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Q.2

Introduction

The doctrine of Touheed in Islam states that Allah is one and He does not have any partners - The essence of Islam is based on this doctrine. Belief in the oneness of Allah is the fundamental principle of Islam. It is the first pillar of Islam, without belief in the doctrine of Touheed, one cannot enter the fold of Islam. The importance of Tauheed in human life can be judged from the fact that without it, there is no sense of direction in it life and there is no fear of the creator of this world.

The doctrine of Touheed in Islam

i) Belief in the oneness of Allah

The doctrine of Touheed is based on the belief in the

Oneness of Allah. In accordance with this doctrine, no partner is to be associated with Allah. Allah's absoluteness is established as a result of this doctrine.

(ii) Belief in the Supremacy of Allah

Based on this doctrine, Allah's supremacy is established. He is held as the most supreme stature and no one is compared to Him or brought on His level.

(iii) Belief in Allah's All-encompassing nature

The belief in the oneness of Allah also encompasses Allah's control over everything and His oversight in all spheres of life.

(iv) Belief in Allah's magnanimity

Tauheed also contains

Allah's generous nature in its essence. It entails that Allah has a fair and forgiving approach towards It is creations.

Importance of Tauheed in human Life

i) Creates fear of Allah

Tauheed creates fear of Allah by making the muslims realize that they would have to return to One, single God.

ii) Develops obedience to Allah

The doctrine of Tauheed develops obedience to Allah by making people pious and devout. This keeps them away from sins and

puts them on the right path.

iii) **Inculcates love for Allah**

Tauheed inculcates love for Allah by making one thankful to Him for His blessings and bounties. People are grateful to this sole Creator for His generosity and kindness.

iv) **Enables a person to lead a righteous life**

The principle of Tauheed makes a person lead a righteous and balanced life. It encourages a person to not deviate from the correct and most suitable path.

v) **Keeps away from atheism**

Belief in the oneness

of Allah keeps a person away from atheism - Atheism leads to a lack of faith in divinity or any God. Tawheed prevents this from happening.

The first Kalma of Islam

لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

"There is no God but Allah, and Holy Prophet (pbuh) is his Prophet."

Thus, the first Kalima of Islam expresses the principle of Tawheed, which is the bedrock of Islam.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the principle of Tawheed is essential to lead a holistic and complete life. The doctrine

inculcates a fear of Allah in the hearts of the Muslims and encourages them to lead a righteous and enlightened life; free from sins and wrong-doings.

Q3   Introduction

Islam enjoins peaceful co-existence with different religions and belief systems. It encourages the muslims to establish a cordial relationship with people from different faiths. Islam is a rational religion as such it realizes the importance of harmony and amity with a diverse set of people and nations. Peaceful co-existence can tranform the society by making it more progressive and constructive. It also does this by ensuring the general well-being of people.

The concept of Peaceful Coexistence in the teaching of Islam

i)   The Charter of madina

The Charter of madina delineates the concept of peaceful co-existence with people belonging to different faiths. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) through the charter

of madina encouraged the muslims to live harmoniously with the Jews and Christians of madina. This ensured the well-being of all in the state of madina, after muslim's migration to it.

ii. Ensuring the rights of all
The concept of peaceful co-existence in Islam ensures that the rights of all are protected. There is no discrimination or injustice on the basis of a person's religion, caste, or creed.

iii. The Last Sermon of Holy Prophet (pbuh)
The last sermon of Holy Prophet (pbuh) was a blueprint of human rights and peaceful co-existence with people representing different faiths and religions.

iv. The Treaty of Hudaibiya
The treaty of Hudaibiya was a model of upholding the concept

of peaceful co-existence in
Islam. The Holy Prophet (pbuh)
through his wisdom and peaceful
nature established harmonious relations
with people from all walks of life.

How peaceful co-existence can transform the society

i) Enabling a progressive
Society
     Peaceful co-existence can tranform
the society by helping it progress and
prosper. When there are less disagreement
in the society, there would more
constructive work and progress.

ii) Building tolerance in society
          when people belonging to
different religions, ethnicities nationalities
live together in a peaceful manner
they are able to develop tolerance and
regard for each other. This makes them
accomodating and inclusive members of the

society

(iii) **Increasing collaboration**
Living peacefully also increases collaboration among diverse people. This increases creativity and productivity within the society.

(iv) **Making the society more God-fearing**
As a result of peaceful co-existence, the society develops a fear of Allah in it's/peoples hearts and this makes it more pious

(v) **Ensuring balance in society**
Living in a harmonious manner ensures that the society is able to develop a balance within it's structure. This also ensures the overall betterment of the society.

(vi) **Improving understanding of religions**
By co-existing peacefully, understanding of different religions is developed. This understanding removes doubts about religions which are different

from one's own and leads to peace and harmony.

vii) moving the society towards equality

The society becomes more equal as a result of peacefully co-existing with communities and people different from itself. The decreases injustices and discrimination in the society and moves it closer to realizing its potential.

