

Concept of Islam:-

The basic concept of Islam is that the whole universe was created by Allah and who is the Lord and Sovereign of the universe which he alone sustains. He created man and appointed for each human being a fixed period of life that he is to spend upon the earth. Allah has prescribed a certain code of life as the correct mankind but has the same time conferred upon man the freedom of choice as to whether or not he adopts his code as the actual basis of his life. One who chooses to follow the code revealed by Allah becomes a Muslim (believer) and one who refuses to follow it becomes a Kafir (disbeliever).

Exposition of Religion of Islam:-

Ahmad A. Galwash in his book "The Religion of Islam" has summarized the concept of Islam as under

The word Islam which literally signifies resignation (to God's will) is a comprehensive name commonly applied to the religion of the followers of the prophet

Muhammad. It embodies the various sections of the law of Muhammad which Allah has established for the guidance of his people both for the worship of their Lord and for the duties of life.

These sections are five in numbers.

i Beliefs

ii Practice devotion

iii Transaction

iv Moralities

v Punishments

Beliefs:- five articles of faith

Beliefs embrace the five articles of the faith of Muhammad namely belief in 1) God 2) His angles 3) His books 4) His prophets 5) The day of resurrection.

Devotion / worship:- five pillars of Islam are subdivided into five articles of Practice.

- 1) Recital of creed (Kallimah)
- 2) Prayers of Allah (Salat)
- 3) Paying legal aims (Zakat)
- 4) Fasting the month of Ramadan (Saum).
- 5) Pilgrimage (Hajj).

Transactions:-

include such duties as are required between man and man and may be divided into three sub-divisions namely ① contracts ② nuptials ③ securities. Almost all various sections of civil Jurisprudence relating to barter, sale

agency, larceny, marriage, divorce, dower, partnership, claims etc are embraced under those three heads.

Moralities:-

embrace the consideration of all those moral excellences which are enjoined in the Quran and in the teachings of the prophet such as sincerity, confidence in Allah; Humility; Resignation; keeping worldly ambitions within bounds; giving good council and advice, contentment; Liberty; Love to Allah and man; Patience; ethical instructions and rules of conduct relating to.

Punishments:

- 1) Penalties exacted for manslaughter or serious bodily injuries.
- 2) Punishment for theft by the loss of a hand.
- 3) Punishment for fornication and adultery: stoning for a married person and one hundred lashes for an unmarried person.
- 4) Punishment for slander by eighty lashes.
- 5) Punishment for apostasy by death.
- 6) Punishment for inebriation by eighty lashes.

Islam can be understood in three ways.

1. Literal meaning
2. Contextual meaning
3. Scholarly definition

Literal meaning:-

Islam is an Arabic word derived from the root **SLM**, which means peace, safety, and submission. The literal meaning of Islam is peace through obedience and surrender to Allah. The old name of Islam is Deen-e-Hanif, which means believing in One Allah. This was the religion of Muhammad (SAW). The word Islam also conveys the meaning of Peace (Aman-o-Salamati) and submission, which means complete obedience to the commands of Allah.

Surah Al-Baqarah (2:131) ^{لَدَىٰ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ} اذْ قَالَ لَهُ رَبُّهُ اَسْلِمْ قَالَ اَسْلَمْتُ

"When his Lord said to him, 'Submit (Aslim)' he said, 'I have submitted myself to the Lord of the worlds'."

Surah ^{Yunus} An-Nam (10:25) قَالَهُ يَدْعُوا إِلَىٰ دَارِ السَّلَامِ

"Allah invites to the ~~house~~ home of Peace (Dar-us-Salam)."

Contextual meaning:-

Islam means entering into peace by submitting to the will of Allah. It refers to the complete submission of a person's desires, thoughts and actions according to Allah's guidance. When a human being molds

his wishes in accordance with divine commands, this act is called Islam. In this way, Islam is not only a religion but a way of life that brings inner peace and harmony.

Surah Aal-e-Imran (3:19)

"Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam (i.e. Submission)".

