

Q. What is Islam? Elaborate the silent features of Islam? (15 features)

"Islam" is an Arabic word. Made from slm, pronounced "salm" which means peace from which comes the word "aslama" which means he submitted, he resigned himself. So it means when a person commits himself to God it brings peace to mankind. Old name of Islam is Deen-e-hanif.

(سِلْمٌ). That was its Arabic meaning, its contextual meaning is "to enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah." or submission of desires to the will of Allah is called Islam. Meaning with context to Quran and Shariah is "voluntary".

As Allah say in Quran, [2:256]: "Let there be no compulsion in religion, for the truth stands out clearly from falsehood. So whoever renounces false gods and believes in Allah has certainly grasped the firmest, unfailing hand-hold. And Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing."

Allah also in the Quran say, [109:6]: "For you is your religion, and for me is my religion. Islam is a religion of truth. It is representation of code of life which the Creator and Lord of the Universe has revealed for guidance of mankind."



Following are the Somethings which Holy Prophet (PBUH) had also told as; witnesses of Allah and his messengers practice pillars. Further it is said by Holy Prophet (PBUH) that, "It is only namaz ~~the~~ which separate a believer from a non believer.

It is said that Islam is a universal deen which guides mankind in every aspect of life. It is not only limited for a specific time but till the day of judgement. Islam is not restricted to a small area or a few countries ~~but~~, as said not for a limited geography but for whole world. Not just Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkiye, Bangladesh etc are the areas which are muslim countries but Islam is spread over the world. Islam is not confined for a specific ethnicity as it is said that we all are equal may that be a white or black man, rich or poor, etc. About this ~~the~~ Prophet (PBUH) said that, "There is no superiority of an Arab over a non Arab, or of a non-Arab over a Arab and no superiority of a white person over a black person or a black person over a white person, except on the Personal Piety and righteousness."



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Islam is for entire mankind. Islam is not bound to a specific person with specific deeds / qualities. As Dr. Hamidullah said in his book that, "Islam is a monotheist deen revealed upon Prophet (Muhammad) (PBUH). Islam doesn't only means completing rights of Allah and you are a Muslim but as Imam Ghazali said that; "Islam is combination of rights of Allah and rights of people." As now a days people think that you only have faith in Allah and you are a muslim or you only worship and not have faith in Allah you are muslim. About this Molana Saadullah Khan says; "Islam is the combination of faith and worship." Islam is combination of five alphabets which separately stand for a different word completing a whole idea behind this single word. eg Ideal System of living for All of Mankind.

⇒ Islam is not a ~~religion~~ mazhab or religion but a complete deen. It is a complete code of life. ~~Islam~~ Islam have many silent features which tells a not only muslim but non-believer what Islam represents and what of a



believer is expected. Every single feature has a different weightage in life of a believer.

Even a single feature not believed or followed by a muslim he isn't a true believer, [8:12]

"The 'true' believers are only those whose hearts tremble at the remembrance of Allah, whose faith increases when His revelations are recited to them, and who put their trust in their Lord." First and foremost feature is "Unique Concept of Tawheed" it is the base of Islam.

It is first part of Kalma. Tawheed means that there is only One Supreme Lord of the Universe. In a single day many processes or activities happen at a single time who is behind it. It is only One Allah who is behind even a single ant crawling or a leaf bending on a branch of tree. [112:1-4]

"Say 'O Prophet', He is Allah - One and Indivisible; Allah the Sustainer 'need by all'. He has never had offspring, nor was He born. And there is none comparable to Him.

There is no one only Allah, we have to bow him and only ask Allah for anything we need. The starting point of Islam is this belief in the Unity of God (Tawhid). Tawheed is a core pillar of Islam. Allama



Shibli ramania in his book said, "Islam is like a fort and the gate of that fort is tawheed."

