

Q) What is Islam and elaborate the salient features of Islam?

Ans) Origin of the word "Islam"

Literal Meaning

Islam is derived from an arabic word "S I M" which means peace, submission or surrender.

Contextual Meaning

In this context, Islam means "To enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah" and it can also mean "Submission of all desires to the will of Allah"

Shariah Meaning

According to Shariah, Islam is meant by:

"Voluntarily entering in peace by submitting to the will of Allah"

We have to notice the addition of the word "Voluntarily" since it has been emphasised several times in the Quran, for example:

"There is no compulsion in religion"
Surah Al-Baqra (2:256)

According to this Quranic reference, there is no force or "jabar" in Islam and all of mankind must submit to the will of Allah without any external force.

Ibne Khaldun quotes:

"Islam is the submission to the will of Allah and acceptance of His Law"

Quite simply, he has pointed out that acting according to Allah's desires and following His Law is the key to true understanding of Islam.

Prophet (S.A.W) remarks

The prophet (S.A.W) states that two key acts encompass the meaning of Islam. First is the acceptance of Allah and His Law and Prophet (S.A.W). Second is the

establishment of the five pillars of Islam.

Scholarly renewal

Dr Hamid Allah states that

"Islam is a monotheist deen"

According to Dr Hamid Allah, Islam where is meant ~~of~~ by acceptance of one GOD (Allah) and total followance of his Law.

Salient F

Islam is meant for all of mankind

The best and key feature of Islam is its unprecedented guidance for all human beings. It is not confined to any, specific time period, geography or ethnicity. It is unprecedented because religions before Islam were meant for following during that time period only or only people from a specific geography like India in

Hinduism were accepted as part of the followers. Moreover, in Judaism, people from a certain ethnicity are considered as true followers unlike Islam where people are from all background fall under the blessed one umbrella.

"This day, we have perfected your religion for you"
(Quran)

This Quranic reference perfectly sums up the above the paragraphs because it shows the righteous nature of the religion: Islam.

Salient Features of Islam:

Tauheed / Oneness of Allah

This is the belief in oneness of Allah. This

Unique aspect sets Islam apart from all other religions practising of many gods

"^{الله} لا اله الا الله"

(Kalma Tayyaba) (Quran)

The first part of the Kalma Tayyaba explicitly defines the one of Allah. Furthermore, in Surah Ikhlaas, the oneness of Allah is reiterated several times.

Seal of Prophets

The Prophet (S.A.W) has been given exalted status in Islam as the seal of prophet.

"And we have not sent you (O Muhammad) except as a mercy to mankind"

(Quran)

This reference states Allah sent Prophet (S.A.W) as a blessing

and mercy to mankind.

"Verily, I have been sent as a teacher to mankind"
(Hadis)

After Shariah law, Prophet (SAW)'s ~~teach~~ guidance and educational teachings ~~are shown~~ act as a source of light for all of mankind.

Dignified nature of mankind

Allah states in the Quran

"And we have made mankind the best"

(Quran)

Mankind has been bestowed with a such status of being complete and wise contrary to all other species.

Justice

Islam provides a comprehensive list of Shariah rules which provide us with the vital knowledge of all courses of actions to take in case of ~~confli~~ internal ^{or} external conflicts.

Guidance in all areas

From child birth, upbringing, personality molding, social systems, Islam provides the necessary guidance. From azan at ~~the~~ child birth to ~~the~~ funeral rites at time of death, Islam acts as a source knowledge.

Social Care:

The ~~And~~ Quran states it is mandatory for all Muslims to pray and give zakat which helps the Ummah become more

United as all people from all walks of life are feel united and taken care of.

Consultation

Islam encourages people to sit and think in groups and consult each other before taking big actions.

This collective wisdom encourages thoughtful thinking and prevents wrongdoing.

Peace

In Surah Yunus, Allah declares Islam as the home of peace. Islam encourages peaceful interactions with all of mankind countering the aggressive nature of other religions. If we talk about ancient times, people used

to do cruel acts and destroy cities during wars but Islam give a list of rules to follow during wars which has garnered it much appreciation.

In conclusion, it is stated that Islam is meant by submission to the will of Allah, voluntarily and its salient features include but are not limited to Tauheed, prophethood, guidance in all areas, social care, justice, consultation and peace. It's peaceful nature dictates

"For you is your deen, for us
tor is our deen"

(Quran)