

## ISLAMIC STUDIES

### PART II

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

#### LITERAL MEANING OF TAWHEED:

The word Tawheed has been derived from the Arabic roots 'ت و ه د' which literally means oneness and uniqueness.

#### Contextual meaning:

It technically means that Allah is only one in his being and attributes. He is the only <sup>one who is</sup> worthy of worship to be worshipped and obeyed.

قل هو الله احد

Say, "He is Allah, (who is) one"

#### Origin of Concept of Tawheed:

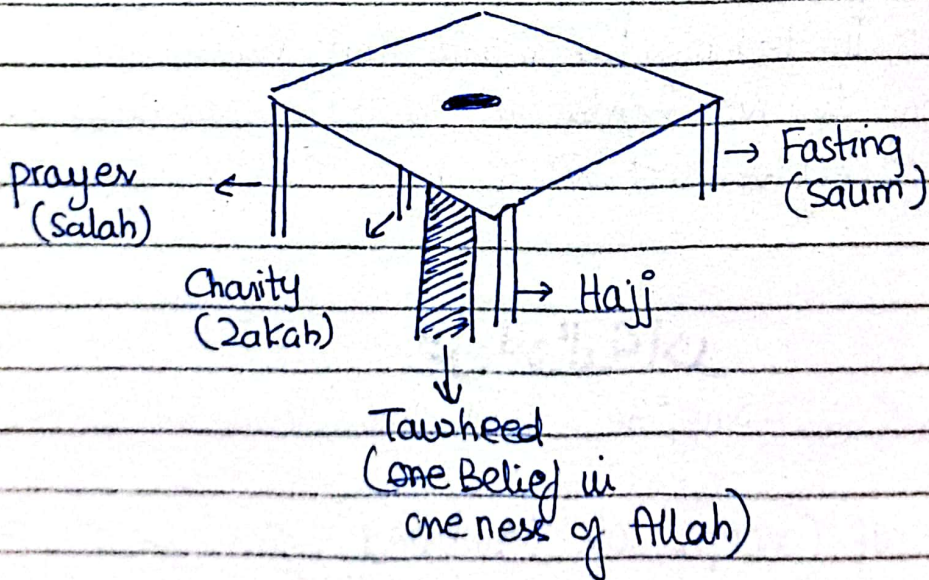
Tawheed is an Islamic concept that refers to oneness of Almighty Allah. The concept have been around since beginning of human life, and it laid the foundations of Muslim ethics.

## Explanation of the Concept of Tawheed:

Tawheed is one of the basic and the first pillar of Islam, without which all the other four pillars would fall. A person's faith can only be strong if he firmly believes in Tawheed.

**HADITH:** Tawheed is the gateway of Islam.

To further understand the significance of Tawheed as the main pillar, a diagram is given below:



## Significance of Tawheed:

The importance of Tawheed can be derived from multiple practices in Islam. For instance, in prayer we begin with Surahs that encircle Tawheed. To precisely explain Tawheed, its relying on the Almighty and believing in the fact that the entire universe runs and functions as per the orders of Al-mighty Allah.

ومن آياته الليل والنهار والشمس والقمر

(Surah Fussilat: 37)

And of his signs are the night and day and the sun and moon.

Thus, the single verse of the Quran explains the control of Allah Almighty over the entire universe.

## Comprehending Tawheed:

As earlier said, Tawhid is the core pillar of Islam. One needs to understand the meaning of Tawhid in depth in order to fully comprehend it.

Tawheed revolves around the following points mentioned:

(1) Believing in the fact that Allah Almighty is the sustainer, provider, guardian, and so on.

(2) There is only one God worthy of worship and that is Allah Almighty.

(3) Not attributing the qualities of Allah Almighty to his creation.

a) Unity in Person:

Before the arrival of Islam, and even today many believe in polytheism. However, John Clover in his book "The Evidence of God in an Expanding Universe" informs the readers that if there were multiple Gods, the universal system would have been disturbed.

However, this idea has already been presented in Quran 1400 years ago in multiple Surahs. Such as in Surah Ikhlas the oneness of Allah Almighty have been clearly explicitly mentioned:

## قل هو الله احد

Say: he is Allah, (who is) one

## الله الصمد

Allah is eternal and absolute

## لم يلد ولم يولد

None is born of him and nor was he born

## ولم يكن له كفوا احد

Surah - Ikhlas And there is none like him.

