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Q: What is the Difference between Deen and Religion, and elaborate on the need and importance of deen in human life?

Introduction:

Distinction between deen and religion is not just semantic, undeniably, they have significant chasm between them. Scope, purpose, universal applicability of both as well as sources are varied in nature. Deen illustrates an overall picture of life, encompasses man's relation to God and man's relation to man. On the contrary, religion presents only one side of life, man's relation to God. Moreover, deen is a comprehensive way of life including social, political, cultural, economical, and legal aspects, emphasizing its broad nature. Deen covers wider aspect of life. On the flip side, religion presents narrow side of life; religion is defined as a set of thoughts, feelings, emotions related to culture, as well as rituals and practices that focus on its

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Spiritual and theological components. Furthermore, unravelling the importance of deen highlights that man needs deen to understand broad universal complexities, a better way of life, in addition, purpose of universe. Not only unlocking human intricate complexities but also provides human dignity, spiritual cure from evils as well as guidance to live a better life.

~~Importance of deen in the light of Quran~~ Understanding deen in the light of Quran

Deen in Arabic language has multiple meanings, firstly, deen is defined as subordination, submission, obedience, slavery, and subjugation. Secondly, it refers to give judgement and dispense reward or punishment for any action, moreover, it is also described as rulership, honour, and empire. In Quran, Allah Almighty mentions the completion of deen to his prophet in very clear way.

اليوم أكملت لكم دينكم واتممت تكميل نعمتي لَكُمْ
 الإسلام ديناً -

(Surah Al-Maidah 5:3)

"Today, I have perfected your deen for you, completed my favours upon you, and have choosen for you Islam as your deen."

Difference between Religion and Deen:

Scope:

As mentioned earlier, deen encapsulates all aspects of life leaving none of them even social, political, economical, spiritual, moral and legal to present a broad view of life. Deen is a complete code of life. As we envision, deen also deals with daily matters of life as mentioned in Surah Bani Israel.

And measure full when you measure,
 And weigh with an equal weight.
 This is better and its end is good.

(Surah Bani-Israel: 35)

Contrary to this, religion focuses merely on the worshipping of God, deals only for the

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Salvation of human. As in Christianity and Hinduism, the focus is only on the meditation, fasting and pilgrimage. Religious practices revolve around religious/spiritual framework irrespective of worldly life.

Universal Applicability:

Deen is a timeless guidance for all mankind, it does not confine to one culture, or religion but it spreads its guidance for everyone regardless of culture, state, and norms. Deen is not limited to time and boundary.

وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا

(Surah Al-Maida 5:32)

"And whoever saves a life, it is as though he had saved ^{lives of} all mankind."

Deen assists in guidance of every kind, it demands the safeguard of every human as mentioned in ayat 32 of surah al-Maidah.

On the other side, religion has limited guidance for a particular set of groups, for instance, in Japan, Shintoism emphasizes

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the worship of nature, spirits and ancestors, in Hinduism, worship of multiple deities is present. Different religions have unique traits, practices and aspects. Cremation practice is acceptable in Hinduism but not in Christianity. This highlights its limited aspect and confined viewpoint.

Sources:

For deen, sources are divine; these provides foundations to the building of deen; divine revelation from Allah are primary source of guidance. In addition, Sunnah is also a primary source, saying or doings of Prophet (PBUH).

On the flipside, human beings laid foundation for religion. Gautama's teachings transformed into a religion, Buddhism, similarly, Confucius, a Chinese philosopher pursued enlightenment and formed a religion. For deen, sources are divine; for religion, sources come from human beings.

Purpose:

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Deen serves as a blueprint for a just and harmonious society. Deen demands justice in every matter to make a harmonious society even if it is against oneself.

Verse 135 of Surah An Nisa states:

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it is against yourself, your parents or relatives, whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both."

However, religion provides individualistic approach as Tzedakah (charity) in Judaism encourages people or organization to donate but this is individual based rather than collective. Religion focuses on the individual life rather than collective or a whole.

Importance of Deen in human life:

Deen is a blessing of Allah Almighty to human being, a life of purpose is presented through deen. Deen encapsulates all matters of life social, political, economical, legal and many

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mores. Through deen, Allah reveals its purpose of creating this world.

