

"Tawhid liberates human beings from all forms of servitude except to Allah." Discuss how belief in Tawhid influences the political, social, and spiritual aspects of a Muslim's life

QUESTION # 01

ANSWER

TAWHID AND ITS POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL IMPACTS

1) INTRODUCTION

Tawhid is the basic and fundamental belief in Islam. It is the very first pillar of Islam. Islam's building of faith is established upon the philosophy of Tawhid. Tawhid is a belief which says God is only one and alone. In Islamic teaching Tawhid means to have belief that Allah is the only one, alone and united. Tawhid influences the life of muslim in political, social and spiritual ~~spheres~~ ^{spheres}. It gives system of government, social welfare and helps man become closer to Allah.

(ii) Meaning of Tawhid

a. Literal Meaning: The word "Tawhid" is taken from Arabic word, W-h-d, Ahad or wahid which means alone, having no partner or peer and all united.

b. Meaning in Shari'ah: In Islamic teaching the meaning of Tawhid revolves around the unitedness and oneness of Allah. In Islam, Tawhid means to believe that Allah is alone, having no peers or partners. Surah Ikhlas in Quran tremendously defines the concept of Tawhid as;

Say Allah is alone, He is the eternal servitude, neither He gives birth to anyone, nor He is given birth.

(iii) Forms of Tawhid

In Islam, Tawhid is classified into three forms. Firstly, Unity in existence, which means Allah is the only one God in the universe. Secondly, Unity in actions, which means that Allah is the sole doer of any thing in the universe. Thirdly, Unity in attributes,

which implies that all the attributes of Love, care, mercy and bitterness belong to Allah.

iv) Political Impacts of Tawhid

A) Sovereignty in governance belongs to Allah

Any Islamic state is liable to establish law and order and system of governance with the divine injunction of Allah. Quran, in this way, is the holy book of Allah from which all the instructions can be applied to governance. Allah says in Quran;

And humans are the servants of God on Earth

B) Tawhid inculcates Consultation in the choice of Ameer.

The essence of Tawhid is to believe Allah is alone and believe on His commandments. So, Allah's commandment is the choice of leader is "consultation" or "Shura". Quran describes it somewhere as "Shura-wa-Bayn-lun" meaning

believers discuss with one another
and then take the decision.

(C) Tawhid Brings Accountability
In the life of Khalifah.

When someone is chosen,
he becomes accountable for his
doings. His life depends with the
teachings of Islam. When Hazrat
Abu Bakr (RA) was given allegation
for Khalifah, he asked everyone
that if he lacks a small fraction
of ~~the~~ good governance, he must
be fired. So, Tawhid brings sense
of accountability.

(IV) Social Impacts of Tawhid

A) Muslim Brotherhood and Mutual
cooperation

Tawhid brings brother
and mutual cooperation in the life
of Muslim, because believers
help each other, cooperation with
one another and help others in
the times of hardships. As one
point in Quran Allah says;

They (Muslims) are brother to one another

B) Tauhid incorporates Equality in the society

All the members of society are equal in the right of Allah. As prophet (P.B.U.H) said in his last sermon;

No Arab is superior to a Non-Arab or vice versa, superiority comes with the piety towards Allah

C) Tauhid entails social welfare

when believers live together in a society, they take care of one another. In Islam, the concept of charity, Sadaqa, Zakat and Khairat are eminent. Islamic state is responsible for the social welfare of society. Prophet (P.B.U.H) said;

Muslims are like a body, when an organ of body gets ill, others share the pain. So, Muslims share the pain of one who is in terrible condition.

(N) Spiritual Impacts of Tauhid

A) Closeness to Allah

When a man is blessed with the blessings of Tauhid, he finds peace and ease. Quran says;

Verily, hearts find peace in the remembrance of Allah

B) Bravery in Soul

A follower of Tauhid never bow in front of others except Allah. He becomes brave and gives his life in the name of Allah. The book of guidance says;

Those who are killed in the name of Allah are alive, but you do not see it.