### (b) Attributes of Allah:

The attributes of Allah are such that they can be given or associated to his creation. The 99 names of Allah Almighty explicitly defines his sovereignty and oneness. As an example one of the name of Allah Almighty is mentioned below:

## المالك

Al-Malik

'The eternal lord'

This name of Allah informs his creation, that only he is the ever-living. By the end of this world 'man and Jinn' or 'Jin and Ins' both are going to die. Even, the death of Angel is going to die. It is only Allah Al-mighty who was and will remain for ever. So, this quality of Allah can never be possessed by any of his creation.

Moreover, different Chapters of Al-Qur'an informs us about the message of Tawheed such as 'Ayat-ul-Kursi'.

The recitation of Ayatul Kursi protects humans. Moreover it is recited for blessings and mercy of Allah. This portrays that man himself is nothing and it is only Allah who decides his affairs. An Ayah portrays the power and oneness of Allah:

”حسبي الله”

Allah is sufficient for me

### (C) Unity in Actions:

It is the belief that all worldly or any affair is controlled by Allah Almighty. Nothing is in the control of human beings. Such as in Surah Yaseen there is a clear explanation of Allah Almighty's power of owning all the affairs.

”كن فيكون”

Be and it is.

## Importance in Individual and Collective Life:

Since Tawheed is the core and basic pillar of Islam, it shapes individuals personality and also impacts ones collective life:

### a) Impact on Individuals life:

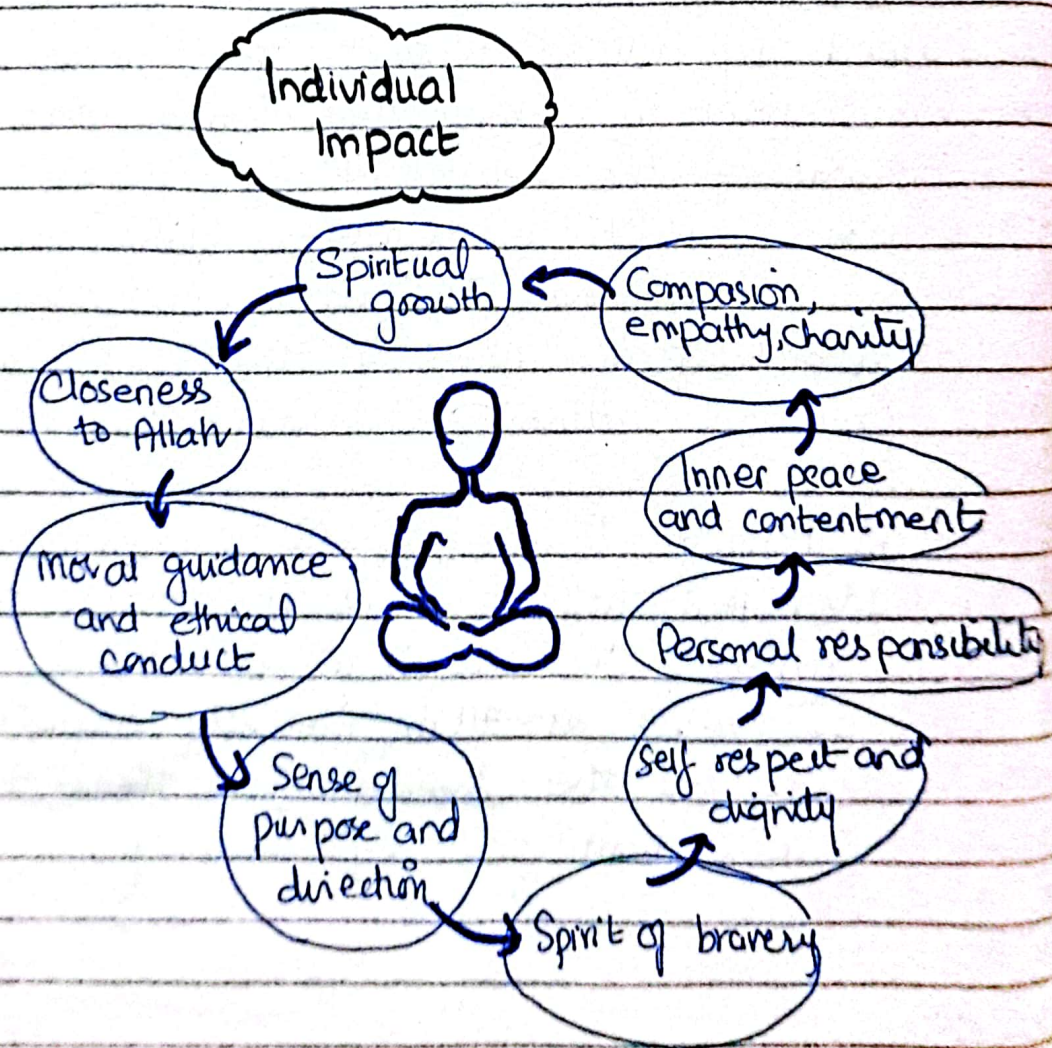
Tawheed plays a major role in humbling a person and shaping ones personality. As one knows that humbleness is liked by Allah Almighty. In addition to this one must also know that Satan was thrown out of the heaven because of his arrogance which is averse to Allah. Thus, one must know that Tawheed is a blessing and a gift from Almighty Allah and should be preserved within ones soul and personality.

