

Islamiat Mock

Q2) 1) Introduction: Tawheed; The cardinal Pillar of Islam

Tawheed is the fundamental facet of Islam which essentially holds the fabric of Islam together. The teachings and principles of the religion encompass the central doctrine of Tawheed. Tawheed is the most important pillar of Islam, and it is ~~not~~ ~~when~~ only after a strong belief in this doctrine is established that a person is allowed to enter the folds of Islam. Accentuating the significance of Tawheed Quran says:

"And your god is One God. There is no deity [worthy of worship except Him]" [2:163].

2) What is Tawheed:

The doctrine of Tawheed refers to the belief in Oneness of Allah. It means that only Allah is the

One and Only God of the worlds and only He is worthy of all the worship. Doctrine of Tawheed is a pillar of Islam and its significance cannot be overstated. Tawheed also refers to the belief in Allah being the sole creator of the worlds, who created every thing from scratch without any help from every one.

3) Types of Tawheed:

Tawheed can be assorted in three categories, which are as follows:

3.1) Unity in Person:

This type of Tawheed refers to the oneness of Allah, that He is one and there are no Gods beside Him. This belief is reinforced in Surah Ikhlas of the Holy Quran which states:

"Say, He is Allah the One, Allah is eternal and absolute, None is born of Him and nor was He born, And there is none like Him".

Maxim.....

3.2) Oneness in Attributes

This type of Tawheed encompasses the belief in Oneness of Attributes of Allah. It means that Allah has the most distinct and supreme Attributes and no one shares these Attributes with Him. Regarding this the Holy Quran says:

"There is no God but He, His are the most beautiful names" (Taha-8)

3.3) Oneness of Actions:

This type of Tawheed denotes that Allah alone is the creator and sustainer of worlds and everything that is inside them. It means that Allah requires help from no one, and He alone manages the affairs of the world. In this regard the Quran say:

"To Allah belongs the sovereignty of heavens and the earth and what lies in them....." [Al Maidah - 120]

4) Impacts of Tawheed in Human Life :

4.1) Gives life a Purpose:

In the grand tapestry of everyday life, individuals might feel overwhelmed and start questioning the very reason of their existence. This is especially true for the wiser ~~that~~ minds who are not driven by desires for aggrandisement. Dispelling the doubts that such minds might harbour, the Holy Quran says:

"I did not create jinn and humans except to worship me".

4.2) Inculcates Self Respects :

The fabric of Tawheed instills a feeling of pride in humans. It is noteworthy to mention that this sense of pride does not imply arrogance but rather a feeling of self-respect and self-worth. The Holy Quran say:

"We have honored the children of of Adam"... (Al-Israa - 70)

4.3) Induces a sense of Accountability :

The doctrine of Tawheed also induces a sense of accountability in humans. People become more cognisant to their actions and the repercussion it might lead to if the principles of Islam are transgressed. They become aware of the fact that even if they manage to elude punishment in this world, there is no escaping the divine justice. The attribute of Allah Al-Baseer denotes that Allah sees everything.

4.4) Instills Peace & contentment :

The doctrine of Tawheed edifies that money, wealth, fame is all pre destined by Allah and Allah alone in the endower. This instills a feeling of peace and contentment for individuals learn that Allah ~~can~~ alone provides for them and whatever He has written for them will reach them. It also edifies them that mere ~~to~~ wealth and fame will not give them peace but it is the

worship of Allah that can provide peace that many seek. The Quran says in this regard:

"Verily in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find peace".

4.5) Hopefulness:

In the modern world of materialistic desires, it is easy to lose hope and give up of life. The rubric of Islam, however, assists and edifies one to overcome such desires by putting their unwavering faith in Allah. Preventing people from taking their life, the Holy Quran says:

"Allah does not burden any soul greater than it can bear" (2 - 286)

5) Conclusion:

In a nutshell, the doctrine of Tawheed is the most vital part of Islam that binds all the other pillars together. Tawheed has a profound

bearing on the lives of people, ranging from morality to hopefulness. Given the facts embodied in this answer, it would not be incorrect to say that belief in the doctrine of Tawheed can completely change one's life, with impacts spanning social, economic, political, and spiritual dimensions.

