

8/12/2024  
Topic:- Islamiat Revision

Q What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam.

### Outline

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- ii. Literal meaning
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- iv. ~~It is a~~ Din or Religion
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### Introduction

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) encountered Angel Gabriel in the Cave of Hira in Medina Saudi Arabia. The prophet was aged forty. The angel asked the Prophet to "Recite" to which the ~~angel~~ ~~the~~ ~~more~~ the Prophet replied "I cannot read!" The angel believed "Recite" in the

name of thy Lord! He who made men from a clinging clot of blood! He who taught men the use of a pen! The following verses are from Surah Alaq and the above encounter is considered by many to be the origin of Islam. Muslims trace the origin of Islam further back

to advent of Adam into the universe as an existent being. Initially called Din-e-Hanifa, a monotheistic religion, it was observed and practiced by Abraham and his descendants.

According to the articles of faith, a practicing Muslim must believe in the oneness of Allah.

ii) in the existence of angels

iii) in all the prophets and their scriptures

iv) in the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the seal of all prophets

~~A practicing Muslim~~ v) Belief in the day of Judgement

The following are ~~the~~ the pillars of Islam and are obligatory towards all practicing Muslims

i) Declaring oneness of God & Hazrat Muhammad to be his messenger

ii) Namaz

iii) Zakat (giving of alms to the poor)

iv) Roza (fasting in the month of Ramadan)

v) Hajj (performing pilgrimage in the month of Zil-Hajj)

The aforementioned pillars and articles of faith are not enough to understand what Islam is holistically. In order to explain what Islam is, we must first look for its literal definition, then understand what it means contextually. Once we have established its meaning contextually, we will understand its meaning through the Quran & Sunnah. Then we must understand whether it is a din or a religion. After a brief discourse on its salient features we will have an understanding of what Islam is.

## ii) Literal Meaning

Islam is an Arabic word and is spelled as "s-l-m". The "s-l-m" or the "S, L, M" in the spelling mean peace.

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Further exploring its literal meaning we realize that its literal meaning is

i) peace

ii) Surrender

iii) Submission.

iii) Contextual meaning & meaning according to Quran

The contextual meaning of Islam can be described by putting together the literal meanings like pieces of the puzzle while using the key idea of Islam to link together the puzzle pieces. As it was discussed in the introduction, that Islam was initially called Din-E-Hawfa, i.e. the monotheistic Din. Belief in Allah as the one and only God is the back bone of Muslim belief.

We have the three main terms used in its literal definition, them being i) peace ii) surrender and iii) submission and we know that the Muslims believe in the one word of Allah. We can now piece together all the information to form a contextual definition of Islam. The contextual meaning of Islam is to submit one's own desires to the will of Allah and to enter in peace while submitting to the will of Allah. The will of Allah always establishes peace.

Now having established what the literal and contextual meaning of Islam, we will now look upon the meaning of Islam in



To conclude the discourse on the meaning of Islam in the light of Shar'iah I would quote Dr. Hamidullah <sup>RA</sup> "Islam is monotheistic deen, revealed to the holy prophet Muhammad (PBUH)." <sup>RA</sup>

### iv) Din or Religion

Having discussed the definitions of Islam contextually, literally and in the light of Quran and Quran we now will determine whether it is a Din or a religion.

In order to answer this we must first define both Din and Religion individually ~~through~~ and determine what is the contextual, literal and Quranic meaning of the two.

### iv a) Religion

Let us first start by defining what religion is. According to Edward Taylor, religion is to "believe in spiritualism". Emile Durkheim a renowned sociologist claims that "to practice certain faiths related to religion" is the key meaning of religious beliefs. According to Iqbal Ahmed, Religion consists of faith and social functions, religion deals with individual and his belief in God.

### iv b) Din

Din on the other hand is a complete way of life. It deals with the whole of the community and how the entire community behaves as one single unit. The Prophet (PBUH) once said ~~that~~ "The

entire Muslim ummah is like one body if one part is ~~inflicted~~ unwell, the entire body suffers the insomnia and the fear." While, according to Dr. Israr Ahmed, Islam consists of i) faith, ii) social function, and iii) social, political, financial system and justice. Keeping the definitions in mind, Islam is a religion that deals with and individuals' relations with God, i.e. Haqq Allah while Deen deals with an individual's relation with Allah, Haqq Allah & man's relation with mankind, Haqq Allah. While Islam is considered a Deen, its five main sects:

- i) Fiqh Hanafiya
- ii) Fiqh Jafruzi
- iii) Fiqh Shafi
- iv) Fiqh Hanbali
- v) Fiqh Hanbali

are considered religion.