وما خلقت الجن والانس الا ليعبدون

"I did not create Jinn and humans except to worship me." (Verse 56 of Surah Adh-Dariyat)

Furthermore, deen explains intricacies of universal marvels in an easy way. As in Surah Al-Araf, ayat 54, Allah illustrates that he has created this universe in six days, ~~mores~~ sets his throne and moves day and night in succession. He created sun, moon, and stars - all subjected to his command. In addition to this, deen preserves human dignity; deen exalts the status of human being, makes him superior to other creatures.

Surah Al-Hajj, Ayat 77:

"O ^{believers} mankind, bow down, prostrate yourselves, worship your Lord, and do what is good so that you may be successful."

Similarly, deen serves as a beacon of light to shun all evil forces.

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Deen is a spiritual cure for modern man, he has to do 'tawakkal' to get tranquility and inner satisfaction from materialistic world.

Verse 160 of Surah Al-Imran states;

"If Allah protects you, none can defeat you."

Conclusion:

Deen and religion both have similarities and differences but the distinction is wide; deen demonstrates every matter of life, relations with god and man but religion confines it only to god. Aforementioned details of distinction between deen and religion present clear image that deen is a whole but religion is a part. Furthermore, deen is a beacon of light, guidance for all mankind, it has universal applicability and protects human from evil as a shield. In addition, it exalts human dignity and superiority over all other creatures.

Q: Argue for Supremacy of Wahi (revelation) as the solution of Human problems against other sources of human knowledge.

Introduction:

Knowledge is heterogeneous exercise, a paramount phenomenon, apparently varying in substance encompasses nature of all which man feels, finds and reacts.

Knowledge is etymologically derived from Greek 'noisse' and Latin 'cognoscere' means to know by the sense.

Islamic Concept of Knowledge (Ilm)

Islam regards human beings as vicegerent of God on this earth, due to this speciality, he has given mental and cognitive abilities far better than other animals. By using these abilities, human reaches its potentialities and discovers new and various domains of

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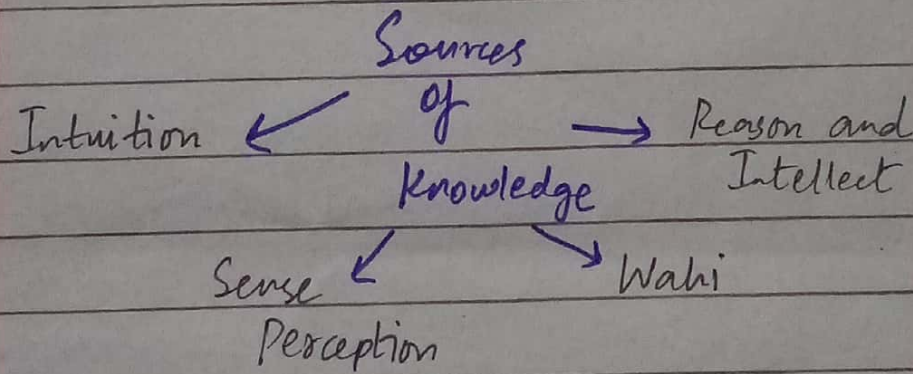
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Knowledge (Ilm). In Islam, the primary sources of knowledge are Quran and Hadith.

Other Sources of Knowledge:

In order to reach the potentialities, human uses various sources of knowledge, scholars are agreed on these sources of knowledge. However, positivity and limitations retain their place in them.



First of all, intuition is a doctrine in which perception of external objects arises in mind itself rather than reason and intellect. Intuitions are regarded as knowledge inside the self not outside. Rene Descartes provides insight about intuition by saying his famous maxim, 'I think therefore I am'.

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it illustrates that how intuition provides basis for the existence of certain things and phenomenon. Similarly, **Imam Ghazali** approves intuition as a source of knowledge; according to him, deduction and reasoning are higher form of knowledge nevertheless, 'makashfa' is the highest form of knowledge. However, arduous efforts are required to reach this level.

Secondly, sense organs also assist in achieving knowledge, include eyes, nose, ears, taste and touch. Sense organs provide only external knowledge, knowledge is limited, confined and incomplete.

Thirdly, reason and intellect is also an important way of getting knowledge. Moreover, human being uses his cognitive ability to think about internal and external realities. Nevertheless, this form or source is biased and untrustworthy in certain matter, moreover, it does not provides any answer regarding

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spiritual and metaphysical question. The scope of reason is confined to material objects.

Wahi:

Wahi is derived from Arabic word 'Waha' means 'secret conversation'.

Literal Meaning:

Literal meaning of wahi is "secret and swift talking," "to command," "to inspire," "to imply or to refer to", and "to send a messenger" in Arabic.

