

## 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 “‘Alīm” - one of His Beautiful names - all peace emanates from him. Also, Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is regarded as (‘Alīm) 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 (ف-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 "سلام" (Salam) also shares the same root as "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

(a)	(b)
to get peace by submitting to the will of Allah completely	to surrender all desires to the will of Allah

iii) Shari'ah / Islamic meaning

it means to voluntary submitting or surrendering your desires to the will of Allah. The word "voluntary" signifies the individual freedom given by Islam to Allah.

### Quranic Foundations:

الرَّحْمَنُ لِلْمُرْسَلِينَ

"There is no compulsion in religion"

(2: 256)

Surah Baqraat

Similarly,

لَا إِكْرَامَ دِينَكُمْ وَلَا دِينَ

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

(109: 06)

Surah At Kafirun

### Ahadeeth:

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

"Whoever says Shahada sincerely, will go to Jannah"

Also,

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"Indeed, actions are judged by their intentions"

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

## Scholarly Definitions of Islam:

(a) Dr Ahmadullah:

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

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

"Islam is a combination of faith and worship"

And lastly,

(c) Imam Ghazali:

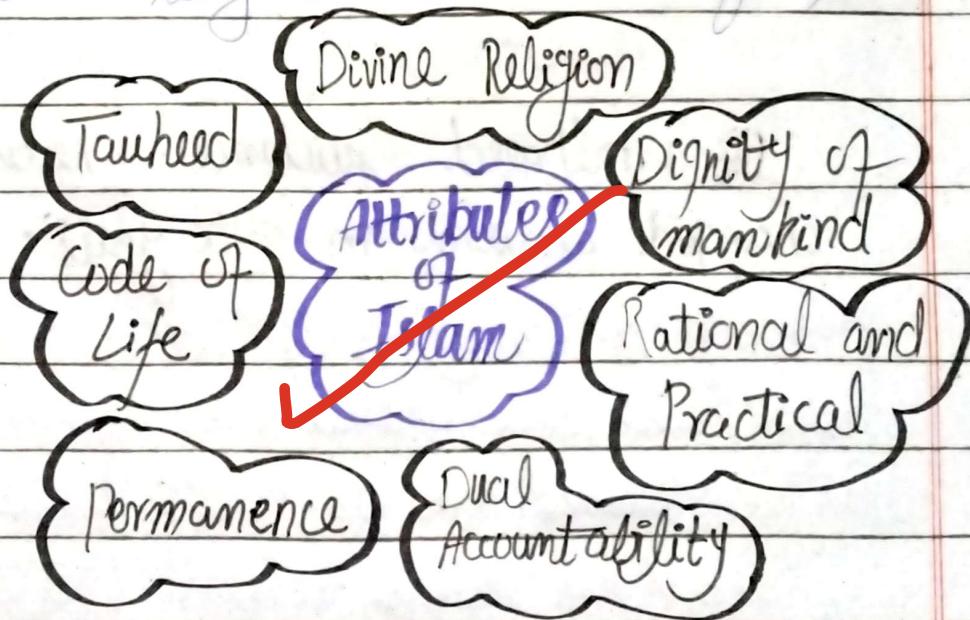
"Islam consists of rights of Allah and rights of people"

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 characteristic that distinguishes it from others is of its being divine. Quran is the literal words of Allah (بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ) revealed through Wahy on the Prophet Muhammad (r)

As Allah says in Quran:

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

Surah An-Najam (53: 3-4)

It classifies 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 form  
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”

### (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 reside. This is the fundamental and basic requirement to be a muslim as this is the first part of "Kalmah" not.

"**لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَلَا**

In Surah Baqrah, Allah says:

**وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَمَا**

**وَالرَّحْمَنُ أَكْرَمُ**

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

(2: 263)

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

Ikhlas, Allah Ta'ala has thoroughly established His oneness

عَلَّمُوا أَنَّهُ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ

Say, Allah is One

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

Allah, the Eternal Refuge

سَمِيلُهُ وَلَمْ يُلْهِ

Nor He begets, nor is born

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لِّلَّهِ شَرِيكٌ

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

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(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.