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

Islam and Shariah:-

Islam teaches the acceptance of faith must be voluntary and free from force. A person enters the peaceful circle of Islam by his own will. The Quran clearly states in Surah

Al-Baqarah (2:256)

"that there is no compulsion in religion".

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ

Surah Al-Kafirun (109:6) emphasize religious freedom by declaring

"For you in your religion and for me is mind".

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِي دِينِ

Scholarly definition

According to the Hadith of Jibreel, Islam is a combination of belief and practice. A person must first testify to the oneness of Allah and the prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH) and then practice five pillars of Islam which are **Kalms**. To justify that none has the right to be worshiped but Allah and Muhammad is Allah's apostle.

Zakat: To pay Zakat

Salah: To pray offer the Prayers dutifully and Perfectly.

Hajj: To perform hajj.

Roza: To observe fast during the month of Ramadan.

Islam is therefore not limited to belief alone; it requires practical implementation of faith in daily life. The importance of salah is highlighted in a hadith where the prophet (PBUH) said that

"Salah differentiates a believer from a disbeliever."

Dr. Hameedullah: define islam as a monotheistic religion revealed to prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Imam Ghazali: explain that islam consist of Haqq-ul-Allah (rights of Allah) and Haqq-ul-Ibad (rights of human beings). Showing the balance between worship and social responsibilities.

Sadr-ud-Din Islahi: states that islam is based on faith and worship, meaning true belief must be accompanied by righteous actions.

Shah Waliullah Dehlawi: describe islam as a religion that aim to purify human beliefs, actions, and morals and to establish balance between spiritual and worldly life. He emphasizes that islam reforms both the individual & society.

Islam as a universal Deen:

- it is not limited for a specific time.
- it is not confined to a specific geography.

- It is not limited to a specific ethnicity.
- It guide is every aspect of life.
- So it is valid for all ages and all regions of the world. The gathering of muslims from different countries during hajj clearly reflects its universality. Islam is not confined to a particular ethnicity; unlike some religions that are based on birth, islam is open to all people. Moreover, it provides complete guidance in every aspect of life including moral, social, economic and political affairs.

Islam for entire mankind:

Islam is meant for the entire mankind and presents an ideal system of life for all human beings. The central theme of the quran is humanity, and many verses begin with the address "O mankind." This shows that the message of islam is universal.

In Surah Al-maida (5:32) and the meaning is

"The quran declares that killing one innocent person is like killing all humanity, and saving one life is like saving all humanity."

This verse highlights that sanctity of human life and proves that islam is a religion of peace, justice and compassion for all.

The message of islam is for the entire human race. God in islam is the

God of all the world (al-Quran 1:1) and the Prophet is a messenger for the whole of mankind. In the words of Quran

"O people! I am the messenger of God to you all." (7:158).

In Islam all men are equal whatever be their colour, language, race or nationality. Islam addresses itself to the conscience of humanity and banishes all false barriers of race, status and wealth. Islam removes all these impediments and proclaims the idea of the whole of humanity being one family of God.

The holy prophet said:

"O Lord! Lord of my life and of everything in the universe! I affirm that all human beings are brothers to one another."

Complete Record is Preserved:

The teaching of Islam have been preserved in their original form and God's guidance is available without adulteration of any kind. The Quran is the revealed book of God which has been in existence for the last fourteen

hundred years ago and the word of God is available in its original form.

Surah Al-Hijr (15:9)

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّزْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

"Indeed we ourselves have sent down the reminder (the Quran) and surely we will guard it."

This verse clearly shows that Allah himself has taken responsibility to protect the Quran which is why it remains unchanged and preserved from the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) until today.

Conclusion:-

Islam is a complete and universal way of life that bring peace through submission to the will of Allah. It is based on free choice as there is no compulsion in religion. Islam is not limited to any race, place or time, rather it is

for the whole of mankind.
its teachings cover all aspects
of life including faith,
worship, morals and social justice.
The Quran which is the main
source of islamic guidance is
preserved in its original form
by Allah himself. Therefore islam
is a monotheistic, preserved and
comprehensive religion that provide
guidance for both individual
and collective life.
