

What is Islam? What is the difference between Deen and Religion?

Enlist the salient features of Islam?

I. Introduction

Islam is a monotheistic faith that emphasizes the submission to the will of Allah and an adherence to his guidance through Prophet Peace be upon him. Islam is the complete way of life. A key concept of Islam is "Deen" which separates it from narrow concept of religion.

Islam has several salient features such as concept of Tawheed, prophethood, dignity of human being and host of others which further alleviate its importance in human life.

II Meaning and Definition of Islam in Light of Scholars:

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a Literal meaning of Islam

The literal meaning of Islam is to surrender, submission. Another meaning of Islam is to purify, peace.

b The contextual meaning of Islam

The contextual meaning of Islam is to enter into peace by submitting to the will of Allah. Or, submission of desire to the will of God is called Islam.

In Quran Allah stated that

[The deed before Allah
is only Islam]

(Al-Imran)

[There is greatness in bowing
before Allah]

Al-Hadith

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c Meaning of Islam in the light of Holy Prophet (PBUH)

According to Holy Prophet PBUH Islam means to bear witness of Allah and his messenger.

[It is only prayer that create difference between believer and non-believer]

(All Hadiths)

d. Islam in the eyes of Dr. Israr

According to him, Islam is monotheistic Deen revealed by prophets.

e Definition of Islam according to Oxford:

According to Oxford Islam is the combination of three things.

- i- To accept monotheism
- ii- To accept prophet hood
- iii- To practice culture.

III

Difference between Deen and Religion

There are following factors on which Deen and Religion are separated from each other.

a- On basis of literal meaning:

Religion:

In literal sense it means a path or road.

Deen:

In literal sense it refers to a number of meanings such as belief, anything through which God is worshipped.

b- On basis of Terminology

Religion:

On basis of Terminology, it refers to set of beliefs, ritual and customs.

Deen:

On basis of terminology it refers to way of life chosen by Allah for mankind.

c On the basis of Scope

Religion:

Religion has narrow scope. It is limited towards certain group of people and period of time. It only concern's about individual's life.

Deen:

Deen has wider scope than Religion. It is bound in certain geography or is limited for specific time. It is a complete code of life for whole mankind.

d- On the basis of Believers

Religion:

The believers of Religion are polytheistic. They believe on multiple gods and religions. Religion According to Dr. Israr consist of three things:
i- Faith ii- Rituals iii. Social functions.

Deen:

The believers of Deen are monotheistic. They believe on single God. According to Dr. Israr Deen consist

of Six things: i- Rituals ii- Faith
iii- Social functions iv- Political and
social system v- financial system
vi- Justice.

Overall it can be summed up as,
Religion is the subset of Deen.

V Salient features of Islam

a- Concept of Tauheed:

Tauheed is like the first chapter of the Islamic syllabus. Allah is one and there is no god but God. is the first and foremost concept of Islam. Oneness of God is the heart of Islam and Quran's every second or third verse emphasize on it.

Islam is a fort and
Tauheed is the gate
of fort

Holy Prophet PBUH

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b- Muhammad (PBUH) is the last messenger of Allah.

This feature emphasize on the the finality of prophethood. Prophet Muhammad PBUH is the last messenger sent by Allah. He is the warner, the bringer of seal of prophethood and witnessed the day of judgment. for this Quran stated that

Muhammad is not father of (any) of your men, (he is) the last messenger of Allah and the last prophet and ever is Allah of all things knowing (Al-Ahzab)

c Islam provide a complete way of life

Islam is Deen and Deen means "way of life".

So Islam provide a complete conduct of life.

Social or political, peace or war, personal or public, economic or educational, moral or legal. It provide a complete guidance of human's individual's individual or collective life.

d- Social or economic security of women significantly provided by Islam

Before the advent of Islam no other religion or Deen had given social and economic securities to women. Islam mandate men to be their provider and protector.

e- Dignity of human being

Islam believe claim that world has been made for human being so they can obey and worship to the supreme will of God. As man is the creation of God's hand.

V Conclusion:

In conclusion, Islam is not ^{merely a} set of beliefs but a holistic Deen. It governs all the spheres of human life from individual to collective sphere it covers everything. The salient features of Islam reflects unity, equality, justice and morality. It shows Islam is the complete guide for whole universe.

