

Q Explain in detail the characteristics of Islamic culture.

Islamic Culture

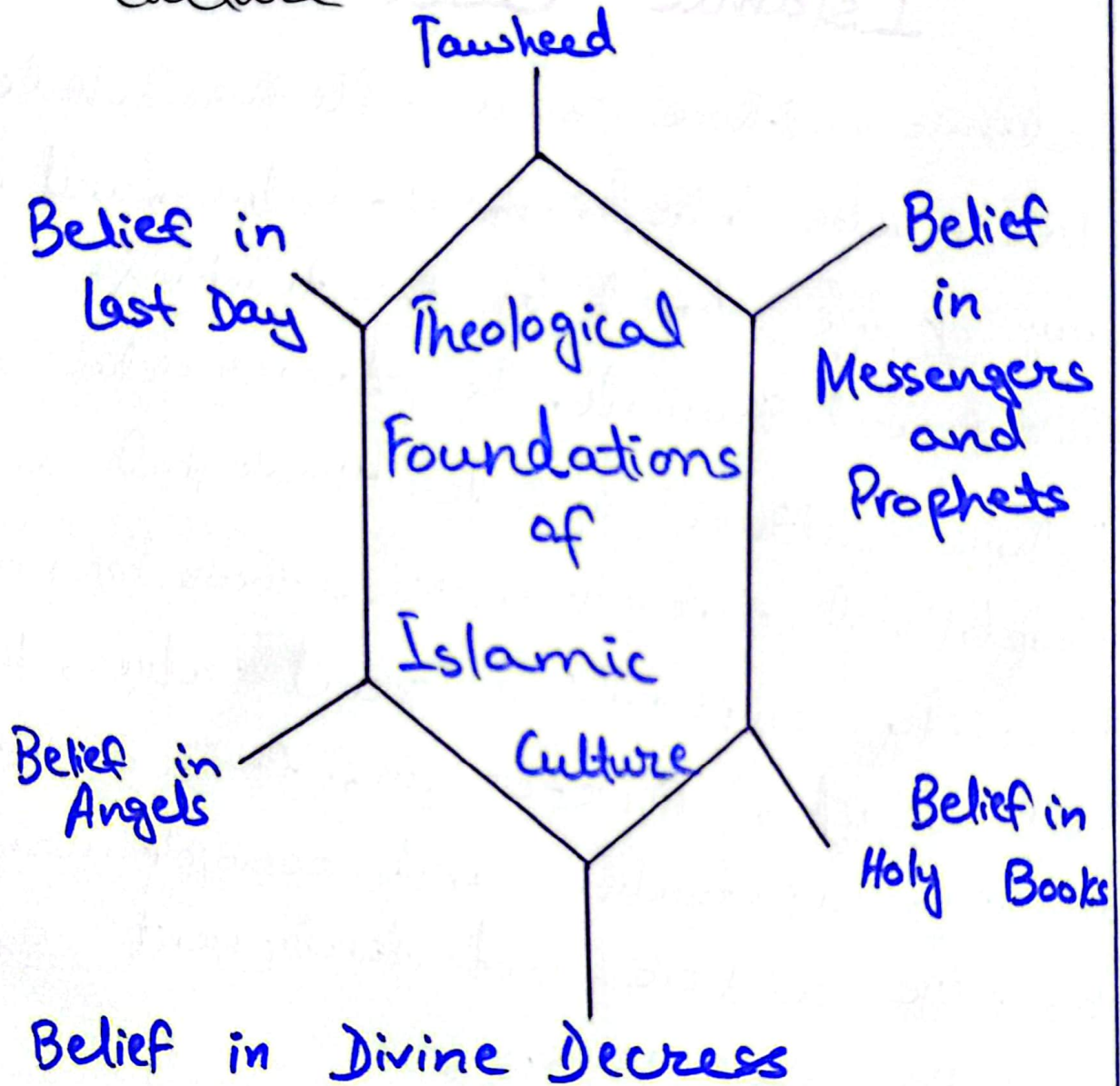
Islamic culture is a collective whole that includes beliefs, morals, values, and a way of life shaped by the teachings of Quran and Sunnah. The characteristics of Islamic culture includes theological and foundational characteristics, focus on moral integrity, emphasis on social values, holistic way of life, divine-origin, focus on spirituality, universalism and cosmopolitanism, knowledge centric and development of aesthetic expressions.

Characteristics of Islamic Culture

1. Theological and Foundational Characteristics
Islamic beliefs like Tawheed, belief in Messengers and prophets, holy books,

last day, angels, and Divine decree provide foundation for Islamic culture.

Fig: Theological Foundations of Islamic Culture



i- Tawheed

Islamic culture is characterized by the belief in oneness and uniqueness of Allah in his powers, attributes and actions.

Allah Almighty says in Glorious Quran

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ه اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ه لَمْ يَلِدْ
وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ه ظَمَّ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ه

(Read) Say, "He is Allah who is one. ~~He~~
Allah, the Eternal Refuge.
He neither begets, nor is
born, nor to him is any
equivalent." (Surah Al-Akhlās)

ii- Belief in Messengers and Prophets

Islamic culture is characterized by

belief in Messengers and prophets.

Allah Almighty says in Glorious Quran

"They (believers) proclaim 'We
make no distinction between
any of his messengers.'"

