

Q: What is Islam? Write down the concept of Islam. What is the difference between Din and Religion? Describe the importance of Deen in human life with arguments.

Introduction :-

Islam :-

Islam is derived from Arabic word SLM which means to submit one's will to the will of Allah.

Islam is a monotheistic religion that teaches that there is only one living being, one Supreme Creator of the Universe. Muslims believe that Islam is the true religion of Allah revealed to humanity.

It is a universal religion that can be practiced by anyone at any time and in every place. The central concept of this way of life is total submission to Allah :-

"Islam is a complete, holistic way of living that covers every aspect of life" (Individual, social, material, moral, ethical, legal, cultural, political, economic and global).

Islam is practiced as a complete and natural way of life, designed to bring Allah into the center of one's consciousness.

Essence of Islam:

According to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) mentioned in a narrative, the best summary of the core of Islam as follows:

"Submission means that you should bear witness that there is no Allah but Allah and that Muhammad is Allah's messenger, that you should perform the ritual prayers, pay the alms tax, fast during Ramadan and make the pilgrimage to the House if you are able to go there."

Concept of Islam:

Islam is monotheistic religion that emerged in the 7th CE in Arabian Peninsula. Its foundation text in the Quran, believed by Muslims to be the literal word of God (Allah) as revealed to

The Prophet Muhammad through the angle of Israel

The Quran serves as the primary source of guidance for muslim in matters of faith.

- (1) Faith
- (2) Practice
- (3) Morality

Relations with spouse and family, parents, friends and other people both Muslim and Non-Muslim

conduct and manner even the tone of speech

Quran - An Ultimate Guide

Commercial transactions, lending and borrowing

Treatment of the poor and the destitute, orphans, widows and slaves

"Do not walk on the earth in haughty style. You can neither tear the earth apart nor can you match the mountain in height" (Quran)

Five Pillars of Islam:

The religion of Islam stands on

Five Pillars

1. Tawheed
2. Prayer
3. Zakat
4. Fasting
5. Hajj

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said;

Islam has been built on five pillars:
 testifying that there is no deity
 worthy of worship except Allah and
 that Muhammad is the Messenger of
 Allah, establishing the Salah, paying
 the Zakat, making the Hajj to the
 House and fasting in Ramadan.

"Prophet Muhammad"

1. Belief in one God and the Testimony of Faith: (Tawheed)

Tawheed is the first and most important Pillar of The five Pillars of Islam.

Believing and acting on this pillar is the key to entering Islam. In order to become a Muslim and enter into the fold of Islam a person must pronounce the testimony of faith as shahada in Arabic.

The testimony of faith is a single statement.

"There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger."

The testimony of faith is the most important thing in the life of a Muslim. The words "La illaha illa Allah" are announced during the call to prayer in sermons.

Every single creation was created for this phrase.

Allah alone is the Creator, Ruler and Sustainer of all things, and He alone is deserving of our worship.

2 Prayer (Salah) :-

The prayer is the 2nd most important pillar in Islam and it is the first thing that a person, will be held accountable for on the Day of Judgment

- The prayer is link between a person and Allah

"Guard strictly your habit of prayers, especially the middle prayer, and stand before Allah in a devout (frame of mind)"

(Surah-Al-Baqara)

- It is an intimate relationship a person has with his Creator and it should be performed to be the best of one's ability.

One of the many things that Islam is known for is the brotherhood and sisterhood between Muslims.

"It is the only Prayer that creates difference between Believers and Non-Believers"

(Al-Quran)

3. Zakat:

- Zakat is the third pillar of Islam
- It is specified portion of a Muslim's wealth that is given to those in need.
- It is amount given once a year to support specific categories of people
- The amount is about 2.5% of total wealth which includes the following assets

- (i) Gold and silver
- (ii) Precious metal
- (iii) Stocks and shares
- (iv) Real States/estate
- (v) Cash
- (vi) Agricultural Livestock.

The linguistic meaning of zakat is that which "purifies"

- It is considered to be a way for Muslim to purify their wealth and income.

- Zakat purifies your assets and earns you the pleasure of Allah because your wealth is distributed to those in need.
 - Zakat is only obligatory for Muslims who have reached puberty, are mentally stable and financially capable.
4. Fasting in month of Ramadan

- (i) Fasting in month of Ramadan is the fourth pillar of Islam.
- (ii) It refers to the practice of abstaining from eating food, drinking liquids and having intercourse from the break of dawn until sunset.