⇒ Next feature of Islam is ~~the~~ Prophethood. What is ~~the~~ Prophethood? Prophethood is Allah's blessing and a favour that is bestowed on an individual chosen. It is second part of kalma; Finality of ~~the~~ Prophethood. Being a Muslim we believe that there is only One Allah and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is last ~~the~~ Prophet of Allah. He sent Prophet (Muhammad) (PBUH) to guide the mankind to the right path which ~~is~~ Allah himself had decided. Every Prophet before and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) were sent to translate what Allah has guided to them. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a role model to a true believer and whatever he did was known as sunnah which have to follow. He educated us, told us rule to abide [53:3-4]; "Nor does he speak of his Own whims. It is only a revelation sent down 'to him'". It is clearly mentioned in Quran that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is last ~~the~~ Prophet, seal of Prophethood, [33:40], Muhammad is not father of any



of your men, but is the Messenger of Allah and the seal of the prophets. And Allah has perfect knowledge of All things.

⇒ Third silent feature is Complete code of life. Now Islam isn't only a religion but a complete deen which guides mankind in every aspect of life from a single point to the ending point. It is complete manual for ~~man~~ an individual's life. Like a newborn is born Islam have given us some rituals that are to be performed like, the azan is whispered into baby's ears, etc. Then Islam also guides us how to upbringing a child, what should be taught to the child what is right from wrong. Islam also teaches, character building, How to earn (halal ways of earning), about family life (rights and duties of Parents, spouses and children) and last but not least gaining education. In one hadith, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim."

Islam guides us from generation to generation.

Islam also guide us about collective life; Social life (rights and duties of neighbours etc), Political system (how to rule), financial systems, Justice (how to rule a certain problem), administration (how to run a country) and global affairs (relation with



with other countries. [16:89], "we have revealed to you the book which clarifies every matter."

⇒ Islam uses the word "INSAN" for a human being and Insoniyat as a quality of a human being with reference to behavior or "Ikhtiyar" of human beings and their treatment of each other. Fourth feature of Islam is Islam promotes humanity. Humanity refers to the kind feelings humans often have for each other. In Islam we are taught that even the way we talk e.g. if we can't help any body but talk sweetly, which is known as being a characterful is humanity. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) says: "The perfect among the believers are those who are best in character."

Which modern world now tells us is humanity (the way they tell us to promote humanity) Islam told us that same thing since the ~~pre~~ period of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Like charity, ~~the~~ social work, Medical services, fulfillment of human rights, Animal rights and Environment Protection is humanity. Humanity is of immense importance that even Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in his last sermon (farewell sermon) he told us about humanity.



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⇒ Here is the 5<sup>th</sup> salient feature of Islam belief in the books; send down to mankind to guide them. Allah sent 4 books, Quran, Torah, Zabur, and Injil. 3 books were sent to mankind before Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the 4<sup>th</sup> and the book Quran was sent down to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to guide the Ummah on right path. [16:89] (O Muhammad), warn them of the coming of a Day when we shall bring forth a witness against them from each community and we shall bring you forth as a witness against them all; (and it is for that purpose that) we sent down the Book to you which makes everything clear, <sup>86</sup> and serves as a guidance and mercy and glad tidings to those who have submitted to Allah.

⇒ Belief in the angels is 7<sup>th</sup> salient feature of Islam. Muslims believe that Allah created Angels or malaikat with the purpose of following the orders of Allah and communicating with humans, [6:6] - They (angels) do not disobey Allah in what He commands them, but do what they are commanded. Jibrail was the angel who brought first revelation on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Angels are assigned different



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various duties which they performed. Jibrail acts as intermediary between God and Humans. Angel Mikail is angel of rain. Israfil will blow his trumpet to announce the Day of Resurrection. Azrael is angel of death.

⇒ Allah sent 4 Holy Books to guide Mankind. Belief in Holy Books is another silent feature of Islam. These Books were sent to 4 different ~~prophets~~ prophet's. The books are Tawrat sent to Prophet (Musa AS), Zabur sent to Prophet Dawud (AS), Injeel sent to Prophet Eisa (AI) and the Last Holy book sent to guide Mankind to the last Prophet (Muhammad (PBUH)). [39:41].

"Verily we have revealed the book to you in truth for instructing mankind. He that receives guidance benefits his own soul, but he that strays injures his own soul."

