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Assignment:
Islami Studies

Topic:
Islam and its
Salient features

What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam.

Islam:-

The term Islam derives from the three-letter Arabic root, S (س) - L (ل) - M (م), which generates words with interrelated meanings, including "surrender", "submission", "commitment" and "peace". Commonly, Islam refers to monotheistic religion revealed to Muhammad ibn (son of) Abdullah between 610 and 632 of the common era.

"Islam" is an Arabic term which means to submit one's will to the will of God. Islam is a monotheistic religion that teaches that there is only one divine being, one supreme creator of the universe. It is a universal

religion that can be practiced by anyone at any time and in every place. Islam leaves no stone unturned as it teaches mankind on how to behave in every area of life: individual, social, material, moral, ethical, legal, cultural, political, economic and global.

As said in Quran

Translation:

Those who have believed and whose hearts are assured by remembrance of Allah. Unquestionably, by the remembrance of Allah hearts are assured.

(Surat-ul-Raad: 28)

One can achieve real peace of body and of mind only through submission and obedience to Allah.

Salient features of Islam:

Islam is highly distinct from other religions of the time due to some features that we are going to discuss below:

1- Tawhid:

Tawhid is a revolutionary concept and constitutes the essence of the teachings of Islam. It means that there is only One Supreme Lord of the universe. He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and the sustainer of the world of the mankind. We witness a superb, flawless, plan in the universe — can it be without a Planner? We see great enchanting beauty and harmony in its working — can they be without a Creator? We observe wonderful design in nature — can it be without a Designer? We

feel a lofty purpose in physical and human existence — can it be without a Will working behind it? Truly Allah said:

“O, Mankind: worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, so that you may ward off evil”

(Surat-ul-Baqara: 21)

This is the basic tenet to which Muhammad (peace be upon him) asked humanity to adhere

2- Prophet hood:

The second part of the Kalima, on the other hand signifies that God has not left man without any guidance for the conduct of his life. He has revealed His Guidance through His prophets and

Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the last prophet. And to believe in prophet means

to believe in his message,
to accept the law which
he gave and to follow
the conduct code which he
taught. Thus the second basic
postulate of Islam is to
believe in the prophethood of
Muhammad (peace be upon him),
to accept the religion which
he presented and to follow
his commands.

The Quran said;

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

(Surat-un-Nisa: 69)

3- A complete way of Life:

Islam is not a religion
in common, distorted meaning
of the world, confining its scope
to the private life of man.
It is a complete way
of life, catering for all

the fields of human existence.

Islam is a final message of God has been sent to the whole of universe as a final covenant for all times and for all people. Islam provides guidance for all walks of life - individual, social, moral, ethical etc.

In fact it was an unfortunate day when the scope of religion was confined to the private life of man and its social and cultural role was reduced to naught.

The Holy Quran says;

This day, I have perfected your religion for you and completed my bounty upon you and have chosen Islam as a religion for you.

(Surat-ul-Ma'eda: 3)

4- Balance between individual and 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 personally accountable to Allah.

It guarantees fundamental rights of individual and does not permit any one to temper with them. According to Quran

"And whatever suffering ye suffer, it is what your hands have brought"

(Suraat-us-Shoora : 30)

On the other hand, it also awakense a sense of social responsibility in man, organises human being in a society and enjoins the individual to subscribe to the social good.

The holy Prophet said
"The believer in God is he
who is not a danger
to the life and property
of any other."

In short, Islam neither
neglects the individual nor
society - It establishes
a balance between the two
and assigns to each its
proper due.

5- Humanism:

The message ^{of Islam} is for entire
human race. God, in Islam,
is the God of all world
(Al-Quran 1:1) and the prophet
is the messenger for
the whole of Mankind.

In Islam all men
are equal, whatever be
their colour, language, race
or nationality. Islam addresses
itself to the conscience

of humanity and banishes all false barriers of race, status and wealth. There can be no denying the fact that such barriers have always existed, and do exist even today in this so-called enlightened age. Islam removes all these impediments and proclaims the idea of the whole of humanity being one family of God.

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) said his fairwell sermon:

"All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety (taqwa) and good action."

6- Moderation:

The religion of Moses (A.S) is very strict in terms of teaching for its followers. On the contrary, Christianity adopts a very soft line. Islam is not too strict nor it is too soft and thus provided the path of moderation to its followers. Similarly, it is very moderate in nature compare to other religions while dealing with both spiritual and material life. Neither it promotes monasticism nor materialism rather it takes a complete middle line where a follower of Islam live its life according to the teaching of God while still being at the glory of spiritual life. Allah (SWT) says
"There is no compulsion in

religion (Surat-ul-Baqarah : 256)

"And those, who whom they spend, are neither extravagant nor stingy but hold a medium between these two" (Surat-ul-Furqan : 67)

7- Protection of Book:

The holy books and treatises of earlier religions either disappeared or were changed with times due to personal or political motives but are not the case with the Holy Quran which has been preserved by Almighty Allah. Allah (SWT) says, "We have sent down this message (Quran) and we shall safeguard it" (Surah-Al-Hijr: 9)

This declaration of Allah has even been verified by the modern day critics of Islam. William Muir in his

book, The Life of Muhammad says,
"We may, upon the strongest presumption, affirm that every verse is the genuine and unaltered composition of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH - Khatam-un-Nabiyeen) himself"

Though Mui's being a non-Muslim does not believe that Quran has been revealed from God but he does affirm his belief through his research work that Quran is in its original form and it has never been altered and will never be. The teaching of Islam is also in its original form. The book of God which has been in existence for the last fourteen hundred years and the word of God ~~are~~ is available in its original form.