

Islamiat

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What is Islam? and elaborate salient features of Islam?

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Islamiyat

What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam?

Islam:

Islam is a monotheistic religion that is originated in the 7th century CE in the Arabian Peninsula with the final prophet, Muhammad (PBUH).

The term Islam comes from the Arabic root 'S-L-M' which means *peace, submission and surrender*. Islam therefore means 'Submission to the will of Allah', the One true God.

Islam is more than just a religion; it is a 'complete code of life' that governs spiritual, personal, social, economic, legal and political aspects of human existence. It emphasizes *Tawheed* (Oneness of God), prophethood, and the *after life* as the three basic pillars of belief. The teachings of Islam are primarily derived from two sources:

1. The **Holy Quran**, the revealed word of Allah
2. The **Hadith**, saying and actions of prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Salient features of Islam.

1. Touheed : Belief in the oneness of Allah.

Touheed is the fundamental pillar of Islamic belief, refers to the absolute **Oneness of Allah** and his **existence, worships and attributes**, making it a core principle that defines a muslim's faith and worldview.

It affirms that **Allah alone** is the **Creator, sustainer and Sovereign** of the Universe.

As stated in Quran:

'Allah is the **Creator** of all things, and He is **all over things**, **Disposer of affairs**'

(~ Surah Az-Zumar 39:62)

Touheed demands that acts of worship such as **prayer, supplication, fasting and sacrifice** be directed solely to Allah, as

Commanded in Quran:-

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• "And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but him"

(~ Surah Al-Isra 17:32)
It also affirms Allah's unique names and attributes without likening them to his creation:

• "There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the hearing, the seeing"

(~ Surah Ash-Shura 42:11)

The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized its importance by saying:

• "whoever says: 'La ilaha illallah' sincerely from his heart shall enter paradise"

(Bukhari)

This, ~~tauhed~~ not only purifies belief but also ensures sincerity, humility and absolute dependence on Allah, forming the spiritual and moral foundation of a Muslim's life.

2- Finality of Prophethood:

The finality of Prophethood (Khatam-e-Nabuwat) is a core tenet of Islamic belief, affirming the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) ^{and final} is the last messenger of Allah to guide humanity. This doctrine signifies the completion and perfection of divine revelation.

The Quran explicitly declares:

• Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets'

(~ Surah Al Ahzab 33:40),

confirming that no prophet will come after him. The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) himself reinforced this by saying:

• My likeness among the Prophets is like that of a man who will build a house and complete it except for one brick... I am that brick, and I am the last ^{of the} prophets'

(~ Bukhari and Muslim).

His Prophethood is universal, timeless and comprehensive, encompassing all aspects of life - Spiritual, moral, legal and social. Belief in finality of prophethood is so vital that rejecting it expels a person from the fold of Islam. It also ensures **preservation of Islam in its final form**, safeguarding **Quran and Sunnah** as the eternal sources of guidance for all mankind. This belief also unifies Ummah under one final message, emphasizing that no new revelation or reformer is needed beyond the complete and perfect teachings of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

3. The Quran as the final Revelation:

The Quran as the final Revelation is the fundamental belief in Islam, affirming that the **Holy Quran is the last divine scripture revealed by Allah** to humanity through Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). It is **eternal, unchanged and complete guide** for all aspects of life, spiritual, moral, legal and social. Unlike

previous Scriptures, the Quran was revealed in its finest form and preserved Verbatim as Allah promises:

"Indeed, we have sent down the reminder, and surely we will guard it (from corruption)"

(~ Surah Al-Hijr 15:9)

The Quran serves as the criterion (forayon) b/w right and wrong and is valid for all times and all peoples as stated:

"This book in which there is no doubt - a guidance for those conscious of Allah"

(~ Surah Al-Baqarah 2:2)

The prophet (PBUH) described the Quran as the ultimate source of the truth and guidance saying:

"The best among you are those who learn the Quran and teach it"

(~ Bukhari)

It addresses not only rituals but also ethics, governance, family life, economics and international relations. Its timeless relevance and divine origin make it the final authority in Islam,

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Closing the door to any new revelation or scripture. Belief in Quran as the final revelation reinforces the completeness and universality of Islam, ensuring that the guidance given to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) remains intact for the salvation and success of humanity until the day of judgement.

4. Five pillars of Islam:

These are the core acts of worship that embody both faith and action, forming the structure of a Muslim's life.

a) Shahadah (faith)

"There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his Messenger"

It is a gateway to Islam and signifies internal belief and outward confession.

b) Salah (prayer)

Five daily prayers connect Muslims to Allah

"Indeed, prayer prevents immorality and wrong doing"

(Surah Al-Ankabut 29:45)

c) Zakat (Alms giving)

obligatory charity (2.5% of savings) to purify wealth and reduce poverty.

‘Take from their wealth a charity by which you purify them’

(~ Surah At-Tawbah 9:103)

d) Sawm (fasting)

In Ramadan, Muslim fast from dawn to dusk to develop Taqwa (God-consciousness)

‘Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may attain Taqwa’

(~ Surah Al-Baqarah 2:183)

e) Hajj (Pilgrimage)

obligatory once in a lifetime for those able.

