

Islamic Studies

ASSIGNMENT : 01

QUESTION:

What is Islam. Elaborate Silent Features of Islam?

Introduction:

Islam is a Monotheistic religion centered on the belief on one God, Allah and belief that Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) is the last Prophet of Allah. The word Islam means "to surrender" or "submission" to the will of Allah. Followers of Islam is called a Muslims. Islam is a universal Deen and provide guidance to the whole mankind. As in Surah-al-Kahf Allah says:

"Whoever wants, he should believe; and whoever wants he should disbelieve."

(Al-Kahf 29)

Meaning of Islam:

Literal Meaning:

Islam has been derived from the Arabic word Salm which mean "to surrender" or to submit, or to give one's self up. It also means "Peace".

Contextual Meaning:

Contextually Islam means to enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah or the submissions of desires to the will of Allah.

Sharia

According to the sharia Islam means

voluntarily or willingly submitting one's desires to the will of Allah, there is no force to make someone to submit one's wills to Allah.

Dr. Hameedullah

He defined Islam as:

"Islam is a Monotheist Deen revealed upon Prophet (P.B.U.H)."

Molana Sadar Uddin Tslahi

He has described Islam in his book

"Islam at a Glance" as:

"Islam is the name of faith and worships."

Key Features OF Islam:

Islam is a unique religion and have some key features which are described as follows:-

1. Unique Concept of Toheed.
2. Prophet hood
3. Dignity of Mankind
4. Universal Religion
5. Complete Code of Life
6. Emphasize Balance and Moderation
7. Root of a Religion
8. Islam - an Eternal Religion
9. Promote Brotherhood and Unity
10. Authentic

1. Unique Concept of Toheed

Islam based on concept of Toheed. First part of Kalma is Toheed that Allah is the One. Every Muslim have firm belief on it that there no God but Allah. A whole Surah in Quran evidence of Toheed. In Surah Tkhlas Allah says:

"Say, He is Allah (who is) One,
Allah the Eternal Refuge
He neither begets nor is born
Nor is there to him any equivalent"
[112: (1-4)]

Toheed is the core belief of Islam as, Allama Shibli Nomani in his book "Sirah-tun-Nabi" Quotes that "Toheed is the first chapter of Islamic syllabus."

2. Prophethood

As Toheed is the first part of Kalma so, believe on Prophethood is the second part of Kalma. Whoever accept Islam he/she beliefs that Allah is one and prophet Mohammad (P.O.U.H) is the last prophet of Allah. without disbelieving any of one Islam cannot be fulfilled.

"Muhammad is not the father of your men but He is the messenger of Allah and seal of Prophets. And Allah has perfect knowledge of all things." (Surah Ahzab: 40)

It is not just believing that prophet (PBUH) is last prophet of Allah but it is also important to follow the rules and laws taught by the Holy prophet as He is the role model for the whole mankind.

3. Dignity of Mankind

In Quran Allah says:

"Certainly we have honored the children of Adam"

(Surah Bani Israeel : 70)

Allah has honored the mankind above in all the other creatures, In Quran Allah has called the mankind as "Ashraf-ul-Makhloqat". Hazrat Mohamad (P.B.U.H) in his last summon said that:

"No Arab has superiority over a non-Arab, Nor does a Non-Arab have superiority over Arab. A white has no superiority over black nor does black have any superiority over white — except by piety and good actions."

So, Islam gave the concept of equality and dignity to mankind. In eye of Islam and Allah all mankind are superior and equal irrespective of their colour, creed or cast that why Allah has called them Ashraf-ul-Makhloqat.

4. Universal Religion

Islam is a universal religion, not specifically limited to certain area, certain people, certain tribe or certain geography. Its a message to the whole mankind. Religions before Islam or even now are for only specific tribe or region.

"Its Message, the Holy Quran, is a message for all Mankind."

(Surah At takwir : 28)

It is a religion for all people, all time, and all places. Even those who don't believe in Islam follow its teachings like peace, justice, unity and humanity.

5. Complete Code of Life

Islam is a complete code of life which means it provide guidance in every aspect of life either social, private, political, Global, financial ^{or} and collective. It guides in individual life from birth to death, how a baby borned was given an Azan in his year. It provide a complete guide of Halal and Haram concepts. It provide solutions for every problem either is small or big every solution provided in Quran and Sunnah. Indeed Islam provides a holistic framework for living a balanced, peaceful and purposeful life both individually and collectively.

6 Emphasize Balance and Moderation

Islam does not promote extremist, it promote middle path between extreme, advocating for justice, tolerance and avoiding excess or deficiency.

"Do not exaggerate in your Religion"
(Surah Nisa: 171)

Islam promote mercy, kindness, moderation and fairness. For example Namaz, (Prayer) Allah has forbidden Prayer to one who have been travelling even it is an obligatory action. Islam does not promote extremism it encourages balance even in spiritual and personal/family life.

7. Root of Religion

Islam is the core tenant center on Tawheed, Prophethood and day of judgment. These reflect the pillar of Islam. Islam has build on a strong foundation of faith, purpose, obedience. The one who accepts Islam first taught the first Kalma.

"There is no God but Allah;
Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."

Islam is Rationalism, No superstitious beliefs, and based on practicality. belief & actions have no contradiction, easy to practice.

8. Islam — an Eternal Religion

Islam claimed to be an Eternal religion and its claim is based on the reason and logic that its message is complete and perfect and safe. Allah has guaranteed its preservation in its original form.

"Indeed it is we who sent down the Quran and indeed we will be the guardian." (Surah Al-Hijr : 9)

Allah says in Quran:

"This day I have perfected for your Religion and Completed my favour upon you and have approved for your Islam as religion."

(Surah al-Maida : 3)

9. Promote Brotherhood and Unity

Islam promote strong sense of community and mutual support. Islam taught mankind to treat each other with respect and support one and other. Holy prophet (P.B.U.H)

said that Muslims are brothers of each other.

"A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim, so he should neither oppress him nor hand him over to an oppressor. And whoever fulfilled the needs of his brother, Allah fulfill his needs."
(Sahih Bukhari)

10. Authentic

Islam is an authentic religion, without alteration. Allah has promised to safeguard it from any violations in its purity.

We have no doubt, sent down the message we will assuredly guard it from corruption.
(15: 9)

Many questions were raised over the authenticity of Quran, a Message from Allah so it was being preserved as it is even after the demise of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) exactly the way Allah has promised.

Conclusion:

Islam is a complete code of life, for all mankind of all times and it remain preserved without even a single change because Allah Himself have taken responsibility of its preservation. Indeed it is a complete, authentic and eternal religion.