

Islam and its characteristics.

Islam:

Concept of 'Islam' is derived from the Arabic word 'slm' which means to surrender, submit or yield. It means to resign one's self to the will of God. Islam means 'peace' which is mentioned in Sayeed Ameer Ali's book 'The Spirit of Islam'.

Islam is a monotheistic faith centered on the Quran and teachings of Muhammad PBUH.

Basic characteristics of Islam:

1. Tawhid:

Tawhid is a core pillar of Islam. It is a monotheistic concept of faith which means to believe that there is only one God worthy of worship and no one

else. Tawhid is the essence of Islam; it means all acts of worship a person does are to Allah and only for Allah.

Allah says in Quran:

"And We did not send any messenger before you (O Muhammad) but we inspired him (saying): "There is none who has the right to be worshiped but I (Allah) so worship me (Alone and no one else)." (al-Quran 21:25)

Tawhid teaches us that Allah is Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Omniscient and the sustainer of the world and mankind.

2. Prophethood:

Prophethood is a fundamental article of faith in Islam. Allah has relieved his guidance through prophets and Muhammad PBUH as his last prophet. To believe in a prophet means to believe in his message, to accept the law he gave to follow the Code of Conduct which he taught.

The guidance of Allah is revealed through prophets, it is a part of their mission to translate God's divine guidance in their own lives and in the society they try to reform.

"Every prophet who was sent by us was sent with a purpose that he should be obeyed under the sanctions of Allah." (al-Quran 4:69)

3. A complete way of life:

Islam is a complete way of life catering all fields of human existence. Islam provides guidance of all walks of life - Individual, Social, Economic, material, Political, and legal, cultural, and national as well as International.

4. Hereafter:

The world, according to Islam is a place of trial and mankind is being judged in it. Every man is responsible for their deeds and misdeeds.

Allah says in Quran:

'Those who live a life of obedience in this world to Allah and follow code of conduct will enjoy eternal bliss in the hereafter, those who disobey his commands will face bitter fruits of their disobedience.'
(al-Quran 14:13-14)

5. Islam promotes humanity:

Islam promotes humanity through various teachings that emphasize its dignity, purpose and responsibility. All humans in Islam are seen as through the lens of equality regardless of their race, ethnicity, and social status.

6. Simplicity:

Islam is a religion without any mythology. Its teachings are simple and intelligible. There is no hierarchy of priests and no complicated rites and rituals. Everybody may approach the Book of God directly and translate its dictates.

into practice.

4. Balance between Individual and Society:

Islam bridges individualism and collectivism. It respects individual rights, development, and accountability to God. Yet, it fosters rights and social responsibility through communal practices like charity (Zakat), prayer and even defense. This unique balance ensures both individual flourishing and societal well-being.

8. Universality and Humanism:

Islam embraces all humanity. Its message transcends borders, addressing everyone directly as God's creation. All individuals are considered equal, dismantling barriers of race, status and wealth. It promotes universal brotherhood and respect, fostering a global community united under the divine.

9. Rationalism:

Islam enjoins a man to see things only in the light of reality. It teaches man to use his ~~in~~ intellect and observe as well as understand real meaning of the

presence of the things around him.

10. Practical:

Islam is not based on empty or futile theories. Infact it intensely educates in attaining a practical approach towards one's existence both as an individual and social being. Islam leads a human towards concourness of moral responsibility by his adaption of practicality in life.

11. Unity between Matters and Spirit:

One of the unique characteristics of Islam is that it does not divide life in water tight compartments of matter and spirit. Instead of neglecting and rejecting the world to become holy, it encourages to find spiritual growth by living a kind and ethical life, right here, right now.

12. Al-wudhub: Clarity:

Another characteristic of Islam is Al-wudhub which means clarity.

It means everything in Islam does not contain any slightest doubt or confusion. The source is valid because it comes from the Quran and Hadith, so that mankind is not confused in understanding and practicing Islamic readings.

13. Justice (AL-'ADALAH):

Islam revealed aims to uphold justice absolutely and realise brotherhood and equality in the midst of Human life, as well as maintaining the blood, honor, wealth, in addition to protecting their religion and morals.

Allah says:

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witness in justice, and do not let hatred of people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is near to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed he is acquainted with what you do." (al-Quran 5:8)

14. Original and Eternal :

Islam will never be successfully changed and falsified by anyone and will never be manipulated in any way, it will remain original and eternal.

Allah SWT guarantees the originality of the Quran to be preserved until the end. (al-Quran 2: 23-24)

15. Flexible :

Islam with global principles and rules is generally able to meet the needs of the dynamics of the times and cultural dimensions, especially in aspects of law, economic system and international relations.

Allah says:

"..... Be just; that is nearer to righteousness...."
(al-Quran 5:8)

The principle of justice stated above is a constant general rule that must be upheld in every dimension and time.