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Day:

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ASSIGNMENT: ISLAMIC STUDIES
No 1
SUBMISSION TO: SIR RAZA

QUESTION

WHAT IS ISLAM? ELABORATE
THE SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM.

ISLAM

Literal meaning:

'ISLAM' is an arabic word which is derived from the root word 'SLM' pronounced as 'salm'. 'Salm' means peace. 'Aslama' is derived from 'salm' which means 'he submitted to His Will (became a Muslim)'. So Islam means peace and Islam means resignation to God.

Definition:

"Islam is the religion which provides peace to the man when he commits himself to Allah and ~~submitted~~ himself to

His Will."

(iii) Al-Iman, Al-Islam, Al-Ihsan

Sadrudin Islam in his book "ISLAM AT A GLANCE"

states that the beliefs are the base of the religion and the rest of the religion is practice.

Likewise, Prof. Khushid Ahmad in his book

"ISLAM: Its meaning and message" says that a

"True Muslim" has faith, actions and realization

(Al-Ihsan). These three important components of

the religion were highlighted by the Last

Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H), when Gabriel

visited him and asked three questions:

"What is Al-Iman? What is Al-Islam? What is Al-Ihsan?"

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) highlighted

six articles of faith in the question about

Iman (Faith).

FAITH

Tawhid	Malaikah	Kutb	Messengers	Akhirah	Al-Qadr
(Belief in Oneness of Allah)	(Belief in Angels)	(Belief in Holy Books)	(Belief in all the prophets)	(Belief in the resurrection and after life)	(Belief in Divine Decree about good and evil)

The Holy Prophet P.B.U.H highlighted five pillars of Islam in reply to What is Al-Islam.

AL-ISLAM

Shahadah Salat Sawm Zakat Hajj
(Declaration of Faith) (Prayer) (Fasting) (Charity) (Pilgrimage)

About Al-Ihsan, Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) replied:
"That you worship Allah as if you are seeing Him,
as He sees you, even you don't see Him."

SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM

(i) Unique concept of Tawhid:

The literal meaning of 'Tawhid' is Unification which is derived from the root word 'Wahada' (to unify). Tawhid in Islam is to believe in absolute oneness of Allah Almighty in His Lordship, in His Worship and in His names and attributes.

"Lord of the Heavens and the Earth, and everything in between. So, Worship Him and be steadfast in His Worship. Do you know of anyone equal to Him (in his attributes)?"

(Surah Maryam)
verse no. 65

The first part of Kalimah Shahadah is Tawhid.
So, the foundation of Islam is to believe in
absolute oneness of Allah. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H)
said:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

"The best remembrance is that there is no one
worthy of Worship except Allah."
(Hadith)

(ii) The finality of Prophethood:

Prophethood means to believe in all the prophets
of Allah Almighty. 25 prophets are mentioned
in Quran, of which the Last and the final
prophet is Muhammad (P.B.U.H).

"Muhammad is not the father of anyone
of your men and the Messenger of
Allah and the SEAL of the Prophets."

(Al-Ahzab: 40)

Allah Almighty mentions him "خَاتَمُ النَّبِيِّينَ"

(The Seal of the Prophets). The second part of
Kalimah Shahadah is to bear witness that
Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is Allah's servant and
messenger. Allah Almighty sent him as an
excellent example أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ (Al-Ahzab: 21).

يا ايها الذين امنوا اطيعوا الله واطيعوا الرسول
 "O believers! Obey Allah and Obey the Messengers."
 (An-Nisa)

The enforcement of Divine Law is only possible by following the teachings of Prophet with Quran. As, Quran tells us to pray and Prophet (P.B.U.H) tells us how to pray.

(iii) The Word of ALLAH, Guided by ALLAH:

The Quran is the word of Allah revealed to the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) through archangel Gabriel (A.S). Seyyed Hossein Nasr in his book Ideals and Realities of Islam mention three names of Holy Quran.

