

Question # 4

Define Tauheed in a scholarly manner describing its significance and effect on human life.

I. Introduction:

The doctrine of Tauheed affirms the belief in absolute unity and oneness of a unique, transcendent, omnipotent, compassionate and merciful God. Tauheed is very essence of Islam. In Quran Allah says

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

112. He is the one and indivisible

(Quran 112:1-4)

II. Meaning of Tauheed:

a. Literal Meaning:

Literal meaning of Tauheed is belief in:

b. Contextual Meaning:

Contextual meaning of tauheed is only Allah is the creator and Allah alone is supreme powerful. Allah alone is the sustainer and eternal.

In Quran Allah says

والله االه وحده لا اله الا هو الرحمن الرحيم

Your God is only 'one' God. There is no god except Him the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful

(Quran 2:163)

III. Islamic Concept of Tauheed:

Tauheed is the core pillar of Islam. Only Allah is worthy of worship. There is no god except Him. None is His companion.

In Quran Allah says

لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ

He has never had offspring,
nor was He born.

(Quran 112:3)

IV. Definitions of Scholars

Ibn Taymiyyah, a prominent Islamic scholar, defined tauheed as belief in the oneness of Allah in His lordship, divinity, and names and attributes. He stressed that

Tauheed entails singling out Allah alone for worship without associating partners with Him.

Another renowned scholar

Al-Ghazali described tauheed as the affirmation of the absolute oneness and uniqueness of Allah in His essence, attributes and actions.

V. Kinds of Tauheed:

There are three main types of Tauheed. These are namely Tauheed al-Dhat (Unity in Person), Tauheed al-Sifat (Unity in attributes) and Tauheed al-Afaal (Unity in actions).

a. Unity in Person:

Tauheed Al-Dhat, Muslim affirms that Allah is unique in His essence, transcending all limitations and imperfections

In Quran Allah says

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ
سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي
الْأَرْضِ

Allah! There is no god except Him, the Ever-living, All-sustaining. Neither drowsiness nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heaven and whatever is on the earth.

b. Unity in Attributes:

In Tauheed Al-Sifat, Muslim affirm that no other being possesses any of the Divine attributes in the

absolute sense.

In Quran, Allah says

ذَلِكَ عِلْمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ
الْعَزِيزِ الرَّحِيمِ

That is the knower of the
seen and unseen - the Almighty,
Most Merciful.

c. Unity in Action:

Tauheed fil afaal means that
no one can do or does the work
which Allah has done or can
do in future. No one can make a
single verse like Allah has
written in Quran.

In Quran Allah says

إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِذَا أَرَادَ شَيْئًا أَنْ يَقُولَ
لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ

All it takes, when He will

Something "to be", is simply to say
to it: "Be!" and it is!

(Quran 36:82)

VI. Significance of Tauheed:

There are many significance of Tauheed. Tauheed is paramount in Islam and holds profound implications for Muslims in various aspects.

a. Monotheistic Faith:

Tauheed is the central doctrine of Islam, affirming absolute oneness of God and rejecting polytheism. It crucially ensures one's self-respect is not damaged as it he/she will believe in one God and He will be enough.

b. Spiritual Fulfillment:

Belief in Tauheed provides Muslims with a deep sense of spiritual fulfillment and purpose. It builds a direct and intimate connection between the individual and their creator.

c. Unity of Muslim Community:

Tauheed unifies the Muslim community by emphasizing a shared belief in oneness of Allah. It transcends difference of race, ethnicity, and nationality.

d. Purity of Worship:

Tauheed directs Muslims to worship Allah alone without

associating partners with Him.
It purifies the act of worship
from any form of shirk.

VII. Impacts of Tauheed:

a. Impacts on Individual level:

There are positive impacts of Tauheed on individual level. Tauheed protects self respect and dignity as one who believe in Tauheed only worship Allah and doesn't ask anyone to fulfil his needs. Another impact on individual is that it create sense of hope the believer of Tauheed have hope in Allah that He is capable of changing their situation.

b. Impacts on Societal level:

Tauheed also has positive impacts on society. It creates the sense of Equality as everyone is equal before Allah no matter to what caste or creed he is from. Those who believe in Tauheed have a sense of responsibility. They know that they have some duties towards society and they have some rights. There is dual concept of accountability. Accountability before law and Accountability before Allah.

VIII. Conclusion:

In nutshell, one can say

Tauheed is one of the key belief of Islam. It means no one possesses any quality that Allah has. Thus, Tauheed belief in oneness of Allah is very essential. It has multifaceted importance at individual as well as at societal level.
