

Q. What is the difference between Deen and Religion? Describe the importance of Deen in human life with arguments.

Introduction:

Deen and Religion are often used interchangeably but they hold nuanced differences. Religion typically refers to organized belief system with prescribed rituals and doctrines. Deen encompasses a broader concept, denoting a comprehensive way of life encompassing spiritual, moral and social dimensions. Understanding the importance of Deen in human life requires delving into its multifaceted role in providing moral guidance, fostering a sense of purpose and cultivating community cohesion. In this discussion, we will explore these distinctions and underscore the significance of Deen in shaping human existence.

Definition of Deen:

The word 'Deen' is a significant term used in the Qur'an and could mean..

way of life, framework for governance, recompense, reward, requital, dominion, obedience, religion or natural order.

The Deen, or the Islamic way of life, encompasses faith, worship and righteous action in the obedience to Allah (SWT).

It is the foundation upon which a believer's life should be built, guiding them to seek Allah's pleasure and attain eternal success in the Hereafter.

"Allah has enjoined upon the believers to call upon Him, being sincere to Him in obedience"

**Surah Az-Zumar
(39: 3)**

Definition of Religion:

Religion refers to a system of beliefs, practices, rituals and moral values followed by a group of people, typically revolving around the worship of a deity or deities and the interpretation of sacred texts.

Islam is a strictly monotheistic religion, and its adherents called Muslims, regard the prophet Muhammad as the last and most perfect of God's messengers who include

- (i) Adam
- (ii) Abraham
- (iii) Moses
- (iv) Jesus

The sacred scripture of Islam is the Qur'an which contains God's revelations to Muhammad.

Let there be no compulsion in religion, truth stands out clear from error.

Surah Al-Baqara
(2: 256)

Concept of Deen :

Deen is an all-round movement in the light of faith in Allah (SWT) and a sense of responsibility for the formation of thought and belief, for the promotion of high principles of human morality for the establishment of good relations among members of the society and the elimination of every sort of undue discrimination.

The Islamic Concept of Deen is unique in the broadest sense of the word. **Deen** plays a very important role in matter of human life and society. It provides advice in matters concerning Islamic Jurisprudence.

"Indeed Allah is my Lord and
Your Lord, so worship Him. That
is the straight Path"

**Surah Al-Imran
(3:51)**

Deen deals both the man's relation with Allah and his fellow beings. Deen covers all aspects of life, individual as well as collective.

Difference between Deen and Religion

Deen

- Deen is a complete system, which an applicable social, economic, political and religious system.
- Deen is divine and dynamic as well. It is a collective of institutions, social order, practice and beliefs.
- It is far more comprehensive all encompassing reality. It includes the belief, spirituality and etiquet of worship. Salah, Saum, Zakat, Hajj
- Deen is a collective matter
- Hence, Islam is essentially a Deen.

Religion

- Religion is a bond between a religious devotee and his God.
- Religion is a term used for a set of beliefs and rituals (religious) for worships.
- It must be understood that while several religions can co-exist.
- A system can either be based on the Law of Allah, or it will be against.
- It provides a complete constitution for the functions of a state.
- Religion is an individual matter.

Role of Deen in Human Life and Society

Deen play a vital role in human life and society. Its message is real and practical because it comprehensively covers all human actions. It explores the **Tauhid doctrine** effectively. It tell us how to live a virtuous life, how to conduct ourselves in public or at home, how to treat Parents, relations, friends, strangers, the Poor or orphans.

"We have surely set forth in the Qur'an every kind of lessons for people, but humankind is the most argumentative

of all beings" (Surah Al-Kahf)

Deen provides advice in matters concerning marriages, divorce, birth and death, property, inheritance and selling trade, commerce, civil and criminal law and other many practical matters.

"The craving for peace is inherent in human nature; hence being naturally craves for Islam and peace"

Dr. Khalifa Abdul Hakim

How Islam is a Universal Deen :-

Islam is a Universal Deen because, the following important Point it guides as follow;

- 1) It guides in every aspect of Life
- 2) It is not limited to a specific time period
- 3) It is not limited to a specific geography
- 4) It is not limited to a specific ethnicity

"For you your Deen and for us our Deen" Surah Al-Iqra

According to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Abu)

- (i) To wear witnesses of Allah and his message
- (ii) To establish the pillar of Islam.

Importance of Deen in Human Life:

There are many importance of Deen in human life, but some most importance are given below;

1. Deen provides Guidance to mankind:

Deen is a system of Life in which human beings consciously surrender themselves to the sovereignty of higher authority and live a life of total obedience under the system of that higher authority.

Deen provides guidance on the following factors;

- How to establish a connection with the Divine
- How to live in harmony with oneself and others
- The natural world.

It helps individuals to develop a sense of purpose, meaning and direction in their lives, and to navigate the challenges and trials of the human experience.

2. Deen provides a clear path:-

The importance of Deen, which is the doctrine of life in Islam is that; it provides a comprehensive framework for individuals to live a meaningful and fulfilling life.

Deen encompasses all aspect of human existence including;

- Individual spirituality
- Social intervention
- Moral conduct

"Whoever reject evil and believes in Allah
with a grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold,
that never breaks, and Allah heareth and
knoweth all things" Hazrat Ali (R.A)

3. Moral and Ethical Standards;

Allah (SWT) emphasizes the importance of moral and ethical standards, commanding believers to uphold justice and good conduct in their actions and interactions. By adhering to these principles, believers not only fulfill their duty towards Allah (SWT) but also contribute to the betterment of society, fostering harmony and goodwill among humanity.

Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conducts' (Surah An-Nahl)

4. Accountability and Justice;

This emphasizes believers of Allah's fairness in holding them accountable, affirming that He does not burden any soul beyond its capacity to endure. Accountability and Justice offers solace to individuals facing trials, reminding them of Allah's mercy and just judgment, encouraging patience and trust in His wisdom.

"Allah (SWT) does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear" ... Surah Al-Baqara (2: 286)

5. Unity and Brotherhood:

Allah (SWT) urges believers to unite and avoid division by holding firmly to His guidance, emphasizing the strength found in unity and brotherhood among the believers.

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided"

Surah Al-Imran
(3:103)

6. Resilience and Patience:

This emphasizes the inevitability of test and trials in life but encourages believers to maintain patience and perseverance, promising rewards for those who endure with fortitude.

"And we will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient"

Surah Al-Baqara
(2:155)

7. Divine Religion: source of wisdom and Knowledge :

Divinity refers to the quality or nature of God's being. In Christianity, divinity belongs to God alone. Orthodox Christians believe that Jesus is divine as well as human. Jesus is God and man, the second person of the Trinity, the father, son and Holy Spirit.

"Allah is omniscient; He eternally knows whatever can be known, be it universal or particular in character" (Al-dunen)

Knowledge as understanding basic facts, truth and information. We gain knowledge from learning and education.

Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge in a practical, intelligent way.

Most people believe wisdom comes from everyday experience.

Conclusion :

The importance of Deen in human life is profound and multifaceted. Beyond a set of religious belief, **Deen** provides a comprehensive guide for individuals to navigate the complexities of existence. It serves as a moral compass, instilling virtues and principles that foster personal growth, resilience and ethical conduct.

Deen offers a spiritual cure for the modern man, addressing not only the tangible challenges of life but also the intangible aspect of inner peace and purpose. Through techniques that lead against evil and establish principles of justice, **Deen** lays the foundation for a society characterized by compassion, fairness and collective well-being. In embracing **deen**, individuals find a source of solace, wisdom and guidance that enriches their lives and contributes to the creation of more just and harmonious world.

