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Part - II

Q No. 2

Q2: Explain the doctrine of Tauheed in Islam. Describe its importance in human life. How it affects the life of a faithful?

Answer: Allama Muhammad Iqbal conceals an entire poem in his collection "Par cheh bayad kard ay aqwame shargh (What must be done, O peoples of the East)" to the meaning of 'La ilaha illa Allah,

Until the meaning of 'LA ILAHA' is understood

The bonds of other than other Allah cannot be broken
In this world the beginning starts from the word 'La'
This is the first station of the man of God

1) Introduction:

The doctrine of Tauheed affirms the belief in absolute unity and oneness of a unique, transcendent, omnipotent, compassionate and merciful God. Tauheed is the very essence of Islam.

The essence of Tauheed is such that all of the three Abrahamic religions—Christianity, Judaism, and Islam—are monotheist i.e. they believe in Tauheed. All the three religions believe that only Allah is the creator, only Allah alone is supremely powerful, Allah alone is the sustainer of this world (universe), and Allah alone is eternal.

2) Islamic Concept of Tauheed:

Tauheed is the core pillar of Islam. All our beliefs are due to Allah such as belief in prophets, ~~book~~ Holy books etc.. Our faiths, worships, rituals, political systems, economic systems, and our justice system all revolve around Tauheed. ~~It can~~ In fact, all of Islam revolves around Tauheed.

2.1) Prophet P.B.U.H about Touheed:

- (i) Touheed is the first chapter of Islamic syllabus.
- (ii) Touheed is the gateway of Islam.

Allama Shibli Nomani narrates a Hadith in Sirah tun Nabi, that Touheed means two things:

- (i) Touheed is the first chapter of Islam.
- (ii) Islam is like a fort and the gate of that fort is Touheed.

2.2) Touheed According to Quran:

According to the Holy Quran, the unity of God means that God is one in ~~His~~ person, one in His attributes and one in His works.

There are a number of verses in the Quran which clearly explain the oneness of God.

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ - اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ - لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ - وَهُوَ كُنُفٌ

"Say: He, Allah, is one. Allah is He on whom all depend. He begets not, nor is He begotten. And none is like Him."

(Al-Ikhlās 112:1-4)

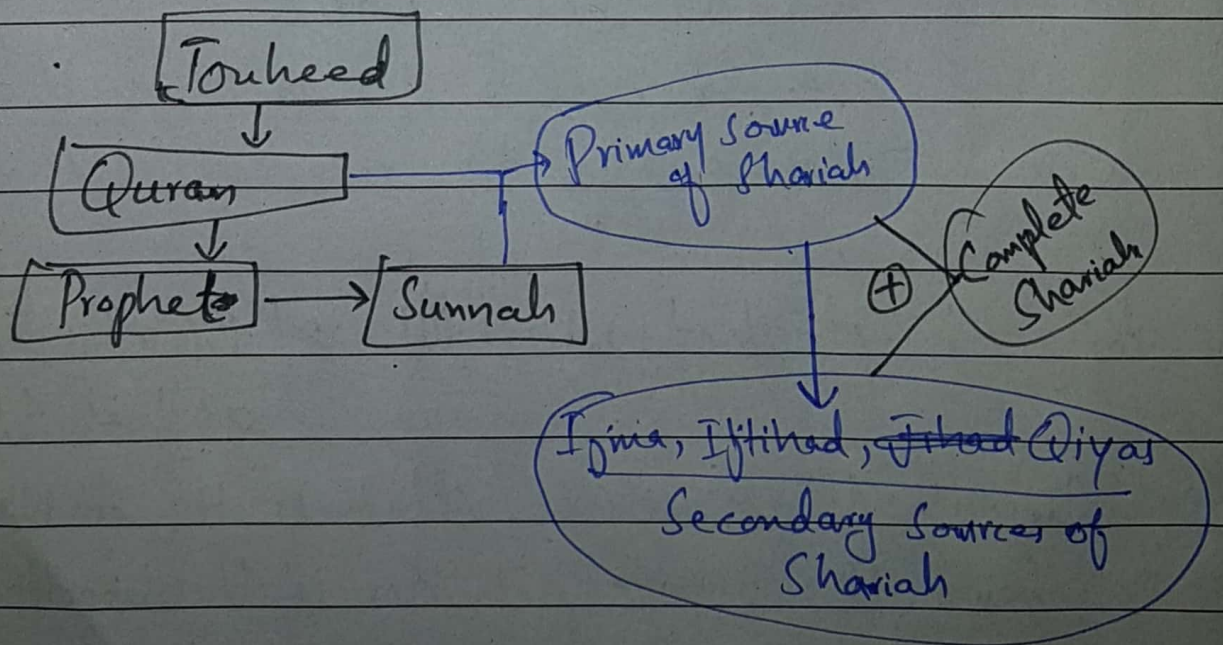
2.3) Touheed is the Core Pillar of Islam:

The belief in Allah results in the belief in Quran and the belief in Quran leads to the belief in prophets and angels.

The belief in Prophet leads to Sunnah.

If Quran and Sunnah are combined it becomes the primary source for Shariah. The primary sources give the concept of Ijma, Ijtihad and Qiyas, which are the secondary sources of Shariah.

Then, if the primary and secondary sources are combined, Shariah is complete, and a complete Shariah gives us a complete code of life.



