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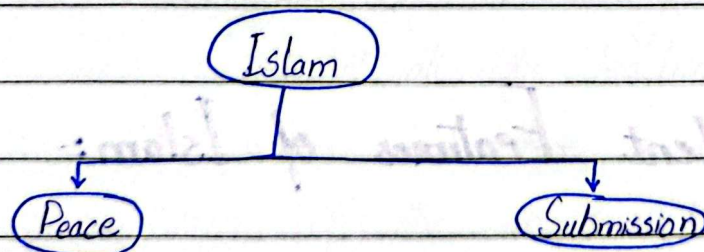
What Is Islam? Elaborate the. Salient Features of ISLAM?

ANSWER:

ISLAM:

Literal Meaning:-

The word "Islam" is derived from the roots of an Arabic word called SLM (سلم) which means "to surrender", "to submit" & "to give one's self up". Thus "اسلم الله" means to submit or surrender oneself for the sake of Allah.



Contextual Meaning:

Islam means submission to the moral imperatives of the One and only Allah,

and peace with his creatures. On vertical level (man-to-Allah relationship) it means submission and on horizontal level (man-to-man relationship) it means peace.

Submission to the commandments of Allah is the safeguard of peace and harmony. It enables man to make peace with himself & with his fellow beings in one hand and with Allah on the other hand.

As the first verses of Quran.

"بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ"

"In the name of Allah, the most Merciful, the most Compassionate."

The same theme of love & mercy continuously repeated throughout Quran as this verse is repeated in Quran 114 times.

Silent Features of Islam:-

George Bernard Shaw in his Opus "The Genuine Islam" reported to have said:

|| "I have always held the religion of Holy Prophet (PBUH) in high estimation ||

because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion that possess to me has assimilating capacity to changing phases of existence which can make itself appealing to every age."

In this poem he called Holy Prophet (PBUH) the "Savior of Humanity"

The characteristics of Islam that has won million of followers to the Faith in the past and which is making it appealing in the modern world are countless but some of the major features are discussed below:-

1 Monotheism - Essence of Tauheed:

Monotheism is revolutionary concept & core belief of all the teachings of Islam. It means that there is only One Supreme God of the universe. He is the omnipast and omnipresent and also the sustainer of the world & Mankind. The first part of the Kalma (Key Faith to be called a Muslim) emphasise it.

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لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

There is none worthy of worship
except Allah

This the basis tenet to which Holy Prophet (PBUH) asked humanity to adhere.

Tawheed made the religion of Islam different from other religions like: Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism.

Say "He is Allah, [Who is], one Allah,
the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets
nor is born, nor is there to
Him any equivalent.

Surah Ikhlas 112: 1-4

These four verses are enough to separate Islam from other religion as Islam is solely dependent on the oneness of Allah on the other hand, Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism described (Allah) God as Christ as a son of Allah, Judaism discriminate on classes, exclusive class of human in the circle of religion & Hinduism are openly worships more than one God.

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2. Simplicity, Practicality & Ray of light:

Islam is free from all mythology. Its teachings are simple, intelligible & free from all superstitions. Its basic concepts of faith, Oneness of Allah, Prophethood & belief on the day of judgment is straightforward & based on reasons & logics. There is no hierarchy of persists and no complication of rituals & rites. Everyone can approach Islam & Quran directly & translates its orders into practice.

Islam awakens in man the faculty of reason & way to use his intellect to see things in the light of reality.

|| "Say, Are those who know and those who do not know alike." ||

(Az-Zuman 39:9)

Holy Prophet PBUH said

|| "He who leaves his home in the search of knowledge walks in the path of God." ||

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• This is how through its teachings Islam brings man out from the world of superstitions & darkness and bring the ray of light, the light of knowledge. Again, Islam is a practical religion that teaches its followers that righteous conduct must follow in belief of Allah. Religion is something to be practiced not an object of mere lip-service.

“An those who act righteously and believe, joy is for them, and a blissful home to return to.”

3. Relation b/w Material Life & Soul:

Islam establish a unique relationship between worldly life and soul. Islam does not believe in ⁱⁿasceticism, it does not divide matter and spirit into watertight compartment. On contrary to this it lead human to achieve spiritual heights by living a pious life in a rough & tumble of life.

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'Our Lord! Give us something fine in this world as well as something fine in the hereafter.'

(Al-Baqarah)

The Holy Prophet PBUH said.

A Muslim who lives in the midst of society and endure with patience the affliction that comes to him is better than one who shuns the society & cannot bear any wrong done to him.

Islam teaches us that the mundane & spiritual life is welded together & goodness in the eye of Allah can only be achieved by using material power for the service of mankind and making a life of healthy moral foundations from it.

4. Complete Code of Life:

Islam is not the religion of one's private life but it provides us

a complete manual of life either it is individual one or one's life in a society. It teaches us all the aspects to lead a life in a prestigious society. It provides us path from individual's birth to the death. As well as way to lead life in society economically, politically, legally, culturally and on national & international level.

5. Promotion of Universality & Humanity:

The message of Islam is for all human races apart from their color, race territorial boundaries and bloodlines.

Allah is the God of all and Holy Prophet (PBUH) is the messenger to all mankind

|| We have sent you only as a ||
|| mercy for everyone in the universe. ||

Islam gives us the lesson to be kind with all the creatures of Allah.

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that includes not only human but also animals & every other creature of Allah as well as the environment, we live in. As, Holy Prophet (PBUH) said

"All the creature of God forms a family of God and he is best loved of God who loves best his creatures."

6 Permanence & Change:

The concept of permanence & change co-exists in human society. Different system seems lean heavily toward one or the other. As to much permanence cause rigidity & robs the flexibility of the system. On the other hand, lack of permanent values generate shapelessness and anarchy.

The guidelines comes from Allah is the form of Quran & Sunnah is free from the limitation of time and space. The principles of Allah is revealed on broad spectrum & endowed human to implement it in any age in a way that suited to his moral & spiritual

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values. The basic guidance of Islam is permanent in nature which method to implement it could change through Ijtihad (intellectual efforts to arrive at the truth. That is why Islam is fresh & modern as today's morning.

7. Complete Record of Teachings Preserved:

Last but not the least in my discussion is the fact that all the teaching either its Quran or Hadiths comes down to us with unprecendent precision & authenticity with out any adulteration even in a single word. As other Holy Book and treatises changes with the passage of time by their perist or other authority holder due to their personal & political interest but this is not the case of Quran & the life of Holy Prophet (PBUH). Quran & Hadis is present in their original form for the last 1450 year. Even the non-Muslims critics accepted this fact

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William Muir in his Book "The Life of Muhammad" said.

We may, upon strongest presumption, affirm that every verse is genuine & unaltered composition of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by himself

These are some unique features of Islam that establish its credentials as the religion of man for today & tomorrow