

Nida Bint - E-Zahra

Islamic Studies

Assignment # 01.

Batch 68

Question

What is islam and elaborate the salient features of islam?

Answer

Concept of Islam.

The word islam is derived from "Arabic Word" which literal mean "A monotheistic faith regarded as revealed through Muhammad (PBUH) as a prophet of Allah".

Contextual meaning of islam is "surrender or submission". In religious context, it means "voluntary submission to God/Allah."

Islam and Quran.

There are quite a lot of verses that deal with islamic

term including.

"And who is better in religion than one who submits himself to Allah while being a doer of good and follows the religious of Abraham, inclining toward truth?

And Allah took Abraham as an intimate Friend"
Surat - ur - Nissa / 4: 125.

It means that there can be no way better than the way of the person who is "an embodiment" of two virtues.

- i- 'Surrenders his or her self to Allah'
- ii- "is good in deeds'.

Islam is religion which is in accordance with human nature. In other words,

"So direct your face toward the religion, inclining to truth. The fitrah of Allah upon which He has created people. No change should there be in the creation of

Allah. That is the correct religion, but the most of the people do not know.

(Surat-ur-Rum/30:30)

There are two important things revealed by above verse,

- i- Islam relies on the recognition and attitude of submission and surrender to Allah.
- ii- Islam was created in accordance with the nature of the origin of the event which is glorified by Allah, namely human nature.

Salient Feature of Islam.

i- Unique Concept of Touheed.

Touheed is a revolutionary concept and the essence of the teaching islam. In first part of kalima

"There is no Allah except Allah".

It means that there is only one supreme Lord of the universe. Allah said in Surat ikhlas

" Say, " He is Allah, [who is] one. Allah, the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is born. Nor is there to him any equivalent." (112: 1-4)

As Prophet Muhammad said "Islam is like a ford and the gate of that ford is tauheed"

ii- Prophethood.

The second part of Kalma signifies that Allah has not left man without any guidance for the conduct of his life. He has revealed his guidance through his prophets and prophet Muhammad was last prophet.

As Allah said

"Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but he is the messenger of Allah and the last of the prophets. And ever is Allah of all things, knowing.
(33.40)

All the prophets are representative of Allah, and their lives are models for mankind, and Prophet Muhammad was the last prophet and the final model for mankind. To believe in him as a prophet of Allah means that to follow his examples in every aspect of life. As Allah said,

"Nor does he speak from his own inclination. It is not but a revelation revealed." (53:3-4).

iii- Complete Code of Life.

Islam is complete way of life and is present in every field of human existence. Islam provides guidance for all aspects of life individual and social, material and moral, economic and political, legal and cultural and national and international. As Allah said,

"We have sent our messengers with explanations and send the book and the balance down with them, so that mankind may conduct themselves with all fairness

We have send down
iron wherein is great
violence as well as
benefits for mankind,
so that Allah may
know who is supporting
Him and his messengers
ever though he is unseen."
(57 : 25).

The holy prophet said
"Each of you is a
keeper or a shepherd
and will be questioned
about well-being of his
fold. The head of the
state will be questioned
about the well-being of
the people of the state.
Each man is a shepherd
to his family and will be
answerable about every member
of it. Each woman is a
shepherd to the family of
her husband and will be
accountable for every member
of it."

Thus Teaching of islam shows
that it is an all embracing
way of life.

iv- Islam Promotes Humanity

Islam revealed in this world as a guide for all human, not specifically for a particular group, but for all mankind. As Allah said

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah Knowing and Acquainted." (49:13)

In last sermon of prophet Muhammad (PBUH),

"All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab. Also white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over a white except by piety and good action."

As Islam does not recognize racism, nationalism or caste system.

Islam promote humanity in every aspects of life i.e. Social welfare. A muslim religious life remains incomplete if not attended by services to humanity. As Allah said,

"Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but true righteousness is in one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the book and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask and for freeing slaves, establishes prayer and gives zakah."

