

ISLAMIC STUDIES - MOCK #7

ZAEENA KHUSHBAKHT - BATCH #55

Q2) Explain the Doctrine of Tauheed in Islam and its importance in human life.

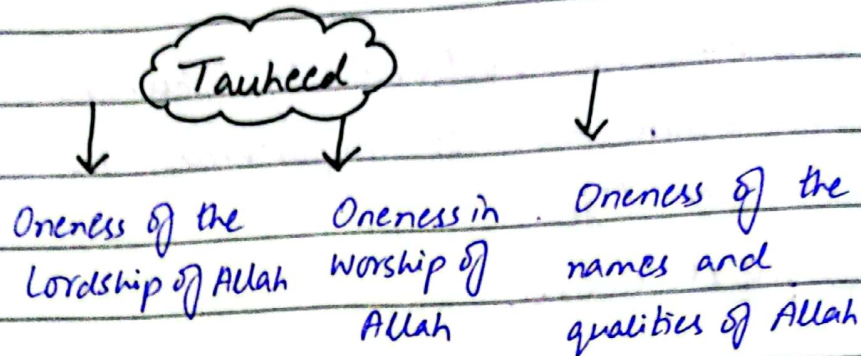
① Introduction

Tauheed is the first article of faith. It is the belief that Allah alone is the creator, capital sustainer and Master of this universe. It is the crux of Islam and perfects man's Deen. A person who believes in Tauheed and expresses Shahadah, is known as a believer, a Muslim. It is the first and last obligation and affects man's individual and collective life. It creates a sense of accountability among man, makes him virtuous and content, and promotes dignity. Similarly, it establishes a concept of equality and brotherhood, and creates inter religious harmony with non-Muslims.

② Islamic concept of Tauheed

First part of Kalimah	Gateway of Islam	Core pillar of Islam
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③ Aspects of Tauheed



④ Importance of Tauheed in Individual life

(i) Tauheed strengthens the ~~soul~~ heart and purifies the soul

“Surely in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find peace.” (AL Quran)

When man knows that Allah alone is the owner of this universe, he puts all his trust in Him and doesn't stress about his affairs. Man never becomes despondent and Tauheed satisfies his heart.

(ii) Tauheed promotes dignity

Man knows that Allah controls all his affairs. No one else can harm or benefit him, except by His will. Thus, he does not bow before anyone or rely upon anyone.

(iii) Tauheed makes man content and broadens his vision

Belief in Oneness of Allah confers on man the blessing of farsightedness. Whenever something goes wrong, a believer views it from a broader perspective, considering things aren't always as they seem.

"But perhaps you hate a thing, and it is good for you, and perhaps you love a thing, and it is bad for you. Allah knows while you know not."
(AL-Quran)

(iv) Tauheed removes arrogance

and promotes humility.

Belief in Tauheed humbles a person and enables them to realize the reality of this world. Arrogance is removed when ~~the~~ man realizes he is merely a tiny speck in a massive universe.

"Allah does not like everyone self-debuded and boastful." (AL-Quran)

(v) Tauheed develops a believer's morals

Tauheed keeps man on Sirat-e-mustakeem and makes him mindful of his actions. As he believes in Allah and obeys his command, he stays away from all evil deeds.

Ibn Al Qayim says,

"Kalimah is one of the best deeds."

(vi) Makes man patient in the face of adversities

Tauheed inculcates patience and man faces all hardships and adversities with courage and strength.

"Surely Allah is with those

who are patiently steadfast." (AL-Quran)

⑤ Importance of Tauheed in Collective Life

(i) Promotes equality and eliminates discrimination

All Muslims are equal to Allah Almighty. They recite the same Kalma to enter in the faith of Islam irrespective of colour, race or caste. This helps man overcome nationalism and chauvinism.

(ii) Promotes inter religious harmony with non Muslims

It eliminates all differences among Muslims and non-Muslims as all individuals hold equal rights to all social systems with equal chance of progress.

"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of male and female and made you into nations and tribes." (Al-Quran)

(iii) Promotes Brotherhood

Tauheed promotes Brotherhood among all Muslims as all surrender to the Almighty. Allah says in the Quran,

"Certainly all Muslims are like brothers." (Surah Hujarat)

(iii) Highlights rights and responsibilities of man.