Conclusion

Islam emphasizes on peaceful co-existence to make not only the Islamic Civilization but also other civilizations progressive and prosperous. It also goes without saying that peaceful co-existence transforms the society in a positive manner.

Introduction

The main features and principles of the Islamio political system pertain to the principle of Tauheed, Vicegerency of Allah, Consultation, and democracy. Through its political system, Islam aims to make the muslim ummah a welfare state in which the rights of every individual are protected, irrespective of their social status and economic position. These principles provide solutions to the contemporary challenges faced by the modern political order, through their promotion of democracy and social well-being.

The main principles and features of Islamic Political system

i) **Principle of Tauheed**

The bedrock of the Islamic political system is the principle of Tauheed. Tauheed is belief in the oneness of Allah. The political system of Islam takes its root

and sense of direction from this belief. Without this belief a credible Islamic political system cannot be established.

(ii)   Vicegerency of Allah
        Under the Islamic political system, the head of the Islamic state or the caliph is the vicegerent of Allah. It is the duty of this vicegerent to conduct the affairs of the state in accordance with the teachings of the Quran and the Holy Prophet (Pbuh). On appointment as the Caliph, Hazrat Abu Bakr said the following words,
        " follow me if I follow the teachings of the Quran and of the Holy Prophet (pbuh). Do not follow me if I do not follow the teachings of the Quran and of Holy Prophet (pbuh)"

        This indicates the importance of vicegerency of Allah within the Islamic political system.

Consultation

The importance of consultation in a Islamic political system cannot be ignored. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) carried out the affairs of the Islamic State after consulting his companions. After his death, during the period of the pious Caliphs, the governance of the state was carried out through consultation.

Democracy

Political system in Islam promotes democracy and makes sure that the contribution and point of view of every person is taken into consideration. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said,

6 Listen to him even if a Negro is appointed as your head. 9

Thus, the upholding of the principles of democracy is an integral part of the political system of Islam. The Islamic political system is

essentially a democratic political system

How these principles provide solutions to contemporary challenges faced by modern political order

i) Combating Authoritarianism

The principles of the Islamic political system help combat authoritarianism. They do this by enabling an all-inclusive form of governance and avoiding concentration of power in one hand.

ii) Promoting Democracy

The principles of the Islamic political system promote democracy by ensuring that a thoroughly representative governance structure is put in place to incorporate views from all walks of life.

iii) Constructing well-functioning government

The modern political order faces the challenge of not being able to construct a well functioning government. The principles of fraternity and equality of the Islamic political system help combat this challenge.

Conclusion

To conclude, the main principles and features of the Islamic political system are pragmatic and rational in nature. They also provide implementable solutions to contemporary challenges faced by modern political order.

Q5   **Introduction**

Extremism in its any form is, indeed, a challenge to Islam. Be it extremism in its physical form, or verbal form, or communal form. Moreover, with regard to the contemporary challenges faced by the muslim Ummah, extremism is one of the most pressing one. Extremism is present in different parts of the muslim world and it plays a substantial role in distorting the peaceful image of Islam.

Extremism as a challenge to Islam

(1)   Compromising the true meaning of Islam

Extremism compromises the true meaning of Islam which resides in peace and tolerance. Islam is not a religion which encourages extremism as

a matter of fact it is opposed
to it.

ii) Opposing moderation

Islam is a religion which promotes moderation. On no instance has Islam endorsed extremism. Hence, the curse of extremism within Islam defies its moderate and rational approach.

iii) Distorting Islam's image

Extremism plays a critical role in distorting Islam's image. This creates doubts with regard to Islam in the minds of those who are alien to it or do not belong to this religion.

iv) Defying Holy Prophet (pbuh)'s example

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) never showed any form of extremism when

promoting Islam.
The Quran says
"There is no
compulsion in religion."
(Al-Quran)

Thus, the Holy Prophet (pbuh)
invited people to Islam in
a peaceful and cordial manner.
He never imposed the message
of Allah on anyone.

Extremism in the context of contemporary challenges faced by the Muslim ummah

1) ## Islam's image in the world

In the contemporary
world, Islam's image has
been considerably mutilated.
This is a result of the
extremist actions carried
out by certain sections of

the muslim society.

ii) Rise of Islamophobia

As a result of extremism the muslim Ummah has to face the challenge of Islamophobia in the contemporary world. Islamophobia is on the rise in different parts of the world compromising Islam's stature in the world.

iii) Western perception of Islam

Owing to extremism, the perception about Islam in the west is becoming exceedingly negative. This has resulted in extremist retaliation from the west in the form of desecration of the Holy Quran and other activities.

iv) Increase in terrorist activities

The curse of extremism has also led to an upsurge in

terrorist activities carried out by extremist religious groups. These terrorist activities are carried out as a result of misplaced priorities and an extremist interpretation of Islam.

Conclusion

To conclude, extremism in its any form is a challenge to Islam. It not only distorts Islam's image in the contemporary context, but also makes the restoration of this image a difficult task to undertake.