

Question:

Difference between deen and religion. Need of religion in scientific age.

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v. Need of religion in scientific age

Answers the why and how questions of cosmos in scientific age.

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↳ Introduction

The need of some guiding light was innate in all human beings. Man has always sought to excel in every aspect. This doctrine of necessity has lead man to find some soul purpose and this soul purpose is guided by deen. Oftenly, deen and religion are conceptualized as similar terms. But deen and religion contradicts eachother in many aspects. Religion addresses an individual while deen addresses collectively to all situations and circumstances. In the most precise manner, it would be rightful to mention that deen is a huge a tree and religion is its branch. In modern scientific age, religion addresses the why and how questions of infinite cosmos. It enables individual to analyze and question the mechanics of nature, God and his creation.

↳ Conceptualizing deen

'To surrender and subordinate in front of the will of Allah is termed as deen'. Deen bridges a divine relationship between a devotee and God and

his creation. Deen is a broader perspective that encompasses all domains and guides an individual in the best way possible. Deen act as a guiding light in the darkness of life. It guides an individual in his relationship with God and his behaviour with the creation of God. For the time being, there can exist only one perfect (religio) deen and for now that perfect deen, the guiding light and complete code of life is islam. A deen that directs in the life here and after. As Allah Almighty mentions in Holy Quram,

"Today I have completed my deen and have completed my bliss upon you and accepted for you islam as a deen"

surah maidah : 3

This verse emphasizes that islam is the one perfect and complete deen and Allah Almighty Himself has choosen islam as a deen for his believers.

↳ Conceptualizing religion

The word religion or mazhab came from a root word 'zahab' which means to go, pass by or walk. It can be defined as a journey towards God. Religion is a narrower concept that encompasses one's relation with the God he believes in. Religion does not specify the nature and existence of God. Therefore, multiple religions can co-exist at a single place but unlike religion there can be only one deen. Sir E.B Taylor defines religion as,

'Religion means to believe
in spiritual things'

So, there are multiple definitions of religion as of fact that there exist multiple religions.

Difference Between

Deen دین

- Nature: Deen is a collective term as it addresses multiple aspects
- Origin: Deen existed long before the creation of humans, followed by jins and angels.

Complete code of life

Deen is a complete code of life for every individual and a true deen to exist and followed in real time. As Allah mentions in Quran,

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام ؕ

'Surely the true religion with Allah is Islam.'

Surah al:imran verse 19

Individual aspect

Deen as a complete code of life provides a direction to an individual to manage and balance his spiritual and social life.

It connects man to God and his creation as well.

Religion مذہب

- Nature: Religion is an individual term as it addresses only an individual
- Origin: Religion started to exist after the fight between Habel and Qabeel.

Incomplete code of life

Religion is an incomplete code of life as it directs an individual only towards God and does not provide any direction and guidance towards other aspects of life. It only bridges the relationship between God and devotee.

Individual aspect

Religion affects the individuality of a person in the life as it directs him only in spiritual life. Religion does not guide an individual in real time problems.

• Social aspect

A deen guides man how to behave and interact within a society. It urges an individual to maintain a healthy social life and benefit others from his existence.

• Rights and duties

A deen guides an individual about his rights and duties towards God and his creation. In islam, it is known as haqooq-ul-Allah, Haqooq-ul-ibad and both are obligatory to all muslims.

• Peace of hearts

Deen is peaceful and islam means "the peaceful one". As Allah says,

الَّذِينَ تَطْمِئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ

"Unquestionably with the remembrance of Allah, hearts are assured". Surah Raad: 28

• Social aspect

Religions usually do not guide along social aspects.

Some religions demand isolation and meditation in order to spiritually connect with God. This disrupts the social thread of life.

• Rights and duties

Contrarily, religion directs about rights of God only and his possession. It does not direct along the rights of creation. That is why it is an incomplete code of life.

• Peace of hearts

A religion that is incomplete and does not guide along difficulties of life is unable to provide peace to hearts.

↳ Need of religion in scientific age

The scientific age is all about questioning the creation and balance of cosmos. The unsolved mysteries of universe and God are the driving force of science. These mysteries has always questioned the intellect of scientist and philosophers. In a modern world where everything is accessible in just one click, science is still curious to solve the mysteries of death, existence of soul, dimensions of time, multiverse and infinity. To solve these mysteries and nature of cosmos religion builds a bridge to reach a safe conclusion. Religion addresses these questions of how and why? When a man connects himself to nature and God, the universe unfolds upon him. Universe only unfold its secrets upon those who actually seek it. As Quran mentions,

"And there are signs (in it) for those who think"

Therefore, one must maintain balance between religion and science in modern world where every question of how leads to creation of God.

↳ Conclusion

The previous debate concludes that deen and religion often misunderstood as similar terms are dichotomistic in nature. This dichotomy prioritizes deen over religion because deen is a complete socio-economic-political aspect of life while religion is an individual business. The advent of scientific age glorifies the significance of religion in daily life and elaborates how a spiritual relation with God leads an individual in scientific society.
