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Islam and Its Salient Features

What is Islam:

Literal Meaning:-

Islam is an Arabic word that means "resignation to God."

It is pronounced as "Salm" comes from "asalama" means the submission. It is mainly originated from "SLM"

Literally, Islam refers to peace and submission.

Contextual Meaning:-

Islam is the religion, that brings peace to mankind when man commits himself to God and submits himself to Will of God.

It mainly refers to the submission of desires to the will of God

In Quran, Allah Almighty says;

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“Those who believe and those whose ^{heart} find rest in the remembrance of Allah, indeed it is in the thought of Allah that the heart of the man really finds rest, those who believe and act rightously, joy is for them and a blissful to one to return to”
(13: 28-29)

Islam According to Shariah:-

According to Shariah, Islam means

“To enter in peace voluntarily by submitting to the will of Allah”

The word “Islam” is mentioned 10 times in Quran

“Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam”
(Al-Imran: 19)

Quran is considered as the first source of Shariah:

“There is no compulsion in choice of Islam”
(2: 256)

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So, it is cleared through the different verses of Quran that this is the religion to respect the free will of others and to be polite and not to be harsh hearted against the non-muslims.

"For you is your deen, for me is my deen".
(109: last).

Islam by Prophets:-

According to Hadees-e-Jibraeel,

"Islam is the combination of two things ; to bear witness of Allah and his messenger and then to practice the pillars of Islam".

Practicing the pillars also includes the offering of prayer which makes a clear distinction between a believer and a dis-believer.

"It's the prayer that creates difference between believers and non-believer" (Hadees).

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Islam According to Scholars:-

Imam Ghazali:-

According to him, Islam is the combination of two things;

- (i) Rights of Allah
- (ii) Rights of People

Rights of Allah:

No one has right to be worshiped except Allah. It's also called as "Shahadah"

We should ~~only~~ worship Him only, love Him, believe in His essence and should yearn to meet Him.

Right of People:

In Quran, Allah Al-mighty says that;

"One who avoids harming others with his tongue and hands, his Islam is best".

Dr. Hameed Ullah :-

According to him, Islam is a **monotheist deen** revealed upon prophet through an angel "**jibrael**" and gave him responsibility to preach to others.

Molana Saday Uddin Islahi :-

Molana says that, Islam is a combination of **faith** and **worship**.

Worship :-

Worship includes every positive act, it includes almost all aspects such as praying, fasting, charity etc.

Salient Features of Islam :-

The features that makes islam different from all other religion are as follow. These features helps islam to become a unique and different deen from other religions.

Tauheed :-

Islam is the religion that relies upon the oneness of Allah but on the other hand, in many other religions, there are gods and goddesses to be worshiped.

Tauheed is the core pillar of Islam and is very unique and important feature. Without tauheed, Islam is incomplete. In context of Quran, Allah Almighty says that

"There is no one to be worshiped and not one is equal to Allah and no one to be his relative".

Shirk is considered to be the greatest sin in Islam. Considering someone equal to Allah and considering someone equal to His Qualities.

To enter into the boundaries of Islam, we first have to believe in oneness of God without seeing him

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

To become a muslim, one should recite the kalima Tayyaba which states that all worships belong to Allah.

Prophethood :-

The concept of Muhammad as the last prophet is an important Islamic belief, signifying the completion of Allah's message to Muslims.

Muslims believe that Muhammad (PBUH) is the "Seal of the Prophets" means he is the last messenger sent by Allah

In Quran, Allah says;

"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)

In another verse of Quran, Allah says that;

"Be obedient to Allah and his prophet, they do not say anything by themselves, but say what they are ordered by Allah".

(53:3-4)

In another verse of Quran, Allah refers to Muhammad (PBUH) as a beautiful example

"Indeed, in the messengers of Allah you have an excellent example for whoever has hope in Allah and the last Day, and

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Remembers Allah often."

Islam is a complete Code of life:-

Islam is considered as a complete code of life that provides comprehensive guidance for all aspects of human existence. In Quran, Allah Almighty contextualized that;

"And I did not create the jin and mankind except to worship Me".
(51:56)

Islam promotes virtues ~~and~~ such as honesty and justice as Allah instruct that

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice".
(4:135)

Islam teaches us in every aspect of our life. It includes economic principles, health and well-being, behaviour toward environment, knowledge, education and much more.

"And eat and drink, but be not excessive"
(7:31)

Overall, Quran provides a holistic framework

for a balanced and just life, guiding individuals and communities towards moral and spiritual fulfillment.

Islam promotes Humanity:-

Islam places a strong emphasis on promoting humanity and compassion, and this is deeply rooted in the teaching of Quran.

Islam emphasizes the sanctity and value of human life.

"Whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one, it is as if he had saved mankind entirely".
(5:32)

It tells about an individual person about their responsibilities and duties toward their surroundings and families and how they should take care and spend it on them.

Along with individual duties and responsibilities, it also tells a collective life rules and other so many global aspects such as neighbours, interaction with social system and diplomacy of healthy relations etc.

Character building and charity are also the part of humanity as it is stated that;

"The perfect among the believers are the who are best in character"
(Hadees)

and in Holy Quran, Allah says that

"Muslims are those who give wealth inspite of love for it"
(02:177)

Islam is for entire mankind:-

Islam is a religion which looks for the whole mankind and talks about their rights and responsibilities in the Holy Quran. It not only talks about the muslims but also bring discussion on the rights and duties of the non-muslims.

In most of context in Quran, the topic is about mankind. (بأيها الانسان)

Allah Has sent Muhammad (PBUH) not only for Humans but also for Jinn and Animals. He preach us about how to treat the animals and how to act nobel to them. In context of Quran Allah says that,

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"# "whoever have mercy on earth,
Allah will have mercy upon them."

And in another context, Allah
Almighty also says that ;

"This is the book which we have
revealed to you, O Muhammad! that
you ~~to~~ might bring mankind out
of darkness into light by permission
of their Lord."

(14:01)