

# Islamiyat

Q. What are the salient features of Islam?

## ① Introduction:-

Islam is the religion of peace that not only covers the aspect of man to God relation, but also covers the every aspect of human life. Whether individual or collective. Islam is not merely a religion but adeen. It gives a purpose to human life by providing them the path to lead a life on. With that Islam provides the way of justice and the rights granted by Islam to every human being. It makes the human life sacred by protecting it and gives the due respect and dignity to women, which considered as the inferior and a shame to its parents. It also united the muslims by building the sense of brotherhood and respect non-muslims. Quran guides the human to the right and the promise of preserve it is taken by Allah SWT himself. In short, Islam not only makes this life easy but makes a after-life prosper.

## ② Literal and Contentual meaning of Islam:-

The literal meaning of Islam has been derived from the word 'SALA' which means to surrender and to submit, to yield and to give oneself up. It means a person is committed to his God or surrender himself to the will of God. Additionally, the contentual means to offer

Complete submission to the will of God, and obedience to Allah. The other literal meaning of Islam is to 'peace'. Peace of mind and body, and it can only achieve through the complete submission to only Allah itself. The submission oneself to Allah gives the meaning and purpose to life, which makes the life easier to live.

### (3) Salient features of Islam:-

Islam has a number of features that distinguish it from other religions and stand it firm and unshakable. Some of the features of Islam are discussed below.

3.1

#### Tawhid:-

Tawhid is to believe in the Oneness of Allah and believe he is the Only power and Sustainer of the Universe. Tawhid is the very essence of Islam. Quran Pale clearly states that-

"قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ صَمَدٌ ۝ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝  
 ۝ لَهُ كُنُوزٌ غَيْرُ مَعْدُودَةٍ ۝ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ۝

"Say he is Allah the One, Allah is the eternal and absolute. None is born of him and ~~you~~ was he born and there is no One like him."

## 4.2 Finality of prophethood:-

Believer in the prophets and the finality of prophet (P.B.U.H) is the part of belief and without it, it can not be complete. Believing that the prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is the last prophet and no one will come after that is proved by the Quran in Surah Azkab 33: 40.

Muhammad is not the father of any of you, but he is Allah's messenger and the Seal of the prophets.

## 4.3 Justice (Adl):-

Justice makes the Islam, most prominent and successful religion. Islam not only Surah through personal matter of a human being also how the institutions should work under the paradigm of Islam. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said on an event, "If the Fatima the daughter of prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) have stolen something I would have cut her hands."

In Surah Nisa Ayah 135, Allah says, "O you who believe, be persistently firm in justice, witness for Allah, even it be against yourself or your parents or relatives."

(3.4)

### Human dignity:-

Islam is the only religion that have cover every aspect of life and protect human beings and their dignity. Islam discourage the hatred, quarrel and jealousy, it encourage people to love, spread peace and respect everyone regardless of their creed, caste and religion.

“Indeed we have honoured the children of Adam, carried them on land and sea, granted them good and lawful provisions, and privileged them for above many of our creatures.” (Surah Al-Isra).

(3.5)

### Preservation of Quran:-

Quran is the pillar of Islam, Quran guides muslims to line, aiel and worship. Five books has been revealed on the muslims on different prophets and their message was to guide them to back on the right path. However, these books are not present today in their revelation form. But Quran Pak is still the same as it was 1400 years ago because Allah himself has taken its charge to protect it.

### 3.6 Complete Code of Life:-

Islam is inclusive by covering individual and collective aspects of life. It tells a human how to live his life and how to treat its parents, relatives, and children. Islam also provides guidance for all aspects of life - material, moral, economic, political, legal, culture and international. From bathing a dead body to facilitate ties with different countries has been covered by Islam.

### 3.7 Women rights:-

In the era of ignorance women were subjected to physical and sexual violence. Infant girl used to get buried as they bring shame to the family. Women used to be sold for some rupees and on display. After the advent of Islam women get protected, they were allowed to get education, do business and marry according to their choices. Not only this they get the right to inheritance and education. Allah says in Surah Al-Takweer.

"And when the female infant buried alive, is questioned for what crime she was killed."

### 3.8 Spirituality and Rationality:-

Before Islam rationalism was considered as the

out-of-the-world phenomenon. However, Islam supports rationality along with spirituality. For example, Al-Quran talks about the galaxies in the Universe and later scientist proved it too. To conclude Islam is the only religion that aligns rituals with factual information, e.g., economic and political system of muslims.

(3.9)

### Sense of Accountability:-

Islam guides muslims to live the life according to the ways defined by Quran and Sunnah. Also it encourages muslims to be good to its fellow beings and do good deeds as he is going to be answerable in his conduct not in this life but in afterlife as well. Allah says in Quran Pak:-

"Do you think I have created you in vain and that you will not return to me."

(3.10)

### Belief in Akhirat:-

Muslims firmly believe in the life of afterlife, as muslims we believe that this life is not permanent Allah sent human beings for their test. Just like it said ha'ra'at ahlam and Bi'th' hawan on earth nothing but for punishment. So,

this teaches that humans are here for a specific period of life and then have to return to Allah. In Surah Gayamah Allah says.

"Nay, I swear by the day of Resurrection and nay, I swear by the Self-reapproaching Soul. Does man imagine that we will not be able to bring his bones together?"

The belief in Akhirah instill the sense of accountability, virtues and upright, and rights and duties towards each other.

Qa What are the contemporary challenges of Muslim Ummah and their solution according to the teachings of Islam.

