

QUESTION #01

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

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2- Different Perspectives about Religion

2.1 Scholarly interpretations of Religion

a- Anthropologists: Edward Taylor

b- Sociologist: Emile Durkheim

c- Muslim Scholar: Dr Asrar Ahmed

2.2 Oxford Dictionary interpretations of Religion

3- Different Perspectives about Deen

3.1 Diverse Shariah opinions

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4- Distinguish between two; Religion and Deen

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a- Comprehensive way of life

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e- Legal and Political systems

5- Islam; Religion or Deen.

6- Need of Deen in modern civilization

6.1 Argument #01 Historical Theory

Ref 1: "A Brief History of Gold" by John Bowker

Ref 2: "Al-Muqadma" by Ibn-Khaldun.

Ref 3: "Origin and Growth of Religion" by Wilhelm.

6.2 Argument #02 Philosophical Theory.

6.3 Argument #03 Islamic Theory.

7- Importance of Deen in Human life.

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7.4 Personal Development

7.5 Inner peace and

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1- Introduction:-

The Perception people generally have about Islam in their minds is that it is merely a religion that started in Arabian Peninsula about 1400 years ago and that was founded by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

It means that their whole Perception revolves around only the point that Islam started with Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and he is the founder of it.

So, when a non-muslim goes through the Holy Quran he passes over by having a feeling that just like all religions claim to be divine and the only rightful and the others being fallacious, the Quran too has claimed the finality and rightfulness of the religion it has presented. But on the contrary when a Muslim reads the Quran, he does not feel the need to ponder over this aspect because he acknowledges the rightfulness of Islam. And, even if some thought of pondering over it pops up in his mind he only wants to prove the authenticity and rightfulness of Islam by comparing it with other religions. But, in reality, this is the point as per Surah Al-e-Imran:-

“Surely! true deen in the sight of Allah is Islam.”

This verse asserts that Islam, as a complete way of life encompassing submission to God's will, is the true sign of Allah.

In the quest for spiritual fulfillment and societal harmony, the terms "religion" and "Deen" often surface, each carrying profound implications. However, while they may appear synonymous, their distinctions are pivotal in comprehending their true essence and application in life. The nuanced differences between these concepts are essential for a deeper understanding of how they shape individual lives and societies. Religion refers to a set of beliefs, rituals and social customs while Deen refers to a set of beliefs, rituals, social customs and complete code of life. In first section, we discuss scholarly and Oxford Dictionary interpretations about Religion, diverse Shariah opinions and scholarly interpretations about Deen. Following a thorough description of religion and Deen, we made a distinction between these two concepts.

We also addressed Islam is a Deen or Religion?

It is necessary to fully understand why we need Deen in modern civilization before heading towards section, which highlights the importance of Deen

both on individual as well as on collective level with include the following ideas: Spiritual fulfillment, guidance in life, Moral and ethical framework, Personal development, Inner Peace and Contentment, Provides a way of life, Provides a complete code of life, Social cohesion, justice and equality, Charity and welfare, education and knowledge, Peace and Harmony.

2- Different Perspectives about Religion:-

In this section, we discuss different viewpoints of scholars about religion and oxford dictionary interpretations.

2.1 Scholarly Interpretations of Religion:-

In Arabic language the word "Religion" is known as "Mazhab". It is derived from Latin word Religio.

In literal sense, it means a path or road.

In terminology, it refers to set of beliefs, rituals and social customs.

According to famous Anthropologist Edward Taylor:-

"If you believe in spiritualism it is called religion".

Edward Taylor belief in spiritualism which refers to the recognition or acceptance of the existence of non-physical or supernatural realities, often involving a connection to a higher power, the divine, or spiritual beings.

According to father of sociology Emile Durkheim:-

"If you practice your faith related to GOD is called a Religion".

Emile Durkheim point of view related to religion involves practicing one's faith related to GOD involves adhering to a set of beliefs, rituals and

and moral teachings centered around a divine being or beings.

