

Q: What is Islam? Explain salient features of Islam-

## Introduction:

Islam is an Arabic word which means "Submission" or "Surrender". The contextual meaning of Islam is "to enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah" or "Submission of desires to the will of Allah." It is the religion of followers of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

## Islam in the light of Holy Quran

Almighty Allah has stated in the Quran that;

Let there be no compulsion in religion, for the truth stands out clearly from falsehood.

(Al Baqarah: 256)

## Islam in the light of Hadith

Holy Prophet (PBUH) defined Islam as: Islam is the combination of two things (i) to bear witness of Allah, and (ii) To establish pillars of it (Islam).



## Islam in the light of Scholars

- i) Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah, a senior defn stated Islam as: Islam is monotheist deen revealed through prophet (PBUH).
- ii) According to Imam Ghazali, Islam is combination of rights of people and rights of Allah.
- iii) Molana Sadaruddin Islahi in his book (اسلام ایک نیا دین) stated that: Islam is collection of faiths and rituals.

## Salient Features of Islam :

Islam has following salient features which distinguish it from any other religion in world-

### (1) Unique Concept of Tauheed

Tauheed is an Arabic word which means "one" or "single". In Islam, it means "Oneness of God". It is the first part of Kalma. On the basis of this concept, Islam distinguish itself from any other religion. It has been stated in the Quran that;

Say, "He is Allah, (who is) one,



Allah, the Eternal Refuge.

(Al-Ikhlās : 1-2)

## (2) Prophethood :

It is the second part of Kalma Tayyab, being a muslims it is mandatory to have firm belief on prophethood, which means to believe in finality of prophethood and accept Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) as last messenger of Allah Almighty. By the prophethood, people were taught to implementation of Quranic teachings. Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

"Verily, I have been sent as a teacher to mankind."

## (3) Islam is the complete code of life :

Islam guides us in every aspect of life rather it is individual or collective. In individual life, it teaches the character building, how to upbringing children, difference between good and evil and many more. In collective life, it promotes human rights, equality, Justice etc.



#### (4) Islam promotes humanity:

Humanity is the natural instinct within human. To protect human rights is humanity. According to Islam, to be characterful is also the humanity. Holy Prophet (PBUH) said: "The perfect among the believers are those who are best in character." Islam also declares social service as humanity. According to Dr. Wasibullah M. Abbas, Scholar of Al Azhar University, Egypt: "The best quality of Islam is to practice social service." Moreover, kindness towards animals and birds is also a humanity. Holy Prophet (SAW) reprimanded a person just because his camel was thirsty.

#### (5) Believe on Angels:

Almighty Allah has created many creatures, one of them are angels. Angels are pure creatures. Allah has created them to follow His orders and give His message to human beings through prophets. Being a follower of Islam, it is essential to have belief on these divine creatures. It has been



stated in the Quran that;

The angels and the spirit descend therein  
by permission of their lord for every matter  
(Al-Qadr: 4)

### (6) Concept of Halal and Haram:

Islam  
is the only religion which extensively emphasizes  
on Halal and Haram - The word Halal is an  
Arabic word which means "lawful," <sup>or</sup> "permitted",  
while Haram is also an Arabic word means "unlawful"  
or "not allowed." Allah Almighty has categorized  
food, earnings, relationships into Halal and Haram  
for Muslims. Islam teaches to strictly follow  
Halal way - Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

The one who earned money by Haram  
means and spent in a wrong place,  
Allah Almighty would send him into  
the house of disgrace and contempt  
(i.e. Hell).



## (7) Concept of Zakat

Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam. The word Zakat is an Arabic word which means "Purification" and "Growth". It is mandatory on the people who are wealthy. It is a certain portion of wealth which is given to needy people. It is a system of creating economic balance in the society - It purifies wealth and increases it. It has been stated in the Quran that;

"And establish prayer and give Zakat, and whatever good you put forward for yourselves - you will find it with Allah." (Al-Baqarah: 110)

## (8) Belief on the Day of Judgement:

To believe on the day of judgement is perhaps the unique and most important feature of Islam. It means, to believe on the day, when all people will arise again and will be brought in front of God. Those who would have done good deeds in the world, will be rewarded with



rewarded (Heaven) and those who had committed sins will be punished (Hell) -

"Indeed, the Day of Judgement is an appointed time. The Day the Horn is blown and you will come forth in multitudes. And the heaven is opened and will become gateways.

(An-Naba: 16-20)

## Conclusion

From the above discussion, it became clear that, Islam plays a very crucial role in human lives. It has been teaching for 1400 years - It is a Universal and eternal religion - It is still in the same state as it was revealed. In a nut shell, our lives are like a barren land without Islamic teachings, these are Islamic teachings which fertile it by guiding in all aspects of life.