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Friday

## Assignment

Q What is Islam, Elaborate its Salient features?

### Answer

INTRODUCTION: Islam is a complete code of life. It comprises of beliefs, worships, rights and duties. It is divine religion revealed upon the Last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the Arabia in 7<sup>th</sup> century. It is holistic in nature as it comprises and covers every aspect of life, either individual or collective life. Its unique as its characteristics hardly found in other in religions. It is preferred to call Islam as deen instead of religion.

### Meaning of Islam

\* Literary Meaning: The word "Islam" is an Arabic word. its root word is "slm". In any Arabic word, having these three letters would mean "Peace", "Submission" and "Surrender" and also "Obedience".

Contextual Meaning: The Islam means  
"To enter in peace by submitting to the  
will of Allah."

And it also means  
"Submission of desires to the will of Allah."

According to the Deen of Islam:

The word "Islam" means: "Verily submission  
of the desires to the will of Allah."

Definitions of Islam

By Different Scholars

The Holy Prophet (PBUH): "Islam is a  
combination of two things..."

1. Bear witness of Allah Almighty  
and His Messenger.

2. Practice the pillars of Islam."

Imam Ghazali: Islam is the comb  
of Rights of Allah and Rights  
of people."

## Molana Sadar-ud-din Islahi:

He stated that "Islam is the combination of faiths and worships"

## Imam Raghīb Al-Isfahomī (1108): He

stated in his - Mufaradat-e-fi-Gharāib al-Quran - that "Islam is the combination of two things ① Confession of belief with the tongue and confession of belief in the heart and fulfilment in practice and resignation to God in whatever he brings to Pass or decrees."

Conclusively, Islam is comprised of beliefs - belief in Allah, in Prophets - particularly in The Holy Prophet (PBUH), in angels, in divine book - such as Holy Quran, in life hereafter, worships - Kalma, prayer, good deeds, pilgrimage, alms (giving), fasts, and rights and responsibilities along with duties.

# Salient features of Islam.

## 1 Touheed : The Core belief of Islam

Islam's one of salient features is Touheed. Touheed means believing in Allah the Almighty in all his attributes. Islam is the only religion which possesses purest form of touheed while other religions such as Christianity and Judaism deem peoples & prophets as son of God.

The importance of Touheed can be estimated from the following Hadees:

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said ---

"Islam is a fort and the gate of the fort is Touheed"

The Touheed can be best defined in the Holy Quran as

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝ وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۝

Translation:

'Say, He is Allah, The one.  
Allah, The Absolute.

He begets not, nor was he begotten.  
And there is nothing comparable to Him.

(Al-Qura'an 112)

## 2/ Risalat: The Prophethood

Islam is the only religion which is preached by the chosen of persons of Allah Almighty. Those chosen persons are known as Prophets. It also believes in the finality of Prophethood by The Last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as once The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said "Risalat is the wall of Islam and I am its last brick, now the wall is completed."

The Prophet (PBUH) is the role model for all of humanity. His whole life is full of lessons and guided steps to guide us in all spheres of life - either it is personal issue, or collective issue. It guides as light directs the path.

## 3/ Divine Origin: Islam is the religion divinely originated. It is not human made, nor a human mind can make such a holistic religion. Although, Before the Holy Quran, the Divine books such as Torah, Injeel and Zaboor were revealed but these books are not in their original formation while the

The Holy Quran is. It is because Allah is in the Quran

ثَانِحِن نَزَلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَ اَنَا لَهُ لِحٰقِقُونَ  
"Indeed, we revealed this zikr (Quran) on we are its guardians"  
(Al-Qura'an)

4/ Unique Name: Islam possesses a unique name which has the crux of the whole deen - Peace and Submission. While other religions such as Budhaim name after its founder (Gutam Bhudda, ~~Chri~~)

5/ Complete Code of life :

Islam is practical deen, it does not only insist for worships, even that also gives complete guidance in every aspect of life from birth, upbringing, character building to family building. It also provides differ systems of life such as political system - Khalifa-e-Rashdeen, administrative system, economic system, judiciary and social life. The Quran is filled with ayats which guide in all these sphere

Promotes Humanity: Islam promotes humanity. Humanity can be defined as the natural positive instincts that are innately in every being. Islam - a whole deen, pro- rights and duties of everyone to everyone. It provides rights of humans to humans and rights of surrounding such as an environment, things - water etc.

As The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said About water:

"Don't waste water, if you are sitting in a running stream!"  
(Hadith)

About Plants:

"Don't cut a tree, even if you are in case of war"

The Holy Quran says

... اِحْسِنْ كَمَا اِحْسَنَ اللّٰهُ اِلَيْكَ ...  
"Do good to others and as God has been (done) good to you"  
(Al-Quran 28:77)

The word "others" can mean any such as animals, humans, things needed for life - water, money, other goods etc.

7// Dignity of Mankind: Islam gives dignity to the humans that none of the religion nor the humans themselves give to themselves. Islam says the Humans as greatest of all creatures. Allah dignifies humans as ...

... لئن لم يكن جاعل في الارض خليفة ...  
Indeed, I make upon the earth a vicegerant.  
Allah Almighty in another place in Holy Quran says ...

لقد خلقنا الانسان في احسن تقويم.  
Indeed, we created humans in best composition.  
(AlQuran)

8// Concept of Human Brotherhood / Fraternity

Islam gives the concept of human brotherhood. It says Muslims are brothers to each other. As it says ...

Translation:

Indeed, we created you from Adam and Eve.  
The History of Islam is filled with examples of brotherhood such as when the Muslims of Makkah migrated to Madina. The Muslims of Madina provided them and shelter and shared own wealth with them.

Islam gives  
names of  
others

justice. The last sermon of Holy Prophet (PBUH) gave lesson of brotherhood and equality irrespective of creed, colour, language & location.

### 9// Balance in worldly and spiritual life:

Islam does not say to just worship Allah and leave everything, sit all the day on prayer mat in the mosque. It promotes balance not extremism. It encourages to get the share of this world as Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran

Translation:

"And forget not your portion of legal enjoyment of this world...."

(AlQuran 28: 77)

10// Universally Applicable: Islam is not specific to time, to ethnicity, nor even to any geographic. It is universal. It is for all. It does not discriminate on basis of geography and ethnicity. It was revealed in 7th century and still continue in its original form. While before Islam, religions were specific to the geography or ethnicity - such as Hazrat Musa (A.S) & Hazrat Shoaib (A.S) were preached in different places at same time.

## 11 Message of Universal Peace:

Islam gives the message of universal peace. It does not promote any kind of violence and terror. It promotes and emphasizes the peace. As the word Islam itself means Peace.

However, The tranquility of mind is also lies in the Islam. as Allah says in the Holy Quran ...

إِذَا بَدَأَ اللَّهُ تَخَلُّفَ الْقُلُوبِ  
"Indeed, with the remembrance of Allah,  
the hearts will do rest!

(Al-Quran)

Conclusion: Islam is the complete code of life which covers all the aspects of life. It promotes peace over violence. It gives satisfaction and tranquility to humans. It is easy to follow as it is based on human nature. It is divine. & will always be in its original form.