attributes.

According to Shar'i definition of Tawheed, it means believing in Allah alone as God and Lord and attributing to Him alone.

Relevance in Quran:

وَلَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ (112:4)

"And there is none equal or comparable unto Him" [112:4]

وَالْعَلَمُ لَهُ وَاحِدٌ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ [2:163]

"And your Allah (God) is one Allah (God) there is none who has the right to be worshipped but He), the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful" [2:163]

Relevance in Ahadith:-

In Saheeh Muslim, it is narrated from Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) that Prophet (P.B.U.H) said

"Islam is built on five pillars:
Belief that Allah is One and Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is Messenger of Allah, establishing regular prayer, paying Zakat, fasting Ramadan and offering Hajj."

2- Prophethood:-

The second part of the Kalimah, on the other hand, signifies that Allah has not left man without any guidance for the conduct of his life. He has revealed His guidance through His Prophets and Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was the last prophet.

Thus the second basic postulate of Islam is to believe in prophethood of Muhammad (P.B.U.H), to accept the religion that he presented and to follow his commands and his example.

To believe him as a prophet of Allah means to accept his authority as representative of the Supreme Ruler and

to follow his behaviour in thoughts.

The Quran says:

"We have not sent any Messenger but that he was to be obeyed with Allah's permission."
[4:64].

And about the Prophet, it is stated that:

Yet by your Lord, they will never believe until they make you a judge concerning what they are disputing among themselves; then they will find no inconvenience for themselves concerning whatever you have decided and submit completely (4:65).

3- Complete Code of Life :-

Islam as a complete code of life is a fundamental concept in Islam, emphasizing that the religion offers guidance in every sphere of life. It is not only addressed spiritual needs but also provides comprehensive principles for social, economic, political and personal conduct.

Islam's teaching, derived from the Quran and Hadith, serve as a complete framework for

Leading a balanced and righteous life.
In Quran (Surah-Al-Baqarah, 2:177):

"Righteousness is not ^{that} you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but (true) righteousness is the one who believe in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the Prophets".

Islam sets out a moral framework for personal behavior, including honesty, humility, patience and modesty.

In Quran (Surah-Al-Ahzab 33:21):-

"Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad), you have a good example to follow for him who hopes in Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah much".

The Prophet (P.B.U.H) said,

The best of you are those who have the best character."

4- Dignity to Mankind:-

The dignity of mankind is the central theme in Islam, emphasizing the inherent worth

and nobility of every human being. This principle is based on the understanding that all humans, regardless of race, color or social status, are created by Allah.

Islam teaches that Allah created humans as in best form and honoured them with the special status in creation.

In Quran (Surah Al-Isra 17:70):

"And we have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what we have created, with (definite) preference."

The Prophet (P.B.U.H) said that:

"There is no superiority of an Arab over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab over an Arab, nor a white person over a black person, nor a black person over a white person, except by piety and good actions".

This hadith reinforces the principle of equality in Islam & promoting respect and dignity for all people.

In Hadith (Sahih Muslim): Prophet (P.B.U.H) said:

"The best of people are those who are most beneficial to people."

This hadith reflects Islam's focus on uplifting others and preserving their dignity by promoting justice, fairness, and kindness.

5- Islam Promotes Humanity:-

Islam, as a religion of peace and compassion emphasizes the importance of love, kindness, mercy and services to all of humanity. This principle is derived from Quran and Hadith which lay the foundation for promoting the well-being of all people, regardless of their faith, race and social standing.

One of the most emphasized traits in Islam is mercy.

In Quran (Surah Al-Arabiya 21:107):-

"And we have sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds."

Prophet (P.B.U.H) was sent as a mercy to all of humanity.

The Prophet (P.B.U.H) said that:

"The merciful are shown mercy by the Merciful, Be merciful on Earth, and you will be shown mercy from above."

Islam teaches that helping those in need, whether they are poor, orphans, travelers, or anyone in distress, is a crucial part of a Muslim's duty. Prophet (P.B.U.H) said that:

"He who relieves a hardship of this world for a believer, Allah will relieve from him a hardship on the Day of Resurrection. He who makes things easy for one who is in difficulty, Allah will make things easy for him in the Hereafter."

Islam promotes justice for all people, regardless of their social or religious background.
In Quran Surah Al-Maidah (5:8):-

"O, you ^{who} have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the heat hatred of the people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness."

This verse teaches that justice must be upheld at all times even in difficult situations, to ensure fairness. In Hadith (Sunan Abu Dawood) The Prophet said:

"Beware of oppression, for oppression will turn into excessive darkness on the day of Judgement."

Hadith (Shah Muslim) The Prophet (P.B.U.H) said:

"All of you are from Adam, and Adam was created from dust. Let the people cease to boast about their ancestors"

Islam's concept of humanity extends to the protection and care for the environment and animals. Muslims are encouraged to be stewards of the earth and act responsibly towards Allah's creations.

Quran (Surah Al-Araf 7:31):

"O children, take your adornment at every Masjid, and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess."

6- Accountability and the Day of Judgement :-

Islam teaches that every human being will be held accountable for their actions in the Hereafter. This belief instills a sense of responsibility in Muslims to lead a righteous and moral life in accordance with Islamic teachings.

In Quran (Surah Al-Zalzalah 99:7-8) :-

"So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it."

This verse emphasizes the concept of accountability, where every small deed, good or bad, will be evaluated in the Hereafter.

