

QUESTION:

i) What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam?

Answer:

"ISLAM: A WAY TO PEACE"

i) Introduction:

Islam is complete divinely revealed system, centered on Tawhid (Oneness of God) guided by Quran and Sunnah. It upholds dignity, prescribes a complete code of life and aims at human welfare.

Meaning and Concept of Islam

ii) Derivation:

Islam is derived from an Arabic word "**SLM**", which means peace, submission and safety.

iii) Literal Meaning:

- Peace,
- Surrender,
- Submission.

iv. Contextual Meaning:

1. Islam refers to submitting your desires to the will of Allah in obedience.
2. To enter peace by submitting to the will of Allah.

v. Allah is Al-Salam (one of Ninety nine names)
He is the originator and source of all peace

use blue and black colors only.....

اللهم إنت السلام السلام لا يحيط به علم لا يناله بصر
"Oh Allah You are peace, from You emanates all peace , blessed are You , O Possessor of majesty and honour".

— Reference: Hadith
in Sahih Muslim.
one reference is enough for a single argument

اللهم إنت السلام السلام لا يحيط به علم لا يناله بصر

"By it Allah guides those who seeks His pleasure to the ways of peace "

— Reference: (5:16)
Quran.

vi) According to Shariah:

"Let there be no compulsion in religion" ~~Reference (3: 256)~~ ^{Quran}

As per Shariah, Islam is the voluntary submission to the will of Allah.

vii) Definition of Islam:

1- Quranic Definition:

"The religion before God is Islam" ^(3:19) ~~Al-Hujat~~ ^{Quran}

2- Prophetic Definition:

Hadith:

"Islam is based on five principles; To testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and Muhammad (PBUH) is the Messenger of Allah and to establish pillars of Islam; offer prayer, pay zakat, perform pilgrimage and hold fasts in the month of Ramadan"

3- Hamidullah

“Islam is the monotheist deen revealed upon Prophet PBUH”
one is enough.

4- Imam Ghazali

“Islam is the combination of rights of Allah and rights of people”.

5- Molana Daudruddin Islahi

“Islam is the combination of faiths and worship”

- (Book: Islam at a Glance)

“Indeed actions are the result of intentions.”

- Hadith

⇒ ISLAM AS UNIVERSAL DEEN.

وَإِنَّا لَمْ نُنَذِّلْ كُلَّ كِتْبٍ إِلَّا لِلْأَفَلَفَ الْمُنْذَلِّينَ

“And We have not sent you, except to all of mankind, as bringer of glad tidings and a warner”

- Reference (34: 28)
Quran

Islam is continuation and completion of same divine message sent to all prophets from Hazrat Adam (AS) to Prophet (PBUH). It guides about every aspect of life and it is not limited to specific time period, ethnicity or geography. It is for entire mankind.

فَمَنْ قَتَلَ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَفَرْتُ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ
فَمَنْ قَاتَلَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ
كُلُّ أُنْثَىٰ حَسِّنَاتُهُ مَغْفِرَةٌ وَّمَا يُنْهَىٰ عَنْهُ
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"Whoever kills a life, unless for a punishment of murder or mischief in the land, it will be as if they have killed all humanity and whoever saves a life, it will be as if they have saved all of the humanity

Reference: (5:32)

Quran

⇒ ISLAM SYMBOL OF DEEN REVEALED ON PROPHET (PBUH)

Allah has clarified not to accept from man any other deen even if it was from the previous deens.

• Quran.

- Reference (3:85)

Wu'awee seeks a settlement after the war
Thim and he will be among the losers
Iilan. If you will be accepted from
In the hereafter

• Quran

- Reference: (3:83)

Aliyah? Who's knowing everything
in the hereafter and the earth's subunits
to them, knowledge and understanding,
and to them they will all be returned.

"Do they seek any other religion than

• Quran

"SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM"

1. Tawhid: The bedrock of Islam.

اللهم إله إله لا إله إلا أنت إله العالمين لا إله إلا أنت أنت أنت لا شريك لك

"Say, He is Allah (who is) one, the eternal refuge, he never begets nor born, and there is none comparable to him

Monothelism:

-Reference (112:1-4)

Tawhid is the first ^{part} chapter of Kalma. It means that there is one superior Lord of the Universe who is omnipotent and sustainer. Quran says;

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

"Allah-There is no deity except Him, the Ever-living Sustainer"

-Reference: (2:256)

The importance of Tawhid is also evident from;

Tawhid is the first chapter of Islamic syllabus.

-Searutun Nabi, Molana Shibli

Islam is like a fort and the gate of that fort is tawhid

-Hadith

keep the description of a single argument brief.

