

Aug 24, 2024

"Islamiat"

Assignment no. ①

Q. What is Islam? Elaborate its salient features.

Ans - The word Islam stems from its arabic root which means submission, surrender and obedience. Islam was initially called as 'Din-e-Hanif' which means submission to the 'will of God'.

Islam was revealed to the prophet (PBUH) in 610 A.D. as a complete code of life for the guidance of mankind. Islam was sent down to guide mankind in each and every step of life. From basic human rights to character building, education, upbringing of children, livelihood, halal & haram, marriage, inheritance, social system, justice system as well as political system, so Islam guides in every aspect.

"Islam is like a fort & the gateway to fort is Tauheed"

"Salient features of Islam" (Sirat-un-Nabi)

The salient features of Islam include Tauheed, Risalat, code of life, dignity to mankind, humanity, Day of Judgement, unity, truthfulness, equality & justice and, angels & revealed books.

1. Tauheed:

Tauheed is the core pillar of Islam. It is the first part of the 'Kalimah'. The meaning of Tauheed is to believe in the "Oneness of Allah", his being and in his attributes. It means that Allah is the Supreme Being, the Creator, Sustainer and the Master of the entire universe. Tauheed is the belief that Allah is all-knowing, the Highest Authority and exclusively worthy of worship. It means that he has no beginning & no end. He

is the first & the last. He has no parents or son. Similarly, he has no partners in his attributes, power and dominion. The Holy Quran in this regard says:

"No son has He & begotten, nor has He a partner in His dominion..." (25: 2)

② Risalat (Prophethood)

Risalat is to believe in the finality of prophethood. It is an Arabic word which means message. Risalat means that Allah Almighty sent down prophet (PBUH) as the last messenger (Seal of prophets) for the guidance of mankind & no prophet will come after him. He was sent to teach humanity the 'way of life'. He is a source of law & a source of Shari'ah.

The Holy Quran says:

"Nor does he speak from (his own) inclination. It is not but a revelation revealed..." (53: 3-4).

③ Islam as a complete code of life

Islam was revealed as a complete code of life for the guidance of mankind. Islam provides guidance for all aspects of life - livelihood, human rights, education, marriage, inheritance, social system, political system, justice system & much more.

(i) Earning livelihood as per Islam:

In Islam, the concept of livelihood holds great significance as it is considered a provision from God

and a means through which individuals sustain themselves in this world. The principles of livelihood in Islam are ethical & moral nature. Following are the key principles.

* Halal & Haram:-

Islam categorizes sources of income into halal (lawful) and haram (unlawful). Muslims are encouraged to earn their livelihood from halal sources such as fair trade & avoid haram sources such as earning from interest, via fraud or dealing in alcohol & pork & its by products.

* Justice & fair trade:-

Muslims are encouraged to engage in fair trade & be just in financial transactions. This includes paying employees on time, ensuring products are delivered & refraining from unfair manipulation of prices.

* Honesty & Integrity:-

Islam emphasizes the importance of honesty & integrity in all business & financial dealings, and to avoid engaging in deceitful practices, cheating customers & false advertising.

ii) Human rights:

Islam lays down rights of man as a human being. The first & foremost basic right is the right to live & respect human life. In this regard, the Holy Quran says:

"Whoever kills a human being without (any reason like) man slaughter, or corruption or evil, it is as though he had killed all mankind."

[5:32]

Similarly, the right to safety of life is given equal importance. As mentioned in the Quran,

"And whoever saves a life it is as though he had saved the lives of all mankind" (5:32).

The right to freedom, right to a basic standard of life, and respect for the chastity are among other important human rights given & established in Islam.

(iii) Right to education:

The prophet (ﷺ) deemed education as a necessity for both men & women irrespective of their colour & creed.

Regarding education, the prophet (ﷺ) said:

"It is a necessity for every muslim to seek knowledge" (Al Tirmidhi, 74)

(iv) Marriage:

Islam has also granted equal rights to men & women in choosing their spouses.

(v) Inheritance:

In Islam, inheritance is considered as an integral part of Shariah law. Islam gives right to both men & women to get inheritance.

(vi) Social System:

The social system in Islam is based on brotherly ties between muslims. It's a system in which all members abide by its rules, moral standards, equality, mercy, trust and, performs religious duties while abstaining from indulging in unlawful practices. Such as drinking alcohol, deception, bribery, violating rights etc.

(vii) Political system:-

A political system in Islam is based on principles of Holy Quran & True Hadis. It should manage public services such as building schools, hospitals, mosques, roads, providing clean water, security, employment & trade opportunities etc. Moreover, it should also establish court of law, give equality & freedom to its residents and work for the economic welfare of the people.

(viii) Justice system:- (Judicial system)

Islam aims to establish justice, security & stability in society. For this purpose, a proper & transparent judicial system has been given to follow. This system is structured to ensure the establishment of justice among people, stop oppression & crime & to the punish criminals.

(4) Islam promotes humanity:

Islam has always emphasized working for the betterment of humanity. It talks about charity & helping people in need. It even talks about animal rights & environment protection. Regarding trees, the prophet (PBUH) stated that planting green trees was the best of charity. He even directed his people to refrain from cutting trees during wars.

(5) Dignity to mankind:

This concept has been deemed as the right of every person regardless of who they are. Islam rejects all kinds of discrimination based on religion, caste, creed, race or colour and ^{treats} gives every human equally. For example, Every man (rich or poor) stands side by side in the mosque while praying. (which shows equality)

6) Day of judgement & life after death:

Believing in the day of judgement & life after death (bodily resurrection), Heaven & Hell is another salient feature of Islam. Therefore, mankind is told to prepare for the day in their lifetime. On the day of judgement, everyone will be brought back to life & will stand accountable for their worldly deeds in front of Allah Almighty.

Islam lays great stress on accountability to Allah & states that the human being's life in this world is a trial, an examination period, during which he/she should prepare, either for reward or punishment, for the next life which will be everlasting.

7) To believe in the existence of angels:

Believing in the existence of angels as messengers of divine revelation to prophets is fundamental in Islam.

Muslims should believe that angels are sent down to perform various functions & duties. From recording ^{man's} ~~man's~~ everyday deeds to being the guardians of Heavens & Hell-fire.

8) Believing in the existence of 'revealed books'

Muslims should believe that Allah Almighty sent down guidance in the form of holy books for the mankind.

Revelations were sent to each & every prophet in the form of book or the other. Therefore, muslim should resort to Holy Quran (the final & the complete)

book sent for the guidance of mankind as it contains instruction & guidance to mankind toward a right path.