

Qno: 3 Islam provides better rights to men and women than all other religions. Explain with arguments.

① INTRODUCTION:

Islam emerged in the 7th century Arabia as a corrective and reformative deen (system of life). It rejected the inhumane practices prevalent among Christians, Jews and polytheist Arabs in Noyran, Medina and Mecca respectively.

Islam replaced the Christian rigidity and Jewish rigidity with a balanced egalitarian and inclusive system of human rights. The

Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) journey himself was divided into spiritual Makkah and political Medina periods. Thus, Islam granted human rights to all without any discrimination.

It also protected rights of the weakest segments of society such as widows, children, slaves, and orphans.

② Islam Provides Better Rights

(A) Islam Replaced Arabic Tribalism with Universal Equality

Islam replaced the tribalism of polytheist Makkah (Arabia) with universal equality.

Pagans had strong tribal affiliations

and vendettas were prevalent among them.

Islam challenged this tribal exclusivity and

proposed 'ummah' (community) transcending tribes and other distinctions.

"The believers are but brothers". - ﷺ

try to add the arabic of quranic ayats.

(B) Islam Transformed Punishment-oriented

Religions with a Reforms-Based System of Life

The religions before Islam such as Judaism,

Christianity, polytheism, and Hinduism were

all based on physical punishment for individual and

collective reform. Witchining among

christians, sati and Devadasi in

Hinduism, women agnates among Jews

and oppressive slavery among tribal Arab pagans, were all common practice. However, Islam came as a beacon of hope and source of light for all humanity. Islam won the hearts and minds of Arabs through its social, political and economic reforms. The rights of people were ordained by Divine law, not left at the mercy of the powerful tribes, churches or rabbis of Jewish courts.

"Islam gradually reformed the Arabs with a just socio-political moral order" — Muhammad Aad (Islam at the crossroads).

(C) Islam Raised Women's Social Status against All Religions

Among the Christians, the inhumane practice of witchcraft was widespread; whereas, among Jews, women were seen as impure by origin.

However, it was Islam which raised the spiritual and social, political, and economic

keep the description of a single argument a bit brief.

status of women through inheritance rights, right to remarriage & right to pledge directly to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) among others. Their right to divorce was a great achievement in human rights at a time when female infanticide was the norm and among Jews, women cannot remarry until they get permission from their husbands.

"Men have rights over women

, and women, too, have rights over men." — Prophet's sermon.

(D) Islam Dismantled slavery with Human Dignity

Islam did not abolish slavery overnight.

Rather, it repented it by encouraging owners to treat their slaves well.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) encouraged manumission and obligated owners to give their due share in food, clothing, and marriage. Thus,

Islam elevated the status of the most vulnerable social segments of society. Hazrat Bilal, the first muazzin, was an Ethiopian slave.

When ~~slaves~~ were subjected to torture and debtors, too, had no rights. It was Islam which obligated the owner to treat them well.

"Beware! Do not violate the

rights of others" — (ﷺ)

(5) Islam Balanced Rights with Responsibilities

Unlike other Religions:

In Pre-Islamic Arabia, rights and duties depended on tribal norms, not divine law. Judaism, on the other hand, was heavily focused on formalism and ritualism, neglecting humane

treatment for all. Rights and duties only applied to

Jews. However, it was Islam which applied rights and duties to all humans, not just a chosen community.

"You have rights over them,

and they, too, have rights over you" — Prophets' sermon:

(6) Islam Guarantees Divine Rights, not Subject

to Human whims as in Other Religions.

In Islam, rights are guaranteed by Allah himself as absolute and non-negotiable. No human whims or arbitrariness can deny them. However, in Christianity, rights were enforced by church and its Bible scholars. Whereas, in Judaism, ~~it was rabbis or Jewish courts~~ which granted rights to Jews based on its own interpretation of Jewish law. In Hinduism, rights were strictly determined by one's social status or caste. It was Islam which universalized rights for all equally.

"Your life and wealth are as sacred as the day." — Prophet's last sermon.

(7) Islam Granted Social Rights For All

Without Any Discrimination like Other Religions:

Islam guaranteed equal social status to all without any discrimination of caste, region, language, wealth, or even religion.