Q4) 1) Introduction:

Much like how it extensively covers the contours of all major spheres of human life, the rubric of Islam does not leave an important aspect, such as the political system, solely to human intelligence. The political system is one of the most significant social structures of a civilization. A strong, meticulously designed political system serves as a rigid foundation that can guide the nation to its success and prosperity. Luckily for Muslims, this significant aspect has been exhaustively covered by the rubric of Islam.

2) Main features and Principles of Islamic Political system:

2.1) Consultation:

The fabric of Islam accentuates the need for consultation in all major decisions of the state. Arbitrary decisions that might negatively impact the people are discouraged. The Holy Quran says in this regard:

"and consult them in the conduct of affairs". (3:159).

2.2) Equality of all citizens:

Islam also encourages indiscriminate treatment should be meted to all the citizens. Similarly, apartheid tendencies are discouraged and should be ~~eschewed~~ shunned. Reinforcing this belief, the Holy Quran says:

"O mankind, indeed we have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may

Know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you...."
(Al-Hujurat - 49:13).

2.3) Rule of law:

Islam also emphasises the establishment of rule of law. Rule of law denotes the supremacy of law before every citizen of the state, whether the ruler or the ruled. A noteworthy incident comes to mind where the prophet Muhammad ^{Pbuh} was urged to strike down the punishment sentence of a woman hailing from a affluent family who committed theft. Upon this the prophet ^{Pbuh} said:

"By Allah, if Fatima, the daughter of Muhammad committed theft, Muhammad will cut off her hand!"

2.4) Accountability:

According to the Islamic principles of governance, everyone, irrespective

of the power or influence they wield, are equal and accountable. Inspiration should be drawn from the experience of H. UMAR ^{R.A.}, who despite being one of the prominent and influential companions, was asked about how his shirt was made with the limited piece of cloth awarded to him. This incident was quickly resolved when H. Umar's son stepping in informing that he had given his portion of the cloth to his father.

2.5) No place for Nepotism:

The practice of Nepotism is one that is alien to the rubric of Islam. Islam always encourages meritocracy and discourages the practices of Nepotism. This is evident from how the reigns of power transitioned from one caliph to another after the prophet's ^{phub} death.

3) Solutions to the challenges faced by modern political order in light of the Islamic teachings

3.1) Justice and Rule of law:

The Islamic principles and teachings should serve as an impetus to establish the supremacy of Rule of law. This implies that the rich and poor are treated equal before the law of the land. This would put an end to ceaseless violations the affluent commit with impunity.

3.2) consultation:

Shura or consultation is considered the hallmark of Islamic political system. The principle laid down by Allah should provide enough reason to implement this, but now after it has been implemented in many political systems that are reaping the benefits of its effectiveness gives all the more reason to incorporate it.

3.3) Pluralism and Religious Freedom :

The fact that religious freedom and pluralism was integrated in Islamic political system discerns the wisdom behind these pillars. Berefting people from such rights results in resentment which can culminate into wider conflagration. This is also supported by evidence from various parts of the world.

3.4) Ethical governance :

Modern democratic systems should take a page from Islamic principles of ethical governance. The act of deceiving people or self-aggrandisement at the cost of the nation's interest are severely discouraged in Islam. Hence modern governments can circumvent many challenges if they become sincere to their people.

4) Conclusion :

There remains no ambiguity that the ~~gover~~ political systems of the modern world have failed to navigate the world out of its predicaments. The growing disparity & resentment speaks volumes of the system's ineptitude. Hence, this is high time to integrate Islamic principles in governance, for ~~se~~ these teachings possess what it takes to ~~se~~ surmount the major problems of the contemporary world.

