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"Concept of Islam"

Introduction:

Islam, derived from the Arabic root "S-L-M," encompasses peace, purity, submission, and obedience. It is a monotheistic faith centered on submission to Allah (God) and achieving inner peace through this submission. Rooted in the Quran, the final revelation, and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), Islam provides a comprehensive framework for spiritual growth, moral conduct, and community life, guiding millions worldwide in their daily practices and beliefs.

References:

- "Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam. And those who were given the Scripture did not differ

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except after knowledge had come to them out of jealous animosity between themselves. And whoever disbelieves in the verses of Allah, then indeed, Allah is swift in (taking) account." - Quran 3:19.

• "وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَظُلُومٌ فِي الْأَخْزَةِ مِنَ الْخُسْرَىٰ" ٥

- Quran (3:85).

"And whoever desires other than Islam as religion never will it be accepted from him, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers."

Core Beliefs:

1. Monotheism: Muslims believe in one God, Allah, the creator and sustainer of the universe.

• Quranic Verse: "Say; "He is Allah, ~~Who~~ [Who is] One, Allah, the

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Eternal Refuge. He neither begets, nor is born, nor is there to Him any equivalent." - Quran 112:1-4

• Poetry by Rumi: "The lamps are different, but the light is the same: it comes from Beyond."

- Rumi.

• Quote by Al-Ghazali: "Desires make slaves out of kings and patience makes kings of slaves."

- Al-Ghazali.

2. Prophet-hood: Muslims believe in prophets sent by Allah, including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (Peace be upon him), with Muhammad being the final prophet.

• Quranic verse: "Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger

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of Allah and seal [i.e., last] of the prophets. And ever is Allah, of all things, Knowing." - Quran 33:40.

- **Incident:** During the Night Journey (Isra and Miraj), the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) ascended to the heavens, meeting with previous prophets and receiving the command for the five daily prayers.

3. **Revelation:** Muslims consider the Quran as the final revelation from Allah, offering guidance for all aspects of life.

- **Hadith:** The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The best of you are those who learn the Quran and teach it." - Sahih al-Bukhari 5027.

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• **Incident:** The revelation of the Quran ~~and~~ ~~teach~~ it began with the Angel Gabriel (Jibril) visiting the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in the Cave of Hira, where he received the first verses.

4. **Afterlife:** Muslims believe in life after death, where individuals are accountable for their deeds and are rewarded or punished accordingly.

• **Quranic verse:** "Every soul will taste death. And We test you with evil and with good as a trial, and to Us you will be returned."

- Quran 21:35.

• **Hadith:** The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The world is the prison of the believer and the paradise of the unbeliever."

- Sahih Muslim 2956.

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Five Pillars of Islam

1. Shahada (Faith):

Declaring, "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His Messenger." This declaration is fundamental to Islam.

• **Kalima:** "La illaha illallah, Muhammadur Rasuluallah"

(There is no god but Allah, Muhammad is the messenger of Allah).

• **Example:** A Muslim recites the Shahada during prayers, reaffirming their faith and commitment to Allah.

2. Salah (Prayer):

Performing the five daily prayers at prescribed times, facing the Kaaba in Mecca.

• **Quranic verse:** "Indeed, I am

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Allah. There is no deity except Me, so worship Me and establish prayer for My remembrance."

- Quran 20:14.

• Example: A muslim performs Salah daily, aligning their life around prayer times, fostering spiritual discipline and connection with Allah.

• Incident: The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) emphasized the importance of the Salah throughout his life, leading the prayers and demonstrating its significance in worship.

3. Zakat (Charity): Giving a portion of wealth (usually 2.5%) to the poor and needy, purifying one's income and wealth.

• Quranic Verse: "Establish

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prayer and give zakat and bow with those who bow [in worship and obedience]." - **Quran 2:43.**

Example: During Ramadan, a Muslim calculates and give Zakat to help those less fortunate, fulfilling a religious duty and fostering societal compassion.