Tauheed makes man responsible and instills in him a sense of accountability to abide by all the duties made compulsory by Allah Almighty, and provide due rights to all those around him.

(iv) Makes man mindful of his actions

Man knows that Allah is all-knowing; he knows all that is in our hearts. So, he becomes mindful of his actions and does not hurt anyone.

Holy Prophet (PBUH) says,

"Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hands the people are safe." (Al-Hadith)

(v) Tauheed assists humans to live peacefully

Tauheed causes man to let go of negative traits ^{and} stay away from temptations. He avoids resorting to devious means and takes care of all those around him. Considering oneself a member of the common family of Adam, he lives a peaceful and harmonious life, and instructs others to do the same.

(6) Conclusion

Tauheed is of utmost importance; the Prophet (PBUH) guarded the aspect of Tauheed with the greatest protection. Overall, belief in Oneness of Allah leads to a well disposed life in the worldly life with an everlasting bliss in the hereafter.

- (Q3) Describe the concept of Peaceful Co-existence in the teaching of Islam. How it can transform the society. Elaborate.

① Introduction

Islam today is the second largest religion in the world. In nurturing cohesion and co-existence, Islam promotes diversity in society and the need for respect and tolerance among Muslims and between Muslims and non-Muslims. Love, compassion, mercy are cross cutting core values of Islam which are shared by most other faiths including Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, among others. In an era where extremism and moral bankruptcy is on the rise, the concept of peaceful co-existence can transform society into a peaceful and harmonious place for all.

② Principles of Co-Existence in the teaching of Islam

(i) Belief in the Oneness of Allah

Belief in Tauheed exists in sematic and non-sematic religions both. Islam, Judaism and Christianity - all of them believe in monotheism. Allah says in the

Quran,

"O people of the scripture, come to a word that is equitable between us and you." (Surah Al-Imran)

(ii) High respect given to Hazrat Ibrahim

Islam and Semitic religions give high respect and esteem to Hazrat Ibrahim. His conduct and teachings must be followed to achieve peaceful co-existence in society.

(iii) Animals slaughtered by the people of the scripture

Animals slaughtered by the people of the scripture are lawful for Muslims if they proclaim Takbeer (announce the greatness of Allah) while slaughtering them.

"And the food of those who were given the scripture is lawful for you and your food is lawful for them." (AL-Quran)

(iv) Marriage with the women of the scripture

Islam allows marriage with the chaste women from among the believers and also among the people of the

scripture from the past Islamic epochs.

(v) Moral principles

Islam preaches the moral principles of truthfulness, chastity, mercy, love and kindness to form a foundation for peaceful coexistence and mutual respect.

Allah says in the Quran,

"O mankind! we created you from a single (pair) of male and female and made you into nations and tribes." (AL Quran)

(vi) Islam: A Religion of peace

Islam is a religion which preaches peace and tolerance and strictly prohibits from any sort of violence or hate speech. Hence, involving in healthy discussion over religion is allowed but peace should always remain an overarching goal.

"And fight in the way of Allah with those who fight with you, but aggress not; God loves not the aggressors." (AL Quran)

(vii) Freedom of conscience and conviction
 "There should be no compulsion
 on the matter of faith." (AL-Quran)

Islam proposes that no force or coercion
 can be applied to anyone to accept
 religion (Islam). Whoever accepts it, does
 so on its own.

(viii) Importance of International treaties

Islam encourages to form agreements
 and peace treaties with international
 communities whenever necessary. Allah
 asks Muslims to keep their doors of
 peace wide open as He says,

"If they incline to peace,
 incline you as well to it, and
 trust in Allah." (AL-Quran)

③ Examples of Co-Existence from the
 life of Prophet (PBUH) to follow in
 the Modern world:

(i) Communal co-existence in places
 of worship

Holy Prophet (PBUH) received various
 delegations whom he welcomed in his
 mosque. Among them ~~to~~ were the Christian
 pilgrims of Najran.

