

Assignment 01

Q1. What is Islam? Elaborate the Salient Features of Islam.

Islam

Literal Meaning

Islam is derived from the Arabic word (سلم) SLM which means

* To Submit

* to Surrender

* to Give one self up

* to make peace.

Scholarly Meaning

Different Scholars give different definitions of Islam.

ii) Syed Ameer Ali in his famous book "The Spirit of Islam" said that

"Islam in its primary sense is to be at tranquil, to rest, or to do the assigned work but in secondary and true sense is to surrender himself to the One completely whom the peace is associated."

Dr Hameedullah a famous scholar of Islamic law and international relation in his famous book "The Emergence of Islam" said that

"Islam is not a religion in a narrow sense of word. It is a civilization, a culture, a legal system and a moral code."

In his another famous book "Introduction to Islam" he said that:

"Islam is the religion revealed on the Holy Prophet PBUH, the Last Prophet of God and it is based on the belief that there is only one God that is Allah."

Molana Sadruddin Isfahani in his famous book "Islam at a Glance" define Islam as

"Islam is a harmonious blend of faiths and worships"

Imam Ghazali According to him:

"Islam is a combination of two things that is right of Allah and the right of people."

Holy Prophet PBUH According to Holy Prophet PBUH: "Islam is the path in the God and his Messenger and to witness them."

Shariah

According to Shariah Islam is the Submission of desires to the will of Allah Almighty voluntarily without having any pressure is called Islam.

* In Holy Quran Allah said in "Surrah Baqrah"

لَا إِكْرَهَ فِي الدِّينِ

"There is no compulsion in religion"

* This verse affirms that faith / Islam must be embraced freely not through any pressure.

* The Final verse of Surrah "Al-Kafirun" is also a powerful declaration of distinction in religion and non-interference.

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ الدِّينِ

"For you is your Deen, and for me is my deen"

Contextual Meaning:

In contextual meaning, Islam is entering into peace by submitting to will of Allah.

* Here the peace can be explained as

the peace of one's mind and body and this can be only achieved only if one start to follow the Allah Almighty saying.
As in Quran it is said clearly

”الَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ”

“Verily, In the remembrance of Allah the Hearts find peace.”

Concept OF Islam

The basic concept of Islam is that there is a God, the Creator and master in the Creation of the world. The whole world is created by one and only God. There is no God then him. He is all alone and all the things in the Universe belongs to him. He created the human being from Adam and Eve and send them to the earth for a specific period of time. He send Apostle for the guidance of mankind. He send specific Apostle to specific region and tribes with a basic knowledge of All the Apostle preached the human being related to Allah, the right path but the human being got distracted again and again and in last Allah Almighty send the Holy Prophet PBUH with his last Islamic book Quran. Like other

Prophets The Holy Prophet PBUH was not limited to specific tribe, people or region. He was sent for the whole mankind. He was the only prophet who delivered all the humanity and after his arrival all the other existing religions were disappeared.

The Holy Prophet PBUH delivered the message of Allah Almighty to mankind. He taught the right path. He told about the Islamic knowledge, the faiths, worships of Islam and those who spend their lives according to the teaching of Islam, according to the teaching of Holy Prophet PBUH are called muslims (believers) and those who refused to these teachings are called disbeliever.

* The first and foremost rule of Islam is Kalma Shahadah. The mankind joined the field of Islam by saying the Kalma which is related to the Oneness of Allah Almighty and His Prophet Hazrat Muhammad PBUH.

* Words of Kalma Shahadah are

لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

"Verily, There is no God then Allah, and Muhammad is His last Prophet."

Salient Features of Islam

① Touheed - Bed Rock of Islam

“لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ”

“There is no God then Allah.”

* Touheed is the 1st part of Kalma and it is a revolutionary concept and constitutes the essence of Islam. It shows that there is only one God who created the whole mankind and the universe, He is the only Supreme Lord, the author, the planner and the designer of whole universe. He is the omnipotent, omnipresent and the Sustainer of the whole mankind and universe. He is all alone. As in Quran it is said clearly:

“لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ فَرَّادٌ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ”

“He is Allah the one, the eternal and absolute.”

Molana Shibli Noomani in his famous book of Hadith Quoted ~~that~~ the Holy Prophet saying that

“Islam is like a Fort, and the door of this Fort is Touheed.”

If we focus on the universe, If we start to observe our body structure, If we see the sky, the sun, moon, the stars scattered on the sky, the changing seasons, the singing birds, then we get curious and confused. Can all these happened themselves without having any Creator, Master, Who there is a planner designer, author and God behind all these changes. There is a sign for those who think. This changes are not happening there is sign so that we can think, we can learn and we come to know about the Creator God. It is a metaphysical concept and answers the riddles of universe.