Example:-

The people have some superstitious believes that if I wish to see a broken star, our dua will definitely accepted. If sun or moon eclipses would happen people would think GOD is angry with us they would start performing certain rituals or by throwing a coin into the well our Dua would never be rejected.

According to Muslim scholar :: Dr Asrar Ahmed:-

"Religion is a name of three things faith, Rituals and certain social functions."

After examining viewpoints of different scholars about religion in the first section we also discuss oxford dictionary interpretations about Religion.

According to oxford Dictionary interpretations:-

"Religion consists of beliefs, rituals and customs."

In a nutshell Religion means subjugation of a supernatural deity while in contextual sense to find one's own roots.

3- Different Perspectives about Deen:-

In this segment we examine diverse Shariah opinions and scholarly perspective about Deen. Deen is an arabic word in literal sense it means to attain supremacy or to attain dominion status.

As Deen wants to attain supremacy in every aspect of life. In contextual meaning:- it is a complete code of life and it provides guidance in every aspect of life.

As Allama Muhammad Iqbal said:

"If religion is separate from Politics, then only Brutelness remains."

Allama Muhammed Iqbal clearly stated that without the influence of Religion in politics, only brutality would exist. This view point implies that religion serves as a moral compass, guiding political behaviour towards more humane and ethical practices.

Not only in Politics deen provides guidance but also in economic, social, financial systems etc.

3.1 Diverse Shariah opinions:-

According to Islamic Shariah:-

"Deen is a combination of four essential components:-

- 1- To admit the sovereignty of Almighty Allah.
- 2- To follow His Commandments.
- 3- To follow the defined Rules.
- 4- To believe in Reward and Punishment."

In accordance of Islamic Shariah Deen encompasses four components. **Firstly**, Deen entails recognizing and accepting the absolute sovereignty of Allah over all aspects of life. It involves acknowledging the Allah is the creator, sustainer and Master of the universe, and submitting to His will in all matters.

Even the Constitution of Pakistan

acknowledges the sovereignty of Allah as a fundamental principle.

The Preamble of the constitution begins with the phrase "In the name of Allah, the

Most beneficent, the Most Merciful", indicating the country's acknowledgment of Allah's sovereignty and the reliance on His blessings and

guidance. **Secondly**, Deen requires adherents to follow the commandments and teachings of Allah as revealed in the Quran and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This includes

both the religious rituals, moral and ethical principles outlined in Islamic teachings. There are different sects of Muslims in modern civilization so do we know which rules to follow to gain

nearness to Allah? The Quran provides the sole means of answering this question. In Quran, Allah provides Do's and Don't related to every aspect of life because we believe Quran is the only thing which is unfabricated.

Allah said in the Quran which means that:-

"We have sent down the Quran
and we will surely Preserve it."

Thirdly, His defined rules should be followed in accordance with his Commandments. Deen encompasses following the rules and principles of Islam as outlined in the Shariah (Islamic law). This involves adhering to the legal, social, and ethical guidelines that govern various aspects of life, including worship, family, life, business transactions and interactions with others. According to Islamic jurisprudence, Allah has stated different Punishments in the Quran if someone steals, cut off his hands, on murder there is a punishment of Qisas and Diyat. These rules cannot be changed by any Person even Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:-

"If Fatima Bint-e-Muhammad steals, I would have cut off her hand too."

At last, Central to Deen is the belief in the concept of reward and punishment in the hereafter based on one's action in this world.

This belief motivates individuals to adhere to the teachings of Islam and to strive for righteousness in their lives.

3.2 Scholarly interpretations: Dr Asrar Ahmed

"Deen consists of 8th things: Faith, Rituals, Social functions, Social system,

financial, political systems, and Islamic system of Justice?

4- Distinguish between the Two; Religion and Deen:-

In Table 1, we distinguish Deen and Religion

Religion	Deen
* Religion involves beliefs, rituals and social customs.	* Deen involves beliefs, rituals, social customs and a complete code of life.
* Religion is man-made.	* Deen is God gifted.
* Religion concerns a person's individual and personal life.	* Deen talks about individual as well as collective life.
* Religion has relatively a narrow scope than deen.	* Deen has a wider scope as compared to Religion.

