

Islamic Studies

Q what is the difference between Deen and Religion. Elucidate the need and importance of Deen in the Contemporary times.

Answer

1- Introduction:

Deen and Religion are both used in same context usually but they are not same. They are both different in many ways as Deen is divine and Religion is man made. In this contemporary era deen is needed to solve the turmoil in the world. Deen is focused on personal and collective life while religion is focused on individual life. The centre of Deen is man while the centre of Religion is God. These both terms are different in many ways. And in this

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

era deen has gained importance as it gives satisfaction of soul, give hopes and purpose of life and it is pivotal for ethics and morality. Deen gives guard from evil and wrongdoing and is clear message to mankind. Islam is the only deen in sight of Allah. In Quran Allah says;

إِنَّا إِلَهُ الْإِسْلَامِ

"Surely, the only deen in the sight of Allah is Al-Islam."

2. Difference between Deen and Religion:

2.1 Deen:

Deen is an Arabic word which means to attain supremacy. Deen is all embracing term including religion, socio-political and economic system.

2.1.1 Deen is Divine. Deen is revealed by Allah so it is divine and Islam is the only deen acceptable before Allah. Deen Islam provides complete guidance to live this life with peace and to attain eternal success in hereafter. In Quran Allah says,

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

(Al-Quran)

2.1.2 Deen is Monotheistic:

Islam is deen that states only sustainer of the world is Allah. So deen is totally monotheistic.

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2.1.3

Centre of Deen is Man: 'man'

is centre of deen. In deen
islam man is central focus
and everything about him
is clearly explained, and
his status is elevated.

"You are the best
nation among all
as you enjoin right
and forbid wrong."

(Al-Quran)

2.1.4 Based of deen is brotherhood:

Deen
is based on peace, brotherhood,
love and peaceful co-existence.
It encourages mutual
harmony, love and respect.

"All muslims are
brothers for each
other." (Hadith)

2.1.5 Deen develops reason and
intellect:

Deen encourages to

develop intellect and be
rational. Deen islam never
says to be blind follower
of anything it always
encourages man to ponder
and discover new things

"why don't you
Ponder?" This is the
explanation of a Quranic Verse

2.2 Religion:

Religion is a latin word.
It means "Road or Path". Its
meaning include to follow or
to subjugate. Anthropologist
Edwin Tyler defines religion
as;

"To believe in spiritualism
is called Religion."

2.2.1 Religion is Man-made:

Religion
is man-made as there
are various religions in the
world. The terminology refers

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

to a set of beliefs, rituals
and social customs

2.2.2 Religion is Polytheistic:

As Religion
is man-made, it is
polytheistic also. In various
religions there is concept
of more than one Gods.

Dr. Israr Ahmad defines
religion as:

"Religion is combination
of three things: Faiths,
worships and social functions."

2.2.3 centre of Religion is God:-

Religions
are gods-centric mostly because
they only focus on relation-
-ship between God and
man.

Sociologist Emile Durkheim
says; "To practice certain faiths
related to God is called
religion."

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

2.4 Religion is based on Freedom:

Religion fosters freedom and people who believe or follow ^{any} religion have secular school of thought and considers religion a private part of their life. Religion is just a component of deen.

2.2.5 Religion is hostile to science.

Religions have been hostile to science and logic as they prove them wrong. Religions encompass just a few sets of rituals, beliefs and social functions and its scope is not very broad.

As deen encourages logical thinking so it encompasses very broad scope while religion has very limited scope.

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

DeenReligion

1- Divine	Man-made
2- Complete code of life	Incomplete
3- Based on brotherhood	Based on freedom
4- Provides direction	Provides comfort
5- Gives future outlook	Gives historical perspective
6- Supreme law	Private belief
7- Unique	Amendable
8- Target this world and hereafter	Exclusively focus one of two world.
9- Monotheistic	Polytheistic
10- Focus on personal and collective life	Focus on individual life.
11- Centre is man	Centre is God

3. Need and Importance of Deen in contemporary era:

3.1 Deen is needed for human Soul Satisfaction:

Human
Soul finds comfort and satisfaction by the remembrance

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of Allah.
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"Those who believe and whose hearts find comfort in remembrance of Allah. Surely in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find comfort."

— Al-Quran —

3.2 Deen prevents depression and Suicide:

In deen Islam Allah has clearly stated that His mercy is endless and He can forgive all sins. Allah's mercy and blessings prevent man from a state of hopelessness and from committing suicide.

"Spend in the way of Allah and do not cast yourselves into destruction with your own hands."

(Al-Baqrah)

3.3 Deen gives purpose of life:

Deen gives clear direction and purpose to man in his life. His purpose of life to worship Allah and to do good deed for earning Jannah.

"And I did not create Jin and mankind except to worship Me."

(Al-Quran)

3.4 Deen is a shield to protect man from evil:

Deen gives clear guidance to mankind and to earn good in hereafter man resist himself from doing evil things. In this way the fear of Allah prevents him from evil. **Imam**

Shafi said, "There is a verse in Quran that every

wrongdoers should be terrified
of. He was asked, "which
verse is that?" He replied,
"And your Lord never
forgets."

(Maryam: 64)

3.5 Deen is Source of wisdom and knowledge:

Deen

Islam is a great source of
wisdom and knowledge for
mankind. Quran contains
scientific knowledge and
wisdom that must be
explored by mankind. As
Big Bang theory was devised
in 1900s but Quran
revealed the origin of
universe 1400 years ago.
~~and~~ Information about stars,
heavens, earth, sky and
constellation all is
confined in Holy
Quran

4. Conclusion:-

Deen is a very broad term that encompasses all dimensions of life and is a clear message for mankind. Religion consists of a limited set of beliefs, rituals and customs because it is man-made, while deen is revealed by God. Deen is very important for man as it guides mankind and is source of wisdom and knowledge for him.

"The word deen comprehends everything that concerns the servant and his Lord. In this world and hereafter it encompasses both external and internal aspects of human beings."

- Imam Ghazali -