

Question #1

Elucidate the doctrine of Tawheed in Islam.
Describe its importance in individual and collective life.

1) Introduction:

Tawheed is one of the most common word that is used in muslim vocabulary. Tawheed is known as the fundamental part of Imaan. Tawheed means to accept unity of God; to accept that there is only one God and that is Allah. Also, the oneness of God is known as Tawheed. Tawheed has significant impacts on individual and as well as collective life. Impacts include equality, accountability, hope, dignity and brotherhood.

2) Meaning and Definition of Tawheed:

Tawheed is derived from an arabic word 'wahada' which means "to unite" or "to make one" which signifies the unity and oneness of God."

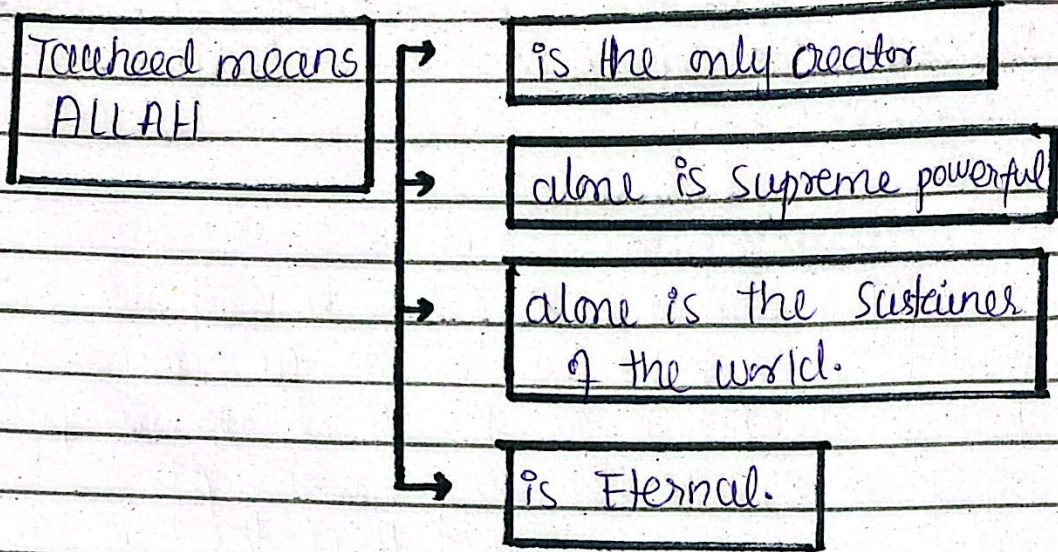
(wikipedia)

قُلْ هُوَ اللهُ اَحَدٌ . اللهُ اَحَدٌ . لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ .
وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهٗ كُفُوًا اَحَدٌ .

Say "He is Allah, [who is] one, Allah, the eternal refuge. He neither begets nor is born, Nor is there to him any equivalent."

(Surah Khatas : Al-Quran)

3) Explanation of Doctrine of Tauheed:



(i) Tauheed: Allah is the only creator:

يا ايها الناس فرب مثل فاستمعوا له
ان الذين تدعون من دون الله لاني
يخلقو ذبابا ولو اجتمعوا له .

“people, a parable is set forth: pay heed to it. Those who call upon aught other than Allah shall never be able to ‘create’ even a fly, even if all of them were able to come together to do that.”

(22:73)

From this ayat of the holy Quran, it clearly shows and mentions that nobody except Allah can create a creature (living or non-living) with that perfection reflecting the tauheed that he is the only creator.

(ii) Tauheed: Allah alone is supreme powerful:

انما امره اذ اراد شياً ان يقول له کن فيكون .

"only his command when he intends a thing that He says to it, 'Be' and 'it is'."

(Surah Yaseen)

This ayat from the holy Book of Allah; the Holy Quran proves and reflects the supreme power Allah (s.w.t) holds. Whenever he intends anything and everything. He just says be and it happens. proving the fact that Allah alone is the supreme powerful.

(iii) Tauheed: Allah alone is sustainer of the world:

الله لا اله الا هو الحي القيوم .

"Allah - there is no deity except him, the ever-living, the sustainer of (all) existence."

(2:255)

This ayat shows the oneness of god (Allah) that he alone is the sustainer of all existing bodies and all existence. - proving tauheed - the oneness of God.