Additionally, Tawheed instils in ones mind the idea that nothing lies in the hands of Allah creation. One adopts a personality in which <sup>one</sup> he relies on Allah Almighty completely. This gives one the freedom from fear and calms him during calamity.

Tawheed also instil in one's mind the fear of Allah which ~~be~~ inculcates within him the sense of right and wrong. Thus, this protects man from going towards things that are not dear to Allah - Almighty.

يا ايها الناس اتقوا ربكم  
الذي خلقكم من نفس واحد

O men! Fear your Lord, who created you from a single being





## (b) Impact on collective life.

Not only does Tawheed shapes and ameliorates individual life but it also makes better the social life and interactions. For instance, Tawheed promotes social welfare and guides one to help the poor and needy. This not only help in one's contentment, but also ameliorates and alleviates the society.

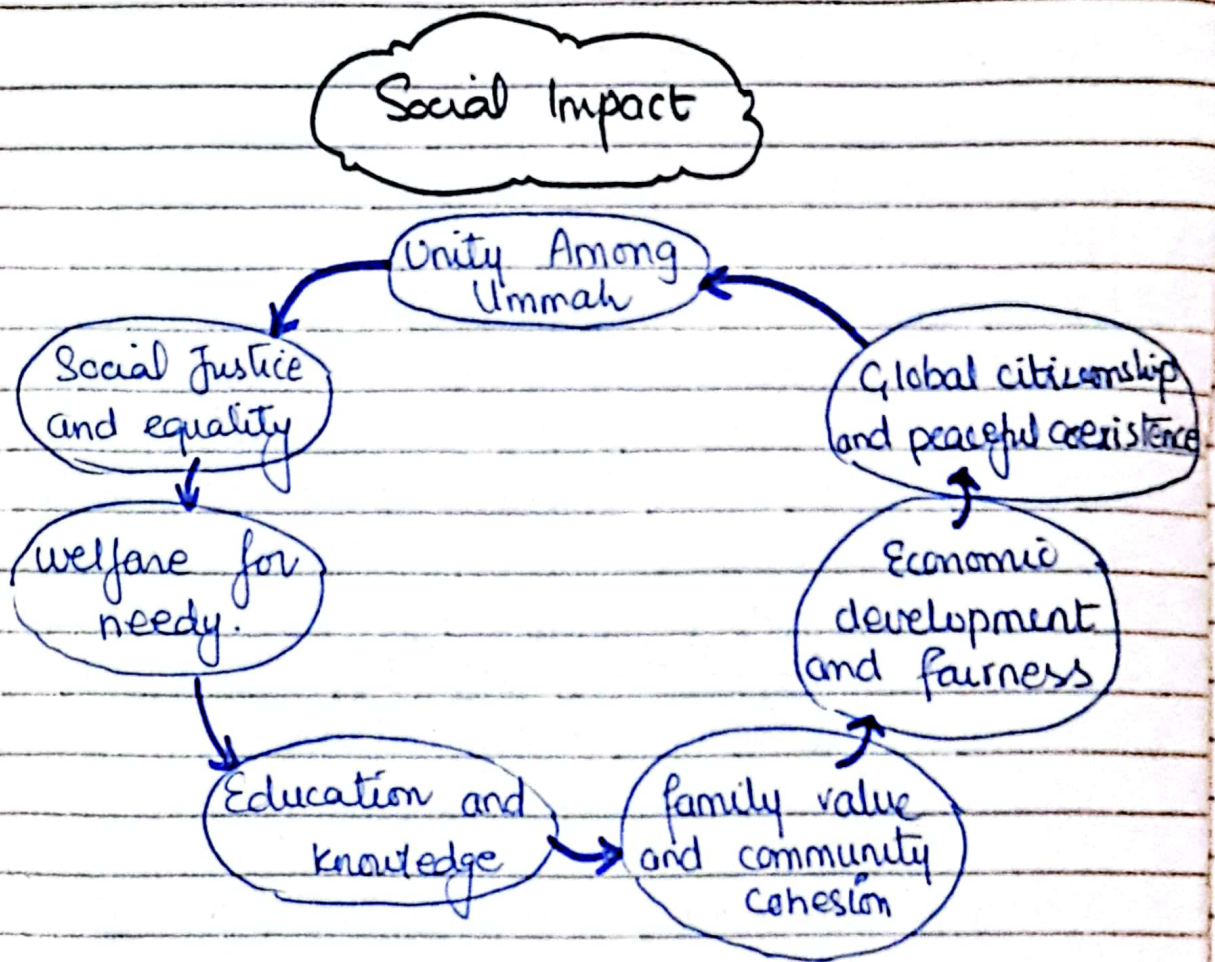
### واقموا الصلوة واتوا زكوة

And establish prayer and give Zakah.

Moreover, Tawheed inculcates within one the sense of brotherhood. Allah Almighty, regarding this, states in the Qur'an:

### انما المؤمنون اخوة فاطمروا بين اخوتكم

The believers are "but brothers,  
so make settlement between  
your brothers.



Allama Muhammad Iqbal once said:

صبح ازل یہ سمجھ سے آیا جب تک نے  
 جو عقل کا غلام ہو وہ ذلت نہ کر قبول  
 باطل دوئی بسنے ہے حق لاشریک ہے  
 شرک میں نہ حق و باطل نہ کر قبول

### Denouement:

Tawheed being the basic pillar of Islam holds significance and must be integrated in ones life as the social and individual impacts of it leads to betterment of an individual as well as society.

