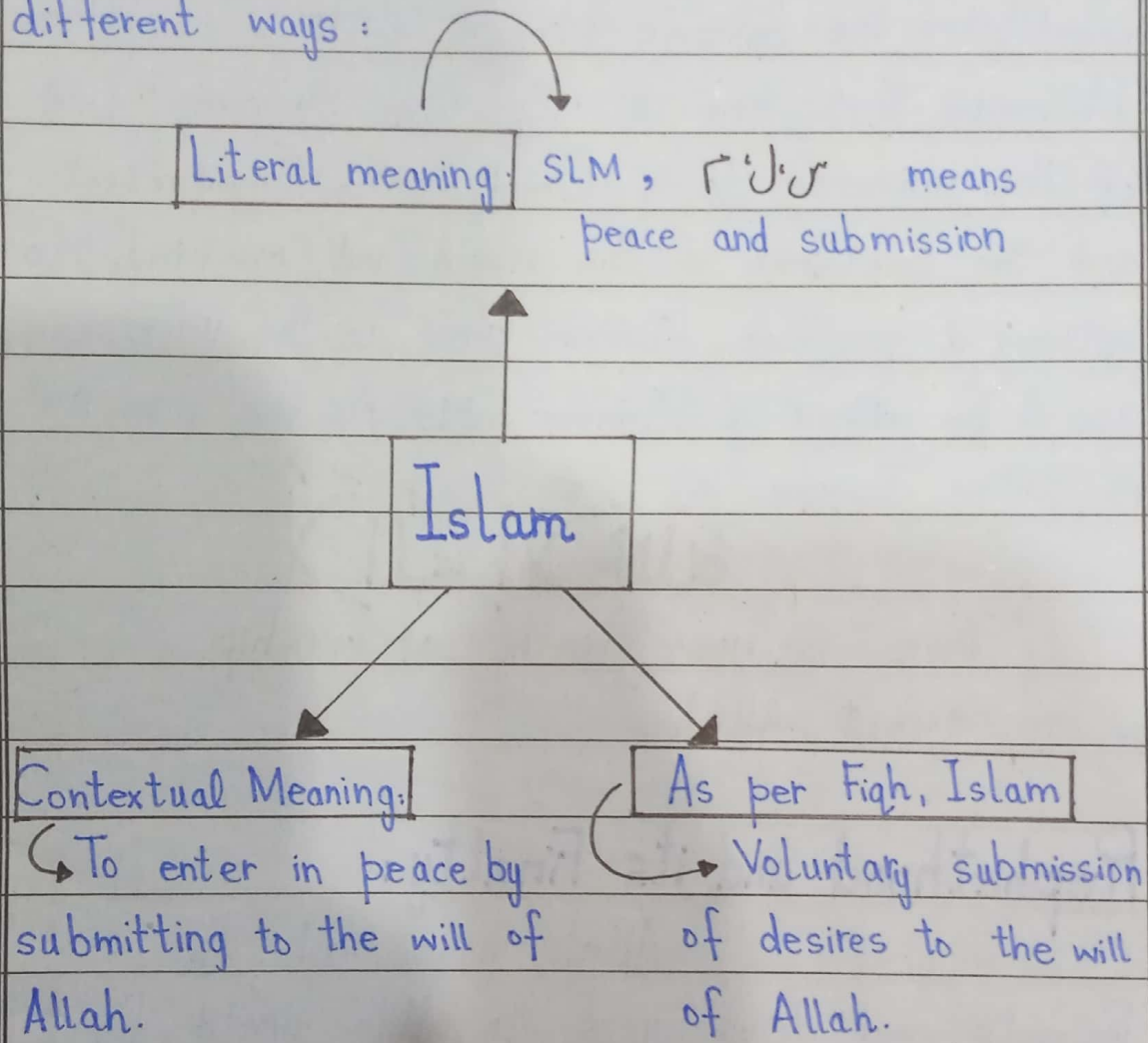


Q. What is Islam? Enlist salient features of Islam.

Ans. Definition of Islam:

Islam can be defined in the three different ways :



By considering the meaning of Islam in all the three contexts, it is clear that Islam is a Din, bestowed by Allah Almighty upon the whole mankind, for their guidance and betterment. It consists of Prophets ranging from Adam (a.s) to Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Holy Book Quran, angels and The Day of Judgement.

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## Salient Features of Islam

Following are some of the salient features of Islam:

### Monotheism :

Touheed is a revolutionary concept and constitutes the essence of the teachings of Islam.

It means that there is only One Supreme Lord of the universe. He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and the Sustainer of the world and mankind. We witness a supreme, flawless plan in the universe - can it be without a Planner - No. As the first part

of Kalma Tayyeba is

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

"There is none worthy of worship except Allah."

### Prophethood and its Finalty:

Allah has sent His Prophets and messengers to this world for the betterment of mankind, ranging from Prophet Adam (A.S) to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It is a compulsion to believe in the finality of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), that He (pbuh) is the last prophet of Allah, the Exalted.

