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What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam.

Literal meaning:-

Islam is derived from an Arabic word "SLM" meaning submission, peace and surrender. The old name of Islam is Deen-Hanuf which means to obey one God.

Contextual meaning:-

To submit your desires to the will of Allah is Islam. It is also to enter peace by the will of Allah.

Shariah meaning:-

Voluntary submitting your desires to the will of Allah is Islam. Here the word Voluntary is very important - Its importance can be seen by this verse of Surrah bagra:

"There is no compulsion in religion"
another verse whose mafhoom is

"For you is your religion, for me is mine."

According to Dr Hamidullah:

"Islam is monotheism religion revealed upon Prophet (P.B.U.H)."

According to Imam qazlavi "Islam is the combination of faith and worships" rights of Allah and rights of people.

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Salient features of Islam:-

Here are some

Salient features of Islam:

1- Unique concept of Touheed:-

Touheed is to believe

in one god, as in the first part of Kalma:

"There is no god but Allah and prophet (P.B.U.H) is his messenger."

Allah says in Surah Ikhlas: "He is Allah the one- Allah is eternal and absolute- Neither he is born of nor was he born- None is like him."

This unique concept of Touheed teaches us to believe in one god, worship him and follow his teachings-

2- Prophethood:-

Prophethood is an important belief in Islam- We should believe in prophets, the concept of prophethood is incomplete without believing in prophet (P.B.U.H) and finality in Prophethood.

As in 2nd part of Kalma Allah says:

"There is no god but Allah and prophet (P.B.U.H) is his messenger."

Allah emphasizes in Quran to obey Prophet (P.B.U.H) and says having mafhoom:-

"O Prophet (S.A.W) say If you love Allah follow me."

The sunnah of Prophet (P.B.U.H) gives us guide in many aspects of life: education, law, livelihood etc.

Prophet (P.B.U.H) hades mafhoom:

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"Verify I have sent to you as a teacher."

In surrah al-hazab Allah says, whose mafhoom is

"Indeed, in Prophet (P.B.U.H.) you have an excellent example to follow."

3- Dignity to mankind:-

A man is sent in this world as a caliph of Allah. In surrah teen, Allah says that man is his beautiful creation. In Islam, human is superior in all creations. In a verse Allah says

"Certainly we have honoured the children of Adam."

The verse specifies that Allah has honoured all the children of Adam irrespective of their religion, gender, race, caste etc. Allah also provides the security of this honour by saying in verse of Surah Al-Imran whose mafhoom is

"Honour and disgrace are in the hands of Allah".

So honour is purely dependent on good deeds and bad deeds which humans do in their life and Allah promises reward for good deeds.

4- Complete code of life:-

Islam is a complete code of life. It provides guidance in every aspect of life. It guides for individual

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life which includes birth of a child, upbringing of a child, character building, livelihood, education and family life -

"Seeking knowledge is mandatory for man and women -"

It also provides his guidance in collective life: social system, political and financial justice and global affairs -

5- **Islam promotes humanity:-**

Humanity refer to positive attributes of humans - One who follow rights of Allah, people and animals is considered the follower of humanity - In this regard, Islam always emphasizes on the rights of people, animals and as well as ask to protection environment -

Prophet (P.B.U.H) said:

"planting a tree is the best charity"

Another place he said:

"Do not cut green trees even if you are in phase of war -"

Prophet (P.B.U.H) scolded a person whose camel was thirsty - More over, Islam also promotes social work eg charity, medical services -

"Allah shows displeasure from a person who never visits an ill person -"

In an verse, Allah says whose masfhoom is **"killing one innocent is equal to killing whole mankind and saving an one life equal to saving whole humanity -"**

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6- Day of Judgement:-

Day of Judgement known as "Yawm al-Qiyamah" in Arabic is the day when all humans will be brought back to their lives, and will be held accountable for the deeds they performed in world. It is a core belief of Islam. That day will be very serious for humans, there comes in an ayat whose mafhoom is

"That day, man will flee from his brother, his mother, his father, his wife and his children."

Hazrat Aisha (R.A) asked Prophet (P.B.U.H) whether all people on that day will be naked? Prophet (P.B.U.H) replied Yes, they will be in form they born - Hazrat Aisha asked what about women, he replied they will be in same condition. Hazrat Aisha again asked "will they not look upon each other" and in reply to that Prophet (P.B.U.H) recited a verse whose mafhoom is

"On that day, everybody will be worried so much about themselves that they do not care for anyone else."

7- Spiritual world- Angels:-

"Iman bil malaika" is believing in the existence of Angels - Angels are made from light, they perform important duties given to them from Allah without sin - Four famous Angels and their duties are:

Hazrat Gabriel:- Brings Allah's revelation to prophets

Hazrat Mikael:- responsible for rain, food and natural sources.

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Hazrat Israfeel:- will blow trumpet on
dooms day.

Hazrat Azrael:- Angel of death - Takes away
soul from body.

Angels watch and record the deeds of humans
in world - In hadees whose mafhoom is Prophet
(P.B.U.H) says "Indeed, Angels record good
and bad deeds of humans."

8- Divine guidance through revealed Books:-

Revealed
Books are the Holy books revealed on prophets - These
Books Purpose was to guide humans how to live their
life - Believing in these books is a key part of Islam.

Tawrait — Hazrat Musa

Zaboor — Hazrat Dawood

Injeel — Hazrat Isa

Quran Majeed — Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H)

Quran is the final revealed book, having complete
guidance for mankind - Allah has taken responsibility
himself for safety of Quran - In an verse,
Allah says whose mafhoom is

"we have revealed this book, and we
are the safeguard of this book."

9- Unity for human Family:-

Origin of every human
is Adam, so whether it is muslim, non-muslim,
man, women all have same origin - In an
verse, Allah says whose mafhoom is:

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"We created you from a man and women and divided you in nations and tribes so that you may know ^{one} another - Honourable among you is the one who is righteous."

Another place Allah says whose mafhoom is

"There is no superiority of Arab over non-Arab and non-Arab over Arab - There is no superiority of white over black and black over white - Best among you is the one who is more righteous."

10- Rights of women in Islam:-

Islam is the first religion who gave respect and honour to women - Islam says women should be treated with respect, care and should be given a share from property - Islam abolished the killing of a female infant in Arab -

In a verse Allah says whose mafhoom is

"Treat women with kindness -"

In a hadees Prophet (P.B.U.H) says whose mafhoom is

"Best among you is the one who is best to his wife -"

Islam considered man and women equal and will be judged on their duties and deeds in hereafter -