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Q2
Elucidate the doctrine of Tauheed (Unity of God) in Islam. Describe its importance in individual and collective life.

Doctrine of Tauheed.

Doctrine of Tauheed (Unity of God) advocates that there is only one God who created this universe, earth and heavens. There is only one God and one should obey only Him. The believers of the doctrine of Tauheed are called Muslims. Among the six "Kalmas" of Deen-e-Islam, first one is

لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

"There is no God except Allah and Muhammad (PBUH) is His messenger."

To be a Muslim, one say this "Kalma" by heart and follow the commands of the Allah Almighty in his life. Allah Almighty sent his book Quran, explaining all the ways to live according to His commands. He

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also sent His messengers to explain these ways to the people. These messengers not only preached the teaching of Islam but also shown practical example by following the ways written in the Holy books. The last Messenger of Allah is Muhammad (PBUH) and the last Holy book is Quran. However, each messenger of Allah preached about oneness of God. The doctrine of Tawheed (unity of God) has huge importance in individual as well as in collective life of Muslims.

Importance in Individual life:

(i)

Clear mindset about life:

Beliving in One God means one have clarity of idea that what God wants out of him; how one should live this temporary life. This clarity solve the questions that come in minds of human being. For example, believers of Allah have clear guidance that why they are created.

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In the Quran that He has written so that they who follow

Purpose in life:

The Tawheed to live gives Allah says He created worship him to follow His command man towards man and how purposeful

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In the Quran, Allah has written that He created man so that he can test them who follow His commands.

(ii)
Purpose in life:

The doctrine of *touheed* gives man a purpose to live by. For instance, Allah says in the Quran that He created mankind to worship Him. Worshipping means to follow His commands and His commands are that a man fulfill his duties towards other men. It means man must take his responsibilities and fulfill his duties. That's how a man can live purposeful and peaceful life.

(iii)

Self-respect and dignity:

The doctrine of *touheed* gives a sense of self-respect and dignity to a man. As it advocates that everyone is created by one God, so everyone has equal rights. Everyone is equal in front of Allah. This doctrine prohibits one to be dependent on others. Allah

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has promised in the Quran that man will be successful if he is a true believer.

وَلَا تَهِنُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا
وَأَنْتُمْ الْأَعْلَىٰ إِنْ
كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ

Do not weaken and do not grieve, and you will have the upper hand if you are true believers.

(Surah Al-e-Imran)

iv

(iv)

Hope and Optimism:

Believers, who believe in one God, spent their lives according to teachings of deen-e-Islam. However, if they make a mistake, they know that Allah is merciful and He will give them forgiveness. In one Hadith, Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that "Allah is more merciful to His servants than a mother to his child."

This gives believers of tauheed a sense of hope and optimism.

Similarly, when any hardship

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Comes in the life a believer, he knows that Allah is with him and will never leave him alone. In the Quran, Allah has promised that ease will come with hardship.

إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا
Indeed, with hardship comes ease.

(Surah Ash-Sharh)

Importance in collective life:

The doctrine of tawheed has the following importance in collective life of Muslims.

(i)

Establishment of a peaceful society:

When believers believe that they are created by one God and who orders them to fulfill their duties, they make a peaceful and just society. They never oppress the weaker ones in the society due to fear of Allah and the day of judgement. They fulfill their duties and take care of each other. And they discuss matters of collective importance to each other and make just

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decisions. There is a saying of the Holy Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) that

The most beloved of people to Allah are those who bring the most benefit to others.

(ii)

Creation of sense of brotherhood in Ummah:

Sharing the common believe that God is one, creates a sense of brotherhood in Ummah across the world. They feel strong connection by sharing this believe. When one Muslim is in pain, entire Ummah feels the same. The Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) said,

"A faithful believer to a faithful believer is like the bricks of a wall, enforcing each other."

(iii)

Development of a Unified Community.

The believers become a unified community that follow one God

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and lives according to His commands. This belief makes them a unified community. In the Quran, Allah has said that

وَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ اللَّهِ
وَلَا تَتَّبِعِ الْفِتْنَةَ

And hold firmly together to the rope of Allah and do not be divided.