1) Introduction:

There is no doubt that the ummah faces a persistent decline and most of the muslim majority nations are embroiled in many challenges that endanger lives of many and pose a threat to the Ummah as a whole. There are a ~~ple~~ plethora of factors that have contributed towards the downfall of the Ummah and brought it down to where it stands now. These issues are serious and can only be ignored at the great peril to the Ummah.

2) Challenges of the Muslim World:

The cotemporary muslim world suffers from innumerable challenges. Following are a few of these problems:

2.1) Political system and incompetent muslim leaders:

2.1.1) Dictatorial Rule:

The ineptitude of muslim leaders and the political system in general, is one of the challenges encountered by the ummah. Many of the muslim nations are under dictatorial rule. These dictators have a strong influence on the country's judiciary and other state institutions, elevating them above the law with zero accountability. This draws attention to theory propounded



by Acton who stated "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely". These muslim dictators possess absolute powers and their quest for more comes at an expense of being oblivious towards major state issues. Such nations are in dire need of capable leadership, however, this is quite unlikely given the current political system of these countries where the monarch's heir will inherit the throne, regardless of their capabilities.

2.1.2) Democratic countries:

The so called democratic muslim-majority nations are not far from their dictatorial counterparts. In many of these nations, the established political-parties practice dynastic politics, meaning that the leadership position is passed down to only members of a particular family. These parties, when come in power, have strong influence on the key state institutions such as judiciary.

2.2) Increasingly illiterate:

Another challenge that the Ummah faces is ~~#~~ illiteracy and reluctance towards modern education. Knowledge has long been encouraged in Islam, a hadith in this regard is as follows

"The ink of a scholar is more

Precious than the blood of the martyr."

The cited hadith emphasises the significance of seeking knowledge in Islam. The contributions of muslims scholars and scientists was imperative in helping Islam reach its peak. Presently, there is a prevailing predominant misconceptions that associates modern education with western culture. As a result many muslims avoid education altogether and therefore are falling behind in many major fields such as technology, medicine etc.

2.3) Lack of Unity among the Ummah:

The ummah also suffers from dearth of Unity. Many muslim nations around the globe are solely driven by their own interests and gains, completely ignoring the issues of other muslim states. In this way, the key concept of brotherhood taught by Islam is overlooked. In this regard the Holy Quran say:

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah and do not be divided" [3:103].

There is also a hadith pertaining to the significance of brotherhood and unity in which the prophet ^ﷺ said:

"Verily, the believers are like a structure, each point strengthening the other." and the Prophet ^{pbuh} clasped his hands with the fingers interlaced (while saying that).

The concept of brotherhood and unity, being rehearsed in the Quran and hadith indicates its importance. Sadly, today the ummah has forsaken this notion, and have placed their own interests above it. The example of Saudi Arabia speaks volumes of this, who, because of its immense investment in India, fails to take a strong stance on the atrocities occurring in Indian occupied Kashmir.

2.4) Sectarianism:

Sectarianism is perhaps the most important factor that hinders the revival of the Ummah. The prime minister of Malaysia has identified sectarianism as the Ummah's curse. Different sects are created when a group of people develop differences in beliefs and practices to such an extent that they demand distinct identities. The underlying cause of sectarianism is the extreme attachment towards religious personalities. The word and opinions of such personalities are considered as the final verdict, and if questioned, it is equated to that of blasphemy. This is why the words of such individuals remain uncontested for years.

The lack of knowledge of other sects is akin to adding fuel to the fire. A child born in such households is compelled to adhere by the beliefs practices by ~~parent~~ parents. Such a child grows a sense of infallibility towards his sect and grows hostility towards other sects. The issue of sectarianism has brought different groups at dagger drawn, and sadly they perceive others as Kafirs. Prophet ^{Pbuh} has said:

"If a man says to his brother, O Kafir! Then surely one of them is such (Kafir)".