(ii) Good behaviour with parents (Muslims or non-Muslims)

Prophet (PBUH) ordered Asma bint Abu Baker to host her mother who was still in her ancestors' religion. Quran commands Muslims to be good to their parents irrespective of religion.

(iii) Protection of the life of non-Muslims

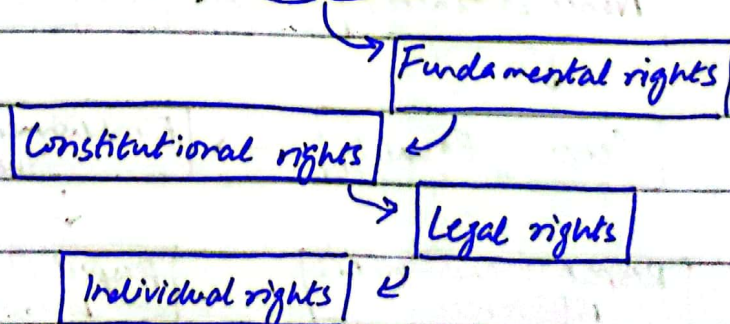
Islam provides equal rights to all non-Muslims and guarantees protection of their life, property and honour.

Abdullah bin Amr, reported that the Prophet (PBUH) said,

"He who kills a promisor (non Muslim living among Muslims where he is promised protection) will not smell the fragrance of paradise." (Al-Hadith)

(iv) Constitution of Madinah : A Charter of Co-Existence

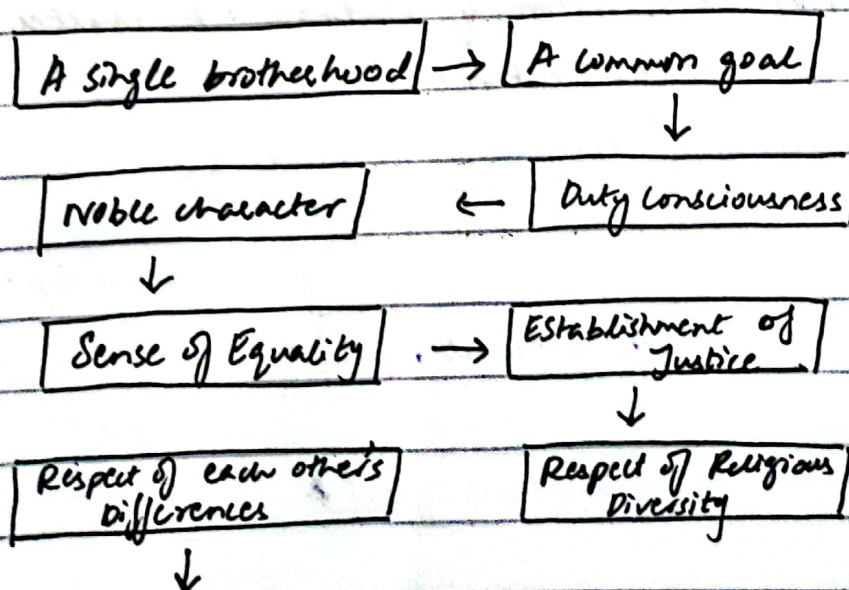
Constitution of Madinah



④ How Peaceful Co-Existence can Transform Society

Islam is a religion which is universally applicable - However, some Muslims perceive it in a narrow sense. They follow the teachings and duties of Islam and consider themselves complete as individuals. But Islam encompasses all social, political and economic dimensions. There is a need to understand that Islam is not based on radicalism or fundamentalism. Muslims' dealings with other faiths should be humane and cooperative. This can enable us to have a positive impact upon other religions and shut down West's understanding of Islam being an extremist religion.

⑤ Effects of ^{peaceful} Co-Existence in a society



Equality of Opportunity → Religious Freedom

⑥ Conclusion

Currently, there is a need to understand the greater philosophy of Islam to implement its core values in society, and to achieve a peaceful and harmonious society where people of all religions, race or caste live together with peace, tolerance and acceptance.

(Q5) Extremism in any form is a challenge to Islam. Discuss in the context of contemporary challenges faced by Muslim Ummah.

