

Q :: Describe, in detail, the basic characteristics of Islamic civilization?

## 1) INTRODUCTION:

Islamic civilization began with the advent of Islam, as revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Rooted in the teachings of Islam, it ~~spread~~ quickly spread, impacting vast regions across Asia, Africa, and Europe. The major characteristics that make Islamic civilization distinctive ~~and~~ from other civilizations are as follows:

## a) CHARACTERISTICS OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION:

### 2.1) Tawhid:

Tawhid, the first part of the Kalmas, reflects the unity of Allah.

"Say 'O Prophet, He is Allah - One and Indivisible; the Sustainer needed by all. He has ~~no~~ neither begets nor is born. And there is none comparable to Him."

→ Surah Al-Shaha (1-4)

This verse portrays Tawhid as an essence of Islam. The latter is like a fort, and gate to that fort is Tawhid. Hence, Tawhid is first major characteristic of Islamic civilization.

## 2.a) ~~T~~ Tazkiyah al-Nafs (self-purification)

Tazkiyah al-Nafs refers to the inner process of cleansing the heart and mind of spiritual impurities. Its literal meaning is

Tazkiyah → Purification

Nafs → Soul

Furthermore, Allah says in the Quran:

"He will indeed be successful who purifies it and he will indeed fail whenever pollutes and corrupts it."

— As-Shamu (91:1-10)

"The Day when neither wealth nor children will be of any benefit. Only those who come before Allah with a pure heart will be saved."

— Sural As-Shuraa  
(26: 88-89)

Hence, Tazkiya at Nafs, according to Al-Ghazali, means ~~to~~ attaining the perfection of ones soul by neglecting the evil desires, and pursuing the noble ones.

## 2.3) Ehsam:

Ehsam is a profound concept in Islam that represents the highest level of faith and devotion. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) once said:

"Ehsam is to worship Allah as if you see Him, for though you do not see Him He sees you."

Sham urges the believers to opt excellence as way of life and do good and noble things. Allah has mentioned it in the Quran:

"Is there any reward for goodness except goodness."

= (Al-Rahman 55:60)

"Indeed, Allah commands justice, grace, as well as generosity to close relatives. He forbids indecency, wickedness and aggression. He instructs you so perhaps you will be mindful."

= Al-Nahl (16:90)

Hence, by practicing Sham, Muslims fulfill Allah's command to seek moral and spiritual excellence, bringing themselves closer to him and embodying the best of Islamic ethics.

2.4)

## Dignity of man:-

"Indeed We have dignified the children of Adam, carried them on land and sea, granted them good and lawful provisions, and privileged them far above many of our creatures."

= Surah Al-Isra  
(17:70)

The dignity and honor of human beings are highly emphasized in Islam. Hence, the Islamic teachings assert that every individual, regardless of race, religion, or status, deserves respect and honor.

2.5

## Equality of mankind:-

"O humanity! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may get to know one another. Surely the most noble of you is the

The sight of Allah is the most brightest among you. Allah is truly All knowing, All Aware."

— Surah Al-Hujurat (49:13)

Moreover, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stated at his last sermon

"There is no superiority of an Arab over non-Arab, and vice versa; a white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have any superiority over a white, except by piety (taqwa) and good action."

Hence, Islam emphasizes the concept of equality of mankind; a person's true worth is determined by their faith, character, and actions, rather than superficial qualities.

## 2.6) Social justice:

Social justice holds immense significance in Islam. It refers to equity and fair play for every individual of Islamic society. Hence, it is based on:

Legal justice

Social equity

Economic equity

Organized family life

Better opportunities for development

## 2.7) Tolerance:

Tolerance is a foundational principle in Islam, promoting coexistence, respect for diversity, and compassion toward others.

"There is no compulsion in religion; truly the right way has become clearly distinct from error."  
- Surah Al-Baqarah (2: 256)

In sum, this verse underscores that Islam endorses religious tolerance, respecting the rights of others.

## 2.8) Rule of Law

Unlike other religions, Islam established rule of law, ensuring justice, fairness, and accountability in society. It advocates a system where leaders derive authority from Islamic principles; they are accountable to law and to the people. Therefore, Islam laid the foundation for rule of law, providing a comprehensive framework of justice, equality, and accountability.



### 3) CONCLUSION:-

In conclusion, Islamic civilization comprises of ~~valuable~~ essential characteristics. It centres around the concept of Tawhid, believing in the unity of God. Moreover, it advocates self purification and Shram, encouraging individuals to indulge in wide activities. Additionally, it champions rule of law, social justice, equality, and tolerance. Hence, above mentioned characteristics are the underlying characteristics of an Islamic civilization.