Q4. (Salah) Prayer is the basic pillar of worship in Islam. Analyze its social, moral, and spiritual impacts

### LITERAL Meaning of Salah:

The word Salah or Prayer is derived from the root word 'Salat' or 'صلت' which means 'to connect', 'link' or 'to communicate'. So, the word Salah literally means connection or link with Allāh through the act of ritual prayer.

### Contextual meaning of Salah:

It is an Arabic word that means 'prayer' and refers to five daily prayers that Muslims perform.

### Origin of Salah:

The Origin of Islamic prayer, salah, is attributed to the Prophet Muhammad and his followers, who were the first to use it in relation to Islamic beliefs. The instructions of Salah are clearly mentioned in the Holy Qurān.

واقموا الصلاة وَاؤْتُوا زَكَاةً وَارْكَعُوا

Surah Baqarah: verse 43

سجدة العين

And establish prayer and give Zakah and bow down with those who bow down.

## Salah as the basic ~~prag~~ pillar of worship in Islam:

Salah is one of the important pillar of Islam. Without the which believe and person finds hard to tame his 'Nafs'. Qur'an contains abundance of integral verses that explain the importance of establishment of Salah. Moreover, the Hadith quotes its significance in an alarming way, informing the consequences of not praying. Prophet Muhammad P B U H in a Hadith said:

**HADITH:** The only difference between a believer and non-believer is that of prayer.

Thus, Salah must not be taken lightly and should be integrated in ones daily routine.