28/10/24:bt

Write a comprehensive note on the system of Zakat in Islam and its spiritual, moral and social impacts. (2018)

I Introduction:

Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam which means to purify or to nourish. It helps in purification of human soul from lust and greed of wealth. It is the financial duty of Muslims. It seeks to bridge the gap between rich and poor. It is a comprehensive system that ensure equality and fair distribution of resources. Spiritually, Zakat purifies the human soul from worldly desires. Morally, it uplift the character building and foster a sense of responsibility. Socially, Zakat encourage ~~mutual~~ mutual help unity and equity in society and alleviate the poverty.

II System Of Zakat in Islam

1 Meaning of Zakat:

a. Literal meaning:

The literal meaning of zakat is to purify and increase.

b. Terminology of Zakat:

The amount taken out by muslims every year, provided that it reaches prescribed amount.

2 Philosophy of Zakat

The philosophy of zakat is to create a welfare state for mankind. zakat encourages social justice and equality. As it remove poverty from the society.

[Poverty leads a person to disbelief [Hadith]]

3. Amount of Zakat

Wealth	2.5 %
Precious metals	7.5 tola gold
	52.5 tola Silver

4. Conditions of Zakat

1. Muslim:

The person who gives Zakat must be muslim

2. Mature:

The person who gives zakat must be: mature and sane

3. Financially capable:

The person who gives zakat must ^{first} fulfill his own expenses, family needs and due credits.

5. Masarifs of Zakat / Heads of Zakat

There are eight masarifs of zakat

- i- The poor
- ii- The Needy
- iii- Administrative of Zakat
- iv- Sympathesizers
- v- who are in debt
- vi- Wayfarer
- vii- To free slaves
- viii- For the cause of Allah

6. Zakat can not be given to:

There are following person or places where zakat can not be given.

firstly, one can ~~can~~ not give zakat to mosque. Secondly, It is not allowed give zakat to ascenders

of prophet. Thirdly Zakat cannot be given to spouse, parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren.

III Spiritual impacts of Zakat

1. Purification of soul:

The distribution of Zakat purify wealth and soul from greed and eliminate negative desires.

[Take their wealth from charity by which you purify them] (Al-Suran)

2. Peace of mind and heart

After giving Zakat and helping others through remembrance of Allah foster satisfaction of mind and heart.

3. Closeness to Allah

Charity brings a person closer to Allah. It strengthens the bond between believers and Allah.

[And whatever you spend in charity, Allah knows it] (Al-Quran)

4. Fostering Taqwa

Zakat encourage believers to act righteously by completing his obligation.

[You will never achieve righteousness until you spend from what you love] (Al-Quran)

5. Cultivate gratitude

Zakat cultivate gratitude in believers by acknowledging the fact that wealth is the gift from Allah.

IV Moral impacts of Zakat

1. Character building:

Zakat nurture kindness, develop discipline, empathy and shape a noble character.

[The best among you are those who are best in manners.]

Hadith

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2. Humanity and humbleness:

Giving charity for the sake of Allah fosters humanity by acknowledging human dependence on him.

3. Sense of obligation:

Fulfilling the obligation of Zakat instill a sense of responsibility towards Allah.

[Establish prayer and give Zakat...]
Al-Qur'an

4. Inculcation of forgiveness.

Zakat rituals inculcate the act of forgiveness and mercy. It reflects Allah's attributes as well.

5. Promotion of social welfare:

Zakat helps in alleviations of poverty from the society. It also promotes well being of society.

V Social impacts of Zakat:

1. Grew concept of equality:

Zakat promotes equality by ensuring wealth circulate among all needy and poor. It re-

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imply the idea that all individual regardless of ^{financial} status have a right to dignity and support

2. Mutual help and solidarity:

Redistribution of wealth, helping others - produce social bonds strengthen the solidarity and compassion within community

[The believers are but brothers.]

Hadith

3. Eradication of Poverty

One of the most important impact of Zakat is that it helps to eradicate poverty from society. It bridges the gap between the rich and poor.

4. Remove the love of wealth:

The person who gives zakat eventually start realizing that everything he has is because of Allah. It remove the lust of collecting more wealth.