⇒ Belief in al-qadar (the divine will and decree) is one of the pillars of faith. Allah has decreed all things from eternity and knows that they will happen at times that are known to Him, and in specific ways, and that He has written that ~~and~~ willed it, and they happen according to what He has decreed. Whatever He wills happens ~~and~~, and whatever He does not will does not happen. [19:4]. "Allah sends a ray



whom He wills and guides whom He wills."

⇒ Day of judgement is the time when all human beings are raised from the dead to be judged by Allah as to whether they shall spend eternity in jannah (Paradise) or in Jahannam (Hell fire). It also an silent feature of Islam belief on day of judgement. Allah has decreed all things but given mankind will to do as they want so they could be held accountable for their good and bad deed.

Each person has two angels who write bad and good deeds which are piled and on Day of judgement will be the decision where the deed of our carry on. Surah Al-Hajj describes day of judgement [69:18-19]. "You will be presented before 'Him for judgement', and none of your secrets will stay hidden. As for those given their records in <sup>their</sup> right hand, they will cry 'happily' "Here 'everyone'! Read my record!"

⇒ Sharia is the word which could be found in Quran many times. In Arabic it means that it is a path that lead people to a continuously flowing fresh water. That is the source of life and sustains life. Sharia is the religious obligations and the limits put on by Allah. It guides us to the right



Path when we are going through a rough patch in life. [45:18]. "And now, we have set you (O Muhammad, and sent you) to help establish a way of religion (complete) constituting rules of religion; so you follow that way and do not yield to the desire of those who are ignorant (of the truth)." Shariah is "A perfect way which calls to all that is good and prevents all that is evil. Reversed Shariah is also an silent feature of Islam, which guides the Muslim ummah not only but entire mankind.

⇒ Allah sent Quran as a guidance and Prophet Muhammad as a role model to teach us how to live through teachings of Quran. Prophet Muhammad's life and sayings are known as Sunnah; which guides us to live a Pure Islamic life (righteous and virtuous life). [3:164]. "Allah showed great kindness to the believers when He sent a Messenger to them from among themselves to recite His Signs to them, purify them and teach them the Book and Wisdom, even though before that they were deeply misguided." Sunnah is also a silent feature of Islam.

Charity is also an feature of Islam. Islam guide us to help the poor. Islam have many relief providing ways to help poor.



Zakat which commands ~~most~~ muslims to donate a portion of their wealth to charity. Sadaqah is a selfless act of kindness aimed at uplifting those in need. There are the ways but Allah without these ways commands us to help needy. [70:24-25]

"Those in whose wealth there is a recognized right for the needy and the poor" To help a ~~poor~~ person and not ask for the return but just ask Allah to help is also the core of Islam.

Allah has told us to offer the prayer which is obligatory for Muslims to perform five times a day. For muslims the primary purpose of Salah is to act as a mode of communication with Allah. [24:36] "You shall observe the Contact Prayers (salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat), and obey the messenger, that you may attain mercy." Even prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said only Salat is the difference between the believer and non-believer. Salat is also a feature of Islam.

Fasting is Zakat of Body (jism) it is a Farz. and a pillar of Islam. Muslims have to fast during ramadan which is obligatory but during other days which prophet Muhammad (PBUH) fasted we can fast but are not obligatory. But it is commanded that the fast of one who



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Does not pray is not valid and is not accepted.

Fasting teaches a muslim self-control, reinforces ones faith and piety, helps one become more mindful of God and His blessings. [2:183] "O believers! Fasting

is prescribed for you - as it was for those before you

So perhaps you will become mindful "of Allah".

Fasting is also an feature of Islam.

Hajj is a pilgrimage made to the Kaaba, the "House of Allah", in the sacred city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

It is obligatory on muslims but with wealth. Allah is "Rehman" and "Rahim" and doesn't

stress the poor or needy to perform things out

of his reach. [22:27] "Call 'all' people to the pilgrimage.

They will come to you on foot and on every lean

camel from every distant path." Pilgrimage is

also an feature of Islam.