

Question #02

Distinction of Islamic worship system from other religions

start with the summary of the answer as introduction.....

Worship

Worship means to praise and to follow. In Arabic we say it 'QBADAH' which means of obedience, submission and modesty. 'QBADAH' is derived from abd which means acknowledging someone other than yourself.

Every religion has its own faiths and believe. Their worship systems are also different from one another. The difference is based on concept of God, universality, presence of absence of intermediaries, preservation of authenticity, regularity of worship or purpose of worship. Islam is unique and distinct from all other religion on every bases.

a) Concept of God:

The concept of God creates difference between religion and makes distinction of Islam from every religion.

Monotheism: an essence of Islam

Islam is based on the concept of monotheism. "There is no God but Allah". He has perfection and uniqueness in personality, actions and attributes. He possesses those qualities which others lack. He is the most merciful, beneficent, sustainer, forgiver and pure from all kinds of sins. He is the maker of universe and every creation.

As Allah has said:

الله هو الاله الحي القيوم

Allah: there is no deity except him. He is every living, the sustainer of existence.

(Surah Baqarah)

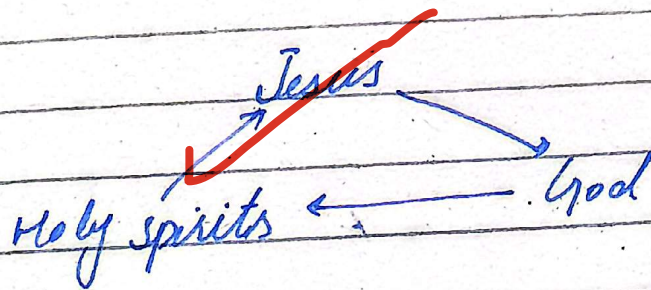
قل هو الله احد

"Say: He is one"

(Surah Ikhlas)

Other religions blurring the line between God and its creation :

Christians believe on the concept of trinity, they correlate the Jesus and Holy spirits (Saints) with the God..



Same is case with Hinduism, they have so many Gods and Goddess, every one is associated with different attributes. On the other hand, Buddhist remained silent on the presence of omnipotent and omnipresent God.

(b) Role of Intermediaries and clergy

Islam: direct relation between God and Humans.

In Islam, there is a concept of direct worship.

God has sent several (124,000) messengers but just to convey His message to His mankind. Almighty Allah not only listens to us but also responds to our prayers as He has said in Quran

"And when my servants ask you concerning me, Indeed I'm near. I respond to the call of the supplicant when he calls upon me."

ایک خبر ایک تسکین

"You alone we worship and,
You alone we ask succor"

Priest barrier in other religions

Other religions believe that Allah does not respond to them or help them so they create the role of intermediaries or clergy between them and Allah. As in Christianity there is trinity, there is worship based on priest and saints. In hinduism, there are Brahmins

(C) Scope of Worship

Islam's Entire life as worship

Islam has wider scope of worship. In Islam worship is not just confined to prayer, fasting, and supplication but Islam also focuses on rights of humanity. In Islam, the worship is beyond rituals to all lawful actions done with good intentions. Everything we do by following the commandments of Allah in order to please Him become worship. The acts of Muslims like eating, drinking, speaking, sleeping will become worship for us if we fulfill the orders of Allah and His last prophet.

"Surely, my sacrifice, my prayer, my living and my death are for Allah"

(Surah Al-Baqara)

Other religions: place, time and ritualistic centered.

Christian worship is church centered with specific day Sunday and it is just restricted to church, prayer and sacraments.

Hinduism is based on polytheism, the centre of worship is rituals, idol worship varying by caste, region and sect.

Buddhism has no believing in superiority of God, it has no worship centre just focus on meditation, self discipline and mindfulness.

(d) Universality

Islam: transcends the barrier of time, space or place

Islam is for all people, irrespective of creed, race or color. Islam is not for a group, community or country. It is for all times, for all people living at any place of the world. All muslims fast offer prayers by facing the direction of "Qaaba", rituals like Hajj and

Mumtaz are for all. Its worship is universal and uniform.

الحمد لله رب العالمين

"Praise and glory to God, God for all world."

Other religions: non uniformity of worship.

The forms of worship varies across protestant, catholic and orthodox in Christianity. Same is case with hinduism, it highly creates differences among people due to its their status. So their worship practices also differ based on race or creed.

(e) Time Consciousness and Regularity of Worship

Islam: structured Observance

Islam taught us discipline in our lives. On human beings, five time prayer is fixed at fixed time prescribed by Allah. Muslims observe fasting in the month of Ramzan.

and perform Hajj in the 12th month of Zil-Hajj. Islam has also advised us to be regular in our prayers and rituals. Our festivals are time specific like Eid-ul-Azha on 10th Zil-Hajj and Eid-ul-Fitr on 1st Shawal. As Allah has said in Quran:

"Prayer has been prescribed for believers at fixed times."

Other religions: Variations in worship time or irregularity.

There is no specific or fixed time for prayer in any religion other than Islam. Christians only perform their religious deeds on Sunday, Buddhists have flexible time of meditation based on their schedule and Hindus have different styles of worships based on sect, creed or race and ^{time is} based on astrological preferences.

good attempt..... add a few more arguments to increase the marks.....

Conclusion:

Islamic worship system is purely monotheistic, regular, free from clergy, universal and structure. There is no other religion like Islam.