(C) Self respect and dignity

Self respect comes with the belief of Tauhid because man relies only on Allah for worldly needs and he become hopeful to master life Allah. He never ask anything

from others which harks his
self-respect and dignity. As per
Quran;

From Him we have come, and
to Him we will return back

vi) CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, tawhid
is basic essence of Islam. Without
tawhid, Islam would not prevail.
It helps man lead a good
social, moral, spiritual and political
life. It basically impede man
from worldly greed and servitude
towards others.

The unified expansion of the
universe points out that
there is the master of
everything.

~ John clover

QUESTION # 09

ANSWER

Akhirat And its Influence on the Moral and Social Behavior of Muslims

1) INTRODUCTION

Hereafter (Akhirat) is the day when life would be given again and then examination would begin. Akhirat is one of the 7 basic Islamic faiths. It reminds a man that a day will come on which everyone will be giving the reasoning of what one had done in the world. Akhirat, imparts various impacts on the life of muslim. Morally, it stops man from wrong doings and socially it prevents society from extremism, radicalism and injustice.

3) MORAL IMPACTS OF HEREAFTER

A) Increase Piety in Man
Belief in hereafter creates a fear of tested upon, so man becomes more pious for making Allah happy and desiring heaven. A pious man not only fulfills Allah's rights but also fulfills the rights of His people. Prophet (P.B.U.H) said once;

From you the best one is,
by whom others feel secure
by his tongue and hand

B) Brotherhood and mutual Respect
Man believing in hereafter always seeks to make peaceful ties with other. He becomes brother and helps others for which he will be rewarded. He cares others as he cares for his brother. Hadith says;

Muslims are brother to
one another

1) Here after Brings Purpose in Life.

When man believes in Akhirat, he knows that doing good things will earn him best rewards in Akhirat. So, if he prays to Allah and remain good with his people. Therefore, he sees the purpose of life. Hadith says;

Do not kill yourself with hopelessness.

2) Akhirat Eradicates Greed in man.

When a man sees the comfort of worldly life, he demands more and become greedy. Akhirat makes him belief that having no luxury but with piety and faithfulness will earn him more than what is given in the world. Prophet (P.B.U.H) said;

When you choose something for yourself, choose it for your brother as well.

4) SOCIAL IMPACTS OF AKHIRAT

A) Social welfare in the Society
For attaining the goal of heaven in Akhirat, believers help one another in the worldly life. They give Zakat, Khairat, Sadaqat, and Itham for the betterment of society. Prophet said once ;

Sadaqat and Khairat earn a man a good worldly life as well as life here after

B) ~~Building~~ Building an Ideal Society

When all the believers of hereafter live together, they build a society free from evil, injustice and extremism. They believe in Akhirat, that is why they remain good with one another. Their every step is aimed at getting good result in Akhirat. So, society remains peaceful.

c) Spreading the words of Allah
A society with
the belief of hereafter does
more about spreading Islam and
does Jihad. It will earn people,
the highest rank in Jannah.
As we can see the caravans
of people going to many places
in the world for the spread
of ~~the~~ Islam. This spirit
would help them pass the
day of resurrection.

d) Muslim Integration and Unity
Those who believe
in the philosophy of hereafter,
they remain integrated and united.
They help each other and fight
evil with unity. The strength
of believers lies in the
unity among them. As
sacred book Quran points out:

Hold firmly the rope of Allah
and do not become disunited

5)

CONCLUSION

Summing up, faith in alchirist makes man pious, polite, free from greed and dignified. Socially, society becomes free from evil, conflict, and inequality. It is Alchirist that hold believers back from the lure of worldly life. It is the manifestation of dedication, fear and hopefulness. Society develops with peace and fraternity.

QUESTION #03

Discuss the concept of Salat as a means of spiritual purification and self-refinement. How does the performance of Salat help a Muslim develop self-discipline and humility.

ANSWER

IMPACTS OF SALAT ON ONESELF

1) INTRODUCTION

Salat is the second pillar of Islam. It was made obligatory in 10th Nisbi. Salat (Namaz) is obligatory on a Muslim five times a day. Quam has repeatedly mentioned to keep prayers almost 100 times and 28 times with paying Zakat. Salat injects various changes in human life spiritually and morally. On one end, it is a means to self-purification and self-refinement which bring purity in man, closeness to Allah and piety. On another end, it drives punctuality, unity, co-operation and dedication.