Impacts of Tawhid :

1. Tawhid develops love for Allah above and beyond all worldly affairs/love.

تَٰلِيٰ لِلْجٰنِيَّاتِ
And those who believe, have eternal love for Allah
(2:165)

2. Tawhid raises a man from abyss of degradation to zenith of self-respect and dignity.

أَنَّمَا يَنْهَا نَارٌ عَنِ الْمُنْتَهٰى
أَنَّمَا يَنْهَا نَارٌ عَنِ الْمُنْتَهٰى

3. Tawhid protects individuals who believe from worshiping idols or their desires. Allah confers benefit that all their beliefs on fake gods and expectations from themselves are annihilated.

And the Jews and Christians say, "We are the sons of Allah and His loved ones."

4. Tawheed inculcates patience in a believer and he faces the temporary obstacles and hardships with patience because he knows that;

أَنَّمَا يَنْهَا نَارٌ عَنِ الْمُنْتَهٰى
"Surely Allah is with those who patiently & steadfast."
(2:158)

Tawhid makes a man humble. When he knows that not even him everyone in the Universe ~~else~~ is needy before Allah and that he can not go beyond his universe, he becomes epitome of intellectual and spiritual powers. Tawhid also makes a man brave by sucking all his fears because he knows that nothing in this world belongs to him.

"And they call upon their sustainer in fear and hope"

- Reference Surah Sayda:
Ayat 16.

2- Prophethood /

Nabuwwah. The Divine Institution of Guidance and Governance .

Allah has left no man without guidance. He appointed Prophets who conveyed His message & provided practical guidance for ethical, spiritual, social and political conduct. Khatm-e-Nabuwwah:-

Prophethood is 2nd part of Kalma, and belief in the finality of Prophethood is an essential tenet of Islam and denial of it will constitute disbelief (Kufr).

وَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ مُّنْذِرٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ إِلَّا مَنْ
جَاءَكُمْ مِّنْ رَّبِّكُمْ وَلَا يُنَزِّلُ لَكُمْ مِّنَ السَّمَاوَاتِ
إِلَّا مَنْ أَنْذَلَهُ اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا أَنْذَلَ
وَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ مِّنْهُ بِأَثْرَى

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men and He is the messenger of Allah and the seal of the prophets.

Prophetic Role Model/ - Reference: (33:40)
Surah Ahzab.

Support from Sunnah:

The Prophet ﷺ said that he has left two weighty things among his followers, Quran and Sunnah, and those who held them fast would be prevented from going astray. He (SAW) is a role model for all aspects of life

إِنَّمَا يُنَزِّلُ لَكُم مِّنَ السَّمَاوَاتِ
"Indeed in Muhammad (SAW), you have the excellent example"

- Reference (33:21)

Source of Law and Governance: Surah Ahzab

The Quran and Sunnah are primary sources of Islamic law and no legislation can contradict them. Through Nabuwwah Allah revealed Shariah, a complete legal framework regulating all aspects of life.

"Today I have perfected your faith for you, completed my favour upon you, and chosen Islam as your way."

— (5:2)

وَمَا يُطْقِي عَنِ الْهُوَى إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا فَحْشَىٰ يَوْمَ

"Nor does he speak of his whims.
It is only a revelation sent down
to him."

— Surah Najam

(53:3-4)

Deerah:

~~Prophet (PBUH) freed literate prisoners after the battle of Badr in exchange of teaching ten muslims. He himself was not limited to delivering the revelation but explaining the divine commandments.~~

"Verily, I have been sent as a teacher to mankind.

3- Dignity of Mankind - Hadith Honour as Foundation of Human Rights.

Islam dignified believers regardless of their social status and earthly positions because such positions and influence can not take them away from

Submission to the Allah Almighty.

Example:

For example, the Muslims who used to drink, ^{stopped} forbade drinking after Islam forbade it.

وَلَقَدْ فَرِحَ الْجِنُونُ بِإِيمَانِ النَّاسِ

"Remember, when your Lord said to the angels, I am going to appoint a human to successive authority on earth."

- (2:30)

وَلَقَدْ فَرِحَ الْجِنُونُ بِإِيمَانِ النَّاسِ

"Certainly, we have dignified the children of Adam."

"We have certainly created man, in the best of stature."

⇒ Dignity is from Allah the Supreme Owner
Allah has dignified man, without discrimination being the controller of all dominion.

وَلَقَدْ فَرِحَ الْجِنُونُ بِإِيمَانِ النَّاسِ

"You honour whom you will and You humble whom you will"

5- Islam Promotes humanity in All Aspects of life.

Islam promotes harmony by safeguarding the rights of all creation. In the Farewell sermon Prophet PBUH said;

"Your blood, your property and your honour are all sacred to you like the sanctity of this day, in this month."

Equality and Non-Discrimination:

Islam transcends race, caste, colour and class.