The universal message of equality and

Human dignity was novel at a time

when the Christians in Noyran (Yemen)

Jews in Medina, and Arab polytheists in Makkah used to tie social rights with superficial masters such as church authorities, Jewish rabbinical courts, and caste-based duties in Hinduism. However, Islam accorded acquired dignity to piety, free from the constraint of human-imposed divisions.

"Indeed, we have honored the children of Adam" — (عَلَيْكُمْ الْمُلْكُ
وَلَكُم مِّنِّي زِيَادًا)

(8) Islam Prioritizes Justice with Ihsan. Unlike Christianity, Judaism, and Hinduism, Islam has prioritized justice with forgiveness, without favoring one at the cost of others. This ensures Ihsan (excellence) in human rights as adl-wa-Ihsan shows that just doing justice is not enough. Rather, moral excellence encourages humans to go above the bare minimum to treat others with kindness. However, in Christianity, forgiveness

is stressed over accountability. Whereas, in Judaism, justice is strongly emphasized while treating forgiveness as secondary. Rights and duties are purely based on *varna* (caste).

However, Islamic law is universal for all.

وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ

"One who does an atom's weight of good will see it." — ﴿الْأَنْعَم﴾

(9) Islam Allowed Freedom of Speech Unlike Other Religions.

At a time when Christians in Norway, Jews in Medina, and Polytheists of Arab in Mecca fought a number of bloody wars and battles for gaining power over one another.

Forced conversions, severe punishments etc.

~~non~~-followers of other religions over minor offenses.

However, Islam came with binding

treaties, written constitution, and protection

clauses for non-believers and people of the

Book. Islam came with kinds of human rights

in a systematic and structured manner.

"There is no compulsion in religion" - القرآن

(i) Islam Rectified Gender Rivalries in Other Religions

In Christianity, women were seen as sinful by origin and had no rights over husbands. Polygamy was prevalent, leaving women exposed to exploitation. Leadership roles were preserved for men. In Judaism, women were chained to abusive husbands (agnot) and had no ~~own~~ rights. Islam enlightened the whole Arabia and restricted polygamy to protect the rights of first wife. However, justice among wives is not optional, but strictly mandatory. Islam made monogamy the safer principle if fairness cannot be ensured.

"The best among you is he who is best to his family" - القرآن

(ii) Islam Protected the Most Vulnerable Groups

Unlike Other Religions

Arab polytheists regarded women as impure and female infanticide was

prevalent at that time: slaves were treated as property, widows could be inherited, and orphans had no real protections. Whereas, in Christianity, widows were left to monasteries to become nuns against their will. In Hinduism, women were burnt alive with their husbands (satyagraha), and Devadasi practices exploited young girls in temples in the name of religious service.

On the other hand, Islam protected the most vulnerable groups with absolute, divine rights.

"The most beloved act to Allah is freeing a slave" — *plus*

(12) Islam Enforced Economic Rights not as Privileges but compulsory

Islam has made economic justice legally binding without leaving it to mere moral preaching.

In Christianity, charity was voluntary and welfare of the financially poor was left

at the mercy of the rich. In Judaism too,

charity was encouraged but not mandatory.

It was Islam which made social welfare

an enforceable duty. The rich were

obligated to help the poor, not as an

act of charity but as an enforceable right

of the poor ✓ over the wealth of the rich.

Islam transformed charity into

rights? — Mawdudi (Islamic law and constitution)

Critical Analysis

Islam corrected the extremes in all religions

from Christianity and Judaism to

Polytheism and Hinduism. Islam refined

the excessive liberalism of Christianity

and outright formalism in Judaism by

striking a middle path (میانی). It neither

promoted rights-only absolute democracy

nor duties-based authoritarianism. It

ties rights with duties, worship with

social responsibility, and morality with

law. Islam thus, came as a corrective and

affirmative religion against all odds.

Conclusion

thus, it could be concluded in the end that Islam reformed and corrected all the odds in previous religions. It replaced agnot and witch hunt with divorce and remarriage rights of women, prioritized manumission over slavery, and altered the caste-based discriminate of Hinduism. Islam granted inheritance rights to women in 7th century Arabia where female infanticide was the norm. Islam sanctified the life, health, and dignity of all humans regardless of their religion, gender, region, race, and other such superficial social markers.

good attempt. but the answer is lengthy and might affect your time management,