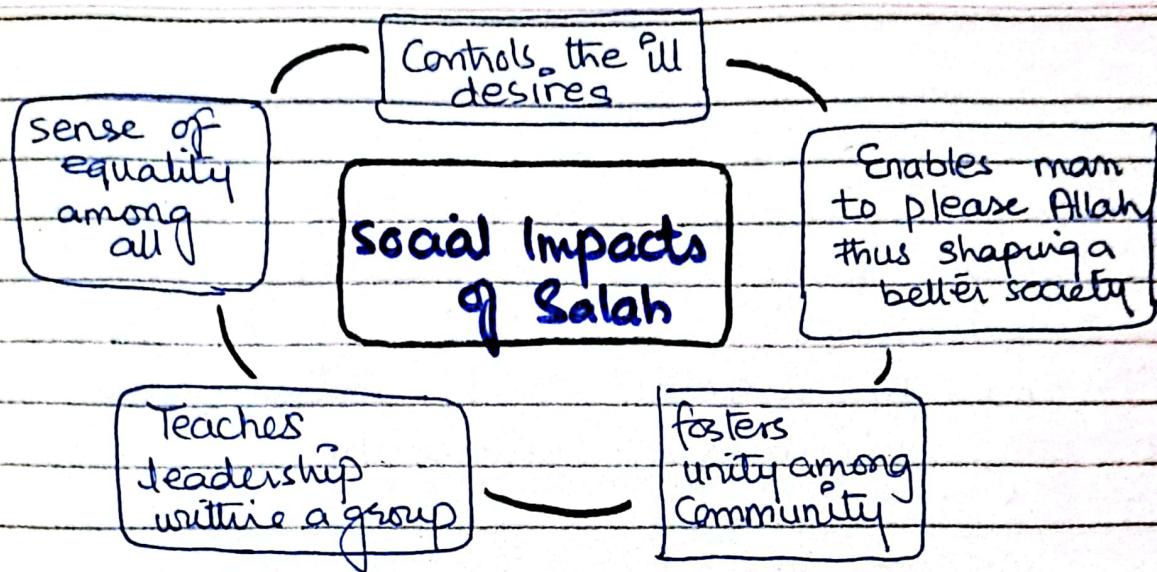
### Impacts of the Salah:

1) Social Impact :

Salah being the basic and mandatory pillar of Islam brings with itself many benefits. The social impacts widely noticed are that it brings community together and fosters unity among members of community.

Moreover, its collective performance in mosques compels and attracts other Muslims towards it. It inculcates within the society the idea that all men; be that rich or poor, black or white are equal in the eyes of Allah.

Moreover, the Imam leading the prayer teaches the importance of leadership of a single person. Additionally, Salah teaches one to tame their ego and desires. For instance, one finds hard to leave their blanket in cold winters in morning, however, the people of Allah, for the sake of Allah, suppress their desires only to please Allah Almighty.



يا ايها الذين آمنوا استغينوا بالصبر  
والصلاة ان الله مع الصابرين

Surah Baqarah: Verse 153

O believers! Seek comfort in patience and prayer. Allah is truly with those who are patient.

## 2) Moral Impact

Salah shapes one's personality.

It makes a person become attractive among his peers and fellow beings.

Salah has many hidden blessings!

