

27/July/2024. Q: Differentiate between Deen and religion.

Deen Vs Religion

Introduction

Deen and religion, both terms are used interchangeably, but they have slightly different connotations and implications. Religion is a Latin word which means to bind together, to follow and to subjugate. It merely includes faiths and rituals of worship. Whereas, Deen is an Arabic word which means to attain supremacy or dominion status. It not only includes faiths and rituals of worship but teaches us complete way of life.

According to famous scholar Dr. Ismael Ahmed said that Religion is the name of 3 constituents

- ① Faith
- ② Rituals
- ③ Social functions

— But Deen consist of 6 constituents:

- ① Faith
- ② Rituals
- ③ Social system and social function
- ④ Political system
- ⑤ Economic system
- ⑥ Justice

✳ — Religion is wholly man-made as the word 'Mazhab' never used by Allah, faiths, beliefs, rituals of worship are included in religion and it ~~is~~ only ponder over relationship of man with God. Whereas, Deen is far more comprehensive that pervades all aspects of life. Islam is ~~merely~~ a Din, not merely

a religion

Quranic Reference:

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ (الحجرات: 17)

Truly, the religion with Allah is Islam.

Islam as a Deen not just Religion

Islam is a deen because it is not only limited to particular rituals rather it provides complete code of life. From teaching of faith, offering praying, observing fast, performing Haj, and giving zakat to teachings of relations with parents, offspring, relatives, neighbours, friends, poor, unknown persons. It also gives directions of how to run business, trade, economic, social and political ends. It provides advice on matters of divorce, marriage, inheritance, property, disputes, peace, war, death, birth etc. Observing all this Islam is a very practical religion that is for all people of all ages, ~~at~~ ~~state~~ irrespective of race and ~~skin~~ color.

Quranic References

Today I have completed ~~my~~ your Deen, and have completed my bliss upon you and accepted for you Islam as a Deen" (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:3)

Hadith Reference:

الدِّينُ التَّيْبَةُ

"The deen is advice"
(sahih Muslim)

Q What is the importance of Deen in this modern age?

Ans: Islam as a deen provides comprehensive teachings of way of life both on individual and collective level. Here we first focus on individual life and then collective life as a whole.

Individual life

Human nature and needs of humans are same from the very first day of life. They are in search of peace. In this busy lifestyle, Deen provides satisfaction of soul. When man is encircled with everyday activities when he offers prayer in the midst of his busy life it provides him satisfaction of connection with Allah Almighty. As Allah said;

وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوبُهُمْ (سورة الرعد: ٢٨)

And whose hearts are assured.

It means those who remember Allah, He will surely fill their hearts with spiritual power and satisfaction. Deen gives a ray of hope and declares suicide haram. West's suicidal ratio is high due to hopelessness but Allah has given hope to all without discrimination.

Quranic Reference:

وَمَنْ يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُتَعَمَدًا فَجَزَاءُ مَا جَفَنَّهُمْ
(النساء - 93)

But whoever kills a believer intentionally - his recompense is Hell, wherein he will abide eternally, and Allah has become angry with him and has cursed him and has prepared for him a great punishment.

Allah said in Surah Ash-Sharh:

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ۖ إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

So verily, with the hardship, there is relief
Verily, with the hardship, there is relief.

So, Allah gave us hope that there is ease with every hardship. Deen gave us purpose of all. Along with that it teaches an individual morals, ethics and success of both worlds.

Collective Life

Deen provides guidance to mankind in the society. It not only teaches equality but also equity. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gave lesson of equality in his last sermon. He said:

"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 a white has no superiority over a Black nor a Black has any superiority over a White except by piety and good action."

The messenger of Allah gave us concept of equality that no man is superior to other. Deen guides us in all ways of life like religious-socio-politico-economic system. Islam has unique economic system neither capitalist nor communist but a balance of both. Similarly, Islam neither supports monarchy nor complete democracy but a unique system of Islamic concept excluding flaws of both. Likewise, It gave us guidelines regarding governance and public administration and dual concept of accountability and warns us that we are accountable in both worlds. To conclude with a Quranic verse in which Allah Almighty has told the Topic of Quran is purely "human" so we can say clearly Our Deen (Islam) is a complete code of life.

وَلَقَدْ هَمَمْنَا فِي هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَثَلٍ
 وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ أَكْثَرَ شَيْءٍ جَدَلًا (الأنعام: 54)

We have surely set forth in this Quran every kind of lesson for people, but humankind is the most argumentative of all beings.