

What is difference between Deen and Religion? ~~Describe~~ Describe the importance of Deen in 21st century?

INTRODUCTION:

Deen is a major term which refers to destination while religion is a pathway which leads towards destination. Deen and religion, both terms are often used interchangeably, but have slightly different meaning and connotation. Religion deals with the private affairs, while Deen covers all aspects of life, including religious, social, political and economic. Islam is a complete code of life, and the word used for islam in original sources is deen. In 21st century, society has entangled in grip of many evils. The only solution to confront these challenges is patronage of deen. Because, only the divine light of God (deen) can show the right path.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEEN AND RELIGION:

Deen is a divine religion. Islam is the only religion to be declared as deen. Because deen is "way of life", and no other religion have

such aspects. Religion deals with sacred and spiritual covering the belief system and mode of worships. When deen is subjugated, it is reduced to religion. Islam is not merely a religion but an entire way of spending life (Deen). Quran says

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام

"Indeed, deen in the sight of Allah is Islam."

[Al-Imran 3:19]

Difference between deen and religion can be understood from following:

i- VERIFICATION OF DEEN IS DONE BY THE ALMIGHTY ALLAH:

The deen near Allah is only Islam. Religion is unverified, there is no such proof in religion, rather it is sectarianism. Allah verifies only Islam as religion. Allah says;

"And, whoever seeks a ^{Deen} religion other than Islam, it will not be accepted by him".

[Al-Imran 3:85]

ii- DEEN IS AUTHENTIC, WHILE RELIGION IS SELF CREATED:

There is no scope or rather an instance of sectarianism or Mazhab in Islam. It is a self-made thing, and Allah gives no value

to self-made things. Deen has been approved of and favoured by Allah. As Allah testifies in Quran

ايوم اكملت لكم دينكم و اتممت عليكم نعمتي و رضيت لكم الاسلام ديناً

"Today, I have completed your deen, and have completed my bliss upon you and accepted for you Islam as a deen".

[Al-Ma'ida 5:3]

iii- DEEN IS COMPLETE, WHILE RELIGION CONTINUOUSLY EVOLVE:

There are self-made statements and proclamations in religion, and this would continue till the time of Qiyamah, if they don't repent and get back to Islam. But deen has been completed by Almighty himself. He assures the completion in Surah-Al maida saying, "I have completed your deen".

iv- DEEN IS PURE, WHILE RELIGION CONTAINS IMPURITIES CREATED BY MEN:

"Unquestionably, for Allah is the pure religion".

[Az-Zumar 39:3]

Religion are not pure, they are adulterated and have combination of statements, advices and suggestions contradictory to Islam.

v- DEEN COVERS ALL ASPECTS, WHILE RELIGION IS NARROWER TERM:

Deen is a broader and wider term which is the complete code of life. Religion, on the other hand is merely a collection of traditions, rituals and dogmas. It involves such dogmas that help to celebrate life's events only.

vi- DEEN IS BASED ON SOUND LOGICS, WHILE RELIGION IS ILLOGICAL AND MYTHICAL:

Deen is never illogical and mystically based on magical concepts, but religion have mythical believes, these just include physical involvement such as, worship practises. A good example of religion would be, Hinduism or Buddhism. They does not encourage any change in social, emotional or economic state of believers.

vii- DEEN IS THE ONLY RIGH PATH TO COMMUNION WITH ALMIGHTY:

Deen involves a personal and transformative connection with the divine, seeking spiritual growth and closeness to God. Religion involves adherence to prescribed rituals and doctrines a means of demonstrating faith and seeking divine favour.

IMPORTANCE OF DEEN IN 21st CENTURY:

The world of today has turned into a chaotic society. Humans are indulged in practices, that are contradictory to the teachings of Islam (Deen). This resulted in the social unrest and bedlam in the form of violence, terrorism, discrimination. Guidance of deen is mandatory to confront perils in society. Importance of deen can be acknowledged from the following.

i- MAKING LIFE PURPOSEFUL AND MEANINGFUL:

People have forgotten the purpose of their creation, which is nothing but to worship the Almighty. They have neglected the actual teaching that, this life is merely a test. The concept of heaven and hell which is revealed by God to his creature imparts a sense of purpose and reason in man's life. Quran says:

“He, who created death and life to test you (as to) which of you is best in deed.”

[Al Mulk 67:2]

Thus, a man can only learn purpose of life through learning deen.

ii- RELATIONSHIP WITH CREATOR:

In the age of technology, man of today considers himself, the master of his destiny. Deen is necessary to teach the code of conducts, and how to live one's life. It emphasizes on the relationship between man and God, which is of master^{slave} and master.

iii- POWER TO ENDURE ADVERSITIES OF LIFE:

Life of today has become very much complex, and full of problems. Deen provides power for facing adversities and serves as a bulwark against undesirable reactions of despair. The

Holy Quran says:

"Surely, those who are close to Allah, have no fear nor shall they grieve".

[Surah Yunus 10:62]

iv- DEEN ENSURES PEACE OF MIND:

Anyone who follows the true teachings of Holy Quran and Holy Prophet gains a peace of mind and comes under the shadow of mercy of creator. Deen not only makes a man morally exquisite, it also makes him tranquil and serene.

v- FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION:

World of today portrays the situation of anarchy. Violence, fights and wars are ubiquitous based on discriminatory conflicts. Deen opposes every discrimination based on race, class, color, creed or gender. Allah says;

"Men, we have created you from a male and a female and have divided you into nations and tribes, so that you may get to know one another".

[Al-Hujrat 49:13]

vi- DEEN IS SOURCE OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE:

Every page, every line, every word of Holy Quran contains a glaring truth, which further stimulates us to study. The wisdom of deen, never mislead or misguide. The sound teachings of deen can be an effective factor in scientific progress of present time.

vii- DEEN PROHIBITS ILLEGITIMATE WAYS OF PHYSICAL SATISFACTION:

Unlike, the teachings of west, deen admonish illicit sexual relations. Deen avoid adultery, and it has suggested punishment of 100 lashes for those who commit

this sin. The ubiquitous trend of LGBTQ in world is not allowed in deen. Quran clearly says;

“Do not go near adultery. It is shameful deed and truly an evil way”.

[Al Isra 17:32]

CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, one may say that deen is an ultimate way to spend life. It has very broader connotation, which covers and impart guidance in all domains of life. It is erroneously compared with religion, which is very narrow and limited concept. Religion focus only on events and practices of daily life, and its teachings are man made. Deen is complete code of life. Its necessity has increased in 21st century, due to perilous situation of world. Man of today is mislead and misguided. He is running in pursuit of worldly success, and has forgotten the true essence of life. Deen is essential to show man, the right path to success.