

Islamic studies

Q: What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam.

Ans **Islam**: The word Islam is derived from three words from Arabic letters, (S), (L, J), (M P), which generates words with interrelated meanings including: submission, commitment, surrender, and peace.

Islam means to achieve peace, peace with Allah, peace with oneself and peace with the creations of Allah through wholly submitting oneself to Allah and accepting his guidance. Islam refers to monotheistic religion revealed Muhammad S.A.W

The Islam instituted by Quran which is sacred scripture revealed to Muhammad S.A.W for all Muslims. It represents the last reiteration of the primordial message of Allah's oneness. It is the religion of truth.

Essence of Islam: There is word submission, which means that we should bear the witness that there is no God but Allah and ~~that~~ Muhammad SAW is His messenger. And we should perform ritual prayers such as give zakat, fast during Ramadan, and perform Hajj if the people are able to go there.

If we look at the Faith, it means that we have faith in Allah, His angels, His books, His messenger and the last day of judgement.

As a religion, Islam stands for complete submission and obedience to Allah, the other literal meaning is peace. This signifies that one can achieve real peace of body and of mind only through submission and obedience to Allah. Such a life of obedience brings peace of the heart and establishes real peace in society.

Those who believe and whose hearts find rest in the remembrance of Allah - Indeed it is in the remembrance of Allah alone that the heart of man finds rest - those who believe and act righteously, joy is for them, and a blissful home to return to. (13: 28-29).

Salient features of Islam

Unique Concept of

Tauheed:- The concept of tauheed is counter-stone of Islam. It means that there is only Allah, who is the sole creator, sustainer, and ruler of the universe.

• Allah has no partners, equals, or offspring.

- worship is reserved for Allah alone
- He is beyond human imagination, yet close to His creation.
- Islam is like fort and the gate of that fort is tauheed.

قل هو الله احد

Say, 'O Prophet, "He is Allah - one and indivisible (112:1)

الله الصمد

Allah - the sustainer needed by all (112:2)

لم يلد ولم يولد

He has never had offspring, nor was He born. (112:3)

ولم يكن له كفوا احد

And there is none comparable to Him (112:4)

Prophethood:- Muslims believe in all prophets sent by Allah from Adam to Muhammad (SAW), who is the last

and final messenger of Allah.

- All prophets preached to the same message: worship Allah and do good.
- Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is regarded as the seal of the prophets.

لقد كان لكم في رسول الله أسوة حسنة لمن
كان يرجو الله واليوم الآخر وذكر الله كثيرا

Indeed, in the messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for whoever has hope in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah often. (33:21)

Dignity to mankind:-

In human dignity, there is a right of every person to be valued unconditionally. In Islam, this is embodied in the Quranic concept of 'karamah al-insan' (human dignity). Every person, regardless of his/her is to be respected and given certain rights.

ولقد كرّمنا بني آدم وخلقناهم في البر
والبحر وراقنهم من الطيبات وفضلناهم
على كثير ممن خلقنا تفضيلا

We have honoured the sons of Adam,
provided them with transport on
land and sea; given them for
sustenance things good and pure;
and conferred on them special
favours, above a great part of
our creation. Surah Al-Isra (17:70)

Universal Brotherhood:-

Islam emphasises equality and brother-
hood among all human beings regard-
less of race, color, or status.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَآثِقٍ

وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ

أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ

خَبِيرٌ

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 the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is knowing and acquainted.

Surah: Al - Hujurat (49:13)