(2:177)

Similarly, right of parents, neighbors, relatives, sick, old people and minority have been defined in Islam. Islam also defined Protection of nature, animal, and environment.

v- Justice

Islam revealed aims to uphold justice absolutely and realize

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brotherhood and equality in the mindset of human life as well as maintaining the blood, honor, wealth etc. As Allah said.

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just, that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah, indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do." (5:8)

It is not permissible to use the property of orphans, the scales and measurements must be true, promises must be kept with relatives and others. b/c deviation and injustices are act of lust that tend to want to stay from the truth. As Allah said.

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourself or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So follow

not personal inclination,
lest you not be just.
And if you distort or
refuse, then indeed Allah
is ever, with what you
do, Acquainted." (4:135).

vi- Original and Eternal.

Islam will never be successfully
changed and falsified by anyone and
will remain original and eternal. As
Allah says.

"And if you are in doubt
about what we have sent
down upon our servant
Muhammad, then produce
a surah the like
there of and call upon
your witnesses other than
Allah, if you should be
truthful. But if you do
not and you will never
be able to then fear
the fire whose fuel is
men and stones, prepared
for the disbelievers."
(2:23-24).

The challenge revealed by the
above verse is simply to

asset that Allah guarantees the originality of the Quran to be preserved until the end. As Allah says

"Indeed, it is We who send down the Quran and indeed, We will be its guardian."
(15:9).

Since it was revealed about fifteen centuries ago, the Quran has remained unchanged, both in pronunciation and meaning as well as in the recitation and its delivery.

vii- Complement, Closing and Supervising.

Islam as a complement meaning that the teachings of Islam complement the teachings of religions that existed before Islam came. Therefore, the teaching of Islam are able to summarise the preaching of the previous prophets and messengers before Muhammad (PBUH). As Allah says

"It is he who sent his messenger with guidance and the religion of truth to manifest it over

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all religion. And sufficient
is Allah as witness."
(48:28)

Based on above it can be stated that for people who have been able to accept the islam and understand the message of Allah, The teaching of islam contain instruction so that human are able to live prosperously on this earth and be happy in heaven.

viii- Individualism or Collectivism.

Another important feature of islam is that is maintaining a great balance b/w collectivism and individualism. He makes every human being accountable to Allah by making them responsible, guarantees their basic rights, provides opportunities for their personality development and strongly opposes the idea that individual personality lost in collectivism.

As Allah says

"For him beneficial is
what he has earned
and he will bear
which is self acquired."
(2:286)

But at the same time, Islam creates a sense of personal collective control and organizes individuals in the form of "a state and empowers them to work for the good of society. The prophet said:

"Each one of you is like a shepherd and asks each one about his neck."

In another Hadith:

"Stay together, do not count against each other, create ease for other, do not create difficulties."

In short, Islam neither ignores the individual nor the society, it establishes balance and proportion in both and gives everyone their right.

ix- Balance

All islamic teaching maintain a balance b/w personal and public interests, b/w the body and spirit, b/w mental and spiritual material,

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b/w the world and the hereafter.
As in Quran,

"But seek, through that which Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter, and yet do not forget your share of the world. And do good as Allah has done good to you. And desire not corruption in the land. Indeed, Allah does not like corrupters."
(28:77)

Islam with its integral set of legal instruments recognizes the rights of society while recognizing the rights of individuals in social life. Islam creates a kind of integration, balance and alignment b/w the two, outlines boundaries for both and establishes a strong bond b/w the two. Islam prioritizes the interests of many people.

x- Flexible

Islam with global principles and rules is generally able to meet the needs of the dynamics of the times and cultural transformation.

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As is Quran,
"Be just, that is
nearer to righteousness."
(5:8)

Also, in the other verse

"Commands you to render
trusts to whom they
are due and when you
judge b/w people to
judge with justice."
(4:58)

There are some of the unique
features of Islam and establish
its credentials as the religion
of men, the religion of today
and the religion of tomorrow.
These aspects have appealed to
hundreds of thousands of people
in the past and the present
and have made them affirm
that Islam is the religion of
truth and the right path for
mankind.