

Q:1

What is Islam? Elaborate Salient features of Islam.

Introduction :-

Islam is the religion of truth for whole universe. It is complete embodiment of the code of life that "Allah" that Allah has revealed for guidance of mankind on Holy Prophet PBUH. Islam is distinctive from other religion as it is not for limited time, geography and ethnicity. Islam shows ideal system of living of all mankind.

What is Islam?

The word Islam is derived from arabic language. The literal meaning of word Islam is "peace".

The word Islam is combination of three letters S, L and M, that denotes Submission, Surrender and obedience to Allah.

Allah in Quran says,

"Those who believe and whose hearts find rest in remembrance of Allah, Indeed its remembrance of Allah alone that heart of man find rest." (13: 28-29)

Islam according to Shariah:

According to Shariah Islam basically "a voluntarily submission of desires to the will of Allah". Allah in Quran says "There is no compulsion in choice of Religion". (2:256), It means Allah has given freedom about religion. Allah says, "For you its your Deen and for us its our Deen".

Islam in sight of Holy prophet:-

According to Holy prophet (PBUH), Islam is combination of two things. One is "to bear witness of Allah and his messenger" and other is "to Practice Pillars of Islam". The Pillars of Islam have distinct importance, in Islam, includes Tauheed, namaz (salat), Fast, Zakat and Hajj. Holy prophet said "Namaz creates difference between Momin and a disbeliever".

Religion Islam revealed on Holy prophet, by the Lord of Universe "The Allah". Holy prophet said, "Islam is like a fort and gate of this fort is Tauheed."

Islam according to Various Scholars:-

According to Dr Hamidullah "Islam is a monotheist deen that revealed upon Mohammad PBUH". Dr Hamidullah in his book Introduction to Islam explained Islam as whole universe is created by Allah almighty, and Sovereignty belongs to Allah. Monotheist religion, that only corresponds to teachings of Quran that is revealed by Allah Subhanwatalla.

According to Imam Gharali "Islam is combination of two things Rights of Allah and Rights of people".

Maulana Sadruddin Ishaq in his book Islam at a glance mentioned that Islam is based on two things, Faiths and prayers or worships.

The basic and unique concept behind Islam emphasizes that The whole universe is created by Allah who is Sovereign of universe. Islam old name is "Deen-e-Hanif". Its contextual meaning is to enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah. Islam means peace the peace of heart and mind.

Salient Features Of Islam

Tauheed :

Tauheed is Revolutionary concept, that is essence of Islamic teaching. It means to bear witness of Allah. The first part of Kalima describes that there is only one Supreme Lord "Allah", لا اله الا الله. Tauheed is core pillar of Islam. Allama Shibli Nawmani in his book "Seerat un Nabi" said "Tauheed is first chapter of Islamic Syllabus."

Prophet hood

The second part of Kalima that describes Mohammad as prophet of Allah. "محمد رسول الله" Allah in the Quran said,

"Mohammad is not father of any one among you and he is last prophet." (33:40)

The Guidance is revealed through prophets and they are representatives of Allah and role models for Human kind. The Primary Sources concludes Quran and Sunnah.

Complete Code of Life :-

Islam has complete code of conduct, that guides every aspect of life. It not only describes individual life but also collective life.

Individuals Life: Islam gives complete guidance from birth to death. Islam thoroughly describes upbringing of child, character

building, education, family life, livelihood and social interaction. Islam gives the guidance about each and every aspect of life. "Seeking knowledge is mandatory" (PBUH).

Collective Life:- As far as collective life is concerned, Islam guides about social systems, political systems, financial system, justice administration and global affairs.

Universal Religion:-

The universality of religion Islam is most essential element of this religion as Allah sent prophet to all people of world. "Hallowed is he who from on high step by step has betowed upon his servant" (Surah 25)

If someone reflects upon verses of holy Quran, he would realize that it is not specific to particular race or language

Humanity

Islam promotes humanity as a human should have natural instinct without any discrimination, such as love care welfare, sympathy, empathy and tolerance.

Humanity not only deals with human rights but also right of animals and environmental protection. Allah is Surah "Maidah" said "The One who save one person saved humanity" (5:32)

Islam protects humanity as it guides about characterfulness, charity, social work, medical services, provisions, fulfilment of rights, animal rights and environmental protection.

Unchangeable Religion:-

Islam is unamendable it asserts that Allah has himself protected the divine book "Al Quran" that is divinely protected and can not be change. Quran is but a reminder and a divine discourse... (3669.70)

So, there is no contradiction in Quran that the religion is unamendable till eternity

Eternal Religion:-

Islam is the religion taught in its fundamentals by all prophets it was the religion that ~~was~~ is eternal. It was the first religion on earth introduced for mankind. It will last till eternity because Allah has taken responsibility

Revealed Book In Living Language:

Holy Quran was revealed in arabic language that will remain till eternity.

Preserved Shariah:-

Shariah is the way revealed to prophet Mohammad PBUH. Allah in Quran says "Then we put thee on the right way of religion: so follow thou that way" (45:18). The revealed text is understood and interpreted through application of Holy prophet PBUH. So Islam has preserved Shariah that aims to define rules and regulation of Islam.

Finality of Prophethood:-

Both the Quran and Sunnah confirms that Mohammad PBUH is last prophet and there will be no prophet came after him. The belief in the finality of prophet PBUH is foundational belief in Islam. The denial of finality of prophethood is denial of consensus of scholars, jurist and pious predecessors of entire muslim ummah. Allah says "The holy prophet is not father of man amongst you. Yes he is messenger of Allah and last of all prophets and Allah knows everything. (22:40)

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Conclusion:-

Islam is the complete way of life it has wide scope the basis of this religion relies on belief on Oneness of Allah, belief on prophet and life after death.

There are various unique features of Islam that establish its credentials as religion of man, the religion of today and religion of tomorrow.