Impact of Zakat:

Prominent Islamic scholars like Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Malik, Imam Shafi'i, and Ahmad ibn Hanbal have all emphasized the importance of Zakat in promoting social justice and alleviating poverty. Zakat fosters economic equity, as wealth is redistributed from the rich to the needy, thereby

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4. **Sawm (Fasting)**: Observing fasting during Ramadan; abstaining from food, drink, and other physical needs from dawn⁴⁷ till sunset.

• "O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous." - **Quran 2:183.**

• **Example**: During Ramadan, a Muslim fasts from sunrise to sunset, reflecting on self-discipline, gratitude and empathy for the hungry.

• **Incident**: The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) observed fasting himself and encouraged his followers to do so, teaching the spiritual

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benefits of fasting.

5. Hajj (Pilgrimage):

Undertaking the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime, if physically and financially able.

- "And complete the Hajj and 'umrah for Allah. But if you are prevented, the [offer] what can be obtained with ease of sacrificial animals." - **Quran 2:196.**

- **Examples:** A Muslim who performs Hajj experiences unity with fellow believers, symbolizing equality and spiritual renewal.

- **Incidents:** The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) performed Hajj during his lifetime, demonstrating the rituals and significance of pilgrimage.

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Concept of Ihsan (Excellence)

Ihsan encourages Muslims to worship Allah as if they see Him, knowing that while they may not see Him, Allah sees everything. It promotes spiritual excellence and mindfulness in actions.

• **Hadith:** The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Ihsan is to worship Allah as if you see Him, He sees you." - **Sahih Muslim**

Examples: A Muslim strives for Ihsan by performing acts of kindness and charity sincerely for the sake of Allah, seeking His pleasure alone.

Incidents: The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) exemplified

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Ihsan in his interactions, showing compassion and justice to all, regardless of their background.

Poetry and Quotes

• Rumi: "The lamps are different, but the light is the same: it comes from Beyond."

• Rumi: "I searched for God and found only myself. I searched for myself and found only God."

• Al-Ghazali: "Desires make slaves out of kings and patience makes kings out of slaves."

Additional Verses and Anadith

• Verse on peace: "He is Who sent down tranquility into the hearts of the believers that they might have more of faith added to their faith." - Quran 48:4.

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Hadith on Good Character:

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The best among you are those who have the best manners and character."

- Sahih al-Bukhari 3559.

Conclusion:

Islam provides a comprehensive frame work of beliefs, practices, and moral teachings that guide the lives of Muslims worldwide. Rooted in monotheism, Prophet hood, divine revelation, belief in afterlife, and the Five Pillars, Islam encourages spiritual growth, ethical conduct, and community solidarity. The concept of Ihsan underscores the importance of striving for excellence in all aspects of life, fostering a deep connection with Allah, and promoting compassion and justice.

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Prominent Islamic Scholars and Poets:

- Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Malik, Imam Shafi'i, and Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal: Their works underscore the foundational principles of Islamic jurisprudence, emphasizing the importance of Zakat in promoting social justice and economic equality.

- **Rumi:** "I searched for God and found only myself. I searched for myself and found only God."

- **Al-Ghazali:** "Desires make slaves out of kings and patience makes kings out of slaves."

Through Quranic verses, Hadiths, inspirational teachings from scholars like Sayyid Abul Ala Mawdudi, Maulana Sadruddin Islahi, and Khurshid Ahmad, Islam offers

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timeless guidance that enriches the lives of its adherents, promoting peace, unity and spiritual fulfillment. This comprehensive understanding underscores Islam not only as a religion but as a holistic way of life, offering principles that resonate across cultures and generations, promoting harmony and understanding in diverse world.

Islam's teachings on Zakat, Salah, and fasting during Ramadan have profound impacts on both individual spirituality and the broader community, fostering an environment of compassion, equality and righteousness. By integrating the core principles of Islam into daily life, Muslims strive to achieve

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a balanced and harmonious existence, contributing positively to society while nurturing their spiritual well-being.

In essence, Islam promotes a life of purpose, centered on the worship of Allah and the service to humanity, embodying values that transcend time and geography, making it a universal and enduring faith.
