

Q: Explain the basic difference between Deen and Religion, and describe the mutual influences of Islam and world religions in establishing superior relations.

Ans: **Introduction:**

The role of religion in shaping human civilization cannot be overstated, as it has guided beliefs, moral values, and social organization throughout history. Among all religious systems, Islam stands out by presenting a complete Din, a holistic framework governing belief, worship, ethics, law and social conduct. This comprehensive nature is emphasized in the Quran: "Indeed the Din with Allah is Islam" (Al-Imran), which underscores total submission to divine authority rather than

adherence to a limited set of rituals. Unlike man-made or partially developed religious systems, Islam integrates both spiritual and worldly dimensions under divine guidance, as explained by Abul A'la Maududi, who highlights that Islam regulates all aspects of human life (Towards Understanding Islam). The Quran also contrasts its framework with other belief systems, recognizing shared moral principles such as justice, compassion, and accountability (An-Nahl) while maintaining clear theological distinctions with religions like Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Recognizing these similarities and differences is crucial for understanding Islam's universal message, its guidance for righteous human conduct, and

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its framework for promoting justice and ethical harmony among diverse religious communities as emphasized in the Quran:

"We have sent you as a mercy to all worlds" (Al-Anbiya)

Commonalities Between Islam And World Religions:

Belief In A Supreme Reality:

A fundamental common feature among most world religions is the belief in supreme power or ultimate reality governing the universe. Whether in Abrahamic traditions such as Judaism and Christianity or in Eastern religions in modified forms, the idea of a higher authority exists. Islam confirms that this belief was originally rooted in divine guidance given to all nations, as the Quran states in the middle of its discourse: "And we certainly sent into everyone nation a messenger saying, 'Worship Allah and avoid false gods' (An-Nahl).

This verse indicates that monotheism was the original

message of all prophets, although it was later altered in some traditions. Hence, Islam views the belief in God found in other religions as a shared foundation, while also correcting deviations that emerged over time.

Moral And Ethical Teachings:

Another significant commonality is the emphasis on moral and ethical conduct. Almost all religions promote values such as honesty, justice, compassion, and respect for others to maintain social harmony. Islam acknowledges these universal moral principles and integrates them into its divine system. The Quran explicitly declares in this regard: "Indeed, Allah commands justice, excellence, and giving to relatives, and forbids immorality, wrongdoing and

oppression" (An-Nahl). By placing this command at the center of its moral framework, Islam recognizes that ethical teachings are not unique to one religion but are a shared human heritage aimed at establishing a just and balanced society.

Concept Of Accountability:

The belief that human actions have consequences is another shared element among religions. Many belief systems teach reward for good deeds and punishment for wrongdoing, though the nature of accountability differs. Islam affirms this universal notion of moral responsibility when the Quran states: "So where does an atom's weight of good will see it" (Al-Zalzalah).

This verse reinforces the idea that accountability is precise and unavoidable, reflecting a principle already present in other religions and thereby creating a moral link between Islam and global religious thought.

Human Dignity And Respect:

Respect for human dignity is another area where Islam and world religions converge. Most religious ~~to~~ traditions emphasize the worth of human life and the need for mutual respect. Islam strongly endorses this principle, as stated in the Quran: "And we have certainly honored the children of Adam" (Al-Isra). By declaring human honor as divinely granted, Islam provides a universal basis for

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human rights and ethical relations, aligning itself with the shared moral conscience of humanity.

Emphasis On Peace And Social Harmony:

A shared feature among Islam and many world religions is the emphasis on peace, coexistence, and social harmony.

Religious teachings generally aim to reduce conflict and promote stability within society. Islam affirms this objective by instructing believers: "And if they incline to peace, then incline to it as well" (Al-Anfal).

This verse highlights that Islam values reconciliation and peaceful relations, reflecting a common religious commitment to harmony and mutual understanding among communities.

Differences Between Islam And Other Religions

Concept Of God (Tawhid)

Despite shared belief in a supreme deity, Islam differs fundamentally in its concept of God. Islam upholds absolute monotheism, rejecting any form of association, incarnation, or division in divine unity. The Quran clarifies this central belief by stating in the middle of its exposition: "He is Allah, the One... He neither begets nor is born, nor is there to Him any equivalent" (Al-Akhlās). This uncompromising monotheism distinguishes Islam from religions that attribute divine qualities to humans, idols, or multiple deities.

Finality Of Prophethood:

Another major difference lies in the concept of Prophethood. Islam declares Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) as the final Messenger, bringing a completed and Universal message. The Quran explicitly affirms this doctrine when it states: "Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets" (Al-Ahzab). This belief establishes the finality and permanence of Islamic guidance, unlike other religions that await new Prophets or divine manifestations.

Preservation Of Revelation:

Islam also differs from other religions in the preservation of its sacred text. While previous scriptures underwent alteration due to human interference, the Quran claims divine protection. This assurance is stated clearly in the

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Quran: "Indeed, We have sent down the Reminder, and surely We will guard it" (Al-Hijr). This preservation ensures consistency and authenticity in Islamic teachings, making Islam a stable and reliable source of divine guidance.

Comprehensive Way Of Life:

Unlike many religions that focus primarily on spiritual or ritual aspects, Islam offers a comprehensive system governing personal, social, legal, and political life. The Quran highlights this comprehensive nature by declaring: "Then We put you on a clear way of command, and so follow it" (Al-Jathiyah). This verse indicates that Islam is not merely a faith but a complete Din that provides

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guidance for all dimensions of human existence.

Universality Of Message:

Finally, Islam differs in the universality of its message. Many religions are confined to specific ethnic or geographical groups, whereas Islam addresses all humanity without distinction. The Quran affirms this universal mission by stating: "And We have not sent you except as a mercy to all the worlds" (Al-Anbiya). This universal outlook enables Islam to engage constructively with other religions while maintaining its distinct identity.

Conclusion:

Islam emerges as a complete Din that integrates

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belief, morality, law, and social order. While recognizing shared ethical and spiritual values with other religions, it maintains clear distinctions through Tawhid, finality of Prophethood, and universality. This balanced approach enables Islam to promote justice and harmony without compromising its core principles. The Quran encapsulates this essence: "This day I have perfected for you your Din, completed My favor upon you, and Chosen Islam as your Din" (Al-Maidah)

