

ISLAMIC STUDIES

Q. What moral values are given by the Deen-i- Islam? Can these values be changed keeping in view the western ethical system? (14 marks)

Ans

1)

INTRODUCTION

Moral values are the important, and significant in Islam, as well as in the western ethical system. There is a key difference between the originality of these moral values in Islam and the west. There are certain moral values which are same in both Islam and west. However, some of these are only provided by Islam.

2) BACKGROUND; ORIGIN OF MORAL VALUES IN ISLAM AND WEST;

The moral values in Islam are of divine origin. While those of west

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are originated through philosophical reasoning, secular traditions and continuous struggles. This is the reason why there is difference between interpretation and application of these moral values in muslim and western societies.

3) MORAL VALUES GIVEN BY ISLAM ONLY

3.1) Patience (Sabr); Islam has given utmost stress on patience. For example, Surah Al-Assr 103 states that the highest and most important level of faith iman is having patience.

3.2) Charity (Zakat and Sadqah); Another moral value given by Islam only is charity. Islam supports charity and circulation of wealth and discourages concentration of wealth.

“And pay Zakat”
(Al-Quran)

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3.3) Forgiveness ; A moral value given by Islam

Holy prophet Muhammad (P.b.u.h), during the visit to Ta'if, was met with rejection and hardships by the people. On that occasion, prophet (p.b.u.h) did not take revenge from them but supplicated to Allah. This shows that Islam has given importance to mercy and forgiveness.

3.4) Maintaining family ties;

"If you have faith in Allah, and the day of judgement, then maintain the bond of kinship."
(Sahih Bukhari)

The above quoted hadith shows the significance given by Islam to the bond of kinship.

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4) MORAL VALUES GIVEN BY ISLAM, AS WELL AS WESTERN ETHICAL SYSTEM

relate your headings and arguments to the qs statement.

4.1) Freedom as a moral value; Both Islam and west have recognised the individual's freedom in several grounds of life.

"There is no compulsion
in the religion"

(Surah Al-Imran 3:110)

4.2) Human rights as one of the moral values; Human rights such as right to life, property, and freedom are enjoined by the muslims as well as western societies. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights UDHR guarantees human rights to the western societies.

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4.3) Equality as a moral value given by both Islam and west; Both Islam and west guaranteed the equality of all human beings. In the last sermon, for instance, the holy prophet (P.b.u.h) said that all men are equal regardless of their color, cast and creed.

4.4) Justice as another moral value given by Islam and west; Islam and Western ethical systems both are providers of the justice. For example, the International court of Justice ICJ has been established to ensure the provision of justice to the people of various countries.

5)

CRITICAL A EVALUATION

This is clear now that there are certain moral values which are given by both Islam and West. But some

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are only enjoyed by muslim nations. Moreover, another difference is that the moral values given by west emphasize on individualism, and secularism. While those of Islam stress on Allah's will and community.

improve the second part of the answer.

6)

CONCLUSION

In a nut shell, Both Islam and the western ethical system have provided certain moral values. But the major difference between the moral values given by the west and those of Islam is of originality, which led to the difference in the interpretation and application of these values.