5. Prevention of Crime and Corruption

The main reason of crime and corruption in any society is poverty. As zakat's main aim is to eradicate poverty, so it will automatically prevent

crime and corruption rate in society.

VI Conclusion

In conclusion, it is the most important pillar of Islam. It works to benefits both the giver and the receiver. Zakat helps to build a healthy and prosperous society. The system of zakat develops gratitude, humility, equality. It reflect the actual essence of Islam. So, it works to achieve social harmony and justice.

29/10/24:6:5

Explain the rights given to women in Islam and elaborate how they are denied by contemporary Muslim world.

I Introduction

Islam is the first religion on earth that revolutionized the social, legal, economic, ~~political~~ rights of women. Before the advent of Islam women were treated as inferior beings. There were no women rights, and birth of women was sin at that time. However, Islam gives ^{women} every right including right to live, right to education, right to property. Despite this, women in contemporary ^{muslim} world are not enjoying their rights due to cultural practices, ignorance and patriarchal interpretation.

II Conditions before Islam

The period before Islam was known as period of Ignorance.

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At that time, in Arabian society women were treated as a property rather than individual with rights. The birth of women at that time were considered as bad news. The Quran mentioned this ^{condition} thing in the following manner.

When news is brought to one of them (the birth of) a female, his face darkens and he is filled with inward grief.
(Al-Quran)

The majority of the people after knowing the birth of female, buried their newborn alive out of shame.

III After Islam: Equality and Dignity for Women

After the advent of Islam men and women both were seen as spiritually equal and deserving for respect. The Holy Prophet (SAW) emphasized the act

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of kindness, fairness, equality towards women in all type of relations, like daughters, sister, wife, mother. After Islam women in Muslim society first time enjoyed her social, legal and basic rights.

IV Women Rights in Islam

1. Right to life:

Islam abolished infanticide. And emphasized on sanctity of lives for both genders. Every child, male, female has right to life.

Whoever kills a person - unless it is for murder or corruption - it is as if he killed the whole mankind and who ever saves a life it is as if he saved whole mankind

(Al-Quran)

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2. Right to Education

Education is the basic right of Islam. It is made as a gender neutral right. which means women also have the right to education. Holy Prophet (SAW) in this context said:

Seeking knowledge is obligatory on every muslim.

Hadith

3. Right to own property

In Islam owning a property is also a gender neutral right. Islam has given women right to own, manage and inherit property and wealth independently. Islam also prohibited any unlawful seizure to women's property. In this manner, Quran has mentioned

O' you who believe do not consume each other's prop wealth illicitly but trade in mutual consent
(Al Quran)

4. Right to Re-Marry

Islam has given widow and divorced women right to re-marry at any age. Islam has given her full right to start her new life after widowhood or divorce.

5. Right to dissolve marriage (Khula)

In Islam women has right to end her marriage and seek divorce (ie Khula in Islam) from court if the marriage is untenable.

6. Right to Trade and Earn

Women are allowed in Islam to trade and earn for their families. Islam has given them right to participate in business and earn their livelihood. The best example of this was seen in case of Bibi Khadija (R.A.). She was the first female trader of Islam.

II Conditions before Islam

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Apart from those, there are so many other rights that are given to women in Islam. Such as: Women have right to have consent in marriage, she has right to inheritance. In case of divorce she has right charge for breastfeeding and child maintenance.

V How these rights are denied in contemporary Muslim world

1. Denial of choices

Despite the rights given to women, today in many muslim countries women are not allowed for education, desired job, they are deprived of their consent in marriage. Even some with ^{due to} cultural practices they are not allowed to re-marry.

2. Denial of control over wealth:

In many societies, due to patriarchal mindset women are not allowed to own property. ~~or~~ They are even denied by their rightful share of inheritance. Their economic rights are being controlled by their males.

3. Humiliation in financial support:

Women are given their financial rights by Islam. But in today in many muslim society they are often received it accompanied by shame, humiliation. They are not even given their equal wages as compared to man.

VI Conclusion:

Islam has provided a comprehensive framework to women's right. It has ^{ensured} ~~given~~ right women's dignity, equality and security in all aspects of life. Unfortunately, failure of implementation of these right in contemporary world, has deprived women from enjoying their due rights.