

Q: What is Islam? Elaborate the characteristics of Islam.

Islam

1. Introduction:-

a) Literal meaning of Islam:-

Islam is a word derived from Arabic letters S (س) - L (ل) - M (م), which generates words with interrelated meanings, including peace, surrender, commitment and submission.

b) Contextual meaning of Islam:-

Islam means to enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah. In other words, Islam means submitting of desires to the will of Allah.

→ According to holy Qur'an:-

"This is the only true religion professed by all Prophets from Adam ~~to~~ to Muhammad."

→ According to holy prophet (P.B.U.H) Islam is

"To bear witness of Allah and his messengers"

Imam ghazali defines islam as, It is the combination rights of Allah and rights of people.

2- Salient features of islam:-

The salient features of islam are as follows.

1) Unique concept of tauheed:-

Islam is a monotheistic religion revealed to Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). Islam teaches us that there is only one divine being, one supreme creator of the universe. Tauheed is the first part of Kalma (shahada). It is the core pillar of islam because faiths, rituals, worship and all systems of life revolve around tauheed. Allah said in the holy Qur'an that

"Say, "He is Allah, who is one
Allah, the eternal refuge. He
neither begets nor is born,
Nor is there to him any equivalent
(Surah ikhlas)

The prophet of Islam (P.B.U.H) said,
"Islam is like a foot and
the gate of that foot is
tauheed".

Allama shibli romani in his book (Siraat un
nabi) says that tauheed is the first
chapter of islamic syllabus.

ii) Finality of Prophethood:

In Islam, it is
necessary for the believers to bear
witness that Muhammad is the last
Prophet of Allah (SWT). A muslim
believes that Allah has sent His
in all the Prophets from Adam
to Muhammad (P.B.U.H) and makes
no distinction one and the other.
He also believes that Allah has
sent His prophets to all corners
of the earth to preach the same
religion, that His message stopped
coming after the last revelations
received by the last Prophet
Muhammad (P.B.U.H), and that the
message received by the last
Prophet is the most comprehensive

and the final form of Allah's message to human beings. The Qur'an says that,

”وما ينطق عن الهوى
ان هو الا وحي يوحى“

“Nor does he speak of his own whims. It is only a revelation sent down ~~to~~ to him”

(Surah An Najam: 3-4)

The Prophet's way of life is ~~the~~^a practical of the holy Qur'an. It is a straight path for the human beings to follow, so that they can be rewarded by heavens in the life hereafter.

The Prophet (P.B.U.H) once said:

”Verily, I have been sent as a teacher of mankind“

iii) Islam is a complete code of life. Islam is a religion that guides in every aspect of life.

a) Individual life:-

Islam guides us about

1) Birth of a children.

- 2) Upbringing of a child
- 3) Character building.
- 4) Education.

The prophet (P.B.U.H) once said,
 "Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every muslim"

- 5) Livelihood
- 6) Family life
- b) Collective life:-

Islam teaches us about,

- 1) Social system
- 2) Political system
- 3) Financial system
- 4) System of justice
- 5) Global affairs.

which makes islam not only a religion but a complete code of life.

iv) Islam promotes humanity:-

In islam, a man must have some natural instincts without any discrimination. He must love and care other people and have sympathy and empathy for

others. Islam is a religion that says all men are equal, whatever be their colour, language, race or nationality. It is ~~the~~ a religion that addressed itself to the conscience of humanity and banishes all false barriers of race, status and wealth.

Qur'an says

"All creatures of God form the family of God and he is best loved by God who loves best his creatures"

"Respect God and be affectionate to the family of God"

v) A universal religion:-

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

Qur'an says

"O people! I am the messenger of God to you all"

v) A simple religion:-

Islam is a religion without any mythology. Its teachings are simple and intelligible. It is free from superstitions and irrational beliefs. There is no priesthood, no fast-fetched abstractions, no complicated rites and rituals. Everybody can approach the book of God directly and translate its dictates into practice.

Jean L'henveux says:

"Islam has the power of peacefully conquering soul by the simplicity of its theology, the clearness of its dogma and principles and the definite number of practices with it demands".

Conclusion:-

Islam is a comprehensive way of life. The above mentioned features establish its credentials as the religion of man - the religion of today and the religion of tomorrow. These aspects have applied 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 man. Men with
pure hearts and sincere longing for
truth will always continue to say:

'I affirm that there is none worthy
of worship except Allah, that He
is One, sharing His authority with
no one; and I affirm that Muhammad
is His servant and His Prophet.'