(iv) Tauheed : Allah Almighty is eternal:

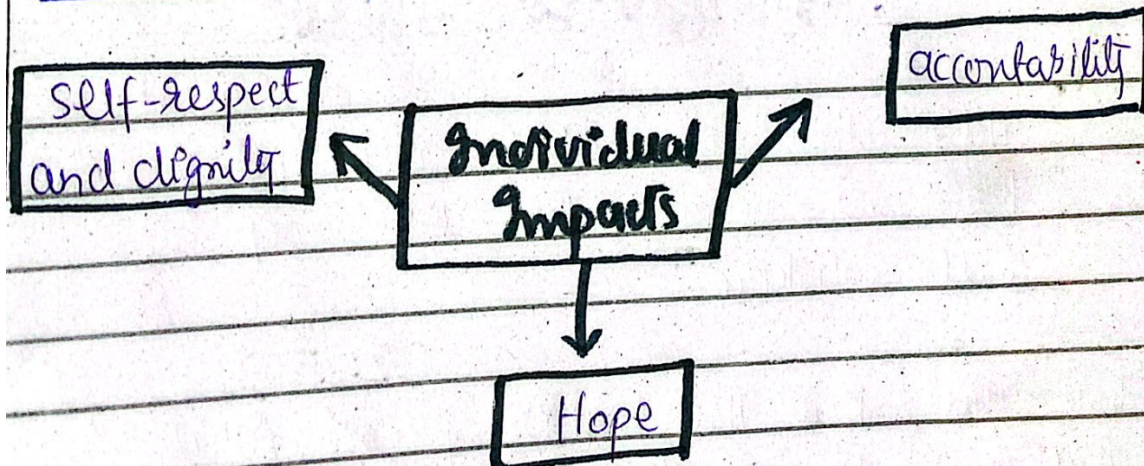
ولا تدع مع الله الهاء اخر. لا اله الا هو
كل شيء هالك الا وجهه .

And do not invoke any other god with Allah. There is no god 'worthy of worship' except him. Everything is bound to perish except he himself.

(Surah Qasas)

This ayat from surah al-Qasas from the Holy Quran explains the fact that everything is bound to perish and Allah Almighty alone is the eternal one.

4) Importance of Tauheed in Individual life:



(a) **Self-Respect and Dignity of a Person is respected:**

Tauheed has significant importance in human life; individually and collectively as well. Tauheed respects and encourages to respect self-respect and dignity of a person. According to the content of a hadees:

"The provider and the receiver of Zakat are equal"
(Al-hadees)

(b) **Accountability as an impact of Tauheed in individual life:**

Tauheed signifies the concept of accountability and encourages and emphasize to follow accountability rules and has set certain punishments in order to ensure accountability. As in Holy Quran:

He knows that which deceives the eye.

(Surah Ghafir)

(c) **Tauheed impacts human life by providing hope:**

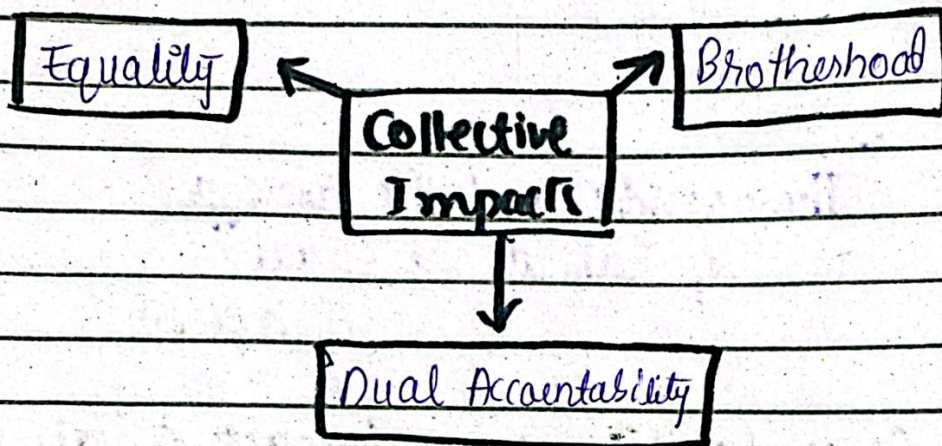
Tauheed impacts positively on individual life as it assures and provides hope in every situation of life. As in the Holy Quran:

ان مع العسر يسرا .

indeed, with hardships there's ease.