#### v) The Salient Features of Islam

Islam is believed to be a universal Deen because it guides its believers in every aspect of life, its not for a limited time, it's not for a limited Geography neither is it for a specific ethnicity.

We will now discuss the salient features of Islam which further explain the aforementioned paragraphs and prove why Islam is the universal religion.

## A) Aqeedah Tauheed

"Say O Prophet, "He is Allah, one and indivisible. Allah the sustainer needed by all. He never had an offspring, nor was he born and there is none comparable to him" Surah Ikhlas (112)

The above mentioned surah perfectly summarizes all of Tauheed. Aqeedah Tauheed is the first pillar of Islam and is also the first and most important article of faith. A muslim must believe in the oneness and unity of Allah.

"I hereby declare that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad (PBUH) is his last messenger" is the first Kalimah that every muslim recites

According to Allama Shibli Noumani, in his *Seerat al Nabi* #

i- "Tauheed is the first chapter of Islamic Syllabus"

ii- "Islam is like a fort and the gate of fort is Tauheed"

Thus it can be concluded that Aqeedah Tauheed is the heart and soul of Islam.

## B) Aqeedah Kifayah

"Nor does he speak his own whims. It is only revelation sent down to him" Surah An-Najm (53: 3-4)

The following verse clearly states that whatever the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said or claimed was through divine guidance of Allah. The voice expresses

upon the relationship of Allah with the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Since the prophet only speaks the word of God, it is ~~only because~~ because of this that he is held in high regard in the religion of Islam.

"This day I have perfected for you your religion and fulfilled My favor unto you!" and it had been my pleasure to choose Islam for you as your religion" (05:03). The following verse was revealed to the prophet on the occasion of the last revelation and shows the closeness of the prophet with Allah. A person so close to God will serve as a perfect role model for all of humanity.

### c) Complete code of life

#### c)i) Individual life

instructs people on Halal and Haram in their day to day life. In Surah Maidah, a muslim is instructed to not consume animals ~~for~~ which are carrion and swine. Islam instructs people on how to maintain a clean and hygienic life. Performing of ablution five times a day physically cleanses the believer. Further it tells men on how to clean impurities as Najasat, Gheliza etc.

#### c)ii) Collective life

Taxations in the form Zakat and Jizya exist in order to feed the poor, protect the righteous and run the state. Harkat Muhammad

dealings with neighbouring states and tribes  
are lessons for us as how to run and properly  
govern a state.

## d) Humanitarianism

"All mankind is from Adam & Eve, an Arab  
has no superiority over a non-Arab nor does a  
non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab. No  
white has any superiority over a black neither  
does any black have any superiority over any other  
this was said by the prophet in his last  
sermon and this proves that Islam preaches  
equality. Considering a fellow human  
being inferior is a grave and a punishable  
sin. All men are to be treated equally.

"Anyone with arrogance, the size of a mustard seed in  
~~his~~ his heart will not enter heaven." As  
is said by Allah that arrogance is punished  
by hellfire and restricts mankind's access  
to heaven.

## vi. Conclusion

The Sufi's spoke of *Ilm-e-Sina* & *Ilm-e-Safina*. The world boldly state that *Ilm-e-Safina*, (the study of Quran solely for the sake of ~~blatantly~~ studying) the *Ilm-e-Sina* / understanding the divine revelations bestowed upon the prophet (God and it was their duty to seek

What that was though, for the time being, we are  
not concerned with the Sufi doctrine. An attempt  
to understand Islam by blindly reading  
influences will lead us nowhere but only  
must fully commit to understanding and  
interpreting the text to fully understand God's  
will.

In conclusion, Islam is a universal Din and  
is meant for the entire human race. \* ~~It~~  
Historically, the human race will progress  
if of submission to Allah and verily peace will  
be established in this world.