‘Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to Allah by all who can afford it.’

(~ Surah Al-Imran 3:97)

5. Justice and equality:

The concept of justice and equality are central to the teachings of Islam, forming the moral and legal foundations of an Islamic society. **Justice (Adl)** in Islam means giving their due rights without bias, favoritism, or oppression and **Equality** refers to the intrinsic worth and dignity of every human being, regardless of race, class, gender or status. Allah commands justice in multiple places in the Quran:

“Indeed Allah commands justice, good conduct, and giving to relatives and forbids immorality, bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded.”

(~ Surah An Nahl 16:90)

Islam emphasizes that justice must be upheld even against one's self or family as stated:

“O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah – even if it be against yourselves, your partner, or your relatives”
(~ Surah ALNisa : 4:135)

The prophet Muhammad established justice
a core value of his governance. He declared

“The nations before you were destroyed
because when a noble person among
them committed theft, they would
let him go, but if a weak person
committed theft, they would inflict
the prescribed punishment on him. By
Allah, if Fatima, the daughter of
Muhammad, were to steal, I would
have cut off her hand.”

(~ Bukhari)

This Hadith highlights that no one is above
the law in Islam, not even the Prophet's
own family. Islam also promotes
equality, stating:

“O mankind! we created you from
a single pair of a male and a female,
and made you into nations and made
you into nations and tribe so that you may
know one another. Verily, the most
honorable of you in the sight of Allah
is the most righteous of you.”

(~ Surah AL-Hujurat 49:13)

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In his farewell Sermon, the Prophet (PBUH) further emphasize this by saying,

"All mankind is from Adam and Eve
An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; a white has no superiority over Black, nor does a black have any superiority over white - except by piety and good action"

Islam's insistence on justice and equality not only ensures social harmony and legal fairness, but also affirms that accountability before Allah is based on character and deeds, not lineage or privilege. This ideal remains deeply relevant for modern governance and human rights framework.

6. Brotherhood and Unity

Brotherhood and Unity are the fundamental values in Islam that promote social harmony, mutual love and a Unified muslim Ummah (community). Islam teaches that all muslims are connected by a spiritual bond stronger

than that of blood relations this bond is based on faith (Iman), which transcends race, language, nationality or social status.

The Quran strongly emphasizes this ideal of unity and brotherhood:

“Indeed, the believers are but brothers. So make peace with between your brothers and fear Allah that you may receive mercy”

(~ Surah Al-Hujurat 49:10)

This verse establishes the foundation of muslim brotherhood, where every believer is to be treated with compassion, dignity, and respect. The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) further cemented this principle in his teaching. He said:

“A muslim is a brother of another muslim; he does not oppress him, nor does he abandon him, nor lie to him, nor look down upon him”

(~ Sahih Muslim)

order hadith, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) 1
emphasized mutual love and empathy within
Ummah:

"The example of the believers in their mutual
love, mercy, and compassion is like a single
body, if one part suffers, the whole body
responds with wakefulness and fever"

(~ Sahih Bukhari & Muslim)

This analogy illustrates that Muslims are
interconnected, the suffering of one part of
Ummah should be felt by all. Brotherhood
in Islam also entails mutual help, forgiveness,
cooperation in righteousness and avoiding
division and enmity. Allah warns against
division in Quran:

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah
altogether and do not become divided.
And remember the favour of Allah upon
you - when you were enemies and He
brought your hearts together and
you became brothers by His
favour."

(~ Surah Aal-e-Imran 3:103)

This verse not only commands unity but also reminds muslims of the blessings that come with it. Unity is not optional - it is essential for the strength and survival of muslim community. The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also said during his final sermon:

'Learn that every muslim is a brother to every muslim and that the muslims constitute one brotherhood'

(Narrated in Musnad Ahmad)

In Islam, brotherhood and unity are not mere ideals - they are religious obligations. These values encourage muslims to rise above sectarianism, nationalism and racism. They call for collective responsibility, cooperation in good deeds and support during times of difficulty. A united ummah reflects the power, mercy and beauty of Islamic teachings and is essential for achieving peace, stability and justice in the muslim world.

Morality and Ethics in Islam:

Morality and ethics form the backbone of Islamic teachings, guiding not just rituals and worship but the entire way a Muslim conducts personal, social and public life. Islam emphasizes universal moral values such as truthfulness, honesty, humility, patience, forgiveness, justice, modesty and kindness. These values are rooted in the belief that every action is accountable before Allah. The Quran commands:

"Indeed, Allah commands justice, good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality, bad behaviour and oppression?"

(~ Surah An-Nahl 16:90)

This verse highlights the comprehensive moral code Islam offers, balancing personal virtues with social responsibility. The Prophet (PBUH) was sent to perfect moral character, as he said:

"I was only sent to perfect good character"

(~ Narrated by Musnad Ahmad)

He himself was the embodiment of ideal conduct and Allah testifies to this in the Quran:

‘Indeed, you (O Muhammad) are of a great moral character’

(Surah Al-Qalam 68:4)

Ethical behaviour in Islam is not only a social expectation but a form of a worship. Acts like being kind to parents, speaking the truth, fulfilling promises, treating others with respect and avoid slander, backbiting or arrogance are emphasized throughout the Islamic teachings. The Prophet (PBUH) also said.

