

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

Ans:

### Islam

The word Islam is an Arabic word which means peace. Islam is a religion of peace and spending of one's life with the will of God. The dictionary meaning of Islam is peace and submitting or surrendering oneself to the will of God. The contextual meaning of Islam is to enter into peace by submitting yourself before the will of Allah.

It is a universal religion that is for all mankind, for all the time and for every region of the world. The base of Islam dependent upon belief in the oneness of Allah the creator of the whole universe who is omnipotent and omnipresent. and belief of the finality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). One that follows Islam is muslim. Islam is not just a religion but complete code of life that teaches us every walk of life it may be individual life, social life, political, economic, ~~social~~ cultural, moral, materials, financial even at state level it guides us in practical and simple manner.

The pillar of Islam are Tauheed, Prophethood (Risalat), prayer, Fasting, zakat, and Hajj. Muslim offer prayer 5 times a day, observe fasting in holy month of Ramadan, believe in concept of Tauheed and finality of Muhammad PBUH, give zakat and perform Hajj. These are the pillars which

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Islam is a divine religion that was revealed by Allah Almighty, the creator of whole universe, it is a religion of truth that is practised by million of people in the world.

### Salient Features of Islam

→ These are the characteristics of Islam that makes it unique from other religions.

#### ① Unique concept of "Tawheed"

The unique concept of ~~taw~~ tawheed is present in 1st part of "Kalima Tawheed" that the one and only God of the whole universe is Almighty Allah. All our faiths, rituals, practises depend upon the basis of concept of Tawheed.

As Allah Pak is told in Surah Ikhlas (104, 1-4) regarding oneness of God. So, in Islam we believe there is no God but Allah.

Allama Shibli naumani in his book "Sifat-un-Nabi" wrote that it is surmah to believe that Tawheed is the first chapter of Islamic syllabus. In Another hadees it is said that Islam is like a fort and gate of that fort is Tawheed.

#### ② Prophethood :

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) the messenger of Allah muslims believe that he is the last prophet of Allah and after him no prophet will appear till the day of judgment. As Allah Pak stated in Surah Ahzab (33:40) that we believe in the

finality of prophet (PBUH). ~~and~~ His way of life is called Sunnah that teaches us way of living life. He was sent as a teacher of mankind, the last messenger of God. Allah almighty revealed Quran on prophet (PBUH) as in Surah Najam (53:3-4) it is written that prophet (PBUH) never talks by himself but everything is being told by Allah. He guided us about whole life, about getting education, way of eating, drinking water, behaviour in society, rights of parents, friends, relatives, neighbours etc, he taught us in every aspect of daily life and no doubt he is messenger and last prophet for whole universe and <sup>most</sup> influential personality of the world.

### (3) Islam is complete code of life

Islam is not just a religion for an individual to believe and perform rituals or limited to private life of an individual but it is a complete code of life from birth of a newborn till death. It teaches regarding individual, collective, social, political, economic, moral, material, financial, state affairs, it guides about seeking knowledge, it guides about to remain in peace, development of individual personality and his collective life in the society, when a baby is

## ④ Islam Promotes humanity:

Humanity is care, sympathy, welfare, tolerance without any discrimination of color, caste, religion, race, nationality it is showing of care, respect, patience and protection of rights of humans, animals etc

Islam promotes humanity as it teaches us in different aspects of life <sup>as in</sup> Sureh Hujret (1-15) and Sureh Al-Humaya

It is said that the best among you is the one who is best for others and the best among you is the one who is best in his character. Islam promotes giving charity to

the poor as in Sureh Baqarah (2:177) it is written that Muslims are those who give charity despite of love for it.

A famous writer Dr. Wasiullah from a university of Egypt named Jamiat-ul-Ahwal wrote book 'Key Features of Islam'

in which he said main feature of Islam is practise of social services. Islam protects the rights of women, parents, relatives, neighbours, friends etc. It teaches us to care for the sick

as Holy prophet said that Allah shows displeasure for those who never visit the sick. Islam also teaches us regarding

Environmental protection As prophet (PBUH) said <sup>that</sup> planting a green tree is the best charity, don't cut green tree even in

the case of war. He also said never waste even a single drop of water even if you are sitting on a running stream.

