

What is Islam and elaborate the silent features of Islam?

Islam:

Islam is an Arabic word and Allah used first time in the Holy Quran. Old name of Islam is Deen-E-Hanif. Islam as both a word and a concept, has a profound significance in Arabic and Islamic thought, embodying surrender, peace and a comprehensive way of life.

Literal Meaning of Islam The term Islam is derived from the Arabic root S-L-M, which means "to submit" or "to surrender". In this sense, Islam denotes submission to the will of Allah, the Creator.

"Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam, emphasizes that submission to God is central to the faith (Quran 3:19)

Contextual Meaning: The word Islam in contextual meaning is to enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah. It is the submission of desires to the will of Allah.

Meaning according to Shariah: Shariah refers to Islam as a complete code of conduct for believers, covering every aspect of life, from worship to interpersonal conduct, ethics and law. Islam as understood in Shariah requires adhering to five pillar/core practices: belief, prayer, fasting, zakat and Hajj.

Dr. Hamidullah says Islam is a monotheist deen revealed upon Prophet (PBUH). Islam is a universal deen. It guides in every aspects of life. Because Islam is not for limited time.

“This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion” (Quran 5:3)

Silent Features of Islam / Uniqueness of Islam

Islam is characterized by several unique features that define its essence and its approach to life.

1. Monotheism / unique concept of Tawheed

Tawheed is a revolutionary concept and constitutes the essence of the teachings of Islam. It means that there is only One Supreme Lord of the universe. He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and the Sustainer of the world and of mankind. Tawheed signifies that Allah is the sole creator, sustainer, and the ruler of the universe.

“ Say, 'He is Allah, [who is] One, Allah, the Eternal Refuge' ”

Quran (112: 1-2)

Holy prophet PBUH said: “Islam is like a fort and the gate of that fort is tawheed.”

2. Prophet hood / Holy Prophet a complete Model

No religion can claim that all aspects of the life of its founder are known to its modern-day followers except Islam.

The sources of Hadith clearly describe in detail the each and every aspect of the Prophet Muhammad's life for his followers to obey, ranging from his dealing with the family to that as a head of the state. Prophet hood is the second part of Kalimah.

"No doubt in the messenger of Allah you have a perfect model to follow." (Surah Ahzab)

3. Complete code of Life / Comprehensive way of Life

Islam guides in every aspect of life. Islam educate how to spend life as an individual. It has ^{ability to guide} all aspects of life from birth to death. It also teaches about character building. It emphasizes that seeking knowledge

is obligatory on every muslim. It guides from one generation to another generation. Islam encompasses every aspect of life including spiritual, moral, social, political, and economic dimensions. It offers a complete code of conduct for individuals and communities.

“ This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed my favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion. (Quran 5:3)

4. Emphasis on Justice and Equality

Islam promotes justice as a fundamental value. It teaches that all individuals are equal in the eyes of God, irrespective of race, nationality or social status.

“ O mankind, indeed, we have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one

another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is most righteous of you. (Quran 49:13)

This emphasis on justice is reflected in Islamic teachings about charity, care for the needy, and the prohibition of oppression.

5. Universal Brotherhood

Islam promotes a sense of community and brotherhood among its followers, transcending geographical, racial and cultural boundaries.

"The believers are but brothers" (Quran 49:10)

This principle fosters cooperation and solidarity among Muslims globally, reinforcing the idea that faith is a binding force.

6. Guidance through the Quran and Hadith

The Quran is the primary source of guidance, complemented by Hadith. Together, they form the basis of shariah.

This guidance covers all aspects of life, from worship to personal conduct, providing clarity and direction to followers.

“And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds. (Quran 21:107)

7. Rationalism and Practicalism

Islam encourages the use of reason and intellect in understanding its teachings. It is free from superstitions and encourages believers to seek knowledge.

“And do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge. The teachings of Islam are practical and applicable ^(Quran 17:36) in everyday life, making them accessible and relevant.

8. Protection of Book

The holy books and treaties of earlier regions either disappeared or were changed with times due to personal or political motives

but are not the case with the Holy Quran which has been preserved by the Almighty Allah.

"We have sent down this message (Quran) and we shall safeguard it. (Surah Al-Hijr)

The Quran is the revealed book of God which has been in existence for the last fourteen hundred years and the Word of God is available in its original form.

9. Universality and Humanism

The message of Islam is for the entire human race. God, in Islam - God of all the world (Surah Al-Fatiha: 1) and the Prophet is a Messenger for the whole of mankind.

"O people! I am the Messenger of God to you all" (Surah Al-Araf: 158)

In Islam all men are equal, whatever to their color language or nationality

10. Balance between the Individual and Society

Another unique feature of Islam is that it establishes a balance between individualism and collectivism. It believes in the individual personality of man and holds everyone personally accountable to Allah. It guarantees the fundamental rights of the individual and does not permit anyone to temper with them.

It makes the proper development of the personality of man one of the prime objectives of its education.

11. Moral and Ethical Conduct

Islam places a strong emphasis on moral integrity, ethical behaviour, and accountability, urging followers to act with compassion and integrity in all dealings. This focus on ethics shapes personal and community conduct aiming to foster a society based on mutual respect and cooperation.

“The best among you are those who have the best manners and character” (Bukhari)

12. Balance between Spiritually and Materialism

Islam teaches that both the spiritual and material aspects of life are important. It advocates for a balanced approach where believers can enjoy the world while fulfilling their spiritual obligations. This balance help prevent excesses and promotes a healthy, fulfilling lifestyle.

"And seek the bounty of your Lord, and remember Allah often" (Quran 62:10)

Conclusion:

Islam represents a holistic way of life rooted in submission to Allah, fostering inner peace and societal harmony. It extends beyond ritual to provide ethical guidance for every aspect of life, balancing spiritual and worldly needs. The core features of Islam are monotheism, equality, social justice and universal brotherhood can promote both individual growth and community welfare. Through the Quran and Hadith, Islam encourages the pursuit of knowledge and ethical living, unity, and justice.