3) Importance of Tauheed in Human life:

The concept of Tauheed defines the true position of man in the universe. It says that God is the Creator and the Sovereign while man is his vicegerent on the Earth. This exalts man to the noble and dignified position of being God's deputy on earth and endows his life with a lofty purpose: to fulfill the will of God on earth. This will solve all the perplexing problems of human society and establish a new order wherein equity and justice, as well as peace and prosperity, will reign supreme.

Following are the impacts of Tauheed on human life from which the importance of Tauheed in human life becomes clear:

3.1) Concept of Equality:

"He created you from one soul..."

(Surah Nisa, 4:1)

3.2) Concept of Brotherhood:

"Certainly all Muslims are brothers"

(Surah Hujrat, 49:10)

3.3) Inter-religious Harmony:

Islam connects Touheed to socio-political and economic justice irrespective of religion in a society.

3.4) Rights and Duties:

It is due to Touheed that a human gets to know the rights of people and the rights of God.

3.5) Dual Concept of Accountability:

Touheed makes it clear to humans that they will be rewarded and punished for their good and bad deeds both in this world and the hereafter.

4) Effects of Touheed on the life of a Faithful:

4.1) It ensures self-respect and dignity of a person:

۵۹ ایک سجدہ سے تو گراں سمجھتا ہے

ہزار سجدوں سے دینا ہے آدمی کو نجات

(Allama Muhammad Iqbal)

Touheed produces in man the highest degree

of self-respect and self-esteem. Touheed makes the faithful indifferent to, and independent and fearless of all powers other than God.

4.2) Touheed creates sense of accountability:

Touheed is a responsibility rather than a privilege. It encourages man to work towards himself in accordance with God's revealed will. The sense of accountability to God for all his acts in this world creates in him the sense of responsibility and makes him vigilant and cautious against all kinds of evils.

4.3) Touheed imparts consolation, satisfaction and hope:

The believer does not become despondent and brokenhearted under any circumstances. He has firm faith in God who is the master of all the treasures of earth and the heavens, whose grace and bounty have no limit and whose powers are infinite. This faith imparts to him extraordinary consolation, fills it, with satisfaction and keeps it filled with hope. Such a profound confidence can result from no other belief than belief in one God.

فإن مع العسر يسرا

"For indeed, with hardship (will be) ease"
(Ash-Sharh 94:5)

4.4) ~~Ham~~ Faithful gets bravery:

Tauheed instills ~~the~~ bravery in the heart of a faithful therefore making him believing in the concept of martyrdom.

5) Conclusion:

In conclusion, Tauheed is common to all the three Abrahamic religions. However, the concept of the doctrine of Tauheed is different from Christianity and Judaism in the sense that Tauheed is the core pillar of Islam and everything revolves around it in Islam. Tauheed has great importance in human life because it creates a sense of brotherhood, equality and peace in a human society. Lastly, by and large, Tauheed has far reaching beneficial effects on the life of a faithful.

Q. No. 4

Discuss in detail the philosophy of Soum (Fasting) in Islam. Analyze its social, moral and spiritual effects.

Answer: 1) Philosophy of Soum in Islam:

Soum (fasting) is one of the five pillars of the faith. It is an exercise that enables Muslims to realize the pangs of hunger and thirst of deprivation and poverty. It develops broader understandings of the problems of the underfed, under-clothed and shelterless people, and it arouses an adequate amount of empathy for their sufferings. Soum is primarily a spiritual discipline. A new consciousness of higher life, a life above that which is maintained by eating and drinking, has been awakened.

The appearance of the moon of Ramadan is a signal for a mass movement towards equality, which is not limited to one vicinity or even one country, but affects the whole Muslim world. The rich and the poor stand shoulder to shoulder in one row in a mosque, although they live in different individual capacities. Fasting is the best method through which soul gets

purification and all evils are suppressed.

According to Imam Ghazali, fast does not mean only to control on food and water, but to control oneself from evil thinking, evil looking, evil listening and evil talking.

1.1) Literal Meaning and Concept of Saoum:

Soum literally means "to be at rest" and to "abstain". It has been so named for the reason that while one is keeping fast he abstains from eating, drinking and sensual indulgences from dawn to dusk.

1.2) Importance of Saoum in Quran:

Soum creates piety and fear of Allah. This fact has been explicitly ~~in the~~ stated in the Quran where fasting has been declared obligatory.

In Surah al-Baqarah, verse number 183, ~~the~~ Allah states that, Soum is prescribed on the believers, as it was prescribed ~~before~~ upon other nations.

1.3) Philosophy of Soum in the light of Hadith:

① A saying of the ~~pro~~ Prophet (PBUH) signifies

Soum in the following words;

“Fasting is a shield for you as it saves you from sins in this world and would protect you from hell in the Hereafter” (Muslim)

2) Spiritual, Moral and Social Effects of Soum:

2.1) Spiritual Effects of Soum:

(i) Attainment of Piety:

Soum induces piety. The basic meaning of piety is observance of God's commands and prohibitions out of a feeling of being answerable to God. It means that the person fasting fears the Lord while performing his act of worship and does what He has commanded and forsakes that He has forbidden.

‘Nafly so you will be God fearing’

(al-Baqarah 2:183)

(ii) Reward in Hereafter:

The Prophet (PBUH) says on behalf of his Lord: ‘He who leaves his food and drink for My sake and fasts for me, I will reward him for it’

(iii) Fasting Renews Faith:

Fasting is the annual occasion to remind the one who has forgotten, to teach the one who is ignorant and to reinvigorate the one who is in a state of lassitude

(iv) Purification of Soul:

'And whoso is saved from his own avance such are they who are successful'

(al-Hashr 59:9)