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ASSIGNMENT : ISLAMIC STUDIES

ASSIGNMENT TOPIC : What is Islam -?
Enlist 15 features of
Islam.

ASSIGNED BY : Sir Muhammad Raza Ansari

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- What is Islam?

- Enlist 15 features of Islam —!

Q. What is Islam —?

Islam, major world religion founded by Muhammad in Arabia in the early 7th century CE. The Arabic word "Islam" means "surrender" — specifically to the will of God, called "Allah" in Arabic.

In Islam we have given the freedom of religion

As in Surah Bakara (2: 256) -

وَلَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ

"There is no compulsion in the acceptance of religion"

Further; Dr. Hameed Ullah narrates in his book that "Islam is monotheist deen revealed upon prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H."

The sayings and deeds of the prophet —

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recounted in sunna, are also an important source of belief and practice in Islam.

Hadith-e-Jibrail (حديث جبرائيل)

Islam is the amalgamation of 2 things.

- 1- To witness of Allah and His messenger.
- 2- To establish pillars.

- By Sadat-Ud-din Islahi; it has been narrated.

Islam is based on 2 things.

- 1- Faiths
- 2- Worships

In Imam Ghazali's book it is quoted, Islam is the combination of rights of Allah (حقوق الله) and rights of people (حقوق الخلق).

- In essence Islam is a monotheistic faith centered around the worship of a single, all powerful God (Allah) and the guidance of prophet Muhammad, fostering spiritual growth, moral integrity and communal harmony among its adherents.

FEATURES OF "ISLAM - !"

- 1- **Belief in one God (Tawheed)** - Islam emphasizes the belief in the oneness of God, Allah, and rejects polytheism or associating any partners with Him.
- (Quran 2: 163)

وَاللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ - (١٦٣)

Your God is "only" one God, There is no God 'worthy of worship, except him — the most compassionate, most Merciful.

- 2- **Prophethood (Nubuwwah)** :- Islam acknowledges prophets sent by Allah to guide humanity, with prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) being the last and final prophet. Islamic books like "The sealed Nectar" by Khalifah 'Abd. Allah Sirajuddin' describe the life and mission of Prophet Muhammad.

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3- **Angels** :- Belief in angels who serve as messengers and recorders of human actions is a core Islamic teaching. Islamic books, such as "The Meaning of Islam" by Muhammad Asmidullah, discuss angels like Jibril (Gabriel), who brought revelations to Prophet Muhammad.

4- **Holy Books** :-

Muslims believe in a series of books revealed by Allah, including the Quran, Tawrat (Torah), Zabur (Psalms), Injil (Gospel), and the Quran itself. Islamic books like "The History of Quran Text" by Gerd R. Puin explore these holy books and their significance.

5- **The Day of Judgment** -

(Yawm al-Diyamah) - Muslims believe in the Day of Judgment when people will be resurrected, and their deeds will be judged leading to either paradise or Hell. —

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Quran - (36 : 51)

وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَإِذَا هُمْ مِنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَنْسِلُونَ -

The Trumpet will be blown a second time then behold — they will rush from the graves to their Lord.

6- **Predestination and Freewill** ; Islam

Combines the concept of predestination (Qadar) and free will (Ikhtiyar) - Muslims believe that Allah knows everything, but humans have the freedom to choose their actions, Islamic books, such as "Islamic Theology" by Abdul Malik Mujahid, elaborate on this balance.

7- **Prayer (Salah)** - Muslims are obliged to perform five daily prayers as a means of communicating with God and seeking His guidance.

- Quran (2 : 238) كَفَرُوا عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ وَالصَّلَاةِ الْوَسْطَىٰ وَقَوْمُوا لِلَّهِ قَانِتِينَ -

Observe the five obligatory prayers — especially.

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the middle prayer — and stand in true devotion to Allah.”

2- Charity and Social Welfare :-

- Islam encourages Muslims to help the needy and support social welfare. Islamic books, such as "The Islamic concept of charity" by Ahmad-Al-Haddad, emphasize the importance of charity and its role in creating a just society.

Also, in Quran about Zakat (Almsgiving) mentioned.

- Muslims are required to give a fixed percentage of their wealth as charity to help the needy and maintain social equality.

- Quran (2:110)

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَقُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ
مِنْ هَبِيرٍ بِحُدُودِ عِندَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ
بَصِيرٌ ﴿١١٠﴾

“And establish prayer and give Zakah, and whatever good you put -

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forward for ourselves — you will find it with Allah. Indeed, Allah of what you do, is seeing."

9- **PROHIBITION OF USURY (Riba)** -

- Islam forbids the practice of charging interest on loans, promoting fair and just economic transactions.

- Quran (3: 130)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَأْكُلُوا الرِّبَا أَضْعَافًا
مُضَاعَفًا ۖ وَالْقَوْلُ لِلَّهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَفْلَحُونَ ﴿١٣٠﴾

O believers! Do not consume interest, multiplying it many times over. And be mindful of Allah, so you may prosper.

10- **JUSTICE And EQUALITY** : Islam promotes justice and equality among all people, regardless of race, gender or social status. Islamic books like "The Islamic Concept of Justice" by Abdul Aziz Sachedin discuss these principles in detail.

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11- War And Peace :-

- Quran addresses the concept of war and peace in various verses, emphasizing the importance of justice, self-defense, and reconciliation. One notable example can be found in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:190).

وَقَاتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ قَاتَلُوكُمْ وَلَا تَغْتَدُوا إِنَّا أَلَمْ نَكُنْ لَكُمْ بِالْمُؤْتَمِرِينَ ﴿١٩٠﴾

"Fight in the cause of Allah 'only' against those who wage war against you, but do not exceed the limits. Allah does not like transgressors."

12 CLEANLINESS And HYGIENE :-

- Islam places great importance on personal and environmental cleanliness. Islamic books like Islam and Cleanliness by Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips discuss the significance of cleanliness in Islam and its impact on health and well-being. Also in an ahadith it is mentioned →

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"Cleanliness is half of faith" -
- (Sahih Muslim)

13. **DRESS CODE** :- Islam has specific guidelines for modest dress, particularly for women. Islamic books like "Modesty in Islam" by Hamza Yusuf explain the reasoning behind these guidelines and their role in promoting modesty and respect.

Education :- Islam places a strong emphasis on education, as evidenced in the saying of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), "Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim". Islamic books like "Islam and Education" by Tariq Ramadan explore the importance of education in Islam.

HUMAN RIGHTS :

Islam upholds the dignity and rights of every human being. -

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- Quran (4:135)

- "O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; Indeed, Allah is acquainted with what you do."