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As the second part of Kalma states:

"And Muhammad is the messenger of Allah."

(- Kalma Tayyab)

## Protection of Book:

Unlike other religions, there is no alteration in Holy Quran for personal or the political motives. As it is said in Quran:

ان نحن نزلنا الذكر

"We have sent down this message (Quran) and we shall safeguard it."

(- Al-Hijr)

This declaration of Allah has been also verified by the critics. William Muir says:

"We may upon the strongest presumption, affirm that every verse is the genuine and unaltered composition of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) himself."

(- The Life of Muhammad)

## Concept of Life after Death:

The world according to Islam is a place of trial and man shall be judged for his deeds. He will have to give account of all that he does herein. As this is a famous proverb

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that:

"As you sow, so shall you reap."

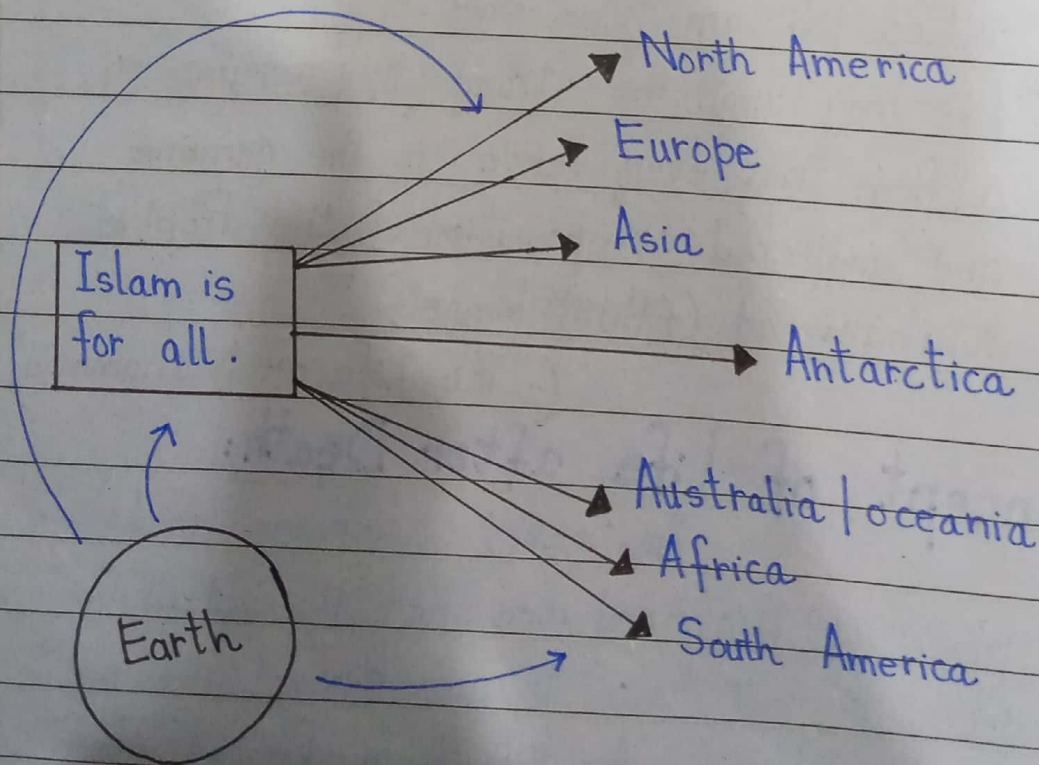
How could it be possible that, we will not be held accountable for what we are doing in this world.

Breaks up old marble, the repose of princes  
See the graves open, and bones arising,  
Flames all around'em! Hark,  
The shrill outcries of the guilty wretches!

(Isaac Watts)

## Universality and Humanism:

The message of Islam is for the entire human race. God in Islam - God of all the world (Al-Fatiha: Verse 1) and Prophet is a messenger for the whole mankind.



## Din of Moderation:

The religion of Moses (A.S) is very strict in terms of teachings for its followers. On the other hand, Christianity adopts a very soft line. Islam is not too strict not it is too soft and thus provides a path of moderation to its followers. A follower of Islam can live his life according to the teachings of Islam while still being at the glory of spiritual life. Allah (SWT) says:

“ There is no compulsion in religion. ”

(Surah Baqarah)

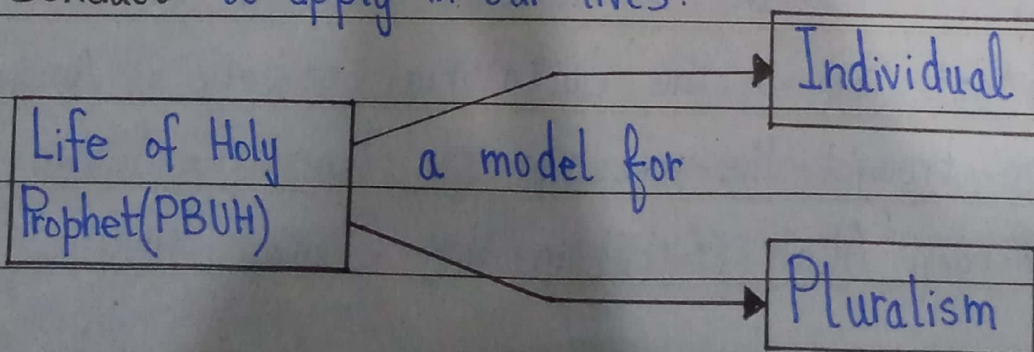
As per Hadith:

“ Ruined are those who insist on hardships in matters of the Faith. ”

(Sahih Muslim)

## Holy Prophet a Complete Model:

No religion can claim that all the aspects of the life of its founder are known to its modern-day followers except Islam. The life of Holy Prophet (PBUH) gives us the Code of Conduct to apply in our lives.



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As Quran says:

"No doubt in the messenger of Allah you have a perfect model to follow."

(Surah Ahzab)

## Islam and Scientific Developments:

Islam and science have a complex and intertwined relationship, with religion promoting scientific inquiry and scholarship. We can have examples of Muslim scientists, they have significant contributions throughout History. In the present world, Holy Quran is already been a source of major scientific developments in the West. In Quran, Allah has already described the developmental stage of a human being.

"Then fashioned we, the drop a clot, then fashioned we the clot, little lump, then fashioned we the little lump bones."

(- Al Quran)

## Unique Political Model:

In the darkest eras of the times and that too in the dictatorial society of Arabia, Islam brought the message of true pluralistic democracy. Allah (SWT) in the Quran says:

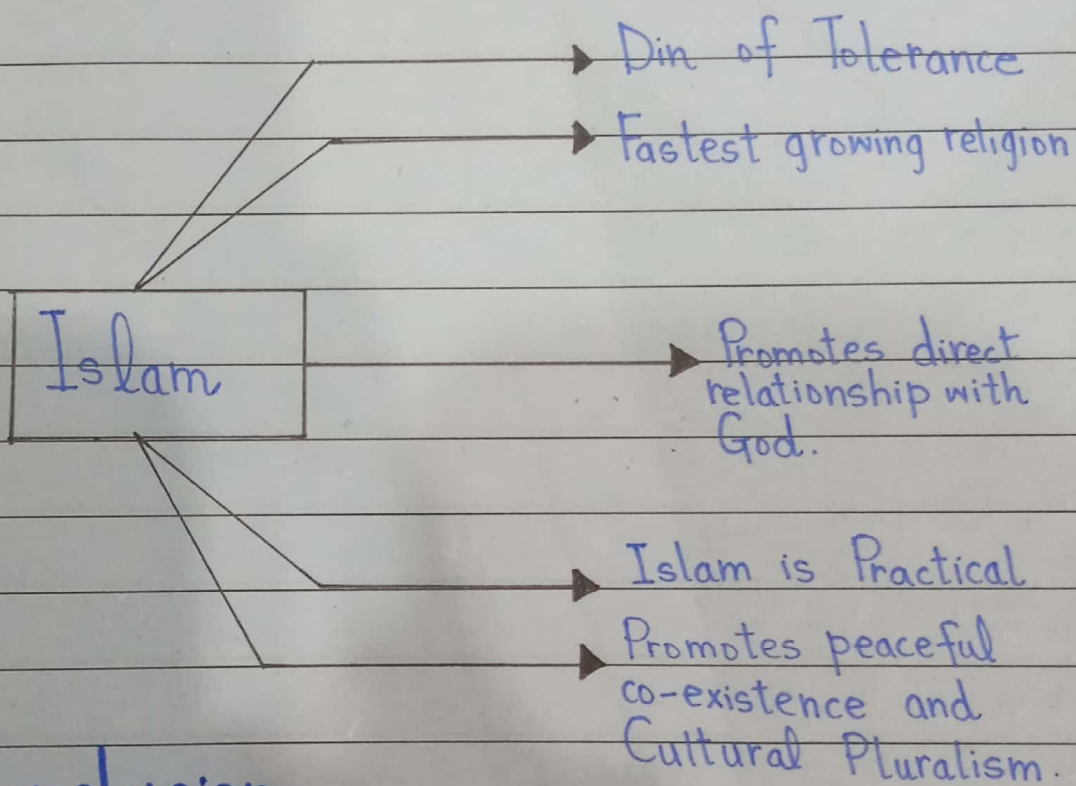
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“Their affairs are based on consultation among them.”

(- Surah Shura)

## Other Religions and Islam:

Some distinctive elements of Islam which can be considered and make Islam distinctive from other religions as well:



## Conclusion:

Islam is a religion bestowed by Allah, the Exalted by Himself. The features of Islam not only make Islam an eternal religion but also a key to the prosperity for the whole mankind specially for the Muslims. The Muslims of Pakistan can also seek help from these features by following the footsteps of Holy Prophet (PBUH).