(Surah Al-An-Nashrah)

3) Impacts of Tauheed on collective life:



(a) Equality as an impact of Tauheed on collective life:

Tauheed has significant importance in human collective life. It ensures and affirms equality. Treating the same everyone is equality and is an impact of Tauheed. The content of hadees is as follows:

“One cannot be a believer, if he does not choose for his brother what he chooses for himself.”

(Al-hadees)

This shows that everyone should be treated the same irrespective of age, gender and color.

(b) Brotherhood as an impact of Tauheed on collective life:

Brotherhood is another crucial impact of tauheed on collective life - Allah Almighty in the Holy Quran says

"The believers are but brothers"
(Surah Hujurat)

(c) Dual Accountability as an impact of Tauheed on collective life:

The concept of dual accountability refers to the accountability and punishments given in this world and the hereafter as well. Muslims believe in the day of resurrection and the hereafter, therefore, Tauheed impacts and act as a check in the form of dual accountability

"The concept of Qisas and punishment for killing someone is mentioned in the Holy Quran"

(Surah Baqra: 178)

6) Conclusion: Oneness of God means believing in the oneness of Allah, who is the eternal, sustainer, supreme powerful and the only creator. Tauheed has significant impacts on human individual and collective life as well from self-respect to accountability's dual concept.

Question #6

Discuss the status and role of women in Islam. How Islam ensures their rights in various spheres of life.

1) Introduction:

The concept, status and role of women in Islam is based upon dignity and respect. Islam, 1400 years and even before, has provided special status to women, their role is prescribed and has ensured rights in various spheres of life. A woman in Islam be her a mother, daughter or wife has significant role, status and rights also be it either political, social or religious, she has some described role and rights.

2) Status and Role of Women in Islam:

(a) Status of Women in Islam as a daughter:

The Islam has given a precious status to daughters - Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) had also 4 daughters and he has mentioned daughters as a "blessing" several times. Various ahadees regarding daughters prove the special status of women as a daughter in Islam. In a hadees 'context' is the following:

“Whoever has raised daughters well, will be with me in heaven, the nearest”
(al-hadees)

(b) Status of women in Islam as a wife:

Islam, the religion of peace has given and described the status of woman as a wife as well. She has been granted multiple rights as well including to even reject the marriage proposal if she generally doesn't like it. In the holy Quran Allah Almighty ^{mentions} states that (content of)

“Your spouses are your garments and you are their garments”
(Surah Al-Baqara)

(c) Status of women in Islam as a mother:

Islam, and the holy Quran has at different places mentions the status of mother - She is considered to be loved and cared - Many ahadees and verses mentions and states the importance of mother reflecting the status of women in Islam. In holy Quran in a surah's ayat following is the content:

"do not say even the smallest word to your parents?"

(Al-Quran)

(c) Role of Women in Islam as a daughter:

The way Islam has described the status of daughter is the same way Islam describes the role women should play as a daughter. The role which can be played and opted for as a daughter can be clearly learnt and opted through looking at Holy Prophet's (P.B.U.H) daughters and grand daughters.

(e) Role of Women in Islam as a wife:

Islam describes and illustrates the role of women as a wife as well. Wife of a man or wives of a man has some certain roles given to perform in Islam. The following content of hadith shows that:

"Wives who remain at home, feed the children and remain modest will have numerous rewards"