The hadith cited, emphasises the severity of calling other muslims Kafir, but this prevalent practice indicates that muslims have forgotten its consequences. The Holy Quran also condemns sectarianism in the following words:

"And be not as those who divided and differed among themselves...."
[2:256]

3) Solutions with accordance to Islam:

The Ummah, ~~abbe~~ albeit in decline, can position itself as the thriving force of excellence and as an established

Super power of the world, if it strictly abides by the teachings of Islam. Following are some of the solutions with accordance to the teachings of Islam:

3.1) Change the form of government and restrain the power and authority exercised by muslim leaders:

The current muslim heads of states should take heed from the Islamic way of governance. The rotten practices of dynastic politics and inheritance to the throne should be avoided. Inspiration can be drawn from the how the transfer of power was conducted between the first four caliphs, where despite the caliph having heir, the responsibility of the throne was granted to the most senior and experienced next in line. Additionally, Muslim leaders should not influence the judiciary or other state institutions. They should avoid corrupt practices and should be compelled to be answerable to the people. The incident of H. Umar^{R.A} highlights the accountability of muslim leaders, whereby H. Umar^{R.A}, despite being the caliph at the time was openly asked about cloth he obtained from Bait-ul-mal. The was quickly resolved when the son of H. Umar^{R.A} stepped in and informed that he gave his father the extra cloth.

3.2) Revamping of Education system:

Muslim nations need to prioritise their education systems. Steps should be taken to dispell misconceptions of modern education and its association with western culture. The islamic scholars should unanimously decide if any modern day major goes against the teachings of Islam, ~~and conclude at the rest~~ They should also concieve a list of all majors one can persue, and this information should be disseminated in an attempt to encourage muslims to accept modern education. This is a rather slow process and will definetly take time elevate the literary rate among the ummah, however inspiration can be drawn from the exemple of prophet ^{Pbuh}, who despite having small number of educated muslims in the early years of Islam, was able to establish strong foundation of the education system that empowered the ummah to produce top-notch scholars and scientist for centuries to come.

3.3 Strengthening unity among the ummah:

Proper steps should be taken to reinforce the notion of brotherhood. Muslims should set aside their self interests and uphold the concept of unity. This can be achieved if the importance of brotherhood is disseminated

at grass root level. Primarily aimed at children. children, in a bid to create a more vigilant generation, one that is cognisant about the atrocities done on fellow muslims around the globe.

3.4) Curing the curse of sectarianism:

Islam is a religion of peace that expects one to follow its practices and fear Allah out of one's own will. The Quran says:

"let there be no compulsion in religion". [2: 256].

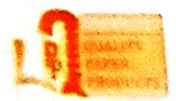
No one should be coerced into following a particular practice or belief, rather the acceptance should come from the heart. Furthermore, muslims should be receptive to other sects. Also, steps should be taken to arrange frequent debates and discussions in contour of the subtle differences in practices and try to adapt practices supported by strong evidence from Quran.

Contemporary challenges faced by the Ummah.

<p>Problem #1: → Governance System</p>	<p>Problem #2 → Increasing illiteracy</p>	<p>Problem #3 → lack of Unity</p>	<p>Problem #4 → Sectarianism</p>
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<p>Solutions #1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → abolish practices of dynastic politics → next heir to the throne should be selected on experience → limited Powers granted to muslim leaders → thorough accountability 	<p>Solutions #2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → dispell misconceptions → comprehensive list of major that don't contradict Islam → encouraging youth to persue education. 	<p>Solutions #3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → strengthen concept of brother hood. → Educate the Youth 	<p>Solutions #4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → receptive → no coercive steps taken to impose practices → issues resolved through discussions.
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figure: Overview of Problems and solutions discussed.



4) Conclusion:

The ummah's decline can be upended if stern steps are taken. The addressed solutions have the potential to steer out the ummah from the crisis it faces. Inspiration should be taken from the early muslims under the capable leadership of prophet^{pbuh}, who navigated through the problems with accordance to the teachings of Islam, and were successfull in positioning themselves as one of the leading global power at the time.