Connotative Meaning:

Connotative meaning of wahi encompasses secret message of Allah to his prophet in the form of bells, or through angels, or directly in the heart. Wahi is supernatural and mystic phenomenon, according to Islamic tafsir, wahi is an unknown phenomenon and incomprehensible for human its origins. The sources of wahi is only known to Allah or prophet.

وما كان لبشر أن يكلمه الله الا وحيا او من وراء حجاب
او يرسل رسولا فيوحى باذنه ما يشاء

(Al-Shura 42:51)

“It is not [possible] for a human being that God should talk him except through revelation [direct to his heart] or from behind a veil or by the sending of a messenger to reveal what God permits him with His will.”

How Wahi is Supreme source of knowledge and a solution of human problems?

Wahi is the supreme source of knowledge, it explains all metaphysical questions and phenomenon, moreover, it guides in spiritual, political, economic and all other aspects of life. Scholars regards Wahi as a guiding source for all mankind. In addition to this, Wahi discusses the liturgical and eschatological issues, assists us to achieve answer regarding purpose of God behind making of universe.

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At individual level:

Wahi, first of all, in Islam offers significant solutions to human difficulties, particularly related to spiritual fulfillment. Materialistic and intellectual pursuits cannot provide peace and tranquility as the remembrance of Allah Almighty.

الذين آمنوا والذين هدى الله فبذكر الله
تطمئن القلوب - (Surah Ar-Raad 13:28)

“Those who believe and those hearts are at peace by the remembrance of Allah, indeed, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find peace.”

The Quran, explicitly, guides for reaching spiritual fulfillment by emphasizing Allah's remembrance, worship and surrender to His will. Furthermore, the Wahi reminds believers that the aim of life is to serve Allah, and obey his directions in all aspects of life.

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Moreover, Wahi presents a clear and unchanging standard of Good and evil. Human beings struggle to define ultimate Good and evil, because they differ in every culture. However, Wahi presents heavenly counsel that goes beyond human capacity. Quran explicitly highlights good and evil, reminds us to do good and forbid evil.

ان الله يامر بالعدل والاحسان فاتى ذى القربى وينهى
عن الفحشاء والمنكر والبغى يعظكم لعلكم تذكرون
(Surah an-Nahl 16:90)

“Allah commands justice, the doing of good, and liberality to kith and kin, and He forbids all shameful deeds, and injustice and rebellion: He instructs you, that ye may receive admonition.”

At social level:

Wahi guides in social justice and equality at social level. Different

Societies provide variety of standards based upon status and criteria using their mental abilities. This limits the justice only to upper strata of society. In contrast to this, Wahi highlights equality in all humans irrespective of gender and status. Everyone is responsible for his deeds, no one will pay another's punishment. Quran explicitly and implicitly declares equality of human beings.

O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes so you can know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous one. Indeed, Allah is knowing and Acquainted.

(Surah Al-Hujarat 49:13)

Similarly, Wahi guides us in promoting peace and tranquillity, and fosters a sense of brotherhood among people. Islam teaches that all humans are members of a single

global family, with their primary bond being their shared humanity and worship of one God. Quran advocates reconciliation and cooperation:

وإن طائفتان من المؤمنين اختلفتا فامسكوا بينهما

“And if two factions among the believers should fight, then make settlement between them.” (Surah Al-Hujarat 49: 09)

At political and economic level:

Wahi not only provides individual and social guidance but also highlights answer related to political and economic level. In governance, wahi guides for just and fair consultation to promote equality and development. Hazrat Muhammad^ﷺ also consulted in every aspect of life throughout his life. Moreover, Wahi presents a clear way to conduct a rule of law and justice for human rights. Many societies conduct rule of law for limited people only but Islam maintains equality for all people.

وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ -
(Quran al-Isra 17:33)

Moreover, Islam emphasizes the fair distribution of wealth by promoting 'zakat' as charity. In this way, money circulates in all hands. The system of Zakat forbids hoarding and accumulation of wealth and gives money to poor people.

"Take, O Muhammad from their wealth a charity by which purify them and cause them to increase." (Surah Taubah 9:103)

Conclusion:

Knowledge acquires through different sources like intuition, sense organs, reason and wahi. However, wahi emphasizes all aspects of life and does not confine to materialistic or spiritual things only. It provides insights and solution related to individual, political, social, and economic aspect of life. In the nutshell, wahi is the ultimate source of guidance for all mankind.