

Islam & its Salient features.

⇒ Islam's definition:

- ① → Diction:
- ② → Contextual:
- ③ → According to Fiqah & Shariah.

Diction:

→ The word Islam is taken from an Arabic word Salam (سَلَامٌ) which means to surrender, to submit or to make peace.

Contextual:- Islam is the submission to the will of God in an effort to achieve peace.

Islam according to Fiqah & Shariah:-

Fiqh:- Allah says in Quran:-

And this, your religion, is only religion and I am your lord, so keep your duty onto me. (Al-Muminon: 52).

Quran refers Islam as a path of Peace (Subul-al-Salam): (Al-Maidah: 16).

Shariah: →

Ummar bin Khatab (R.A) Narrates that Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W) defined Islam as:-

Islam is based on five principles,

- ① To bear witness of oneness of Allah and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the last Prophet.
- ② To offer Prayer ③ To pay Zakkat ④ To perform Hajj
- ⑤ To Observe fast during month of Ramadan.

Islam is defined by various scholars as:-

According to Imam Raghīb - al - Isfahani:
Islam, in law, is of two kinds, one is simple confession with tongue and other is that along with confession, there is belief in the heart and fulfilment in practice and resignation to God.

Syed Ameer Ali elaborates the concept of Islam
⇒ Islam in primary sense is to be

at perfect peace and in its secondary sense to surrender oneself to him whom peace is made -

→ The above discussion signifies the concept of Islam as the submission not only in belief and mode of worship but also in ethics, morality, politics, culture, social behaviour, laws, national and international affairs both in individual and collective spheres. Islam enables man to make ^{Peace} with himself, and his fellow being, human community & with Allah.

Salient features of Islam:-

① Unique concept of Tawheed:-

→ Tawheed is the belief in absolute unity of Allah. First part of first kalma "La ilaha illa Allah" is the declaration that there is no God except Allah. It means that tawheed is the starting point of Islam and it is considered as the bedrock of Islam.

→ ~~Al-Ikhl~~ Al-Ikhlās is also known as the declaration of God's unity & Tawheed. In this 112th chapter of Quran it is mentioned that:-

Say, he is Allah the one.

Allah is eternal and absolute.

None is born of him and nor he was born.

And there is none like Him.

(112:1-4)

↳ to Sifah tum nabi (S.A.W.W):-

① Tawheed is the first chapter of Islamic Syllabus

② Islam is like a foot and gate of that foot

② Peophethood :-

→ The second part of Kalimah signifies that God has not left man without guidance. He has revealed His guidance through His prophets and Muhammad (S.A.W.-W) was the last prophet. Thus, the second basic postulate of Islam is to believe in the Prophethood of Muhammad to accept the religion that he presented, and to follow his command and his example.

Every prophet of God, according to the Quran, strove to build man's relationship with God on the principle of His sovereignty and individual's acknowledgment of authority of the prophet as a source of divine guidance. The Quran says :-

We have not sent any Messenger but that he was to be obeyed with God's permission (Al-Nissa: 65)
~~And about Holy Prophet (PBUH) it is stated as~~

And those who do not judge by what God has sent down are disbelievers (Al-Maidah:44)

→ Thus Belief in God and His Prophet means commitment to obey them and to live life in the light of guidance that God revealed to His Prophet (PBUH).

③ Complete code of life:

Islam guides man in every aspect of life. In case of individual life, Islam plays role in both character building, upbringing of a child, education, way of earning and family life.

In case of collective life, it lays emphasis on rules and regulation relating to social, political, marriage and inheritance laws and conduct, global affairs covering aspects of entire human activity.

Allah says in Quran:

This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed my favour upon you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion (5:3).

Thus, Islam is an all-embracing way of life and does not leave out any field of human existence to become a playground for forces of evil.

) Balance between Individual and Society:-

As discussed ~~earlier~~ above, Islam guides man in every aspect i.e. in individual life or social life. Adding into this Islam has a unique property of establishing balance b/w Individual and his Society. It believes in the individual personality of man. It guarantees the fundamental rights of individual and does not permit

anyone to temper with them, and it holds everyone personally accountable to God.

According to Quran:

"For us are our deeds and for you are yours" (Al-Qasas 28:55).

On the other hand, it also provokes a sense of social responsibility in man, regarding human beings in a society and a state. Prayer, in Islam, is offered in congregation.

Everyone is enjoined to pay zakat and

The Prophet said: - All mankind is a fold each member ^(P-B-U-H) of which shall be a keeper to every other, and be accountable for the entire fold".

"He is not a believer who takes

his fill while his neighbour starves

Late Professor H.A.R Gibb

Unity of Matter and Spirit:

- Islam does not admit any separation b/w material and moral, mundane and spiritual life. It teaches that moral and material life must be welded together.
- It holds that spiritual elevation is to be achieved by living piously in the rough and tumble of life, not by renouncing the world.

Quran Advises us to pray that:

O LORD! Give us something fine in this world as well as something fine in here after.
(Al-Baqesh: 20)

- In making use of luxuries Islam advises man to be moderate and avoid extravagance.

Allah says in Quran:

And eat and drink but waste not by extravagance, certainly He (Allah) does not like those who waste by extravagance
(Al-Aarraf 7:3)

On aspect of moderation Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said: keep fast and Beest it at peoper time and stand in peayes and devotion in the night and have sleep, for your body has its rights over you, & your eyes rights over you and your wife has a claim upon you and the person who pays a visit to you has a claim upon you.

5) Universal deen:

Message of Islam is for entire Mankind Allah addresses human being by saying O Mankind, signifies that islam and its teachings are not only confined to Muslims but it is a universal deen. It bashes all barriers of status, wealth, race, caste and religion.

As mentioned in Quran:-

This Quran is enlightenment for mankind and guidance and mercy for people who are certain in faith.

→ Islam is the religion for all the times and people to come. It holds continuity of message from Adam (A.s) to Muhammed (S.A.W.W) and it is guidance for all the coming gen till the day of judgement.

O people! I'm but a messenger from God to you all (Arafat: 158).

Islam have a potential to Address all the newly emerging problems.