So Islam teaches us to be kind and patient and if we practise Islam we can become role model for our

society.

## ⑤ Protection of Holy Book:

The Holy Book of Allah "Quran Pak" was revealed upon Holy Prophet (PBUH) and Allah Almighty took the responsibility of protection of Holy Quran by himself.

As he said in Surah Al Hijz that we have sent down this message (Quran) and we will safeguard it.

No any Book of other religion or their treaties are in original form either they are disappeared or changed but Holy Quran is the only book that is present in

its original form. A modern day critic of Islam

William Muir verified from his research that Quran is present in its original form and never been altered

or changed. Although William Muir doesn't believe in Islam or Holy Quran being revealed by God.

Though Holy Quran is present in perfect pure form and without any minimal change.

## ⑥ Humanitarianism and universality

Islam is the religion for whole mankind and Prophet (PBUH) is the last prophet and messenger for all humans as (Surah Al-Araf : 158) it is

written that Oh people! I am the messenger of God for you all. Holy Quran is last message of Allah

for all ~~man~~ mankind regardless of their ~~sex~~ race, color, language etc.

## ⑦ Islam is Deen of moderation

As other religion either extremely strict or very flexible for example religion of Moses (A-S) was very strict for his followers and religion of Christianity is very soft and flexible. But Islam is neither too strict nor too soft for his follower. Islam is a deen of moderation of having faith in Almighty Allah and his prophet and spending life on the principles of Islam. Neither it is completely materialistic nor completely spiritual but a mid way of spending life according to teachings of Islam and still being at the glory of spiritual life.

## ⑧ Unique political and economic system

Islam teaches unique way - ~~not~~ <sup>neither</sup> completely communist nor capitalist but "plastic democracy" as said by Allah in Surah Shuraa that these affairs are based on consultation among those people. It doesn't mean to forget teachings of Islam but to appoint ruler by consultation of people who abide by fundamental principals of Islam. In communist country there is disbalance and hard worker are not paid off as they should be and in capitalist state the strong elites will ~~use~~ usurp the resources and there will be nothing left for poor so Islam introduced a midist concept of both, excluding ~~these~~ these flaws and providing whole new system of politics and economics according to principals of Islam.

### 9) Balance between individual and society

Islam not only guides regarding individual's private life, it teaches about his personality, character, how education is important then along with individual life it tells regarding collectivism, and role of individual in the society.

### 10) The concept of life after death

According to Islam this world is temporary, whatever deeds and misdeeds ~~we~~ are carried out by man in this temporary world will be punished or rewarded after death. Life ~~after~~ after death is eternal and never ending. One who is obedient of Almighty Allah will be rewarded with everlasting rewards of paradise and one who disobeys, will be punished for his sins.

### 11) Islam is a complete religion

As from ancient times many prophets came, their Shari'ah were limited to time and they changed with time and on the arrival of next prophet but Holy prophet (PBUH) is the last prophet and Holy Book Quran is the last message of Allah that was revealed now Islam is a complete religion that Allah has provided till day of judgment in which Allah catered us in every aspect of life that may be social, political, economic, moral, material etc.

## (12) Direct Relation of Individual with God

Hindus have cast system, Buddhism have concept of idles as an intercessors, Christians etc. Unlike all these religion, Islam has unique concept of direct relation of individual and God. We don't have intercessors to connect us with God as Allah almighty said in (Surah Muddassir) that intercession and intercessors will have not benefit to them.

## (13) Practical and rational religion

As compared to other religion, Islam has no concept of myths. It is a very simple and straightforward religion. If one ~~has~~ wants to practise it, he would read from Quran and practice his life according to the teachings of Almighty Allah.

## (14) Permanence and change

Permanence brings rigid ~~and~~ system and change brings instability and flexibility. Islam has concept of <sup>Balance of</sup> both permanence and change in the system that satisfies the demands of both stability and change.

Even these are other principles and entities that makes Islam's unique and universal religion and no religion in the world teaches the way of life and peace as Islam does for mankind.