(Surah Al-Baqarah)

iii. Belief in the Last Day

Muslims believe that all humans will be reborn by the Creator of Universe on the Day of Resurrection and will be held accountable before Allah Almighty for all their deeds in this mortal life ^{which they have done} and on the basis of that judgement they will go to either Jannah or Jahannam.

iv. Belief in Angels

Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran

“Righteousness is in one who believes in Allah and in the Last Day, **angels**, holy books, and prophets.”

(Surah Al-Baqarah)

v. Belief in Holy Books

Islamic culture is characterized by belief in Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran

“Say, We have believed in Allah and what was revealed on Ibrahim (A.S.), Isahq (A.S.), Ismail

Torah,
Zaboor,
Injeel and
Holy Quran

(A.S.), Yaqoob (A.S), and their descendants, and what was revealed on Moza (A.S), Isa (A.S) and other prophets from their Lord."

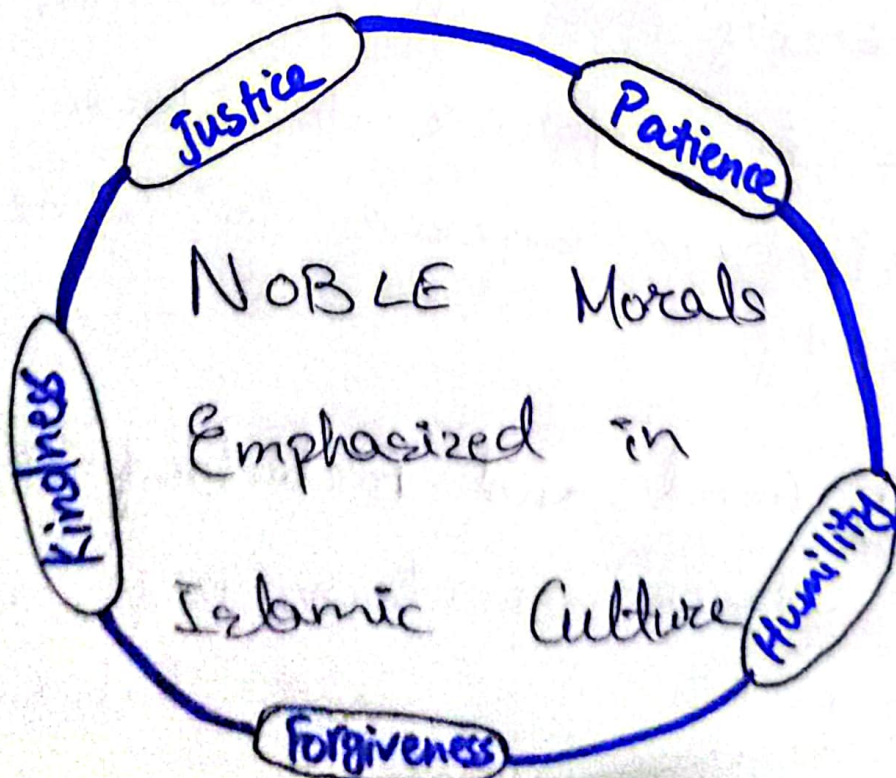
(Al-Quran)

vi- Belief in Divine Decree

Islamic culture is also characterized by the belief in Divine Decree: Allah has ordained everything that happens in the universe according to his foreknowledge and nothing happens without his will.

2- Focus on Moral Integrity

Fig: Noble Morals Emphasized in Islamic Culture



Islamic culture emphasizes on noble morals as practised by Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.).

Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran

“Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you will find perfect example.”

(Surah Al-Ahzab)

3- Emphasis on Social Values

Islamic culture emphasizes on social values:

i- Equality: The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) says

“An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab and a non-Arab has no superiority over an Arab, neither a white is superior to Black nor a Black is superior to white except for piety.”

ii- Enjoining Good and Forbidding Evil

Islamic culture considers it a collective duty to enjoin good and forbid evil.

Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran

“You are the best community ever raised for humanity, you enjoin good, forbid evil and believe in Allah.”

(Surah Al-e-Imran)

4. Holistic Way of Life

Islamic culture integrates spiritual, physical, mental and emotional, and social dimensions into a unified framework. For instance,

Islamic culture gives utmost significance to offering prayers five times a day and remembrance of Allah which instills

inner peace in an individual and also cultivates discipline in society. Allah Almighty says

in Glorious Quran

“Surely, it is in the remembrance of Allah that these hearts find comfort.”

Surah Ar-Raad
Verse 28

5. Divine-Origin

It is not a man-made culture. It is derived from Holy Quran and Sunnah (teachings of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.)).

6. Focus on Spirituality

Islamic culture focuses on inner purification (Tahiyg-e-Nafs) and ^{raising sense of} accountability in an individual for his actions before Allah Almighty.

7. Universalism and Cosmopolitanism

Islamic culture transcends racial, linguistic and geographic boundaries. It unifies all believers under the umbrella of Islam. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) says "The believers are like one body. If one of the limbs suffers,

the whole body responds to it with fever and consciousness."

(Sahih Muslim)

8. Development of Aesthetic Expressions

Islamic culture developed aesthetic expressions that reflect divine nature like Calligraphy, arabesque and magnificent courtyards of mosques.

9. Knowledge Centric

Islamic culture emphasizes on seeking knowledge. First revelation of Holy Quran

R. **اقْرَأْ بِسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ**

Read in the name of your Lord who created.

(Surah Alaq Verse 1)

Concluding Thoughts

Islamic culture is a collective whole that includes beliefs, values, morals, and a holistic way of life. The characteristics

of Islamic culture include divine-origin,
knowledge centric, development of aesthetic
expressions, and universalism and cosmopolitanism.