① Introduction

Violent extremist Islamic organizations have effectively drawn on powerful existing narratives in presenting their particular worldview. The biggest threat to Islam right now is internally which manifests itself in the form of terrorism, sectarianism, political disputes and western imperialism.

Extremist organizations exploit the ongoing narratives regarding Islam to promote themselves. In short, ~~Rakistani's~~ the devastating situation of the Muslim Ummah has become for

extremists an asset as valuable as bombs.

② Definition of Extremism

According to Schmid, extremism originates from polarized ideological attitudes and practices resulting in a state of mind of superiority over others. It also stems from struggle between a state's ideology and popular belief system. Some hypocrites and false believers associate their sinful actions with "Jihad." However, there are no links between extremism, terrorism and Islam. It is demonstrated by the fact that when greeting each other, Muslims wish for peace, "peace be upon you."

③ Challenges faced by Muslim Ummah in combating Extremism

(i) Sectarianism

Muslim Ummah, at present, faces sectarian conflicts and divisions which is one of the major challenges when facing extremism. There is disunity among the Ummah which ~~creates~~ ^{allows} extremist groups to exploit and subvert situations in their favour.

(ii) Moral degradation

Moral bankruptcy in Muslim societies and among the Muslim Ummah has disrupted the social fabric of countries like Pakistan.

Muslim Ummah no longer implements the teachings of Quran and Hadith in their practical lives which has given room for extremism to rapidly grow.

(iii) Corruption in social institutions

Corruption and negligence of social institutions is another challenge faced by the Muslim Ummah. Corruption within social institutions in Pakistan has posed a serious threat to the country's security. Moreover, DIC has been neglected by the Ummah when it can effectively be used to monitor and provide solutions for the contemporary challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah.

(iv) No practicality of the teachings of Quran and Sunnah.

"Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits." (Al-Quran)

Islam strictly commands against any sort of violence or hate speech and only

preaches compassion, mercy, love ^{and} respect.

There is no belief of coercion in Islam as

Allah says,

"let there be no compulsion in religion."
(AL-Baqara)

However, the Muslim Ummah has deviated from the right path and has failed to understand the practicality of the teachings of Islam.

(v) Lack of education

Most of the Muslim countries have the lowest literacy rate in the world which poses a serious threat. There are very little contributions in science and tech from the Muslim world. Benazir Bhutto has written in her book, "Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy and the West,"

"Islam's first generations produced knowledge and wealth that empowered Muslims to rule much of the world. But now almost half of the world's Muslims are illiterate."

(vi) Poor Governance

Poor governance of Muslim countries and their failure to prevent the spread of radical material has caused the rise in

extremism among Muslims. Moreover, there is no implementation of laws which leads to further hinderance in the progress of Muslim Ummah.

(vii) Poverty and Unemployment

Most Muslim countries, especially Pakistan, are going through unprecedented poverty and unemployment. For example, the total world's trade of OIC countries is less than a single country, China.

(viii) Anti-Muslim political rhetoric

Islamophobia is rapidly spreading in the West which again is one of the biggest threats for the Muslim Ummah. Anti-Muslim rhetoric has manifested itself in events like the burning of Quran, banning of Hijab/Niqab. Hindutva watch report says, BJP is linked to an escalating trend of anti-Muslim hate speech in the country (India).

(ix) Western Imperialism

Western Imperialism can also be considered as the root cause of extremism. The youth today is susceptible to the growing western propagandas. Muslim Ummah is partially torn between blind imitation and formalism which is negatively affecting the Muslim Ummah's

growth and alleviation.

(x) Resurgence of Terrorist organizations.

No steps have been taken by the Ummah to curb radicalism and control the spread of extremist narratives. Extremist organizations like Al-Qaeda have always exploited the ongoing narratives regarding Pakistan's birth and resulted in the deterioration of the country.

(3) Conclusion

The phenomena of violent extremism is one of the major challenges affecting the Muslim Ummah and confronting Pakistan's security. The recurrent drivers of violent extremism, its resurgence by terrorist organisations and their linkages to hostile foreign agencies are not only disrupting the social fabric of the Ummah but are also adversely affecting its economy and development.