Al-Quran, Al-Furqan, Umm al-Kitab
 (The recitation) (The distinction) (Mother of All books)

According to **Shah Waliullah**, Quran has five themes i.e. polemics, the favours of Allah, laws and responsibilities, Days of Allah and Death and Resurrection. After the death of Holy Prophet, Hazrat Abu-Bakar (R.A), prepared the first compiled, true copy of Quran named **Mus'haf (bound leaves)**. The Quran is the only Divine book which is preserved in its

original teachings and original language.

انا نحن نزلنا الذكر واناله نحفظون

We have, without doubt sent down the Message and We will assuredly guard it (from corruption).

(Al-Hijr)

(iv) Emphasis on Human Dignity:

Dignity is derived from the Latin word "dignitas" meaning worthiness. Human dignity means that every human is worthy of being valued without any condition. Way before the UDHR (1948), Islam declared that:

ولقد كرّمنا بني آدم

"Indeed, we have dignified the children of Adam"

(Al-Isra: 70)

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) taught us that every human being even dead or alive is worthy to value. Once a funeral procession of a Jew passed by him, the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) stood up in respect.

The companion said He was a Jew, not a Muslim to which Prophet replied "Was he not a human soul?". On another occasion

He said "All people are children of Adam and Adam was from dust" (Hadith)

(v) Perfection of Humanity:

American historian, Bruce Mazlish in his Book "The idea of Humanity in a global era" defines 3 different meanings of humanity which are interlinked. He says Humanity is human species (Homo Sapiens) which is distinct from other species because of its knowledge, reasoning, language and technology. Holy Quran told this about 1400 years ago.

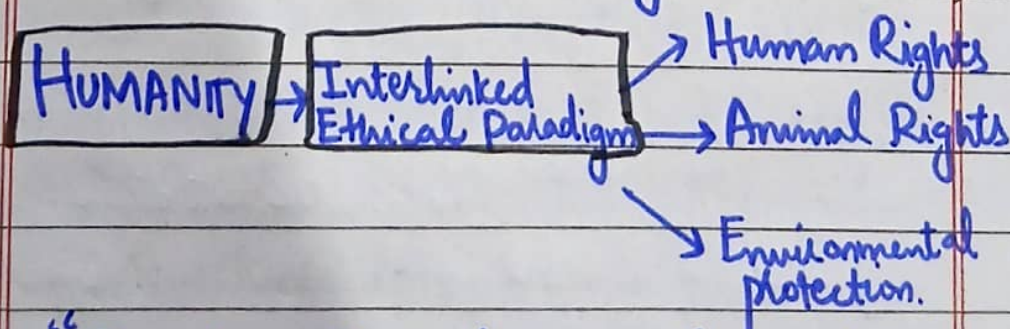
لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ

"Indeed, We created human in the best form."

Also Allah declares man His (At-Tin: 4)

"vicegerent on Earth" in Surah Al-Baqarah.

As His vicegerent and the best and the distinct species, it is man's responsibility to treat each other and all other living beings with compassion, love and morality. As Allah describes animals "communities like you" (Al-A'raaf)



"Do not waste water even if you are at a running stream." (Hadith)

(vi) Religion of Reason, Reflection and Simplicity:

Islam always commands his followers to reason and reflect on the Signs of Allah instead of blind following. Allah says in (Al-Jathija: 5)

"And in the alternation of Day and Night, and the fact that He sends Sustenance from sky, and revives therewith earth after it's death, and in the change of winds - are signs for those that are wise"

Islam is a simple religion in its beliefs and practice. One sentence theology which makes a person Muslim is Kalimah Shahadah. One need no

intermediary to connect with Allah. As in Surah Al-Qaf:

"We are nearer to Him than (his) jugular vein."

(vii) The Primordial and the final Religion:

Al-dinal-Hanif, the primordial name of Allah's religion in the Quran refers to all other divine religions before Islam. (Ar-Rum: 30) says:

فَاقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا -

So, direct your face towards the religion-inclining to truth. Then, came the last divine

religion Islam. As Allah in Al-Maidah: 3 Say:

اليوم أكملت لكم دينكم واتممت عليكم نعمتي ورضيت لكم الإسلام ديناً

This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed my Favour upon you and have chosen Islam as your way.