"O humanity! Indeed, We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into tribes and families so that you may get to know one another, surely the most noble amongst of you in sight of Allah is the most righteous among you".

— (49:13)

Surah Al-Hujarat

Protection of Rights:-

Islam protects life, dignity, property, honour and faith. Harmony extends to human rights, animal rights and environmental stewardship.

Cruelty to animal is forbidden and kindness is rewarded — (Sahih-al-Bulchari)

الْعِدْلُ أَكْبَرُ وَالْمُنْفَعُ أَكْبَرُ وَالْمُنْفَعُ أَكْبَرُ

"Indeed Allah commands justice, grace and generosity to close relatives."

Prophet (PBUH) said;

- (16:90)

"The creations are family of Allah and the most beloved of those is the one who is kindest to his family".

Harmony extends to ~~animals~~ as well.

* The Prophet (SAW) said that a thirsty man who gave water to a thirsty dog was forgiven for this act.

* Prophet (PBUH) reprimanded a person just because his camel was thirsty.

In Islam environmental stewardship is a religious duty.

1. "Planting a green tree is the best charity."

2. "Don't cut green trees even in case of war."

3. "Don't waste a single drop of water even if you are sitting on a running stream of water".

- Hadith

→ Social and welfare systems.

Islam's social welfare system, including Zakat, Waqf and Sadaqa eliminates poverty.

Zakat is a financial worship and only for the needy; first right is of family, then neighbours and then the state. Zakat cannot be spent on mosque.

--- (جزء من الفقراء والمساكين) ---
zakat is for the poor and needy ---

$$-(9:60)$$

Social Work

~~→ Social inclusion~~
Islam promotes the message of social welfare 1400 years ago.

~~"If we talk about most important characteristics of Islam, it is Sadqa-e-Jariah"~~

- Dr. Wasiullah Abbas.

6. Life After Death: Reward and Punishment.

Islamic rulings are not just abstract pieces of advices but in contract it offers reward for the obedient ones and punishment for the transgressors. It is basic tenet of Islam.

فمن يعلم متقال درة حيرا يرى
ومن يعلم متقال درة شرا يرى

So, whoever does an atom's of good deed will see it. And, whoever does an atom's weight of bad deed will see it "evil" (99:3)

evil (99:7-8)

So, this doctrine underlines moral accountability and perfect justice, that life is a trial or test and the hereafter is the final abode where perfect justice is served.

7- Generality And Universality of Islam:

Another feature of Islam is its generality and applicability to all mankind. This feature is linked with Tawhid, rooted in the belief that the Creator of all is One.

~~سَنِّيْدُكُمْ مُّلِّيْكُكُمْ وَلِلّٰهِ الْعِزَّةُ~~

And We have not sent you Muhammad (PBUH) except comprehensively to all mankind, a bringer of glad tidings and a warner.

Prophet (PBUH) said

- (34:28)
Quran.

"Every prophet used to be sent to his nation exclusively, but I have been sent for all mankind".

8- Ideal with Simplicity, Rationality and Practicality.

Islamic teachings are simple and intelligible, free from superstitions and irrationality.

They are direct without any intermediaries.
Every body can approach Quran and
translate it dictate into practice.

- لَمْ يَلْعَبْ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ إِلَهٍ

"Allah does not burden a soul
more than it can afford"

- (2:286)

Quran frequently appeals to human reason.

فَلَمْ يَأْتُهُمْ بِأَثْرَىٰ مِنْ ذَلِكُمْ

"Do not they ponder upon themselves?"

- (30:8)

q. Revealed Ideology: Divine Religion:

Islam is distinguished from other laws
and ideologies whose source is human
mind, as in contrast the source of
Islam is divine. It is continuation
and completion of the same message
revealed to previous prophets, affirming
that the true guidance comes only from
Allah.

إِنَّ الْجَنَاحَ لِلْكُفَّارِ

"Indeed, the religion before God is Islam"

- (3:19)

10- Balance between Individual and Society:

Islam creates a balance between rights and responsibilities.

It recognizes individual freedom, dignity, right to own property and earn livelihood but within the social framework, justice and moral conduct.

Prophet (PBUH) said,

"The example of believers in their mutual love, mercy and compassion is like that of a body, when any part aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever."

"Cooperate with one another in goodness and righteousness and do not cooperate in sin and transgression."

This doctrine illustrates -(5:2) that individual well-being

is intertwined with collective

welfare.

Conclusion:-

Islam is a complete, divine religion, revealed upon prophets ~~from~~ process of revelation ended with Prophet (PBUH) whose teachings are for entire mankind and are simple, rational and practical, creating a balance between individual and collective life.

good attempt. but the answer is lengthy and might affect your time management, so, shorten it a bit.