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What is Islam. Elaborate salient features of Islam.

Islam:- Islam is an Arabic word meaning "submission, surrender and obedience". As a Deen it means a complete submission and obedience to Allah. The literal meaning of Islam is "Peace", which signifies that real peace of heart and mind lies in the obedience and submission to Allah. This is also witnessed in the Holy Quran as.

"Those who believe and whose hearts find rest in the remembrance of Allah, indeed it is in the remembrance of Allah alone that the heart of man finds rest. Those who believe and act righteously, joy is for them, and a blissful home to return to (13: 28-29)"

According to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) Islam means "witnessing Allah and his Messenger and practicing five pillars". Different scholars have defined Islam differently. Dr. Hameed-Ullah defines Islam as "a Monotheist Deen revealed upon Prophet Muhammad PBUH. The concept of one God (Allah) is also mentioned/found in Bible.

Maulana Sadar-ud-din in his book "Islam at a glance" claims, Islam is a collection of faith & worships.

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In short we can say that Islam is a universal deen which is not limited to a specific time period, geography or ethnicity, and Islam gives guidance in every aspects of life.

Sal:

1) Tawheed:

Tawheed means belief in oneness of Allah, that Allah is one and has no partners. It is also the first part of our Kalma. In the Holy Quran Allah says "He is Allah the one. Allah is eternal and absolute". By saying this, it is witnessed that no one there is no one superior than Allah in this dunya.

Tawheed is the core belief of Islam. All the concepts of Islam revolve around Tawheed. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said "Tawheed is the first chapter of Islamic syllabus". Allama shibli nomani in his book "Sirah-tun-Nabi" says "Islam is like a fort and the gate of that fort is Tawheed". This shows that believing in only one God (Allah) is the unique concept of Islam.

2- Prophethood:-

After believing Allah, next comes his Prophets. Prophethood means

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that believing in all Prophets and the finality of prophethood on the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W). It is second part of Kalma as well. To witness this, in Surah Al-Ahzab Allah says "Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Last of the Prophets". Allah never left his creation free to betray, but provides guidance to mankind through Prophethood. And this system of sending Prophet ends on the Holy Prophet (S.A.W).

3 - Dignity To Mankind:-

Islam gives dignity and honour to all mankind, without the discrimination of Cast, being muslim or non-muslim. Islam gives superiority to mankind of all creation in the Universe. And in Quran Allah signifies this by saying "Certainly, we have honoured the children of Adam" (17:70). And in another place Allah says.

"Allah gives honor to whom He wills and brings disgrace to whom He wills". This ayat guarantee the protection of honor to mankind. This means that no one has the right to disgrace or disrespect other, but it is in the hand of Allah.

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4) Complete Code of Life:

Islam gives complete guidance to mankind in every aspects of life. From birth to death, from one generation to next generation, and from rights to duties Islam provides a comprehensive guidance and instructions to mankind. Islam is a constituent part of life. It guide mankind how to manage all activities of life in a good way. In Quran Allah says "on no soul does Allah place a burden greater than it can bear" (2:286). This shows that every one has right and duties and no one will be over burdened.

5) Day of Judgment / Akhira:-

Islam gives a unique concept Akhira, accountability of one's actions, or the concept of retributive justice by Allah. Everyone who did good deeds will be rewarded, and the one who did evil will be punished. And this justice will be carried out by Allah.

The concept of Akhira is mentioned in Quran as "verily, to us will be their return, then verily, for us will be their Reckoning" and in another place it says.

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"whoever chooses to follow the right path, follows it but for his own good, and whoever goes astray, goes but astray to his own loss, and no bearer of burdens shall be made to bear another's burden". This shows that day of judgment is certain and everyone will be accountable for its own deeds. This concept save mankind from betrayal and doing wrongs in dunia.

b) Quran & Sunnah:-

Islam is a revealed religion. and its foundations are Quran and sunnah. Allah guides his Creation through revelation. Quran contains the actual words of Allah and guide mankind till Akhirah. Quran is a source of knowledge, with full of wisdom and the life of the Holy prophet (S.A.W) is an example for all mankind. In Quran it is clearly said that "if you disagree about something, refer it back to Allah and the messenger, if you believe in Allah and the last day. That is the best thing to do and gives the best Result" (An-Nisa: 59) It means that the believer of Allah always find right directions from Quran till Akhirah.

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7) Fate / Qada:-

It means that Almighty Allah has the knowledge of every thing happening and He knows better what will happen next. Islam teaches his follower to not be sad when bad things happen, because it is happening just because of the will of Allah, and Allah makes better decision and plan for everyone. It also give the concept of hope. and the presence of one powerfull God who is Allah. To witness this Allah says in Quran "Indeed, we have created everything, perfectly preordained" (54:49). It means that Allah has set the path for us and we have to follow that part in order to be successful in this dunya and in Akhirah.