

Question : 01

"What is Islam? What are the features or unique attributes of Islam?"

Introduction - The Essence of Islam:

Islam means to willfully submitting to the moral imperatives of only one God and peace with his creature. On vertical level (man-to-God), it means submission. On the horizontal level (man-to-man), it means peace. So, Islam is about an act of devoutly loving Allah and his creature. As Allah is "السلام" - one of His Beautiful name - all peace emanates from him. Also, Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is regarded as (رَبِّهِ السَّلَامِ) in the Quran, and the Paradise as the eternal abode of peace and happiness. Islam is religion

of peace, prosperity and well-being.

Three Dimensions of Meaning

(i) Literal Meaning:

The word Islam is derived from an arabic root word Aslama (س-ل-م), which means "to yield", "to surrender", or "to give one's self up". So, Islam fundamentally means to submit or surrender to the will of Allah and His laws.

The word "سالم" (Salam) also shares the same root as "سلم" (Islam), meaning peace. Therefore, Islam means to achieve peace by submitting to the will of Allah. Islam carries the meaning of "submission", "peace", "wholeness", and "safety".

(ii) Contextual Meaning

<u>(a)</u> to get peace by submitting to the will of Allah completely	<u>(b)</u> to surrender all desires to the will of Allah
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(iii) Shariah / Islamic meaning
it means to voluntarily submitting
or surrendering your desires to the
will of Allah. The word "voluntary"
signifies the individual freedom
given by Islam to Allah.

Quranic Foundations:

لا إكراه في دين

"There is no compulsion
in religion"

(2: 256)

Surah Baqrah

Similarly,

لا إلهة إلا الله وحده لا شريك له

"For you is your din,
and for me is my
din"

(109: 06)

Surah Al-Kafere

Ahadihs:

Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said,

"Whoever says Shahada sincerely,
will go to Jannah"

Also,

66 Indeed, actions are judged by their intentions 66

These Quranic verses and ~~Hadiths~~ signify the importance of consent, voluntariness and the sincerity needed for accepting Islam.

Scholarly Definitions of Islam:

(a) Dr Hamid Ullah:

66 Islam is a monotheistic religion revealed upon Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H)

(b) Molana Saddarudin in his book: "Islam at a Glance" provides the following definition:

66 Islam is a combination of faith and worship 66

And lastly,

(c) Imam Ghazali:

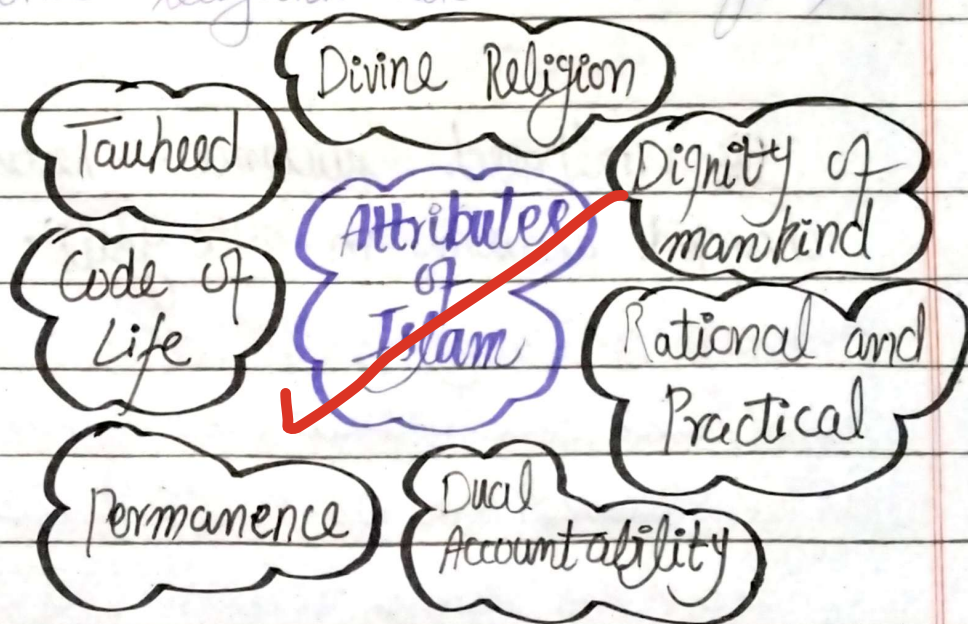
66 Islam consists of rights of Allah and rights of people 66

To conclude, Islam is about the act

of submission to the commandments of God and being benevolent to His creatures.

"Distinctive Features of Islam"

There are several distinctive features of Islam that separate it from other religions. These are as follows



(i) Divine Revelation — not man-made

Ideology:

One of the characteristics that distinguishes it from others is of its being divine. Quran is the literal words of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) revealed through Naby on the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ).

As Allah says in Quran:

"He doesn't say things
from his own choice. It
is a revelation ~~revealed~~"

Surah An-Najm (53: 3-4)

It clarifies that Prophet is not forging
lies but telling you my Teachings
as it is.

(ii) Unaltered Guidance — never
changed a word in 1450 years:

Islam is the only religion whose teachings
had never been altered and amended.

It is preserved in its present sense
and words as Allah promised to
preserve the Quran — the ultimate
source of guidance — till the day
of hereafter.

As Allah says in Surah Hijr:

"We have sent this (Quran)
on earth, and we shall
preserve it"

Est

(iii) Oneness of Allah: The soul of Islam

Believing in Allah as the sole sustainer, creator and worthy of worship is called as "Tauheed". This unique concept of tauheed is the core belief in Islam. Upon which all other aspects of iman/belief rely. This is the fundamental and basic requirement to be a muslim as this is the first part of "Kalimah" لا اله الا الله هو.

In Surah Baqrah, Allah Says:

والله واحد لا اله الا الله
والرحمن الرحيم

"Allah is One, Only he is worthy of worship - the most compassionate, the most merciful"

(2: 163)

Belief in the unity of Allah is essential for becoming a muslim. In Surah

تاریخ: _____

Ikhlas, Allah Talah has thoroughly
established His oneness

قل هو الله احد

Say, Allah is One

الله احد

Allah, the Eternal Refuge

سميع وليم

Nor He begets nor is born

ولم يكن له كفوا احد

And, no one is equivalent to
Him

(112 : 1-4)

(iv) Prophethood: The Last Messenger
and the Final Seal:

discuss these in detail as well. description?

(v) The Dignity of Mankind
Established

(vi) Social Contract: Trust b/w
State and Individuals

Est

(vii) Accountability: Dual Responsibility
to Allah and Community

(viii) Islam: The Blueprint of Life

(ix) Unaltered and Preserved
Deen

(x) Promotion of Humanity

(xi) Unique, Practical and
Rational Deen:

(xii) Emphasis on gaining
Knowledge: Harmony of
Religion and Science

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end the answer with conclusion.