

Islamic Studies Assignment by Sir Raza Ansari

Q What is Islam? elaborate salient features of Islam.

Islam

Islam means peace, peace with God, peace within oneself, and peace with the creation of God.

The word 'Islam' is an Arabic word derived from three letter word S (ع), L (ل), M (م) which has its roots and give meaning of similar words like, 'surrender',

'commitment', 'peace' and 'submission'.

It means 'to surrender oneself to the will of God'.

Islam is a monotheistic religion which was revealed on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) between 610-632 of common era. Moreover, believers of Islam does not consider it a new religion but reiteration of previous monotheistic religions of God revealed on different prophets. Islam is considered as the last and final message of God till the day

of judgement. It is an eternal religion and provides guidance to all humankind. It leaves no stone unturned and guides in every aspect of life. Essentially, by definition Islam is a world view focused on ~~belief~~ belief in the One God and commitment of His commandments.

"Islam is a monotheistic religion revealed upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)."

-Dr. Hameedullah

Salient Features of Islam

1. Unique Concept of Touheed:

Islam is a monotheistic religion and the followers of Islam only believe in one God. Monotheism in Islam is referred by the term 'Touheed'. It is the revolutionary concept and basic essence of Islamic teachings. It means to accept the sovereignty of Allah and accept him as the

only creator and sustainer of everything.

"He is Allah - the One. Allah the sustainer. He has never had offspring, nor He was born. And there is none comparable to him."
(Surah Al-Ikhas - 1-4)

Allah has summed up the whole concept of tauheed in Surah IKhas. According to Allama Shibli Nomani, Islam is like a fort and the gate of this fort is tauheed.

2 Prophet-hood:

The message of Allah is revealed upon prophets through angels. Allah selected his pious men as prophets and messengers to guide the humankind. Prophets were sent as a role model to follow to succeed in this life and hereafter.

Prophet Muhammad is the last prophet of Allah and the role model for humankind till the day of judgement.

The importance of prophet-hood can be found in the second part of Kalma.

"There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad (PBUH) is his messenger."

It is the second most important belief after tawheed to enter in Islam. The teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) are called Sunnah.

"Verily, I have been sent to you as a teacher."
(Hadith)

3. Complete Code of Life:

Islam provides a complete code of life and guide in every aspect of life. It does not only guide human about religious rituals and connection with the divine but also provides guidance about social life. Therefore, Islam is referred to as 'Din' in Quran and not by the word 'religion'.

"This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed my bounty upon you and selected Islam as a religion for you."

Surah Al-Maidah

4 Eternal Din:

The previous religions were revealed by God for specific regions and for certain people in the ancient times when human civilization was in developing phase. Allah revealed Islam to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) when human kind was merely educated. Islam is the final message of God and guides humanity till the last day. It is for every era and period therefore the message of Islam is fresh as it was when revealed and it is still the best source of guidance in this modern age.

5 Protection of Holy Book - Quran:

Previous Holy Books revealed on prophets were misinterpreted and changed by their followers for personal gains and reasons. Therefore, Allah took the responsibility of protection of his last Holy Book (Quran) revealed on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

"We sent down this message (Quran) for you and we shall safeguard it."

Surah Al-Hijr

6 Islam promotes Justice:

Islam firmly believe on justice system given by Allah called 'Shariah'. Islam promotes justice and teaches humankind that justice should not be influenced by any relation, caste nationality or social status. According to the teachings of Islam, justice is same for all and it must be observed in every aspect of life be it personal or social.

"By Allah, If Fatimah Binte Muhammad were to steal, I would cut her hand as punishment."
(Sahih Bukhari)

7. Islam promotes equality:

Unlike other religions like Hinduism people are divided into caste system but Islam rejects discrimination based on caste, creed, color etc.

It is the core feature of Islam as it bounds everyone ~~etc~~ to stand in same saf in front of Allah. All followers are equal in Islam except those who are more pious and close to Allah. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) life is perfect example of equality. He never discriminated among his companions based on caste, creed or color and treated them equally.

"All mankind is from Adam and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab and non-Arab has no superiority over an Arab. Similarly,

White has no superiority over black and black has no superiority over white; none has superiority over another except the piety and good action."

(The last sermon of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH))

8 Dim of Moderation:

The religion of Moses (A.S) was very strict in its teachings for its followers and on the contrary religion of Jesus (A.S) was too lenient for its followers. Unlike both Islam is the religion of moderation and promotes equality in actions also. It adopts the middle line in every aspect of life.

"There is no compulsion in religion."
(Al-Baqara - 256)

9 Islam promotes Peaceful Co-existence:

Islam is the religion of peace and it promotes pluralism and peaceful co-existence with everyone.

It guides its followers to do justice and equality with people from other religions and inspire them by good actions to come to Islam but don't use authority or force. Islam protects rights of others irrespective of their religious identity.

"For you is your religion, and
for us is our religion."
(Surah Kafirun)

This verse from Quran emphasizes on the principles of religious tolerance and respect for different beliefs.

10 Qur'an is in the living language:

Arabic, the language of Qur'an, is a living language spoken by over 400 million people across the world. Arabic is still a living language therefore there are no chances of misinterpretation of Qur'an. Linguistics changes over the years have not created any barrier in the teachings of Islam. It is translated into multiple languages spoken across the globe but its original message is with same essence as it was 1400 years ago.