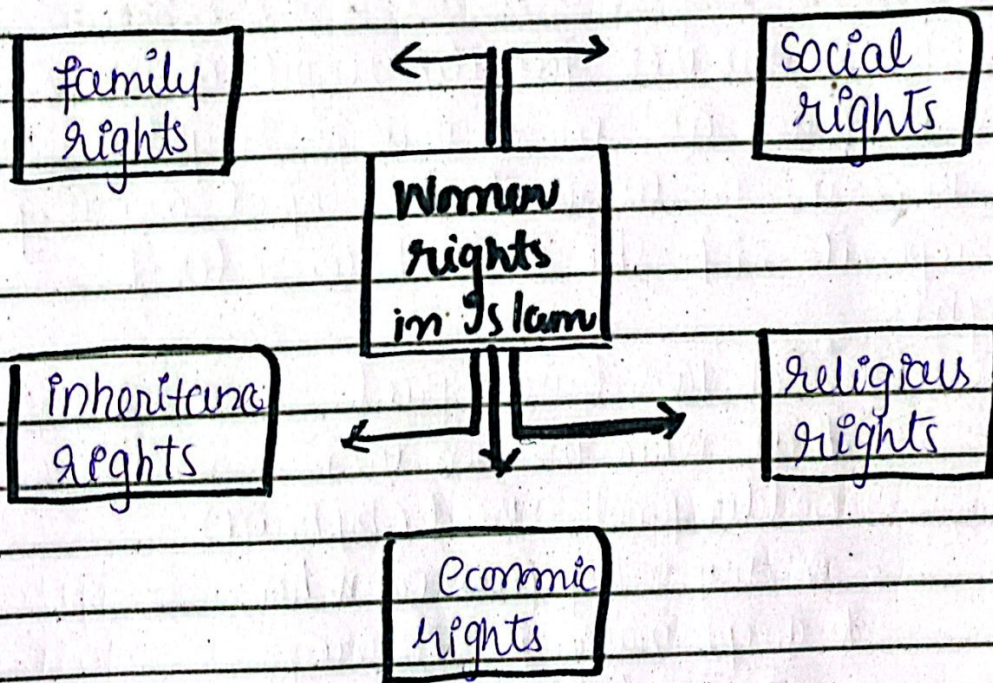
(Al-hadiths)

(f) Role of Woman in Islam as a Mother:

Islam, provides women especially as a mother the crucial role to perform and that is to upbringing, educate and teach children. Mothers are believed to be the first school of a child. As it is clearly, widely believed that.

“Mother is the first school of a child.”

3) How Islam ensures women rights in every sphere of life:



-Islam ensures women rights in every sphere of life by providing and protecting her rights. The rights as given are as protected as given. Following describes:

(i) Social Rights Ensuring by Islam:

Islam ensures social rights of a woman by prescribing punishments in order that if unfulfilled. Right of self-respect and dignity is ensured by following:

In Islam, if someone accuses someone and does not prove it, he/she is to hit certain amount of flogs"

(Context: Surah nisa and Surah Ahzaab)

(ii) Family Rights Ensuring by Islam:

Islam ensures family rights of a woman as in marriage rights. A woman is allowed to reject marriage proposals, if she doesn't consider it right.

Scholars have agreed that when the woman in wedding is not agreed (by heart) or any sort of pressure on her to accept marriage - marriage is invalid"

(iii) Economic Rights Ensuring by Islam:

Islam allows the woman to trade and invest like all other religions, but Islam not only provides but also ensures economic rights. By the concept of dual accountability of Islam. The woman business has the same privileges as men. Following explains the concept of dual accountability.

• If someone deceives someone in business, he/she has to answer and held accountable in the hereafter for the deception and curbing of economic rights of another and he/she can also sue him/her in the courts of this world."

4) Conclusion:

"Be kind to your women and treat them well"

(Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H))

This quote and various other quotes and ahadees shows and proves the role and status given to women by Islam. Rights as in social, economic and family rights are given and protected, ensured by Islam to women. Role and status as a mother, daughter and wife is described and believed as 'precious'

In Islam.

Question #4

Salat is the basic pillar of worship in Islam. Analyze its social, moral and spiritual effects.

1) Introduction:

It is the basic human nature and instinct that he wants to revere and look towards some super powerful natural being. In fulfillment of this need many follow sun, moon and other creatures of Allah—considering the creature's capabilities. To fulfill this instinct Allah made obligatory five prayers. Prayer refers to stand in front of Allah and worship him by saying various prayers. It is obligatory on Muslims and has social, moral and spiritual effects including hope, removal of indecency, discipline as well.

2) Meaning of Prayer (Salat):

⇒ Salat (prayer) is derived from an Arabic word 'wsl' which means 'to connect'. Hence, Muslims signifies it with 'To connect with Allah'.

(wikipedia)

⇒ Generally, 'Salat' means 'to pray' and also 'Salat' means 'prayer'.