In Hadith (Shih Bukhari) :- Prophet (P.B.U.H) said;

"Every one of you is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock."

This hadith highlights individual responsibility and accountability for one's actions in life.

7- Universal Brotherhood and Equality :-

Islam strongly promotes the concept of brotherhood and equality among all human beings. This aspect emphasizes the unity of humanity, race or social standing, encouraging people to treat each other with fairness and respect.

In Quran (Surah Al-Hujurat, 49:10) :-

"The believers are but brothers, so make peace between your brothers and fear Allah that you may receive mercy."

This verse calls for humanity unity and brotherhood among believers, urging them to settle disputes and uphold peace.

Hadith (Sahih Muslim) Prophet said;

"The believers in their mutual love, mercy and compassion are like one body; if one limb feels pain, the whole body suffers in sleeplessness and fever."

This Hadith illustrates the deep sense of unity and solidarity that Islam promotes among its followers.

8- Emphasis on Knowledge and Learning :-

Islam encourages the pursuit of knowledge and intellectual development. The Quran and Hadith consistently emphasize the importance of seeking knowledge for personal growth, spiritual enlightenment, and the benefit of society.

In Quran (Surah Al-Alaq, 96:1-5) :-

"Read in the name of your Lord who created -
created man from a clinging substance.
Read, and your Lord is the Most Generous -
who taught by the pen - taught man that which
he knew not".

The first revelation to the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) underscores the significance of learning, reading and acquiring knowledge.

In Hadith (Sunan Ibn Majah): The Prophet (P.B.U.H.)
said; "Seeking knowledge is an obligation
upon every Muslim."

This hadith reinforces the idea that every Muslim, regardless of their gender or social status is encouraged to seek knowledge.

9- Moderation (Wasatiyyah) :-

Islam promotes moderation in all aspects of life. This concept, known as "Wasatiyyah", calls for balance and avoidance of extremes, whether in religious practice, daily living, or social interactions.

In Quran (Surah - Al-Baqarah, 2:143) :-

"And thus we have made you just community that you will be witnesses over the people and Messenger will be a witness over you."

This verse calls Muslims to live balanced lives, avoiding extremism and excessiveness in any aspect.

In Hadith (Sahih Bukhari):

The Prophet (P.B.U.H) said;

Be aware of extremism in religion, for it destroyed those before you?"

This Hadith further emphasizes that extremism is harmful and contrary to the Islamic principle of moderation.

10- Family and Social Structure :-

Islam places great importance on the family as the foundation of society. It provides detailed

guidance on maintaining healthy family relationships, ensuring the welfare of children, and respecting parents.

In Quran Surah Luqman (31:14) :-

"And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him, (increasing her) in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to me and your parents; to (Me) is the (final) destination."

These verses highlight the importance of gratitude, respect and care for parents.

In Hadith (Sunan At-Tirmidhi) : The Prophet (P.B.U.H) said :

"The best of you is the one who is best to his family."

This hadith underscores the value of kindness and good treatment toward one's family as an essential part of Islamic life.

11- Protection of Rights and Justice :-

Islam provides a comprehensive framework for the protection of individual rights and the

establishment of justice. It lays out clear guidance for ensuring that every person's rights are protected, whether they are economic, social or legal.

In Quran (Surah An Nisa, 4:135):

"O you who believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it is against yourself or parents and relatives."

This verse stresses the importance of standing for justice, even when it is difficult or against one's personal interest.

In Hadith (Sahih Bukhari) The Prophet (P.B.U.H)
said that:

"Help your brother, whether he is an oppressor, or he is oppressed." A man asked, "O Messenger of Allah, I understand how to help him when he is oppressed, but how can I help him when he is an oppressor?" The Prophet replied, "By preventing him from oppressing others."

This hadith highlights the responsibility of Muslims against injustice.

12- Encouragement of charity and Generosity and Promote Peace and Reconciliation:-

Charity or Zakat, is one of the five pillars of Islam, and generosity towards others is a significant aspect of a Muslim's life. In addition to the obligatory charity (Zakat), Islam encourages voluntary charity (Sadaqah) to help those in need. In Quran (Surah-Al-Baqarah 2:261):

"For those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed of grain that sprouts seven ears; in every ear are a hundred grains and Allah multiplies (His reward) for whom He wills."

In Hadith (Sahih Muslim) the Prophet (P.B.U.H) said:

"Charity does not decrease wealth."

This reminds that by giving charity cannot decrease wealth but increases one's wealth.

Islam is often called as religion of peace, and it strongly advocate for peace, reconciliation, and forgiveness among individuals and communities.

In Quran (Surah Al-Anfal 8:61):-

"And if they incline to peace, then incline to it (also) and rely upon Allah."

This verse demonstrates Islam's encouragement for peaceful resolution of conflicts and the pursuit of reconciliation.

In Hadith (Sunan Abu Dawood): The Prophet (P.B.U.H) said:

"Do not envy one another, do not hate one another, do not turn away from one another, but be brothers, O servants of Allah."

This hadith stresses the importance of maintaining peaceful relationships among people.

From Tawheed to Justice and Knowledge to charity, family values and peace, Islam provides a balanced framework for living a righteous and fulfilling life in harmony with others and in devotion to Allah. Each feature complements the other, ensuring that Islam remains a complete guide for all aspects of human being.