Table 1: Depicted the difference between Deen and Religion

4.1 Explanation with Examples:-

The main distinguishing factor between Deen and Religion is the complete code of life. It means deen provides guidance

in every aspect of life. On individual level, if a person wants to know how I can spend my life, How do I do business, How I interact with other people, How I can sleep even on minute level Deen provides guidance. Not only on individual level but also on state level Deen

provides a comprehensive framework of rules and guidelines that govern all aspects of life, including legal, social, economic and political domains. These rules are derived from the Quran, the Sunnah and Islamic jurisprudence.

In religion faith, rituals, social-customs are man made.

*Examples:-

Indeed, there are numerous religions in the world, each with its unique faith in which some people considered Sun, Cow as their God. they also performed different rituals and social customs. But Deen is God gifted. In Deen five pillars of Islam are fixed, ^{Garma,} Namaz (Prayer), ^{Fasting} Zakat, Hajj are fixed. If anyone wants to ^{Perform any kind of} change in it it will be considered as Bid'ah.

Prophet Muhammad said:-

"Every newly-invented thing is bid'ah (innovation), every bid'ah is going astray, and every going astray will be in the fire."

4.1.1 Religion: Individual and Personal life

a- Spiritual Practices:

Religion primarily focuses on an individual's relationship with the divine through spiritual practices like prayer, meditation and worship.

b- Personal Morality:-

It guides personal behavior and moral choices, helping individuals lead a virtuous life based on the teachings of their faith.

c- Rituals and Rites:-

Religion often involves performing specific rituals and rites such as fasting, attending religious services, and observing holy days, which strengthen personal faith.

4.1.2 Deen: Individual and Collective life:-

a- Comprehensive way of life:-

Deen is a comprehensive system that covers all aspects of life, including personal conduct, social relations, economic transactions, and governance.

b- Divine Sovereignty:-

It emphasizes the sovereignty of Allah

over all aspects of life, guiding not only individual behavior but also the functioning of the community and state.

c- Social Justice:-

Deen addresses issues of social justice, ensuring fair treatment, equity, and compassion with in the society. It mandates caring for the needy, upholding justice, and promoting moral behavior.

d- Economic Conduct:-

It provides guidelines for ethical economic practices, prohibiting usury (riba), ensuring fair trade, and mandating charitable giving (zakat).

e- Legal and Political systems:-

Deen encompasses Shariah, the Islamic legal system, which governs criminal justice, civil matters, family law, and other aspects of communal life. It includes principles of governance, such as Shura, ensuring leaders are accountable to both the people and Allah.

5- Islam; Religion or Deen:-

Islam is a deen not a religion due to its wider scope. Whenever Allah (SWT) has

referred to Islam in the Quran, He has used the word 'Deen' instead of 'Religion'.

"This day I have perfected your deen for you, completed my favor upon you, and have chosen Islam for you as your deen."

"Surely! the true deen in the sight of Allah is Islam".

"He is the one who has sent down His Messenger with guidance and the faith of truth deen, so that He make it prevail over every other faith, no matter how the idolaters hate it".

All the above verses of Quran clearly depicted that whenever Allah (SWT) attributed Islam he used the word deen instead of Religion. Islam is a complete code of life. The motive of our lives as described by the Quran is to worship Allah;

"I did not create the Jinns and the humans except for the purpose that they should worship me".

Allah gives us a purpose of life and sent deen to achieve this purpose instead of religion. If he sent religion many of

our lives would have been aimless and very little life would have been spent purposefully. As Religion consists of certain rituals like Salah which takes ^{approximately} 2 hours a day. Remaining 22 hours in a day would be aimless as well as fasting only in a month of Ramadan while remaining 11 months of the year will pass aimlessly and also paying and Hajj when it is obligatory. From all of these arguments we conclude that if Allah had sent Religion instead of deen motive of your life would never be achieved. However, worshipping Him all our lives is not possible if worship is limited to a set of rituals as we humans, have humanely needs. That is why Allah has gifted us with Islam; a complete code of life. It guides us with a complete manual, and provide us with all kinds of systems needed to lead our lives. If one wishes, he can perform every act, worldly or spiritual, according to the teachings of Islam, and thus, worship Allah all their life.

