

Date: 6-2-24

Assignment

What is Islam and what are the salient features of Islam?

Ans. Islam:

The word Islam is derived from an Arabic word "SLM" which means "Peace". In its actual essence Islam means "Submitting one's will to God". Further elaborating the definition of Islam it means that one should suppress his desires before God. Islam is a monotheistic religion which believes in one God, one being or one deity. As a monotheistic religion it is also called an Abrahamic religion or religion of God. The religion Islam was revealed on the land of Arabs to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and spread to the remaining world.

Concept of God in Islam:

Islam as a divine religion has a unique concept of God. It has defined God in a very clear form and simple words. The God of the universe is "Allah". Muslims call God as Allah and consider him their deity. In the holy book of Muslims "Quran" Allah is defined to the mankind and attributed with some beautiful names which means as, The Merciful, The All-Knowing, The Gracious, The Giver and The Lord etc. Allah has been attributed 99 names as his qualities of his lordship. He is the only one to be worshipped and none is equal to him. Allah has not partners he alone is the all-mighty and Saviour of the world and the universe. All the creation belongs to him.

Salient Features of Islam:

Every religion of its time has features and qualities. But Islam is the only religion which contains all those features which is the need of the time and its people. Some of them are as followed:

1) Islam a universal religion:

By the word universal it means that all those religions which were revealed from God were for the specific time, for specific people and specific area but this is not the case with Islam.

Islam is revealed for the entire human kind and the entire world. As a final religion Islam has to be followed by everyone and every time. It is a guidance for every person and to be followed.

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2) A Complete religion:

It is one of the magnificent features of Islam that it is a religion without lackings. The finality of Islam means that it is in its full form and structure. All religions before Islam were considered to be in incomplete form, but as Islam revealed and finalized Allah revealed to his prophet in Quran, "Today I perfected your religion for you and have completed my bounty upon you and have chosen Islam the religion for you" (Surah-Maidah). Therefore the verse of holy Quran cleaves the message that Islam is a complete religion for all human kind.

3) Islam is a Complete Code of Life:

By the word complete code of life means,

That the religion of Islam addresses every problem of life and has solution towards it. Islam teaches us and guides us in all aspects of life. Since the life of prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) to the modern life and world Islam guides us in all our affairs and problems thus its called a complete code of life.

4) Religion of Moderation:

Islam is neither too tough and strict nor too soft and smooth but it is a moderate religion. In the teachings of Islam it guides us about moderation and to remain moderate in every stage of life. It further meant as of an example from daily life that whoever remains moderate in his affairs meet less problems and most of the problems are solved. Hence Islam has logically defined moderation

as a solution to problems by remaining moderate.

5) Pluralism in Islam:

As a religion of moderation, Islam in its sense is a wider and broader religion. As a religion of peace it teaches us how to remain and exist with other races and ethnicity. Islam teaches us to respect every race and ethnicity and live under one flag of Islam. As its magnificent feature of pluralism it gives us the message of pluralism which means to remain united and don't be dismembered.

In the holy book of Quran Allah says, "O, humankind, we have created you from male and female and made you into tribes and races to know each other. And the noble of you in sight of Allah is

The one who is Pious. And he is all knower and All aware." (Surah-Al-Imran). The message of the holy book of Allah clearly says that pride on the basis of races is a hateful deed in sight of Allah and the holy book Quran teaches us unity. The same message is given by holy prophet (Pbuh) that, "Neither an arab is superior to non arab nor an non arab is superior to an arab." These clear message of Islam discourages the concept of racism and guides us to the unity of Ummah.

6) No Compulsion in Religion:

One of the beauty of Islam is that it attracts human kind by its logical and evident nature of logic. Islam prohibits and does not allow force conversion to its circle.

A non believer is a believer till the time when he from his heart and intentionally accepts Islam. Islam forbids every muslim over applying its commandment forcefully over other muslim or a non believer. As a religion of peace it teaches peace and love and generosity to other human beings.

7) The Concept of equality and equity in Islam:

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Guides us to equality among human kinds. But it is the feature of Islam that along with equality it shows us equity. As Islam discourages racism and nationhood. Similarly, when the matter comes to non-muslim citizens Islam has given them complete right to practice their life according to their religion and rituals.

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While in an Islamic State or Caliphate they are allowed to worship freely in their worship places. Islam ensures the rights of minorities and their safeguard. The State must treat them equally and according to the teachings of Islam.

8). Religion of toleration:

Besides the equality and equity to all human kinds, Islam teaches us living among different communities, races and religions. This is the beauty of Islam that it teaches us toleration and respect towards different communities and religions that exists. As a religion of peace and love Islam tells us how to tolerate each other and behave towards other human beings. Islam prioritizes morality which contains all these qualities.

9) The Economic Perspective of Islam:

As a religion of moderation Islam teaches us the economic life of a human being. The economic system of Islam is neither Capitalistic nor Communistic but in economic affairs Islam focuses on equity of every human being. Regarding this issue Islam says the person who deserves the right must be given according to his right. Every person must be given his due right under this system. Islam has provided us a greater strategy of economic balance which is by trading. It is the only way preferred by Islamic teachings for a better economic system.

10) Justice System of Islam:

A complete code of life and a perfect religion Islam provided

an exemplary way of Justice. Islam does not Judge a person on the basis of Caste or Creed but on his own deeds and Conduct. Islam has a unique Justice System within its teachings and guides us to Judge Fairly among people. In the holy book Allah says, "It is he who has sent down the truth, the Quran. A guide to the mankind to Judge between right and wrong. (Surah-Al-Imran). On the matters of Justice Islam has cleared each and every Problem to its Conclusion and has even described the method of Solution to every Problem. Islam tells us that always be on the side of truth and not in the Favour of Falschood. The Prophet of Allah (PBUH) and his righteous Caliphs of Islam were a perfect role models as the way they established the Justice System during their Caliphate.