

# Meaning & Concept of Islam

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)

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

## Surah Al-Anam (6:125)

"Allah invites to the <sup>home</sup> house 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]."

## 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"

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

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

## 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

**Kalima:** To testify 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 Perfe

**Haji:** 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 Huqooq-ullah (rights of Allah) and Huqooq-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 Dehlavi:** 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:

Islam is a universal religion because

- 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)

"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.