

FAZAL SUBHAN, Batch: Raw. OSI Assignment # 01

Q: what is Islam enlist the salient features of Islam?

ISLAM

Introduction:

Islam is an Arabic word. It means to the act of resignation to God. The root word for Islam is "salm" which means peace, submission. Islam is a true religion of God.

Concept: Islam is a monotheistic religion that teaches, there is only one divine being, one supreme creator of the universe.

Islam is a universal religion that can be practiced by anyone at any time and in every place. The central concept of this way of life is total submission to only one God. Islam is a complete way of living that covers every aspect of life. It is revealed to the last prophet Muhammad Ibn Abdullah between 610 and 632 of the Common Era.

As a religion, Islam stand for complete submission and obedience to Allah that is why it is called Islam. A man joins the fold of Islam by honestly believing in and professing faith in the unity of God and the prophethood of Muhammad (peace be upon him). Both these beliefs are summaries in the ~~the~~ kalimah.

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لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله
There is no God except Allah; Muhammad is the prophet of Allah.

The first part لا اله الا الله presents the concept of Tawhid (unity of God) and second part محمد رسول الله affirms the prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH).

Salient features of Islam:

Salient features of Islam are given below;

1- Unique Concept of Tauheed:

Tauheed is a revolutionary concept and constitutes the essence that there is only one supreme Lord of the Universe. He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and the Sustainer of the world and of mankind.

The Arabic word Allah literally means "The God". The Qur'an contains numerous verses describing the nature of God.

The role of human beings as creations of God upon the earth and their relationship with God are also discussed in the sacred text;

"Say: He is Allah, the One"

(Surah Al-Ikhlās) Verse 1

"Allah is He on whom all depend."

(Al-Ikhlās Verse-2)

Muslims believe that God has no partners or associates who share in His divinity or authority and that God is transcendent, unlike His creations, and thus has no physical form. Nor is God believed to exist in or be represented by any material object.

A number of divine attributes or 'names', which serve to describe God, are found in the Qur'an. Some commonly known attributes include, the Most Merciful, the Most Forgiving, the Most High, the Most Unique, and the Everlasting, among others.

The concept of tauheed (the oneness of Allah) is the first part of Kalimah:

لا اله الا الله

2. Prophethood:

The second part of the Kalimah لا اله الا الله, On the other hand, signifies that God has not left man without any guidance for the conduct of his life. He has revealed His Guidance through His prophet and Muhammad (Peace be upon him) was the last prophet. And to believe in a prophet means to believe in his message, to accept the law which he gave and to follow the code of ~~the~~ conduct which he taught. Thus the second basic postulate of Islam is to believe in the prophet-

hood of Muhammad (PBUH) to accept the religion which he presented and to follow his commands. Every prophet of God, according to the Qur'an strove to build man's relationship with God on the principle of God's sovereignty and the acknowledgement of the authority of the prophet as source of divine guidance.

Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet and as such the final model for mankind. To believe in him means to accept his authority as representative of the Supreme Ruler and to follow his example in thought and behaviour.

In this regard Qur'an says:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

Indeed in the Messengers of Allah you have a good example to follow for him who hopes for Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah much. (Al-Ahzaab)

3- Islam is a Universal deen:

The message of Islam is for the entire human race. God, in Islam, is the God of all the world and the Prophet is a messenger for the whole of mankind.

In Islam all men are equal, whatever be their colour, language, race or nationality. Islam is international in its outlook and approach and

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does not admit barriers and distinctions based on colour, clan, blood or territory such as Buddhism named after their founder, Hinduism named after a specific geographical region, while Islam stresses on the unity of humanity, it also recognize human diversity and gives valuable principles to deal with ethnic, racial and religious differences in society. But unfortunately in today's globalized and sometimes polarized world, ~~this~~ this pluralistic dimension of Islam has received little attention in our time despite its vital significance for society. Islam is not limited to a specific ethnicity. It is for all the humanity.

4- A Complete way of Life:

It is a complete way of life, catering for all the fields of human existence. Islam provides guidance for all walks of life, individual and social, material and moral, economic and political, legal and cultural, national and international. In fact it was an unfortunate day when the scope of religion was confined to the private life of man and its social and cultural role was reduced to naught. And perhaps this is the declining factor of religion in the modern age.

5- Protection of Book

The holy books and treatises of earlier religions either disappeared or were changed with times, but not in case of the Holy Quran which has been preserved by the Almighty Allah.

Allah (SWT) says; we have sent down this message (Quran) and we shall safeguard it.

(Surah Al-Hijr).

This declaration of Allah has even been verified by the modern day critics of Islam.

William Muir in his book, *The Life of Muhammad*,

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

Though Muir being a non-Muslim, but he does affirm his belief through his research work that Quran is in its original form and that it has been never been altered and will never be.

6- Balance between the Individual and Society:

Another unique feature of Islam is that it establishes a balance between individualism and collectivism. It believes in the individual personality of man and holds every one personally accountable to God. It guarantees the fundamental rights of the individual and does not permit anyone to tamper with them. It makes the

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proper development of the personality of man one of the prime objectives of its educational policy.

According to the Qur'an:

God does not change the condition of a people unless they first change that which is in their hearts. (Al-Qur'an 13:11)

On the other hand, it also awakens a sense of social responsibility in man, organises human beings in a society and a state and enjoins the individual to subscribe to the social good. Prayer, in Islam, is offered in congregation which inculcates social discipline among the Muslims. In this regard The Holy prophet said:

'The believer in God is he who is not a danger to the life and property of any other.'

In short, Islam neither neglects the individual nor society it establishes a harmony and a balance between the two and assigns to each its proper due.

7- Practical and Rational Religion:

Islam is a religion without any mythology. Its teachings are simple and understandable. It is free from superstitions and irrational beliefs. They are based on reason and sound logic. There is no hierarchy of priests, no far-fetched abstractions, no complicated rites and rituals. Everybody may approach the Book of Allah directly and translate its dictates into practice. Islam awakens in man the faculty of reason and exhorts him to use his intellect. It enjoins him to see things in the light of reality. This is how Islam brings man out of

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the world of superstition and darkness and initiates him into that of knowledge and light. Islam is a practical religion and does not indulge in empty and futile theorisings.

Conclusion

These are ~~the~~ some of the unique features of Islam and establish its credentials as the religion of man the religion of today and the religion of tomorrow. These aspects have appealed to hundreds of thousands of people in the past and the present and have made them affirm that Islam is the religion of truth and the right path for mankind; and this will continue to appeal to them in future.
