

Differentiate between Deen and Religion. Describe importance of Deen in human life?

1/ Introduction

Islam is not only a religion but also a Deen, which is complete code of life. There are many differences between Deen and religion. Religion being narrow, generalized, guiding about individual life, pampering human while Deen is broader, specific and complete code of life. Deen is doctrine of life since it guides human on right path, provides satisfaction of soul, takes out from darkness and enables man to differentiate between right and wrong.

2/ Difference between Deen and Religion

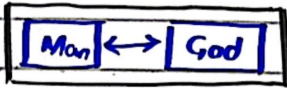
Religion

Deen

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| i- Religion is a narrower concept | Deen is a broader concept. |
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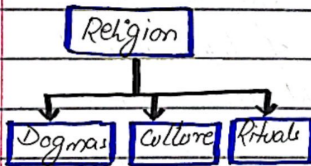
Religion

ii- Religion deals with man-God relations



Religion

iii- Religion talks about individual life



Deen

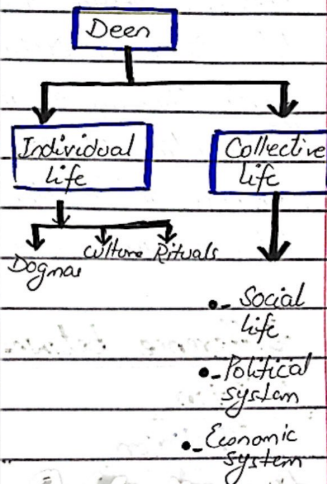
Deen talks about man-God and man-man relation

انما المؤمنون اخوة

"The believers are but brothers"

(Surah Al-Hujrat 10)

Deen sheds light on individual as well as collective life.



Religion

Deen

iv- Religion makes man believe in fatalism.

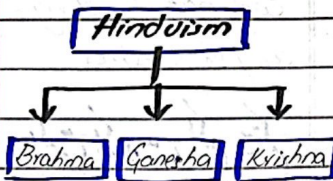
Deen encourages man to change his fate

v. Religion pampers human-being.

Deen makes man to follow path of life in harmony with realities

vi- Religion can be polytheistic.

Deen is always monotheistic.



لا اله الا الله

"There is no god... but Allah."

vii Religion is hostile to science.

Deen encourages human to explore the secrets of the Universe.

"Islam teaches that God has given man faculty to reason and therefore

expects man to reason things out objectively and systematically for himself "

(Maurice Bucaille)
The Quran and
Modern Science

(viii) Religion is amendable and changes can be made in it with time.

Bible, Torah got amended and changed with time by people.

Deen is unique and fixed. It can not be changed as per desires.

اليوم اكملت لكم دينكم

"Today I have completed Deen upon you."

(Last Sermon of Holy Prophet (SAW))

Religion

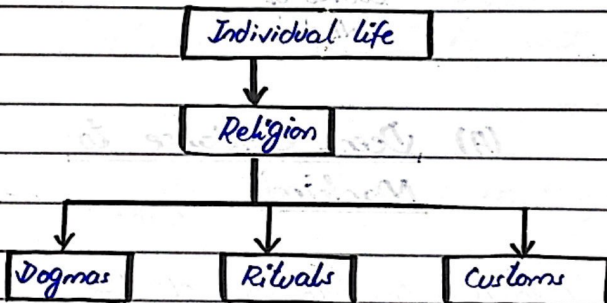
Deen

ix- Religion often focuses only upon benefits

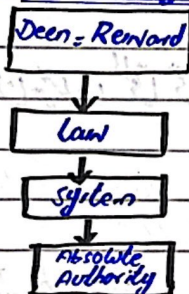
Deen highlights rights as well as duties, which a man has over others.

x- Religion often tells the sole objective of an individual is his own salvation.

Deen aims at the welfare of all mankind.

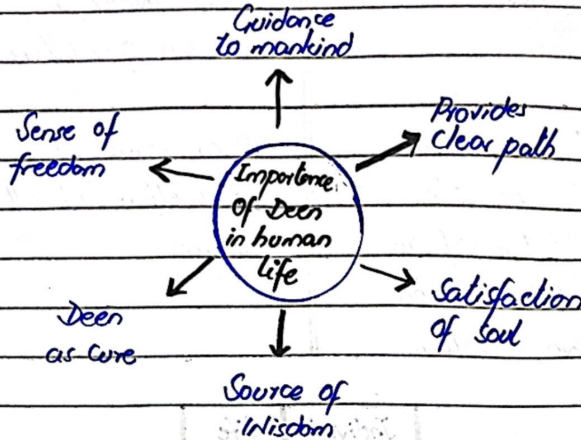


Qurtuba University Model of Religion



Qurtuba University Model of Deen

3/ Importance of Deen in human life



(A) Deen - Guidance to Mankind

Deen is a complete code of life. It provides guidance in every aspect of life.

ان هذا القرآن يهدي للتي هي اقوم

"Indeed Quran guides to that which is most suitable"

(Surah Isra : 9)

(B) Deen - Provides clear path to man in life

The life of Holy Prophet (SAW) was according to commandments of Allah. It provides clear path for mankind to follow which leads to prosperity.

"I have left upon you a clear path, its clarity is same by night or day. No deviate from it after me but that he will be ruined."

(Source: Sunan Ibn e Majah)

(C) Purification of soul - Attained by following Deen

Islam offers satisfaction of soul through its teachings of oneness of God, providing solace, purpose and guidance through prayer, ethical principles and community.

الاية: تطمئن القلوب

"Surely in remembrance of Allah,
do hearts find comfort"

(Ar Raad 28)

(D) Sense of freedom of belief in Islam

Islam gives everyone freedom of choice of belief. It prohibits believers to force someone to follow Deen Islam. As it is clearly mentioned in Quran:

لا اكرهه على الدين

"There is no compulsion in Deen"

(Surah Baqarah: 256)

(E) Deen is a source of wisdom and enlightenment

Deen inculcates wisdom in mankind.
It opens the doors of enlightenment

and encourages man to read Quran since it full of wisdom. Every aspect of life is discussed in it

يايسين والقرآن الحكيم

"Yasin, by the Quran, full of wisdom."
(Surah Yasin 1-2)

(F) Deen - as a cure of all ailments

Deen is a cure to all spiritual ailment of human being. Whenever one is disappointed or sick of the life, he/she can find peace in Quran. The literal meaning of Islam is finding peace by submitting to Allah. As Quran says:

"And We sent down Quran that which is a healing a mercy to those who believe."

(Surah Isra: 82)

4/

Conclusion

Deen is a complete code of life. Religion is a narrow, generalized concept, pampering human, being polytheistic, hostile of science and man-God relationship. Deen on the other hand, is broad, specific concept, monotheistic, highlighting realities of life and man-man relationship along with relation with God. Deen provides guidance, purification of soul, cure and clear path to human being.