(Q2) Write brief note on any TWO:

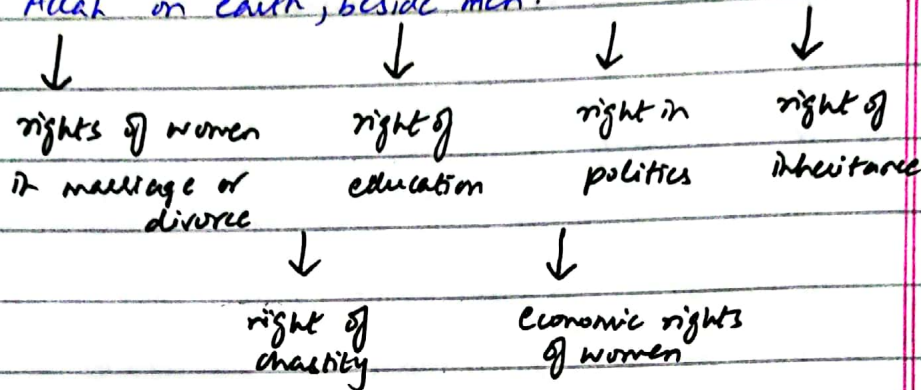
- (a) Right and Status of Women in Islam ✓
- (b) Concept of Justice in Islam
- (c) Rights of Minorities in Islam ✓

① Introduction

Human rights in Islam are firmly rooted in the belief that God, and God alone is the law giver and source of all human rights. Due to their divine origin, no ruler or authority can curtail or violate the human rights conferred by God. Holy Prophet (PBUH) in his farewell sermon proclaimed that all humans are equal and their worth is only determined by their piety or good deeds. Islam places great importance on the rights of women, their roles, their status and responsibilities very fairly. According to Islam, there is no discrimination against women and men and women are created equal in spiritual sense. Similarly, Islam also places great emphasis on the rights of minorities and that their life, honour and property must be protected.

② Rights and Status of Women in Islam

According to the revelations of Quran, women are given and acknowledged their equal rights and made vicegerents of Allah on earth, beside men.



Quran clearly states that, "Women have rights similar to those of men." (Al-Quran)

Islam gives a woman right to choose her partner for marriage. For a marriage to be considered valid, the prior consent of a woman is necessary according to Shariah.

Women have right to seek divorce and even during "Iddat," it is instructed not to take undue advantage, and to "separate with kindness." (Al-Quran). Similarly, the right to seeking knowledge for females is no different than that of males. A woman also has rights over her husband. It is a man's responsibility to provide for his wife. Islam also provides women a right to vote and right to represent in legislature. Holy

Prophet (PBUH) provided the constitutional basis of women's right to vote in his Sunnah, he would take pledge of total allegiance from women also. During Hazrat Umar's ~~time~~ ^{caliphate}, Al-shifa bint Abdullah was appointed the head of market administration. Hazrat Umar made a committee of six companions of the Prophet (PBUH) and Hazrat Abdur Rehman was the election commissioner who went from door to door to take suggestions from women. Islam also provides a woman right of independent ownership. It allows women to seek employment especially in positions which fit their nature and in which society needs them the most.

There is no restriction to encourage a woman's talent in any field — even for the position of a judge. A woman has a right of chastity in Islam and Islam instructs Muslim men to lower their gaze.

“Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty.” (Al-Quran)

Moreover, a woman has the same rights as man for acquiring property. Her share is completely hers and no one can make

any claim on it, including her father or husband.

Woman as a wife

⇒ The Prophet (PBUH) says, "The best among you is the one who is best towards his wife."

Woman as a mother

⇒ The position of mother is exalted in Islam as Prophet (PBUH) says, "And paradise lies under the feet of your mother."

