

## Assignment

Q. What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam.

Islam is derived from the root word "slm" which means "peace", this word is further derived from word "asalama" which means "to resign oneself / to submit oneself".

Thus Islam is an Arabic word which means "The Act of Submission to God".

Dr Mohammad Hamidullah defined Islam as "monotheist religion revealed upon the Holy Prophet (PBUH)".

Meanwhile another Islamic scholar Khurshid Ahmed defined it as the religion of truth, as the complete code of life as ordained by Allah Almighty.

Thus the contextual meaning of Islam can be explained as the act of complete submission of one's will to Allah Almighty.

Hazrat Umar (RA) narrated that Our Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that

"Islam is based on five principles. To testify that none other has the right to be worshiped except Allah. That Hazrat Mohammed (S.A.W) is the messenger of Allah. To pray Namaz. To give zakat. To perform Hajj and to fast in the month of Ramadan."

### Salient Features of Islam.

The salient features of Islam are as:

#### 1) Universality of Religion

Islam is a religion for whole mankind. It has not been sent for specific people, a particular geographic area or for a particular time.

"We have sent you as a mercy for whole mankind"  
(AL-Quran)

It has been said in the Quran that Allah sent our Holy Prophet (PBUH) not only for the people of Arab but for the whole

Universe.

## 2. Concept of "Tauheed"

Tauheed means to believe in the "one Allah". It is one of the main components of Islam that guides Muslims throughout their life. It is written in the Holy Quran:

"Allah is one. Allah is Eternal - He neither begets nor is begotten. None is comparable to Him" (Al-Quran)

## 3. Finality of Prophethood -

It is one of the core concepts of Islam to believe in Holy Prophet (PBUH) as the final prophet and to follow his teachings completely.

"Mohammad is not the father of any of your men. He is the messenger of Allah and the last of prophets" (Al-Quran)

## 4. Day of Judgement -

It is one of the core faiths to believe in the day of judgement when the whole mankind will be gathered together and then they will be rewarded or given punishment.

for the deeds they have done in their life

"And do they think we cannot reassemble their bones. We can even restore their fingertips" (Al-Quran)

### 5. Protection of Quran -

To follow Quran's teachings and to faith that its teachings will be preserved till the end of time is one of core beliefs of muslims.

"And indeed we have sent down the Quran and we shall safeguard it" (Al-Quran)

### 6. Importance of Education -

Islam places alot of importance on getting education and working on your morals. The first revelation on our Holy Prophet was "Iqra" which means "to read". Throughout his life, our Holy Prophet (PBUH) encouraged muslims to gain education.

"O Lord! Increase my knowledge" (Al-Quran)

There is a hadith which urges muslims to get education even if they have to go to China.

### 7. Rights of Animals -

Islam places a lot of importance on the rights of Animals. Our Holy Prophet (PBUH) once reprimanded a person because his camel was thirsty. He always advised his people to be kind to everyone.

### 8. Protection of Environment

Our Holy Prophet (PBUH) advised people not to waste a single drop of water <sup>even</sup> if they are by a running stream. The same way in case of war, muslims are advised not to cut trees or destroy crops.

### 9. Kindness.

To be kind to people is one of the main teachings of our holy prophet. He repeatedly advised on the rights of neighbours, relative & family. He advised people to visit the sick & help the poor.\*

"And we have ordained on the people of Israel that whoever kills a human (except for murder or mischief) has slain all mankind and whoever saves a human being has saved all mankind."  
(Al-Quran)

### 10. Ijtihad's Importance.

Ijtihad means the intellectual effort to arrive at the truth. As Islam is considered to be

The final religion then in order to be relevant / to cater the needs to people with changing times, people should work out the solutions of any question in the light of Quran & Sunnah.

## 11. Unity of Body & Spirit

Islam has provided a complete guideline to people for this worldly life and the Hereafter. Thus whoever will follow it completely will be successful in both realms. Our Holy Prophet PBUH said in his final sermon that the Religion Islam is the perfect religion that Allah has completed his favours upon people.

## 12. Equality of people

Islam ~~plays~~ guides people that they have superiority if they have "Taqwa". There should be no discrimination on the basis of caste, colour or creed.

"No Arab has superiority over a non-arab.  
No black has superiority over a white  
and vice versa"

These are the main reasons that today Islam is one of the fastest growing religion of the world and it has followers from all countries & people of colour.