6- Need of Deen in modern Civilization:-

In this section, we prove why we need deen in modern

civilization with the help of following three arguments -

6.1 Argument #01 Historical Theory

When we examine the history of homocepians we find that every human being has needed religion since the dawn of time. In accordance to that we can an hypothesis that in future we also need . . . clean for mankind.

A famous writer John Bowker in his Book "A brief history of GOD" stated that :- The world's 10 oldest civilization they too have needed some kind of religion.

Mesopotamia civilization	⇒	Nature worshiper
Indus valley civilization	⇒	idol worshiper
Persian civilization	⇒	Nature worshiper
Greece civilization	⇒	Nature worshiper
Egyptian civilization	⇒	Nature worshiper
Chinese civilization	⇒	Animal worshiper

John Bowker provides reference of all of the above civilizations which clearly presented that no civilization in this world deny the concept of Religion. So how can modern civilization deny this fact.

This fact is also proved by Ibn-e-Khaldeem in his Book: Al-Muqadma. He discovered the rise and fall of nations on the bases of religion. The down fall of nations started as soon as they faroff from the religion. It means Religion is an essential component for the development of the nation. A famous writer wilhelm in his book: Origin and Growth of

Religion promote the concept of "Darwin's Theory". Religion has become a part of human life step by step. In transition from early Primates to modern human in this process a man realized 2 things; fear and greed. On the bases of these 2 concepts firstly man became a nature worshipper. Secondly, it became animal worshipper. Thirdly, it became idol worshipper and at last Hazrat Ibrahim introduced a concept of Monotheism; that there is only one GOD. "Now, more than 80% of the population are the followers of Monotheism."

"In his Book he predict that future Religion of mankind will be humanity."

From all the above three theories we conclude that from the Stone age to the modern age man has needed religion. So we built an hypothesis in future they also need a religion.

6.2 Argument #02 philosophical Theory

Different philosophical questions raised by some philosophers like; who is man?, where did man come from?, what is the purpose of his life?, how powerful the man is? But science is silent on these questions. but the only source of knowledge is deen.

Argument #03 Islamic Theory

Allah said which means that

GOD created man. I created Adam (AS) : I know very well what my creation needs are and to fulfill ^{these} needs I gave religion to a man. The first human being came in this world is a Prophet. Prophets came for guidance. Allah send Adam (AS) with religion so that he should live his life according to it. Religion is such a basic need of a man that even the first man of the world could not live without it. So how we can imagine that in today's world we can live without deen. It is next to impossible.

So far this discussion had shed light on the concept/detailed understanding about deen and religion and also find the distinguishing factor between these two concepts. Now this discussion presents the importance of deen in human life.

1- Importance of Deen (Doctrine of life) in Human life:-

In this section, we discuss importance of Deen in human life on individual as well as on collective level.

Importance of Deen in Human life

On Individual
level

1- spiritual fulfillment

2- Guidance in life

3- Moral and
Ethical Framework

4- Personal Development

5- Inner Peace and
Contentment

6- Provides a
way of life

7- provides a
complete code of life

On collective
level

1- Social cohesion

2- Justice and equality

3- Charity
and welfare

4- Education
and knowledge

5- Peace
and Harmony

a) On Individual level:-

7.1 Spiritual fulfillment:-

Deen Provides individuals with a sense of purpose and fulfillment by connecting them to their Creator.

“Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - we will surely cause him to live a good life, and we will surely give them their reward (in the Hereafter) according to the best of what they used to do.” (Al-Quran)

This verse highlights the spiritual benefits of righteousness and faith, which are central to Deen.

7.2 Guidance in life:-

Deen offers guidance on how ^{to} live a balanced and meaningful life.