(Surah Aabo-Imran)

Hence, the doctrine of tawheed advocated to be united. This is also the solution to the problems of today's Muslim Ummah that has forgot true teachings of Islam and become divided and weak.

(iv)

Eradication of exploitation and Poverty

The doctrine of tawheed advocates that all human beings are equal; they all are children of Adam. Hence, they have equal rights of life and earning. Believers know that they are not allowed to exploit one another. They measure justly and they lend

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money without any interest. They distribute money and do not collect it. That is how this doctrine do not let exploitation of anyone in the society and provide ease.

In conclusion, the doctrine of tauheed has significant importance in the individual as well as in collective life. It gives purpose in life, self-respect and dignity, hope and optimism, sense of brotherhood, just society and ensures eradication of exploitation of each other as everyone is accountable to one God.

Q3

Discuss in Islam the Socio-Economic System of Islam. Explain its postulates and functioning. How it eradicates poverty.

1.

Socio-Economic System of Islam:

In Islam, socio-economic system advocates equity and justice and welfare of the whole

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Society. It encourages people to be self-reliant but also encourages practices that are for collective welfare of the people.

Justice and Equity:

Islam ensures fair treatment in all economic dealings, advocating for equal opportunities and distribution of resources.

Elimination of Exploitation: Exploitation or interest-based lending is strictly prohibited.

Promotion of social welfare:

The system focus on wellbeing of the society, uplifting poor and vulnerable groups.

Balance between Individual and Collective Interests:

While individuals have the right to earn and own wealth, they are reminded of their duty to society.

II Postulates

(i)

Believe in Tauheed: The foundation of the system is the belief that all resources belong to

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Allah and humans are trustees.

(ii)
Adherence to Shariah (Islamic law):
Economic activities must conform to Islamic principles, ensuring ethical policies.

(iii)
Prohibition of Riba (Interest):
Interest-based transactions exploit the needy and concentrate wealth in the hands of a few. That's why interest is prohibited.

"Allah has permitted trade and has forbidden interest."

(Surah Al-Baqarah)

(iv)
Wealth is a test from Allah
Wealth is a trust and test from Allah and its proper use is a responsibility.

(v)
Encouragement of Halal Earning:
Earning through lawful means is obligatory, while unlawful gains are prohibited.

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(vi)
Implementation of Zakat.

A fixed portion of wealth is redistributed to the poor, ensuring economic balance.

(vii)
Prohibition of Hoarding and Monopolies
Practices of hoarding and monopolies harm society and are strictly prohibited.

(viii)
Promotion of Economic Justice and fair trade:

Islamic socio-economic system advocates just policies and fair trade.

III Functioning

(i)

• Wealth distribution mechanisms

• Zakat and Sadakah.

Compulsory and ~~mandatory~~
Voluntary charity redistributes wealth to reduce inequality.

• Inheritance laws:

wealth is divided fairly among heirs, preventing accumulation in a few hands.

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(ii)
Ethical business practices
Transparency and fairness
in trade are essential. Contracts
and promises must be fulfilled.

(iii)
State's role in economic management
The state collects and
redistributes zakat, ensuring
the zakat reaches the needy.
In addition to zakat, welfare
programs are established for
orphans, widows, and the
poor.

(iii) Eradication of Poverty

(i) Zakat:

2.5% zakat on wealth annually
ensures circulation of the wealth
in this way, money does
not accumulate in the hands
of a few. Circulation of
wealth leads towards eradication
of poverty.

(ii)
Waqf (endowment for public benefit)
Properties or assets are
donated for public welfare,
such as schools and hospitals.

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Schools and hospitals contribute to the overall well-being of individuals and help in eradication of the poverty.

(iii)
Prohibition of Exploitation and Interest.

This ensures that capital reach to the needy without any exploitation. Hence, helps in eradication of poverty.

(iv)
Islamic state as guardian of the public welfare:
Islamic state acts as guardian of public welfare and ensures equal distribution of resources and hence, helps in eradication of poverty.