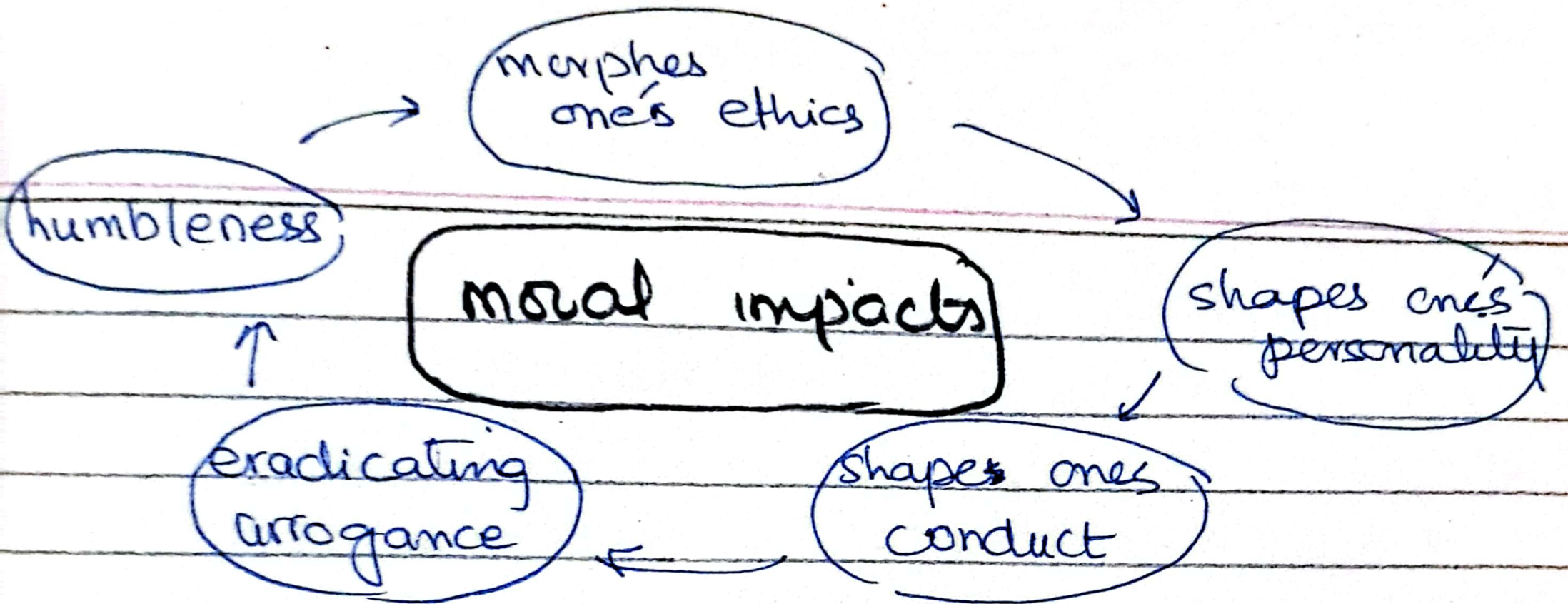
It is believed that people who pray two rakahs during the mid-night are granted noor. Thus, we can say that 'Salah' has many moral impact among which some of the are stated.

Salah humbles one and inculcates within a person the <sup>idea of</sup> sovereignty of Allah. It ~~er~~ finishes and discourages arrogance among in one's personality. Moreover, it teaches makes man tranquil even in adverse situations. Allah states in the Qur'an:

## الاذكر الله تطمئن القلوب

Truly, only through remembrance of Allah do hearts find peace.

Besides, Salah salah also leads to spiritual growth and takes a person closer to Allah - Almighty. It also inculcates within one sense of purpose and direction. It is reported that communities, where the salah ratio is high, experience more less criminal cases. Hence, this shows that 'Salah' shapes individual morals and thus helps ameliorate one's being.

