

Question :-

What is Islam? Elaborate salient features of Islam?

Islam

Islam is a Arabic word which means "submission", Surrender and obedience. In the religious sense, the word Islam means Submission to the will of Allah and obedience to his law. Thus, the collection between the two meanings means a Muslim is a person who believes in Allah and obeys His Commandments & Injunctions. As Allah say in Quran:-

"Nay whoever submits his whole self to Allah and is a doer of good- He will get his reward with his Lord; on such shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve." (2:112)

There are 5 beliefs of Islam. These beliefs reveal Allah's scheme for providing guidance to man in this world and also to define the nature and status of man in it. ~~They~~ They are:

- 1, Belief in Allah
- 2, Belief in the Prophets.
- 3, Belief in the Holy Books.
- 4, Belief in the Angels.
- 5, Belief in the Day of Judgement.

Also, a Muslim belief in 6 articles of faith as well that is fate, about which the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) once said:-

"You Affirm your faith in Allah, his Angels, his Messengers, in the Here after and you affirm your faith in the Divine Decree to good and evil."

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Salient features of Islam

Islam is not just a religion, it's a complete concept of life that guides people towards justice, peace and spiritual fulfillment. ~~It teaches us to live with~~ The basic features of Islam reflect a universal message for mankind. A few features are:

1. Unique Concept of Islam
2. Prophethood (Risalah)
3. Dignity of Mankind
4. Islam has a complete code of life
5. Islam promotes humanity

1. Unique Concept of Islam

Islam is based on oneness of Allah known as Tawheed a concept of unique comparison of other belief systems. It emphasizes complete submission to the will of Allah without associating any partners with Him. As Allah said in Quran:

"Say, He is Allah, [who is] one. Allah, the External Refuge. He neither begets nor is born, nor is there to Him any equivalent." (112:1-4)

2. Prophethood (Risalah)

Prophet is central to Islam. Prophets were sent to guide ~~human~~ humanity to straight path, culminating in the final Prophet, Muhammad (P.B.U.H). As Allah says in Quran:

"Muhammad is not the father of one of your men, but the messenger of Allah and last of the ~~pro~~ Prophets, and ever is Allah, of all things, knowing." (33:40)

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3, Dignity to Mankind

Islam honors all human beings, regardless of race, ethnicity, or status. Each person has inherent dignity and rights. As Allah say in Quran: (17:70)

"And we have certainly honored the children of Adam."
Hadith Reference.

"The Prophet (P.B.U.H) said: "All mankind is from Adam and Adam was created from dust, no Arab has superiority over a non-Arab."

4, Islam as a Complete Code of life

Islam provides comprehensive guidance in all aspects of life- Spiritual, social, political, economic and moral- As Allah says in Quran:

"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as your religion." (5:3)

Hadith

The Prophet (P.B.U.H) said: "I have left among you two things: you will never go astray as long as you hold fast to them: the Book of Allah and my Sunnah" (Muwatta Malik, Book 6, 3)

5, Islam Promotes Humanity

Islam promotes compassion, justice, equality and care for others. It prohibits injustice and urges kindness to all. As Allah say in Quran: Quran:

"Indeed, Allah commands justice and the doing of goods and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. (16:90)

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Conclusion

Islamic teachings are based on justice, peace and respect for all humanity. Its core feature shows that Islam is not just a faith but a practical way of life. By following these principles, a balanced and meaningful life can be achieved.

Critical Analysis

Islam provides a complete code of life and also promotes universal values like justice and compassion, the real challenge lies in the practical application of these teachings in the real world. Often, cultural practices are wrongly attributed to religion, leading to misunderstandings about Islam's true meaning and true message. To fully benefit from Islam's guidance, Muslims must return to the original sources - the Quran and Sunnah and apply them in their daily life.