

ISLAMIYAT

(Q)

What is meant by culture and civilization? Describe the characteristics of Islamic culture.

Introduction:

With the advent of mankind, there have been continuous development of culture and civilization. These two elements hold significance in shaping a man's life. When a child is born, the guardians transfer their teachings to the child and tend to condition a child's life through the lens of culture and civilization.

What is meant by Civilization:

Every human being belongs to

a civilization which has same values for each and every individual. Will Durant has rightly said:

"Civilization is the most remarkable thing a human has so far created."

There are different civilizations which impact to show their indication in villages as well as urban areas.

Civilization in Urban Areas:

Civilizations tend to be have different mode of life in urban areas and quite the opposite in rural. Today, architecture, roads, tombs etc shape the urban civilizations. For example, Zimbabwe

has ancient monuments which represent political power. Professor White has said:

"Civilizations are cumulative, symbolic and progressive processes".

Administration is a characteristic of civilization:

Administration helps a civilization define the ways through which a state must be run. It also allows the state to establish its writ in the country and every state has a different way of establishing an administrative body according to different needs. Hazrat Umar's administration is a great example of administrative Islamic administration. He says:

"Even if a dog dies near the bank of River Nile due to hunger, Umar will be responsible for it".

What is meant by Culture?

Culture is the way through which a civilization spends its life. It teaches moral and cultural value and deviation from such principles is considered an offense. Will Durant has said:

"Culture teaches a man how to conduct his life in a civilization".

Culture teaches Moral Values:

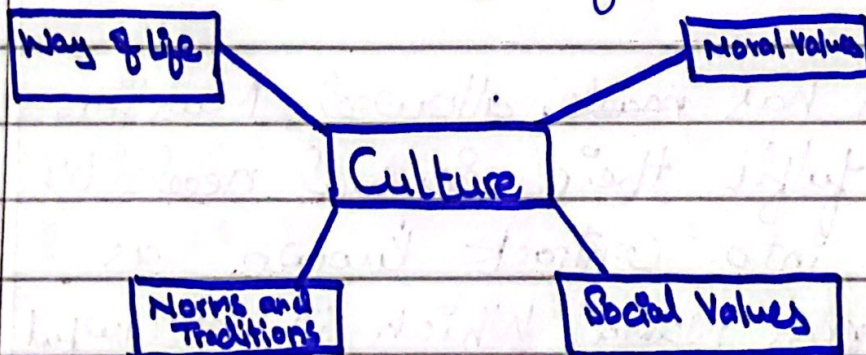
Every culture has its own customs, norms and moral values. These moral

Values shape an individual's personality and learn how to deal with other people. An old Egyptian Poet, Ahmed Shawqi, has said:

"A nation has is equal to its moral values. If their moral values die, the nation dies as well".

Culture is a Way of Life:

Culture teaches an individual how to deal with other people. It teaches a man how one should respect, love, care and live/coexist with other people. Therefore, it is a complete picture of life.



CHARACTERISTICS OF ISLAMIC CULTURE:

- 1) Tawhid is the major characteristic of Islamic Culture.

If one takes a look at Islamic culture, Tawhid (Oneness of Allah) is very common in everyone. Muslims believe in one God and prostrate him. Allah says in Surah Al-Ikhlās:

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

"Say: God is One".

- 2) Marriage by signing "Nikkah Nama" is a characteristic of Islamic Culture:

Allah has made allowed Muslims to fulfil their sensual needs by going into contracts known as "Nikkah Nama", which is a lawful

way to fulfil one's basic worldly needs. Allah says in Quran:

"And, any one of you who is single (either male or female) should get married. If your male and female slaves are also allowed to get married. If they are poor, then Allah will bestow His bounty over them."

3) Moral Values of Islamic Culture:

Islam is a complete code of life. It holistically approaches each and every aspect of human life. Allah has ordered the mankind to show kindness towards others. Thus, a strong bond ~~between~~ among Muslim families can be observed. Allah says in Holy Quran:

"Be kind to others

as I have been kind
to you."

4) Purification of Soul:

Purification of soul is another important aspect of Islamic culture as Allah orders Muslims to ~~purify~~ purify their souls from vices, greed, jealousy etc. Holy Prophet has said:

"Cleanliness is important
for becoming a believer".

Over here, by cleanliness Prophet meant the cleanliness of soul.

5) Justice: An Important Characteristic of Islamic Culture:

Allah has frequently said in the Holy Quran that He is "Just". Thus, in Muslim countries like Saudi

Arabia, there is strict culture and
punishment for crimes. Holy
Prophet is an epitome of justice.

He says:

"Even if my daughter,
Fatima conducts theft,
then I swear to God
that I would cut
off her hands
as well."

Conclusion:

Therefore, Islamic Culture has been quite static since the advent of Islam rather than becoming a massive torpedo of change. It always guides humans towards ~~a~~ ~~cult~~ developing a culture of peace, stability and justice.