

Assignment #1

day/date

Q) What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam.

Islam is ~~the~~ a monotheistic Abrahamic religion revealed to prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in 7th century Arabia. The word Islam is derived from Arabic roots which means to submit or surrender to the will of Allah. As both a mode of personal faith and a comprehensive system of life, Islam provides theological beliefs, ethical norms, legal injunctions, and social prescriptions intended to regulate individual conduct and communal order. As Allah says in surah Al-Imran:

"Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam" [3:19]

Salient features of Islam:

1- Belief in One God (Tawhid)

The essence of Islam lies in absolute monotheism and practical submission to God's will. It prescribes that Allah is one in His person, characters and He has not delegated his powers to anyone. The concept of Tawhid eliminates all forms of polytheism and establishes a direct relationship between man and God.

"Say, He is Allah, the One; Allah, the Eternal Refuge" [Al-Ikhlās 1-2]

2- Finality of Prophethood and Revelation:

~~That~~ We believe that prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the last and final messenger, and the Quran is the ultimate source of divine guidance for humanity. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was sent as "mercy to all worlds" [21:107]

3- Islam as a Complete Way of Life

Islam is a complete code of life which provides guidelines for the welfare of humanity. The teachings of Islam are not confined to personal spirituality but extend to all aspects of human existence for all the times to come.

4- Combination of World and Hereafter

Islam provides betterment of this life and the hereafter. It does not approve of forsaking the world, nor does it approve the pursuit of worldly desires. Instead, it encourages one leading a balanced life. It further promotes the concept of accountability by living the life which best for one's hereafter - the eternal abode.

5- Emphasis on Knowledge and Rational Inquiry

Islam encourages intellectual and scientific pursuit as an act of worship. The first revelation - "Read" - establishes learning as a sacred duty.

6- Universality and Brotherhood

Islam's message transcends ethnic, linguistic, and geographical boundaries, uniting believers into one global community known as the Ummah. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) has declared that Muslims are like a wall and each brick of the wall is a support to other bricks.

7- Respect and dignity for Humanity

Islam gives respect and dignity to all humanity by freeing them from the slavery of other human beings and objects. A Muslim only bows down and prostrates

before Allah the Almighty.

8- The Final Message from God

The Quran has been revealed to mankind for all times to come until our resurrection, and the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is the seal of all prophets. It's the Final Guidance from Allah for all of humanity without any geographical boundaries.

"This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed my favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion."

To conclude, Islam is a universal, balanced and comprehensive system of life that guides humankind toward peace through justice, compassion, and submission to Allah's will. Its salient features ensure harmony between body and soul, individual and society, this world and the hereafter. Thus, Islam stands as a timeless message to guide humanity in every age.