

## Islam and its Meaning

In Arabic Islam means submission, but when the term is used in a religious context it means Submission to Allah alone. Accordingly, a Muslim is one who submits to the divine injunctions and does not deviate from them.

### Literal Meaning:

The word "Islam" is derived from Arabic root word S-L-M, which means, to surrender, to yield. The other major shade of meaning in the root is - to make peace. Salam means peace. So does Slim, which also means - the religion of Islam.

Molana Sadar uddin Islahi, an Indian Islamic Urdu writer and close companion of Abul A'la Maududi, viewed Islam as a comprehensive way of life, emphasizing the importance of monotheism, submission to Allah's will, and every application of Islamic principles in every aspect of life.

Islam is a universal religion because its teachings and principles are seen as applicable to all people, regardless of their background, and emphasizes the oneness of Allah and unity of humanity. The universality of the religion of Islam is the most essential element of this divine religion. Even those who do not

believe in Islam, are aware that the faith is perpetual and not limited to any geographical location or race.

## Salient Features of Islam

### 1. Tauheed : Core Belief of Islam

The first part of the kalma, which is "la ilaha illallah", translates to "there's no god but Allah" is the core of the Islamic declaration of faith, affirming the concept of tauheed or the oneness of Allah.

In Surah Al-Ikhlās (112), Allah declares his oneness, self-sufficiency, and the absence of any comparable entity to him, stating;

"He is Allah, the one, Allah, the Eternal Refuge, He beget not, nor is He begotten, and none is comparable to Him."

Here is a breakdown of the verses and their meaning:

#### Verse 1 (112:1)

"Say: He is Allah, the one (Ahad)

This verse establishes the fundamental belief in the oneness of Allah, emphasizing that He is unique and indivisible.

## Verse 2 (112:2)

### "Allah, the Eternal Refuge (Samad)"

This verse highlights Allah's self-sufficiency and the fact that all creation is dependent on Him.

## Verse 3 (112:3)

"He begets not, nor is He begotten"

This verse negates the concept of Allah having offspring or being born, reinforcing His absolute uniqueness.

## Verse 4 (112:4)

"And there is none comparable to Him"

This verse emphasizes that no one is equal or similar to Allah, reinforcing His absolute perfection and uniqueness.

2.

## Prophethood

The second part of the Kalma, highlights prophethood (Risalat), acknowledging Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) as the last prophet. Believing in both concepts is crucial for every Muslim, as it safeguards their faith and guides their actions in this world and the hereafter.

In Surah Al-Ahzah 33:21 Allah says;

"Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for

whoever has hope in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah often."

Ibn Kathir interprets Surah Al-Ahzab, verse 21 (33:21), as a command to follow the Prophet Mohammad's example, emphasizing the importance of faith in Allah and the Last Day, and remembering Allah often.

i) Way of Life : Sunnah

Prophet Mohammad PBUH is a unique gift of incalculable blessings for us from Allah. One can possess this gift and experience the blessings only by following his Sunnah, his way of life. Sunnah is crucial in Islamic education as it helps Muslims understand the Quran's teachings and apply them in their daily lives.

Surah An-Najm, verses 3 and 4, emphasize that the prophet Mohammad (PBUH) does not speak from his own desires, but rather conveys divine revelation, assuring his followers and those who doubt that his words are not his own fabrication.

"Nor does he speak of his own"

(Quran 53:3)

"It is but a revelation revealed." (53:4)

### 3. Dignity to Mankind

Islam emphasizes human dignity by recognizing inherent value in all people, regardless of background, and emphasizes respect, justice and compassion promoting a framework for fostering dignity and honor.

#### i) Inherent Value :

Islam teaches that humans are created in the image of Allah and are thus inherently valuable and worthy of respect, regardless of their actions, religion, or status.

#### ii) Respect for Others:

The Quran and the teachings of Prophet Mohammad emphasize the importance of treating everyone with respect and kindness, even enemies.

#### iii) Justice and Fairness:

Islam promotes a system of justice where everyone is treated equally and fairly, and where the rights of individuals are protected.

#### iv) Forbidding of Torture and inhumane

### Treatment:

Islam strictly forbids torture and any form of inhumane treatment, even towards prisoners of war.

### v) Equality :

Islam emphasizes the equality of all humans in the sight of Allah, regardless of race, ethnicity, or social status.

"And we have honored the sons of Adam, and carried them on land and sea, and provided them with good things, and preferred them over many of those whom We have created." (Al-Quran 17:70)

4.

### Islam as a complete code of life

Islam provides comprehensive guidance for every aspect of a Muslim's life, encompassing spiritual, social, economic, and political domains, aiming to lead a righteous and fulfilling life. The Quran says: "For those who believe and work deeds of righteousness is a reward that will never (fail)." (41:8)

This explains some example of .

Islam being a complete code of life by showing the instructions related to different areas of life.

## 1) Individual Life:

### i) Moral Code:

It emphasizes virtues like honesty, justice, compassion and forgiveness, while discouraging vices like lying, greed and oppression.

### ii) Family Life:

Islam places importance of family relationships, including respect for parents, kindness to children, and maintaining strong family bonds.

### iii) Personal Responsibility:

Muslims are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and strive for self-improvement.

## (2) Education:

### i) Importance of Knowledge:

Islam highly values knowledge and encourages Muslims to seek education and understandings of the world.

### ii) Encouragement of Scholarship:

Islam encourages the pursuit of knowledge in all fields, including science, mathematics, and the arts.

## 2) Collective Life:

### i) Political System:

Islam teaches that governance should be based on divine guidance and justice, with rulers having a responsibility to rule fairly and seek consultation before making decisions.

### ii) Total Financial System:

Islam prohibits the charging or receiving of interest on loans or investments, emphasizing fair and equitable transactions.

## Conclusion:

In conclusion, Islam as a comprehensive way of life, emphasizes monotheism (tawheed), submission to the will of Allah, and the importance of righteous conduct in every aspect of life, aiming to regulate both spiritual and social relationships.