2- Finality of Prophet Muhammad PBUH

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« Muhammad is His Prophet »

* The Second part of Kalma and the 2nd basic postulates of Islam is to believe in the finality of Holy Prophet Muhammad PBUH. It is compulsory for all the Muslims to follow his way of life, to accept the religion he preached to follow his command and the last Book Holy Quran.

because the Holy Prophet PBUH is teaching ~~the~~ and delivering God's messages. As Allah said in Quran clearly

"He cannot speak on His own, He only delivered the message which are revealed on him."

The Allah Almighty has not left the mankind after sending into the world. He send his prophet PBUH for the guidance of human being, to teach them right path. To follow and to believe in the Prophet means to follow his message, to adopt the code of conduct from his life and to follow him in all aspects of life. As Allah Almighty in Quran said that

"No doubt, in the Prophet of God, you have a complete model to follow."

He is a perfect model in all aspects of life from individual life to, as a husband, as a military Strategist, as a father, as an educator. He give a complete guidance to the mankind. Now it is our responsibility to learn from Him, His teaching, His way of life, His Sunnah and put our life according to him to become a successful mankind.

* The Holy Prophet PBUH is the last Prophet of Allah

and the perfect model for all mankind. There will be no more prophet after him. Deen is completed here.

As in Quran it is said clearly that:

"Muhammad is not the father of any man among you. He is the Last Prophet of Allah Almighty and the Messenger of God."

3) Protection of Holy Quran

All the treaties and the Books which are delivered before the Holy Quran were disappeared or some changes happened in them with the passage of time. But the Holy Quran which is the last holy book revealed on the last prophet of Allah is still presented and in the form in which it is revealed. There is no ~~at~~ single changes or even a changes of sign or letters are not happened it. Because the Allah Almighty took the responsibility of this Holy Book and today even after 1400 years Quran are still in the form in which it is revealed.

ان فن

"We have sent down this and we will protect it"

This declaration of Allah Almighty is verified by the Modern day Islam critics William Munir in his book the life Holy Prophet PBUH He says

"We may upon the strongest presumption said that every verses are exact same and unaltered as revealed upon the Muhammad himself."

Although he is a non-muslims but by doing deep research he affirms that Quran is still in its purest form in which it is revealed on Muhammad. even a single changes is not happened here. Even though he is non-muslims and does not believe in Quran still he is saying this. So this is the uniqueness of this Holy Book.

04) Complete Code of Life:

Islam is a complete code of life. Prior to the Holy Prophet PBUH Allah Almighty send His Prophets and Rasool to the specific, region, people and tribes to guide them and to delivered his message to them. But Holy Prophet PBUH is send for the whole mankind with the message of Islam. Islam is not specific to special people, area, region, caste, colour or creed but it is for all human being. It does not mean that it is a complete new religion no it is a continuation of all previous religion from Hazrat Adam to till Muhammad.

Before Islam the other religions also guide and preached related to God and right path. But Islam is the complete religion. There will be no more religion after it and all human being spend there life according to this till death and till the day of Judgement.

As in Quran it is said that

"The day I have perfect your religion for you and have chosen Islam as a religion for you"

Islam is not a religion which is confined to the private / individual life of man. But for those who seek a knowledge it provide a complete code of life in all aspects from individual, social, political, legal, moral, cultural, national and international affairs. It guide the human being completely.

5-) Univarsilaty & Humanism

The message of Islam is limited to a specific people, tribes, colour are race but it is universal to all mankind.

As in Quran it is said that

"God in Islam is the God of all mankind and the Messenger of all is the Messenger for whole mankind."

In Islam all the mankind are equal there is no difference, whatever be the colour, race, religion, language or nationality ever.

* The Holy Prophet PBUH in his last sermon said that.

"All mankind is from Adam and Eve, there is no superiority of any Arab over Non-Arab, any white over black or any black over white. except the piety and good actions".

In Islam the only thing that matters is piety and good actions.

* Islam also teaches a lesson of humanity which means to show kind love and affection to all the creatures even with plants and environment.

* The positive instincts must be developed without having any discrimination. Islam promotes humanity through Zakat, by protecting human, animals and rights and even by planting a tree.

The Holy Prophet PBUH said that

"Don't cut a tree even in the case of war"

A famous poet Habib Jalib said that

{ تلوں خدا جب کسی مشکل میں پکڑے گا }
سب سے پہلے میں اپنے عبادت میں نیکی

Islam teaches the lesson of humanity - Islam teach to feel the pain of others creatures without discrimination.

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