“O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may (learn) self-restraint.”

(Surah Al-Baqara)

This involves avoiding that which Allah has forbidden, practicing patience throughout the day, bringing our desires under control, competing in generosity through charity.

M T W T F S

and demonstrating cooperation and mutual compassion

5. Hajj - (The Pilgrimage)

(a) The Fifth and final pillar of Islam is to perform the Hajj, the Pilgrimage to Makkah.

(b) Every year millions of Muslims make their way to the Kaba, the Sacred House of Allah in Makkah to perform the Pilgrimage.

(c) It is most one of significant forms of worship in Islam and it demonstrates unity among the Muslims.

(d) The reward for performing Hajj is great.

He who performs Hajj seeking Allah's pleasure and avoids all lewdness and sins (therein) will return after Hajj from all sins, just as he was on the day his mother gave birth to him.
Prophet Muhammed (PBUH)

Difference between Deen and Religion :-

Deen

- (i) Deen in Islam is often understood to encompass a comprehensive way of life.
- (ii) It goes beyond mere rituals and encompasses one entire existence, including beliefs, practice and morality.
- (iii) Deen in Islam is a holistic concept that covers both the individual relationship with Allah and their interaction within broader society.

Religion

- (i) Religion is broader and more general term used to describe system of beliefs, practice and values certain around the sacred or divine.
- (ii) Religion can refer to organized system of faith, it may not always capture the holistic and integrated nature of the Islamic concept of Deen.

How Islam is a Universal Deen:

- Islam is a Universal Deen, because it follows the following aspects of
- (1) It guides in every aspect of life
 - (2) It is not limited to a specific time period.
 - (3) It is not limited to a specific geography.
 - (4) It is not limited to a specific ethnicity.

"For you your Deen and for us our Deen"

(Al-dueen)

Role of Din in Human Life:

- (a) Din plays a vital role in human life and society.
- (b) Its message is real and practical because it comprehensively covers all human actions.
- (c) It explains the Tawhid doctrine effectively.
- (d) It teaches us how to live a virtuous life, how to conduct ourselves in public as at home, how to treat parents, relations, friends, strangers, the poor and orphans.

(e) It instructs us about economic and political ends about our social, educational and

(f) It deals with the internal and foreign affairs in peacetime and during war.

"We have surely set forth in this Quran every kind of lesson for people but humankind is the most argumentative of all beings"

(Surah Al-Kahf)

Importance of Din in Life in

1. Din provide Guidance to Mankind.

"They have certainly disbelieved who say that Allah is Christ, the son of Mary. Say 'Then who could prevent Allah at all if He had intended to destroy Christ?'"

(Surah-A. Maidah)

2. Din provides a Clear Path:

"Believe, therefore, in Allah and His Messenger; and in the light which we have sent down."

(Al-Quran)

3. Divine Religion is a source of wisdom and knowledge :

The book of Din contains unsusposable knowledge and wisdom

Muhammad (PBUH) was taught the wisdom of the Quran so that he is sure could divulge it to the rest of mankind

4. Din is Spiritual Cure of Modern Man

"This is the only hope for the spiritual future of man, a cure for the lost and hurt souls, a guide for the evil and misled ones, and joy for those who repent - We sent down the Quran which is a healing and mercy to those who believe (Surah Al-Isra)

5. Din provides Principles for Establishment of Justice :

A vital function of the Deen is to guide in the establishment of balanced system of justice and equality -

It is God who has sent down the book which is truth and the balance of Judge between rights and wrong - (Al-Quran)

Conclusion

The importance of *din*, often understood as a comprehensive way of life or moral code in various cultures or religions, hold significant meaning in human life. Embracing a *din* provides individuals with a framework for ethical behaviour, guiding their actions and decisions.

Din also plays a crucial role in fostering a sense of community and belonging. Shared beliefs and practices create a bond among individuals, promoting social cohesion and cooperation. Moreover, *din* often addresses the spiritual dimensions of human existence, providing a framework for connecting with high power or transcendent reality. Embracing a *din* can guide individuals towards a life of purpose, ethical conduct and a deeper connection with the broader human experience.