Briefly, Salat guides the overall life of man.

2) Meaning of Salat

Literal: To bow down, pay homage and illumination

Contextual: To bow down before God for pleasing him

Shar'iah: To bow down in the love of Allah, worship him and make him pleased.

3) SALAT AS A MEANS OF SPIRITUAL PURIFICATION AND SELF-REFINEMENT

a) It Brings Purity in Man

Five times obligatory prayer a day means doing five times ablution (wuzu). It makes man physical clean as well as spiritually neat because of the connection it joints with Allah. Allah says in Quran;

"Those who keep prayers and make themselves cleaned are beloved ones."

b) It strengthens the Bond between Man and God

In Salat man interjects with his God. He forgets worldly things and makes connection with Allah. As Prophet (P.B.U.H) said;

"Namaz is like an ascension for man."

c) Salat Inculcates Piety in Man

The essence of Namaz is that it cleans man externally as well as internally. So, man becomes more cordial to Ibadat for pleasing Allah. Not only he praises Allah but also he behaves with others softly. So, take an example of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H), he never did an inch of harm to others and that was of his (P.B.U.H) piety.

d) Salat Impedes Man from Evil Doings

When a man offers

Salat, he erodes all of the ill-desires such as greed, corruption, impurity in business, etc. As the saying of Prophet (P.B.U.H);

"Salat is a check against wrongdoings."

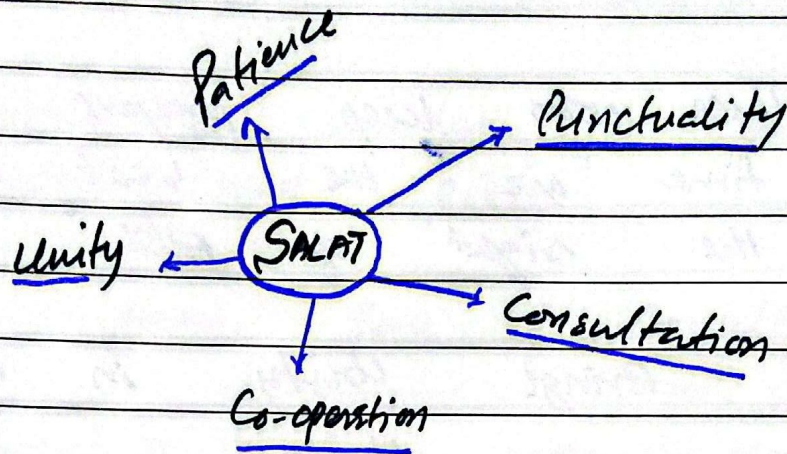
e) Salat gives Purpose to Life

The west has more suicide ratio than that of the East and it is because of worship in the East that gives purpose to life. For a muslim, worship Allah is the fundamental requisite of life. As one point in Quran, it is mention;

"We created humans and jins not ~~to~~ but to worship us."

4) SALAT AS A MEANS TO

SELF-DISCIPLINE AND HUMILITY



a) Salat Instills Patience in Man

Salat brings patience in a man in a way man awaits for Azan, Iqam and Jamat. It also creates patience in his life. Man behaves with family, friends and strangers with patience. The book of guidance says as:

"Get help from Prayers and patience."

b) Salat Injects Punctuality

When man prays five times a day with prescribed times, it brings sense of punctuality in his life. He also becomes punctual to

his overall life. As per one Hadith:

"Those who keep prayers on time are the best in the sight of Allah."

- c) Salat brings unity in Islam. Unity is the essence of Salat as believers stand firmly ~~and~~ before Allah, it creates a sense of unity. It is not only limited to the mosque, but it also affects man's life. Believers are also united in their lives. As Allah says in Quran:

"Hold firmly to the rope of Allah, do not be divided."