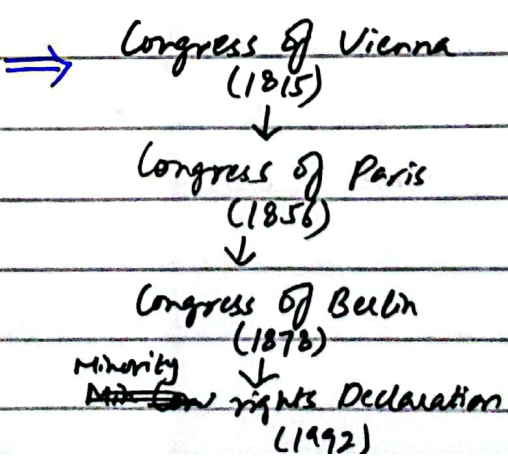
Women as a daughter

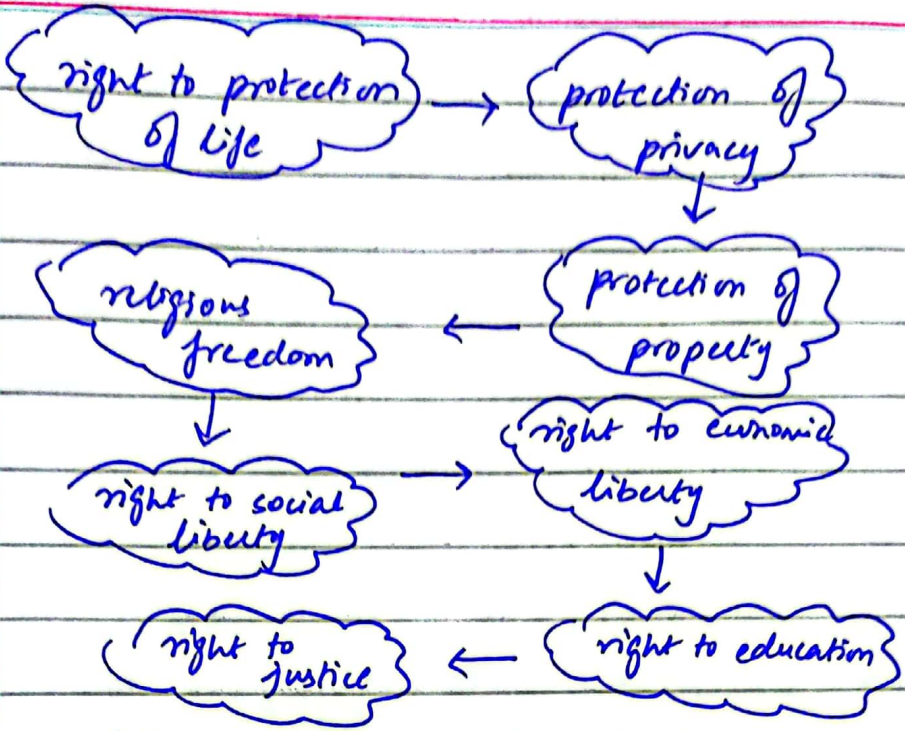
⇒ Prophet (PBUH) said, "Whoever is in charge of daughters and treats them generously, then they will act as a shield for him from Hell fire."

③ Rights of Minorities in Islam

According to the UN, "a group numerically inferior from rest of the population is called minority."

Rights of Minorities in the West





Islam provides the right to the protection of life of ^{minorities.} ~~Prophet (PBUH)~~ During the life of Prophet (PBUH), a Muslim murdered a non-Muslim. The Prophet (PBUH) ordered to kill him in Qisas. He said, "Protecting the rights of non Muslims is my foremost duty." Hazrat Ali, the fourth righteous caliph said, "If a Muslim kills a non Muslim, he will be killed in reciprocation." Islam guarantees the right to religious freedom and there can be no coercion related to it as Allah says in the Quran, "let there be no compulsion in religion." (Al Quran). Similarly, Islam provides protection of privacy and no one can enter in other's house unless permitted. There are no restraints on a non Muslim to earn his livelihood. He can do any

business, considering it does not harm the state. Minorities are also allowed to carry out their practices and customs. They are guaranteed ^{an} equal right to justice as well as education. Minorities in an Islamic state are exempt from military services.

(3) Conclusion

The rights granted by Islam, specifically with the Farewell sermon, ^{are} ~~is~~ believed to provide a powerful impetus to the Muslims to stand firm with each other and defend the rights ^{and duties} conferred on them by Allah.

It is obligatory on all Muslims to provide due rights to the women and treat all minorities with respect and tolerance.