

Assignments.

Q1, What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam.

Answer: To brief about what Islam is, we would need to break it into 3 different ways. The first of which is the literal meaning of Islam and that is peace.

The second is the contextual meaning that goes by, to submit to Allah in peace. Whereas the way Shariah sees it is a mixture of both literal and contextual "to voluntarily submit to Allah's will in peace."

Islam is one of the most oldest religions of the world. Its former name was deen-e-Harif.

In Islam the seal of the Prophet i.e.

Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) said that Islam is witnessing ~~oness~~ oneness of Allah (SWT) and to have faith in His Prophets and most importantly to have practiced the pillars of Islam.

As Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) said

'prayer is the only factor that distinguishes between a Believer and a Non believer'

hence, to practice the pillars distinguishes the people who follow Islam.

Moreover in the recent times there have been scholars that have briefed as to what they think Islam is. Beginning with Dr Hameedullah who stated 'Islam is a Monotheist religion that was bestowed upon the Holy Prophet (Pbuh)

Here he meant, that Islam is a religion of ONE God (Allah) and he revealed this religion to our last prophet.

There was another Scholar named Imam Ghozali who said that Islam is a religion of Rights of God and the Rights of Human

Here he meant The duties that we directly owe to god are the rights of god for eg Salah, fasting etc. These duties focuses our relationship with God.

where by saying Rights of Human he meant the duties that we are ought to do as a human for eg, Respecting parents, neighbours Acting with fairness and Just. These are the things that builds our relation with Human kind

Islam never asks anybody to just to worship Allah and neglect people. It's where you do both that is called Islam.

Dr Sardar-ul-din says that Islam is a combination of faith and worship. He meant that just to have faith in Allah is not just Islam because to be a believer you also need to be a follower i.e. to practice the religion thus one should believe in Allah and his prophets and should also practice Islam.

Islam is a universal religion. There are 4 religious books revealed by Allah and the one that was revealed for Islam is the 'Quran'. Islam guides one about all the aspects of life be it personal, individual, societal or etc. Islam is not just restricted to a time period. It is still relevant and the fastest growing religions thus proving that Islam is not confined to a specific geographical location. Since it's not confined to a specific geographical location ~~that~~ it means human of all kind, race and shape follow Islam.

Islam promotes Humanity. As it ~~means~~ is the Ideal System of living for All of Mankind. Meaning Islam promotes ethics, moral, Brotherhood, Unity and most importantly discipline.

It is also mentioned in the 5th chapter and Verse 32 of Quran

'Taking one innocent life is like killing all of humanity, and saving one life is like saving all of humanity'

A real life example of this situation is a terrorist killing one man over any agenda, or a thief killing a man who resists to give in is exactly like killing of whole humanity where when a doctor saves a life is called or seen as saving the Humanity.

This verse warns and tells us to protect humanity by all means.

The basic Unit of Islam is Tauheed. Tauheed means to believe oneness of Allah. That he is one, he has no parent, children, sibling or etc. Tauheed is also the first section of the first Kalima of Islam, Because if there is no Tauheed who are we worshipping too? How many are we worshipping to. Thus to believe in Islam, we first need to believe that Allah is one.

Surah At-Ikhlās (112: 1-4)

'Say Allah is one, he is eternal and absolute, he neither begets nor is born'

whilst Tawheed being the most imp salient feature of Islam.

The second salient feature of Islam is Prophethood. Islam in totality has 124000 prophets, where it is believed that Hazrat Adam (RA) was the first one. Muhammad (Pbuh) is considered to be the seal of the prophets.

This itself is the 2nd part of the first Kalima. Islam was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh). His words, his way of life was all in accordance to the Quran, which is known as the Sunnah. Where Quran is said to be the word of Allah. Sunnah is also derived from it but more like in a practicable way. Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) was the first teacher that we all have. As he himself said 'Surely, I am a teacher to mankind'.

The 3rd salient feature of Islam is Dignity to Mankind. Surely we all know that the mankind is the best thing created by god as he himself in Quran 2:30 say 'I am to make my caliph on the ground'.

Here by caliph god referred to US, humankind.

In the Quran chapter 17 Verse number 70 Quran says 'Certainly we have honoured the children of Adam'.

Here Allah is saying that we the children of Adam (Humankind) have been honoured with respect irrespective of religion, sect, gender, shape and etc. A pure example of this is seen in a mosque where men of all colours or men who work in an office pray right next to men who'd clean sewerage. Thus in the eye of Allah, In the eye of Islam all are one, no one has a higher status, these are all worldly matters.

as it is also mentioned in 3:26 of the Quran that 'Surely, to give or to take respect is in the hands of Allah'

The forth salient feature of Islam is that it is the complete code of life. now what does that means, Islam is with us since the time of our birth till we are put back to our resting place. At the time of our birth Azan is called in our ears, this is the very first words a muslim child hears, it is the testimony of faith as it sets the tone of the new life born. Our Mothers, family mosque, most of our surrounding play a very important part in our upbringing. They teach us as to how to live a life that follows the code of Quran. They teach us as to how to talk, how to treat poor and needy. We have all heard that one should earn by Halal means, however the Quran also teaches us to spend our Halal earned money in Halal ways. It also encourages us to offer Zakat to those who are in need

last, However not the least, is that Islam promotes Humanity. With the word humanity is attached love, care and respect for the entire Universe, be it any person from any religion. Our Holy Prophet never looked down on any individual. He even then sat with people of all religion, colour, shape and had food and had a chat with them. The Quran mentions that if one kills a single soul, it is as if he killed the entire human race on the other hand if one saves a soul it is as if they have saved the entire Humanity. Since Allah has made mankind Superior that doesn't mean that we leave the other creation of God neglected.

Islam teaches us protection of Animals. The Holy Prophet (Pbuh) offered water to cats, he let them in the mosque whilst he used to pray.

Islam also tells us to protect the beautiful planet that we are living in, trees that have life in them too, Air due to which we all are breathing. The Holy Prophet said 'planting trees is the best kind of charity'.

All these pointers had been said 1400 years ago however till date all of these are more relevant than they might used to be.