- d) Salat results in co-operation. Salat works as a means to cooperation in a way that believers help one another in worldly affairs. At one place in the sacred

book it is mentioned;

"Help one another in good deeds and piety."

e) Salat gives sense of consultation. Mosque, where Salat is kept is also the place of consultation. Prophet (P.B.U.H) always tried to consult with people at the end of Salat. Therefore, Salat is also a mean to consultation.

5) CONCLUSION

Resultantly, Salat is one of the fundamentals of Islam. Everyone is enjoined to offer Salat. It affects man's spiritual life by bringing piety, purity and purpose to life. It also makes man's moral life the best by inculcating punctuality, patience and cooperation. So, Salat brings success not only to life hereafter but to worldly life also.

"Zakat is not just a form of worship but a powerful economic tool." Discuss this statement in the light of Quranic teachings and the socio-economic impact of Zakat.

QUESTION # 01

ANSWER

Zakat is not just a form of worship but a powerful tool (Economic)

1) Introduction

Zakat is the fourth pillar of Islam and it means to purify one's soul as well as one's wealth. Zakat is an economic system of Islam which is aimed at social welfare. Quranic teachings reveal that Zakat does not only aim a form of worship but it also works as a mean to social well-being. Poverty, starvation and impeding hoarding are main the subjects of Quran among others. Zakat also works as socio-economic upbringing of a society by reducing.

poverty, increasing employment, wealth circulation and social welfare.

2) ZAKAT ACCORDING TO QURANI TEACHINGS

a) Purity and Re-distribution

Zakat means to purify the soul as well as one's wealth. So, by zakat man becomes pious and the wealth he earns becomes source of comfort for him. As Quran describes and Prophet (P.B.U.H) is instructed;

"..... And get charity from the affluent and give it to the needy and make their wealth pure....."

b) Poverty Alleviation

To eradicate poverty from the society, Quranic teachings guide that to whom Zakat is given. Quran signifies that every needy person must be given zakat for making his

Life better. The Quranic verse shows that who are eligible as;

"Alms be given to the poor, needy, freeing slaves, new in Islam, Zakat administration, wayfarers, indebted people, and in the name of Allah."

c) Prevention of wealth Hoarding

According to the Quran, the accumulation of wealth is strictly prohibited. Because it created inequality in the society. The explanation of verse which prohibit hoarding is:

"And those who hoard gold and silver and do not spend in the name of Allah shall be tested with hellfire."

d) A welfare Economic structure

Quran talks about the system of Zakat as social welfare system. After collecting the Zakat, it is ordered to

spend it on social welfare.
At the time of Hazrat Umar
and Umar bin Abdul Aziz, Zakat
played an important role in
enriching society.

3) SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF ZAKAT

a) Reduction of Poverty

Zakat reduces
poverty by circulating wealth in
the society. It helps get
wealth from wealthy and give
it to needy people. The
best example to get someone
from poverty is to get him
portable and small shops.

b) Zakat Creates Employment

Zakat system
creates an opportunity for
jobs. There are multiple departments
established for spreading Zakat
in the society. One can
get a good job on one's

capabilities. As prophet (P.O.H) assigned a lady for treasury affairs in mosques namely Al-Khifa - bint - Abdulah.

c) Circulation of wealth

wealth circulation is also one of the major objects of Zakat system. The circulation of wealth is important in a economy to combat inflation. When a few people hold handsome wealth, it creates more purchasing power for them leading the poor in purchasing struggle. So wealth is circulated for making equal purchasing power parity.

d) Overall social-welfare of society.

Zakat is a system of social welfare. It establishes a society where no one is under-privileged. All types of charity, such as Sadaqat, Khairat, Khums, Zakat, etc are incorporated in a society to help poor and needy. Zakat has

a proper institution which works on social welfare. In caliph Umar's era, people were given wazif, widows were given wazif and all these who were looking for job but could not get were also given wazif. Hence, Zakat brings socio-economic stability in a society.

4) CONCLUSION

It becomes evident from above discussion that Zakat system of Islam is manifested upon social welfare. There are many verses in Quran that orders to promote Zakat culture. If we see in real terms, Zakat eradicates poverty, generates employment and makes society free from evils. So, Zakat is one the best aspects of economic systems of Islam.