

ISLAM & SALIENT

FEATURES

Introduction

Islam is a true religion which professes from Hazrat Adam AS to Prophet (P.B.U.H) serving as a complete code of life for all the humanity in all the times through the revelation of Quranic message for the entire Muslims till Qayamah (the day of judgement).

Different Meanings of Islam

Literal Meaning

Islam is derived from the Arabic word **SLM** (salam) means peace. It also means to **submit** and third literal meaning of Islam is to **surrender**.

Contextual When the word **surrender** comes we find no better example than of **Hazrat Ibrahim AS** who sacrificed his son as he surrendered to Allah.

When the word **submit** comes, it means we have to obey Allah by submitting our selves to Allah because he calls to success. As mentioned in Quran.

Hasten to success **سارعوا إلى الله**

Hence contextually, Islam means to surrender to Allah's will for peace.

will to and submitted to

Islam; In Accordance with Shariah

The ^{shar'iah} contextual meaning of Islam is to voluntarily submit one's desires to Allah's ^{will} commands to attain peace.

لا اكره في الدين

"There is no compulsion in the choice of religion" (2:256)

Scholarly Definitions of Islam

Imam Raghib Al-Isfahani says,

"Islam means entering into Salam, and Salam and Silam both signify peace."

Syed Ameer Ali

Syed Ameer Ali a muslim scholar mentioned

in his book The Spirit of Islam

"Salam in its primary sense means to be tranquil - In its secondary sense to whom with peace is made."

According to Hadith of Prophet P.B.U.H.

"Islam is a monotheist Deen revealed upon Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H."

(Dr. Hamid-Ullah; Introductory

Islam; As Imam Ghazali Says

According to another Hadith as quoted by Imam Ghazali:

"Islam is the combination of Rights of Allah & Rights of People"

Islam As M. Saadullah-Islami Says

According to Maulana Saadullah-Islami a famous Islamic Scholar

"Islam is a combination of *faqr* and *adab*"

In short we can say, Islam is a **Universal Deen** that guides in all the aspects of life. not limiting to a specific geography but Muslim of all the Region of the world.

Islam is for the entire mankind. In fact, the topic of Quran is **Mankind**. that is the reason many Aayahs of Quran start as

"O mankind"

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ﴾

Building Blocks of Islam

Islam is based on five building blocks.

1- Tauheed

Tauheed means to believe in oneness of God.

According to a Hadith, Prophet P.B.U.H says

"Tauheed is the first chapter of Islam" (Hadith)

② Prophethood

The second building block of Islam is Belief in Prophethood and finality of Prophethood on Muhammad (SAW)

Accountability to Allah

“Muhammad is not the father of any man of you men but messenger of Allah and last of the prophets”

(33:40)

③ Hereqta (Aakhirah)

Belief in Aakhirah (Hereqta) includes the concepts of life and Death, The day of Judgement where all the Humanity will enter in Jannah (if they had done good deeds) or will enter Hell - Jahannam if they did bad deeds. Hence, it conveys message of **Accountability** and implications of one's action in **underworld Hereqta**.

④ Belief on Books

Islam relies on the belief not only on Quran the last book Allah Almighty revealed on Hadrat Muhammad (SAW) but also on books revealed on other prophets such as Torah, Zaboor, Injeel

⑤ Belief on Angels

Belief on Angels or Malaika is also a part of **Beliefs** of Islam. These Angels were created before humans and to increase the supremacy of Humans Allah asked Angel His most worshipped creation to do Sajdah to Hadrat Adam

#15 ~~ask~~ know ~~Allah~~ is ~~creator~~ of ~~the~~ ~~universe~~

Inshah. Tawheed, Prophet hood, belief on day of judgment, angels, books and angels is all part and same as building blocks of Islam.

Salient Features of Islam

- Islam, Complete code of life

Islam is a complete code of life that guides muslims in all aspects of life. It guides from a time muslim is born when Adam is to be given in his ear to the time of his death until he is buried in the Earth.

Islam guides **Upbringing of children** for that purpose it is said that first institution for a child is his **Mother** the **Age of 7** is advised to send them to **Masjid** which is a **Social Institution**. As according to a Hadith.

Islam provides detailed guidance for **character building** & no other than Prophet P.B.U.H is the best example in that regard. Through his teachings he taught us so many lessons as **Being Truthful, Not lying, Not being Jealous, Not being Proud**. During his stay in Makkah two Non muslims used to say **Him Sadiq and Amin**.

Islam gave us teachings about the **livelihood** that it should be earned by honest means. It must be **Halal**.

"And we have certainly established you on Earth and made for you therein ways of livelihood. **Little are you grateful**" (7:10)

لقد كان لكل من رسول الله أشوة الحسنة

It not only gives teachings for individual life but also gave teachings for social life. Proper RB 4-10 proved to be best in these in all aspects of life and a source of lights in all walks of life.

Be it political, military, as well as social, Islamic teachings are the best.

Islam gave us teachings about Family life also. Prophet was the best: father, as a husband, as a son, as a father in law, as a son in law, as a neighbour and most importantly as a Husband. In a Hadith it is narrated:

"The best among you is who is best to his women."

2- Islam; Dignity to Mankind

Before the advent of Islam, Arabs treated people with respect in terms of money. Only the Qail belonging from elite class was given respect. In Europe, a very modernised region also a commoner was treated as an animal that could be sold and purchased. Islam gave dignity to the mankind by creating him as His Caliph. He not only created him as Caliph but also did Man's Advocacy as in

Surah Baqarah

165 You Lord said to the Angelic Beings.

I am placing a caliph on the Planet Earth. They said will you place therein who will commit evil, shed blood while we praise you, glorify you, consider you Absolute Authority. He said, "You don't know what I know."

