

Question: What is the difference between Deen and Religion? Describe the importance of Deen in human life with arguments. (2016)

Religion:

The term religion literally means a path or a road to follow. Terminologically, it is the set beliefs and rituals for a person to follow in order to worship the God. Moreover, it has comparatively **narrow scope** and its focus is completely laid on relationship of person with the God. Religion never intents to teach the person how to life a progressive life and does not give any system or code in any form.

Deen:

On the other hand, the word Deen has multiple meaning like, complete Code of life, set of beliefs and rituals. Deen also explains the ways to build relationship with Divine entity. But also explains the person how to live a progressive life. It intimates the procedure for not only a strong relation with God but also relationship among the people. It gives the complete code of life to follow and all kind of systems, making it easier for common man to distinguish between right and wrong in every aspect of life.

Difference between Deen and Religion:

Religion has narrow scope; however, Deen is comparatively wider scope.

Religion lays its focus on relation between man and God; on the other hand Deen do explains the relation between the God and man but also explains to procedure to interact with other people and how to build strong relationship.

Religion only provides the set of beliefs and rituals; Deen does the same but its focuses on the other things in human life too unlike religion. It explains the rights of neighbors, parents, children, relatives, poor, animals and every other existing thing.

Religion does not provide any system to follow, but Deen gives all kind of systems like economical system, financial system, justice system and political system etc.

Islam a Deen or Religion:

Islam is not only a religion but also a Deen. Allah has always referred Islam as Deen instead of religion. For example, Allah says in the Quran that **“To this day I have perfected Deen for you, completed my favor upon you and have chosen Islam as your Deen”**. Furthermore, Allah also states in the Quran that, **“Perfect Deen in sight of Allah is Islam.”** Prophet Muhammad PBUH emphasized in Hadith that **“Deen is the pure benevolence.”** In this regard, Islam is a complete code of life not only helping in building strong relationship with God but also knowing how to life a good / fruitful life.

Why Deen is necessary:

Allah emphasized in the Quran that “ **I have created the Jinn and Human Beings for the purpose to worship me.**” However, it seems difficult or nearly impossible to worship Allah every time due to our humankindly needs. This is the actual reason behind provision of Deen (a complete code of life), as if one wonders to worship Allah all the time, he has to follow his rules in every aspect which will be considered as a good deed.

Importance of Deen in Human Life:

I. Provides Guidance.

Islam provides guidance to human beings in a way to spend life in best manner. Islam guides the human beings to the right path as prophet Muhammad PBUH has himself guided us by his life how to live a progress and right life. Allah intimates in the Quran:

“Indeed the Quran Guides to the upmost right, say to the believers who do good to have a great reward on the day of judgement.”

II. Distinguishes between right and wrong.

Due to the limited knowledge of human beings, it is very difficult to distinguish between the right and wrong doings in all aspects of life. In this regard, Quran provides us the complete way to life helping us to differentiate between the good and the evil.

III. Complete code of life.

Islam unlike other religions provides a complete code of life. It not only helps to build a strong relationship with Allah almighty but also helps us in other aspects of life by giving us the procedures and laws to follow.

IV. Provides all kind of systems.

Deen provides all kind of systems which include economical system, political system, judicial system, governance system, and social system. This specialty of Islam differs it from other religions. For example, Islam has guided us the punishments for wrong doings (cutting hand for theft and death penalty for murder). This helps the judicial system to provide justice to the people and prevent these kinds of crimes. Moreover, Islam prohibits any food from eating that is harmful for our health, making it easier for us to know what good to eat or not.

V. Provides wisdom.

“And we have revealed the book and wisdom for your” AL Quran

By the help of Quran and the teaching of Prophet Muhammad, Islam has provided wisdom to the human beings. It has taught us the purpose of our existence and has prevented us from worshipping wrong or multiple gods.

VI. Purpose of Creation.

Islam has answered this question that has troubled the human beings for centuries by telling them their actual purpose of existence i.e. worshiping the Allah Almighty.

“I have created the Jins and Human Beings for the purpose to worship me”

Conclusion:

Above in view, Deen has a wider scope which teaches the mankind all the laws to live a prosperous and happy life. It has much importance in the life of human beings which gives the purpose to the life and helps in knowing the right and wrong. Deen gives the wisdom the individual and guides him towards the right path.