“Indeed this Quran guides to that which is most suitable and give good tidings to the believers who do righteous deeds that they will have a great Reward” (Al-Quran)

This verse emphasizes the guidance and

good news that the Quran provides to believers, helping them navigate life's challenges.

7.3 Moral and Ethical Framework:-

Deen provides a clear moral and ethical framework, helping individuals distinguish between right and wrong.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:-

"Verily, I have been sent only for the purpose of perfecting human character."

This hadith underscores the importance of good character and moral conduct in deen.

7.4 Personal Development:-

Deen encourages personal development through self-reflection, self-discipline, and self-improvement.

"And those who strive for us - we will surely guide them to our ways. And indeed Allah is with the doers of good." (Al-Quran)

This verse highlights the importance of striving for excellence in deen, leading to personal growth and development.

7.5 Inner Peace and Contentment:-

Practicing Deen can bring inner peace and contentment by accepting Allah's decree and relying on Him.

“ unquestionably, by the remembrance of Allah hearts are assured” (Al-Ghurab)

This verse highlights/emphasizes the calming effect of remembering Allah and seeking solace in Deen.

7.6 Provides a way of life:-

It is clear as day for leading a life in this world man does need a code that he may follow. Man is not like a river that can make its own way or course through the ups and downs of the earth. Man is not a tree who life moves forward automatically as per the laws of the nature. Man is not a mere animal who gets guidance only from his nature. Although for major part of his life man is subject to physical law yet there are many such aspects of man's life where he does not have predefined path to blindly tread upon but he has to choose one way or the other. He needs a line of thinking which he may find those solutions to his own and universe's problems which the nature offers to him mind but does not explicitly tell him. His knowledge needs a way in which

he may collect the information that the nature injects in his mind through his sense but does not provide him directly. He needs some path to run his domestic life, family relations and many other matters of life. It is only Religion that amply fulfills all his needs in this regard.

7.7 provides a complete code of life:-

All these different aspects of life for which a man has to adopt a course, are not separate entities independent of each other. So, it is not possible for a man to adopt different courses that are in different directions and that require different approaches and also which guide him to different destinations. A wise effort would tell the man that a life in itself is a complete whole every part of which has a deep, unbreakable bond with others. He needs not different ways, but only a single way on which he may lead his life to fulfill the purpose of his creation and that single way is Deen which provides a comprehensive code of life.

b) On Collective level:-

7.8 Social cohesion:-

Deen fosters a sense of unity and brotherhood among believers, leading to stronger

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Deen fosters a sense of unity and brotherhood among believers, leading to stronger

Social bonds and a cohesive community.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said -

"The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion, and sympathy are just like one body. When any part of the body suffers the whole body feels pain."

This hadith highlights the importance of unity and mutual support in the Muslim community.

7.9 Justice and Equality:-

Deen promotes principles of justice and equality ensuring that all members of society are treated fairly and with dignity.

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives?" (Al-Quran)

This verse emphasizes the importance of upholding justice, even if it goes against one's own interests.

7.10 Charity and Welfare:-

Deen emphasizes the importance of charity and caring for the less fortunate, leading to a more compassionate and caring society.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:-

"The believer's Shade on the Day of Resurrection will be his Charity?"

This hadith highlights the significance of Charity in Deen and its role in building a compassionate society.

7.11 Education and Knowledge:-

Deen encourages the pursuit of knowledge and education, leading to a more informed and enlightened society.

"Are those who have knowledge equal to those who do not have knowledge? (Al-Quran)

This verse emphasizes the importance of knowledge in Deen and its role in society.

7.12 Peace and Harmony:-

Deen teaches tolerance, forgiveness, and peaceful coexistence, which are essential for maintaining peace and harmony within society.

"And not equal are the good deed and the bad. Repel (evil) by that (deed) which is

better; and there upon the
one whom between you and
him is enmity (will become)
as though he was a devoted
friend." (Al-Ghurab)

This verse encourages peaceful resolution of
conflicts and reconciliation, promoting harmony in
society.