3) Obligation of Prayer (Salat):

Obligation of prayers means to pray 5 times a day is obligatory on Muslims. The obligation of prayer is mentioned multiple times in the Holy Quran. About 700 times, the word Salat is mentioned highlighting the importance and obligation of prayer. Multiple times a believer's quality is associated with Salat.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالْحَرِيِّ وَالْعُقَاةِ
إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ

“O believers! get/seek help from prayer and patience. Indeed, he (Allah) is with steadfast patients.”

(Surah Baqra)

4) Emphasis on Salat in Hadees:

Various ahadees show the importance of Salat - Two of them are as follows - The content of both are:

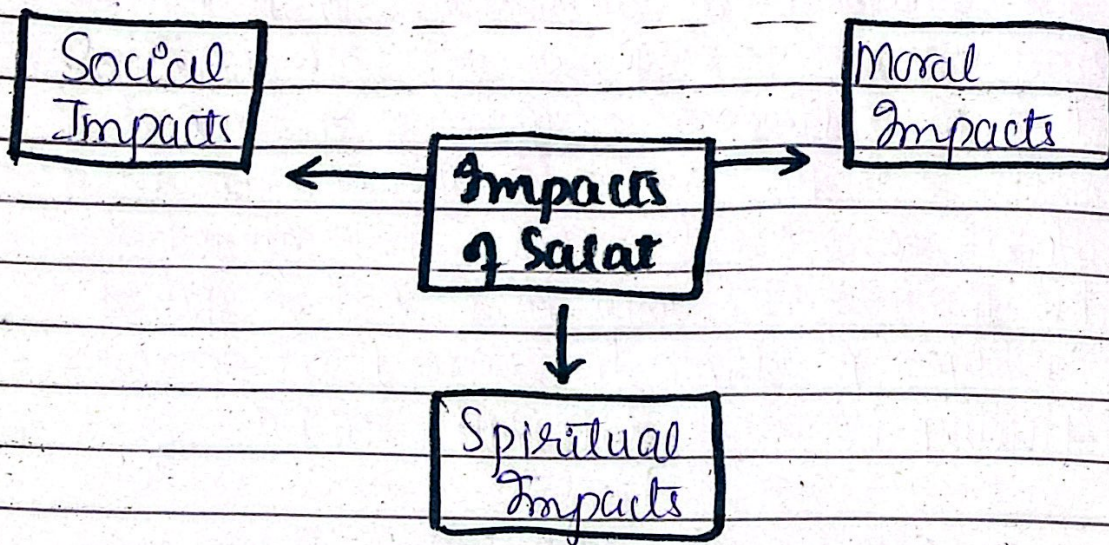
“I am leaving you with two things: Salat and Sunnah”

(Context of al-hadees)

“The difference making thing between a believer and non-believer is Salat”

(Context of al-hadees)

5) Impacts of Salat (Prayer):



(a) Social Impacts of Salat (Prayer):

Salat have significant impacts on human's life in every sphere of life. The social impact of salat is that it protects one from immodesty and prevent chaos in the society; the chaos spralled through immodesty. As in Quran Allah says:

”ان الصلاة تمنع عن الفحشاء والمنكر .“

”Indeed, prayer stops from indecency and evil things“

(Surah Ankaboot)

(Translation is contextually)

Community building, peace and support and conflict resolutions are the social impacts of salat.

(b) Moral Impacts of Salat (Prayer):

Salat has some moral impacts on human as well - Salat inculcates humility in humans - As in Quran:

• **الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَائِعُونَ**
"those who are humble in their Salat"

(Al-Quran)

Those who humble are in their prayers would also be humble and kind generally. Salat provides basis for humility and kindness; having moral impacts on human life.

(c) Spiritual Impacts of Salat (Prayer):

Salat has crucial spiritual impacts on humans. The utmost peace and tranquility is received through prayer and remembrance of Allah. A different spiritual connection is built between human and the creator. As in Quran,

• **وإن صلاتهم سكوناً**
"and verily, hearts find peace in remembrance of Allah"

(Al-Quran)

6) Conclusion: Salat (prayer) being obligatory 5 times a day on muslims has some significant social and moral, spiritual impacts including reconnecting with Allah, restraining from

Sins, peaceful environment, humble and kind society. This obligation is mentioned multiple times in Quran (about 700 times) highlighting its importance in front of Allah and the need of humans.