(2:30)

To ensure the supremacy of man He asked him to do sajdah towards Adam AS

لقد خلقنا الانسان في احسن تقويم

"We have certainly created man in the best of stature."

3 Islam promoting Humanity

People talk about Humanity in the 21st Century but it was instilled by our Religion Islam 1400 years ago. In Surah Hijrat & Human Allah has Revealed Ayah (Verses) related to humanity. Islam gave the teachings of a good virtue and good character. Prophet P.B.U.H is a guiding light as it is stated in Helika also:

The best among you is the one who is best in character

Islam gives the lesson of ~~is aqwa~~ ~~which is~~ Charity - Islam has Emphasised on charity even to create it a Pillar of Islam. Zakat is the financial ibadat that is applied on every Muslim who has certain amount of Gold & Silver.

On the incident of Hijrat-ul-wida Prophet P gave special message about Slaves and women. P. P.B.U.H. Said,

All mankind is from Adam and Eve. "An Arab has no superiority over a Non-Arab and a black has a superiority over an Arab. Also a white has no superiority over a black nor a black has superiority over white except by good action."

Along with promoting Humanity, Islam also emphasizes on rights of Animals and protection of Environment. Acceptance of a Health Prophet (P.B.U.H) members

"Don't hurt trees even in case of war"

And **(Hadees)**
"Planting a green tree is the best charity"
(Hadees)

Prophet P.B.U.H said

"No muslim plants a tree or sows a seed and then a bird or a human or an animal eats from it - but that is charity for him"

(Hadees)

4. Reveal of Quran - Last Divine Book

Quran was revealed by Allah on Prophet P.B.U.H at the age of 40. which is latest and last divine guide. Quran is as relevant as was 1400 years ago and will remain so till hereafter. It is the most preserved book and Allah has taken the responsibility of its protection in His own hands.

انا نحن نقر بالنا الذكر وانا له لحفظون

(Al-Hijr 9)

It is certainly we who have revealed the reminder and it is certainly we who will preserve it.

5. Universality

Allah is the creator of entire universe and He made - Prophets P.B.U.H the Mercy for Mankind.
(Rehmat-ur-Rahman) which He revealed
Islam which is a religion for all
Muslims irrespective of place & time.

“Who killed a person it shall be
as if he killed all the Mankind”

(5:33)

6. Advocates All prophets and their teachings

Before Islam different books were revealed on
different Prophets as Torah on Prophet Musa (AS)
Injeel on Prophet Dawud & Injil on Prophet
Isa and Quran on Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H. Islam
does not deny any of the cause of their teachings.

7. No Amendments or Changes.

Different Books revealed on different Prophets
were Annulled after some time when they were
translated or their language outdated but not of
Quran.

8. Simplicity and Purity - Islam

Islam is a mythless religion. Its teaching
simple, free from superstitions and irrational beliefs. It
of God, Prophet hood, Belief on Books, Angels and
are basic Principles of Islam.

There is no hierarchy, priests or complicated rituals and rituals. Everyone can approach Quran and study easily as in Quran Allah says:

وقل بي زنت علي

O my Lord, Increase me in knowledge (20:114)

(20:114)

9. Unity of Matter & Spirit: 114

Islam does not promote extremism.

The concept of equal importance to materialism and spirituality is introduced.

ربنا اتقنا في الدنيا حسنة وفي الآخرة حسنة
وقتنا عذاب النار

O Lord grant us success in this world and the good in the world hereafter.

Islam also says:

“Eat and Drink but do not exceed”

ما آتاكم من الخبز والحب (7:31)

Islam stands for Life - Fulfilment not Life Denial

10. Encourages Rational Thinking and Knowledge.

Islam brings us to knowledge. Other Religions have confrontations with Islam but Islam promotes Islam itself to hide about the universe and Allah's Blessings.

فِي سَائِرِ الدِّينِ كَمَا تَكُونُ فِي

So which of the favours of you could would you deny

11. Promotes Tolerance

Islam promotes tolerance. It means Islam promotes acceptance People of all Race and kind hence promoting peace. They have the right to live in accordance to their religion & lifestyle.

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ

For you its your Religion and for us its our Religion

All people are free to live according to Islam.

12. Deen of Peace

Islam is a deen of peace even its root word SLM means peace. Islam contextually means to submit to will of Allah and enter peace. Hence we can say it's a religion of peace.

وَاِنَّا اَرْسَلْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا
لِقَوْمٍ اَلْمُرْسَلِيْنَ

"We have sent you O prophet as a mercy for the mankind."

Prophet P.B.U.H is a mercy not only for Muslims but for non Muslims also.

13. Promotes Equality

All Human beings are equal in Islam. No Human is superior to the other on the basis of race or color. Their differing factor is good virtue and piety.

14. Comprehensive & complete

Teachings of Islam are comprehensive and complete as mentioned in the Holy Quran.

As Quran and Sunnah being joint guidance for Muslims of all world.

15. Clear Instruction

Islam gives clear concept without any grey area of what is right & what is wrong.

What is fair & unfair What's Heav and Haven
even to eat, our livelihood or life a life.

Conclusion

To conclude we can say Islam is
Universal and complete code of life with its
Teachings available upon Prophet P. Muhammad Owen.