### Introduction:

Today muslim Ummah is scattered and are facing many internal and external challenge. Ummah is termed as the group of people that are united under the ties of religion. The Ummah is created by the prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) to instill the feeling of brotherhood among each other. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) created Ummah so the people practicing the same religion can cooperate and flourish together, they should rely on each other for their needs and cooperation. However, due to the changing

Changing order of world and globalization has directed the Ummah and depend them on western world. Along with it, the militants and non-state actors has change the real image of Islam, which threatens the Islamic teachings and sabotage the real message of it. Sectarianism is one of the challenges that has fanning the flame. These challenges can be mitigated by the role of OIC and the awareness to the people.

## ② Understanding the word Ummah:

Ummah is a community of believers who come together because of their shared belief in Islam. Although the general word for Ummah is a nation or 'ummat' source, Ummah is created by the prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) to show the mutual cooperation, benefit. Ummah can be viewed as collective identity. Collective identity is grounded by social and custom values.

## ③ Contemporary challenges of Muslim Ummah:

Today muslim community faces a number of internal and external challenges that is threatening the identity of Ummah. Along with it, it has tarnish the image of real Islam. Some of challenges are discussed below.



## Internal Crisis:-

Some of the Internal crises, muslim facing today are discussed below.

### i) Intellectual crisis and stagnation:-

The looming conditions of muslim is not religious but the intellectual. The intellectual stagnation has brought Ummah on political, social and cultural problem by colonialism and neocolonialism that is link to poor governance and economic underdevelopment.

and

### ii) Modernisation & Ummah:-

Muslims used to be the leaders of the world by discovering the things to finding the facts, from Al-behuni to Jabir bin Hayan. However, today Ummah is far behind in the race of modernisation and competing the world. Blue world is becoming a global village muslim are going to back to isolation.

### iii) Political Disunity:-

Certainly the sectarian quarrel today is contrary to the teachings of Islam. Sectarianism has scattered the Ummah into groups that are against each other. Tolerance is the main problem. The Unauthorised

modarasa's have created a mayhem due to conflicting and vague ideologies.

## 9r) Fundamentalism and rise of extremism

Nowadays, Islam appears rigid and extremist is because how the interpreters make it so. As the world has changed but the Muslims are adhere to follow the old interpretation that are no longer relevant and adequate.

## r) Prevalence of Unbridled materialism and moral doctrine:

The loss of spiritual values has resulted in the unbridled materialism. Today, money is worshiped as the only means that can make the people successful here in after life. Once Jamal-ud-Din Afghani the founder of pan-Islamic Societ:-

The Muslims have lost their courage, their ambitions asleep, their heart dying but the only thing that is prevalent among them is lust and indulgence.

## External Challenges:-

The few of the external challenges face by Ummah are discussed below.

### i) Western Domination :-

Colonialism is termed as the subjugation of the weaker states by the stronger ones. Today due to economic stability and the power the western bloc dominates the world due to true focus and vision to lead the world. Muslim Ummah who used to be the leaders of the nations ~~are~~ have become the slaves due to their distance from Islam and the teaching defamed by prophet (P.B.U.H).

### ii) Globalization: Modern form of Colonization :-

It is termed as the generalised expansion of the international economic activities. The world has become borderless and the dependence has created but it has destroyed the third world nation which are mostly the muslim Ummah. West is benefiting from the resources and power of the Ummah without even facilitating them properly.

### iii) Media coverage and IT Industries :-

Today, the rate of technology is the new development. Country can only prosper if they have proper tools and skills to get most of it. Unfortunately, the muslim Ummah lag far behind in

modern technology and development. The presence of vague interpretation of religion has made everything extreme. Along with it, the western media portray Islam and Muslims as the threat to the whole community because of the non-State actors and teachings.

## ④ Remedies to Counter Contemporary Challenges of Muslim Ummah.

Muslim Ummah can only flourish through proper guidance or consensus, and cooperation. Some of the ways are discussed here under.

### ④.1 Unified Response of Ummah:-

The Muslim Ummah needs to curtail the divide by addressing the prevalent crises which is the sectarianism. There is a need that Muslim Ummah stop feeling the pain by shutting down the unauthorised school of thoughts by building consensus among each other.

### ④.2 Rehe-Inspection and Rectification:-

It is the need of the hour for the Muslims to stop blaming others for their own failures, and start focusing on themselves to find the solution. It is the right time that the Muslim

Start introspection and diagnose the cause of it.

### 4.3) Need for Ijtihad:-

The Ijtihad plays a crucial role in the socioeconomic and political life. The true problem lies in the political conditions that consequent the failure of the Ummah. There is a growing need for the Ijtihad and renewal of the understanding of new new methods to the new problems.

### 4) Media should play its role:-

This is the role of the muslims governments to cooperate with the private sector for the establishment of joint information and encouraging information industries to cooperate for the betterment. Along with it media can portray the real image of Islam by showcasing the inventions and true religion to build a soft image of Islam.

### 4.5) Checking terrorism activities and financing:-

The Quran promotes good deeds as a part of faith, and Quran also promises the victory for its believers who fight in the cause of Allah, but Islam never promote

violence and conflict among people. Brainwashing of people by militant organization because of the loop left by state. They treat Islam as a sensitive topic, contrary Islam is not a weakness but an strength that promise success in here and hereafter. Right image and teachings of Islam need to be policy for United goal and prosperity.

(8)

### Conclusion:-

Islam is the religion of peace, it has United the Ummah under the Umbrella of Islam. Islam provides the identity to its people by making and United them as One Soul who works together for the spread of Islam and prosperity. However, due to internal and external challenges face by the Ummah today, disintegrate them from their real teachings and values of Islam. From internal economic and political instability to heavily reliance of the western bloc left no room for betterment. To counter strategic approach is needed to uplift the miseries of Ummah.