‘Nothing will be heavier on the day of judgement in the scale of believers than good character’

(Abu Dawood).

Thus, morality in Islam is deeply spiritual and practical, promoting a just and compassionate society while motivating individuals to live righteous lives that reflect the values taught in the Quran and Sunnah.

Rights of women and family life

Islam offers a comprehensive and balanced framework for the rights of women and family life, grounded in justice, compassion and mutual respect. At time when women are denied basic human rights, Islam elevated the status of women, granting them spiritual, social, legal and economic rights more than 1400 years ago. The Quran says:

"All women shall have rights similar to the rights against them according to what is equitable"

(surah Al-Baqarah 2:228)

This verse highlights the principle of reciprocity and balance in gender role within family and society. Women in Islam have the right to own property, inherit wealth, seek education, choose a spouse, work and participate in social and political life. The Quran gives daughters, mothers and wives specific and honorable mentions. In terms of spiritual status Allah says:-

"whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while being a believer - we surely grant them a good life"

(~ Surah An-Nahl 16:97)

Islam also emphasizes the dignity of women in family life. Marriage in Islam is a sacred contract based on love (mawaddah), mercy (rahmah), and tranquility (sakinah) as mentioned in Quran:

"And among His signs is that He created for you from yourselves spouses that you may find tranquility in them, and He placed between you affection and mercy"

(~ Surah Ar-Rum 30:21)

The prophet (PBUH) was a model of kind and respectful treatment toward women. He said:

"The best of you are those who are best to their wives"

(~ Tirmidhi, Hadith 3895)

women are also given rights in inheritance:

"For men is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, and for women is a share of what the parents, close relatives leave, be it a little or much - a legal share"

(~ Surah An-Nisa 4:7)

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Moreover, Islam values motherhood with unmatched reverence. A man once asked a Prophet (PBUH), who is the most deserving of my good company? The Prophet (PBUH) replied:

'Your mother'

He repeated it three times before saying,

'Then your father'

(Sahih Bukhari)

Islam views women as equal partners in faith and family recognizing their individual dignity and social importance. The religion promotes a family structure based on cooperation, respect, and accountability. Far from restricting women, Islam liberates and protects them, ensuring their rights are preserved in both law and practice, and elevating their status in both this world and the hereafter.

9. Accountability and the After Life (Akhirah)

In Islam, accountability and belief in after life (Akhirah) are central to the moral and spiritual structure of the faith. Muslims believe that this world is temporary testing

ground and that every soul will be held accountable on the day of judgement for its deeds - both good and bad. Allah states in Quran:

• so whoever does an atom's weight of good deed will see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it •

(- Surah Az-Zalzalah 99:7-8)

This verse emphasises that no deed, however small, escapes Allah's knowledge and judgement. Every human being will stand before Allah to be judged for their intentions and actions. Those who lived righteous lives and obeyed Allah will be rewarded with jannah (paradise), while those who disbelieved or committed evil knowingly will be punished in jahnum (Hell). The prophet (PBUH) said:

• The feet of the son of Adam will not move on the day of judgment until he asked about five things: his life and how he spent it, his youth and how he used it, his wealth - how he earned it and how he spent it •

(- Tirmidhi, Hadith 2417)

Belief in Akhirah encourages moral discipline, deters wrong doings, and inspires believers to live a life of sincerity, charity, and justice

showing that ultimate accountability lies with Allah, not worldly systems.

10. Peace and tolerance:

Peace and tolerance are deeply embedded in Islamic teachings, making Islam not just a religion of worship but also a source of social harmony and coexistence. The very word Islam derives from the Arabic root 'S-L-M' which means peace and submission to the will of Allah. Islam encourages Muslims to live in peace with themselves, with others, and the world around them. The Quran declares:

"And if they incline to peace, then incline to it (also) and rely upon Allah"

(~ Surah Al-Anfal 8:62)

Islam promotes tolerance of difference, religious, ethnic or ideological. It strictly prohibits compulsions in religion as stated clearly:-

"There is no compulsion in religion. The right path has become distinct from wrong"

(~ Surah Al-Baqrah 2:256)

The prophet (Pbuh) was a living example of tolerance, even with those who insulted or harmed him. When the people of Ta'if rejected him with violence, he prayed for their guidance instead of revenge. He also formed treaties with non-muslims tribes and treated non-muslims citizens of Islamic state with fairness. The prophet (Pbuh) said:

“He who harms the non-muslims citizen under muslim protection, I will be his opponent on the day of judgement!”

(Abu Dawood)

In essence, Islam calls for building a society based on mutual respect, justice, compassion and peaceful coexistence, recognizing the dignity of every human being and promoting dialogue over conflict.

3. Conclusion

Islam is a holistic and practical religion that provides guidance for all aspects of life. It emphasizes faith, worship, moral conduct and social justice. By studying Quran and Hadith, believer finds not only rules for ritual worship but also a blue print for ethical living, social harmony and spiritual fulfilment.