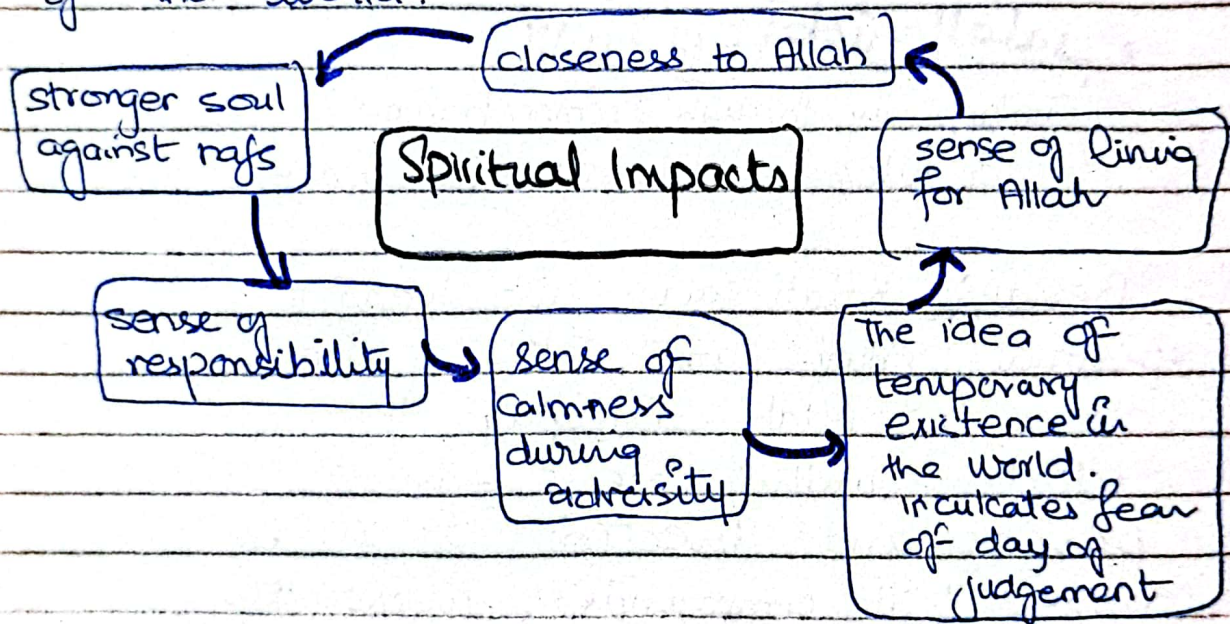




### (3) Spiritual Impact:

Salah also have many spiritual impacts. One of the basic impact and the essential one is that it calms the

heart and provides strength to the soul. Since the heart and the soul is in constant battle; one desires the world while the later wants 'Jannah' or heaven; thus 'Salah' shapes ones soul in a way that could not be shaken by the desires of the world.



## Conclusion:

Salah being the basic pillar of Islam shapes ones personality and helps promote unity among community. It shapes one's morals. Additionally, the spiritual and social impacts not only improves individual's personal life but also helps the growth of community.

Q7. The Muslim Ummah is like one body. If one part is in pain, the whole body should feel the pain. It is the internal strife of the economic emasculation or ideological battle that Muslims have failed to address the contemporary challenges especially in ME. Describe.

Introduction:

The Muslim Ummah are like brothers. This idea was stressed upon back then 1400 years ago. "The Muslim Ummah is like one body, if one part hurts the whole body should feel the pain." is a hadith that informs about how the unity of Muslims should be. However, recent calamities show the deviation and to this many reasons could be put forward mentioned. This, however, is a challenge to this Muslim community as it has been stuck in a dilemma.

Explanation:

The lack of Muslim unity among the Ummah has posed a serious threat to their faith. Their fragile faith have divided them into sects leading to violence and catastrophe. However, multiple verses in Quran portray the idea that Muslims come under the ~~the~~ single umbrella and shouldn't be divided. Allah says in the Quran:

Hold tightly the rope of Islam  
and don't become divided

The reason for the segmentation of the Ummah is ~~there~~ their lack of attention towards the Quran and Sunnah. The recent times have portrayed the ignorant image of the Muslim world who either fight among each other one another or remain silent over injustices happening around them. For such people there is a warning in Quran:

وَأَسِرُّوا قَوْلَكُمْ أَوِ اجْهَرُوا بِهِ أِنَّهُ لَئِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ

whether you conceal your words or reveal it. Indeed! Allah knows the secrets of all hearts.

Moreover, the elites in the Muslim community have bowed down to the non-believers which portrays their deviation from their religion. As Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an that the believers and non-believers can never be friends and that they are not the well-wishers of the believers.

The current state of crisis is making the reflecting the times of 'Jahiliyah' or the era of ignorance. The reliance on the colonists and the west have deeply enveloped the Muslim rulers making them unable to detach from them. As a matter of fact, the ruling elites have become the servants of the colonial mindset and follows the orders of others rather than working for the Muslim community.

This has however become a threat to the Muslim world as day-by-day they're becoming distant from how they should be as per Islamic teachings. Moreover, the adoption of western styles and living standards have further exacerbated

The situation. The ~~AW~~

The crisis in the middle East have made evident the lack of attention of muslim rulers towards the muslim ummah. More than 50,000 people have died in the muslim majority countries, but the rulers prefer silence over response.

### Denouement:

The ~~world~~ <sup>muslims</sup> needs to know that the importance of unity of muslims. In order to reduce the violence against muslims, the muslims must <sup>bring</sup> end <sup>to</sup> the internal fragmentation of the muslims and focus on bringing an end to the violence against muslim children, women, and elderly.