

Q No-2

Salient features of Islam that make it unique from other religions of the world

Introduction:

Islam is a complete code of life. It covers all aspects of life. It guides in social, political and economic affairs of life. Islam is a unique religion. Its features are not found in other religions of the world. Islam has belief in oneness of God (Tauheed), the last day, finality of the prophethood, Nikkah for social system, consultation in politics, and zakat in economic system. These features make Islam a Deen that is different from other religions. Since, other religions have only system of worships and ethics.

"Today, I have perfected your religion." (Al-Maida: 3)

### 1) Literal meaning:

Islam is taken from Arabic word  $\text{S-L-M}$  which means peace.

### 2) Technical meaning:

Islam is a Deen that got perfection after revelation to the last prophet Muhammad S.A.W.

### 3) Definition:

According to Dr. Hamidullah, Islam is a Deen that covers worships, ethics, social, political and economic aspects of Man's life.

### 4) Concept of Islam

Allah created the universe. He created Man on earth. As Allah says,

"He created Man from clot"

(Al-Ataq: 1-5)

Then Allah raised prophets to guide Man. These prophets

conveyed the message of  
and to show the greatness  
of revelation which came  
to the prophet Muhammad S.A.W.  
The believers have to  
follow the teachings of  
the prophet Muhammad S.A.W.  
for peace with Allah. In other  
words,

"No other religion except  
Islam will be accepted."

(Al-Baqara 130)

5) Features that make Islam  
unique than other religions

Islam is a unique  
religion than all other religions  
than other religions are  
its features that are  
discussed in heads below.

i) concept of Tauheed

Tauheed means oneness  
of God. In Islam, God is  
one in His being and  
in His attributes. He has

no partner in His being or attributes. While, there is concept of duality and trinity in Judaism and Christianity. As Allah says in Quran,

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

"Allah is one in His being."

(Al-Akhlās)

## ii) Belief in the last day

The basic belief in Islam is the last day. It means that the worldly life is temporary. The eternal life is one that comes next. However, believers of other religions have no concept of life hereafter that negates the purpose of creation of the Man.

"When Israfel blows trumpet, they will gaze around astounded."

(Al-Quran)

## iii) Finality of prophet hood

Islam teaches that

Muhammad S.A.W is the last prophet of Allah. The process of prophethood that started from Hazrat Adam has ended at the last prophet Muhammad S.A.W. He is the final prophet. No other prophet would come now. However, finality of prophethood belief is not found in other religion. The last prophet is reported to have said,

"Islam is to testify that Allah is one and Muhammad S.A.W is the last prophet."

(Hadith-i-Tibril)

#### iv) Zakat system

Zakat system also makes Islam unique as it ensures circulation of wealth in a society. This makes economic system efficient and effective. However, other religions do not give economic system.

The economic system is borrowed from capitalism or communism or socialism. These systems have failed to maintain balance in a society. Since, communism failed with disintegration of USSR and capitalism allows concentration of wealth at the few hands.

"Give stated alms to the poor."  
(Al-Tauba: 60)

#### v) Procedure of Ijtihad

Islam is both static and dynamic. It provides concept of Ijtihad to deal with matters not found in Quran and Sunnah. However, other religions are static.

#### Conclusions

To conclude, Islam is unique than other religions in its features. It has concept of Tauheed, the last day belief and the finality of the prophethood.

Q No-2

The philosophy of prayer and its types and its impacts

Introduction:

"I created men and women for worship."

(Al-Zariyat: 56)

The above mentioned Quranic verse highlights that Allah created Man for His worship. Prayer is one of those worships. A believer has to establish prayer. The prayer has different types. However, its main types are mandatory, optional and thankfulness prayer. The prayer also has spiritual, moral and social impacts. It creates sense of remembrance, refrains from indecency, and promotes justice in a society.

### 1) Literal Meaning:

Arabic word for Namaz is 'Salat' which means prayer.

### 2) Technical Meaning:

Namaz is the religious obligation that is established by a believer.

### 3) Definition:

According to Professor Khurshid Ahmed, Namaz is a religious duty that is established on a stated time and place.

### 4) Philosophy of Prayer

One who believes in Allah performs ablution and enters into prayer. After entering in prayer, he does not leave it incomplete because it is against commandments of God. He totally submits to the will of God to seek peace hereafter.



"Bow with those who bow."  
(Al-Quran)

## 5) Types of prayer

There are mainly three types of prayer.

### i) Mandatory prayers

These are those prayers that are established five times a day on a stated time. These prayers were made mandatory on the eve of Miraj. These include Fajar, Zohar, Asr, Maghrib and Asha. As Allah <sup>says</sup>

"Allah does not put burden on man beyond his capacity."  
(Al-Quran)

### ii) Optional prayers

These are those prayers that are left optional. Reward can be gained if established. However, missing them leads to no punishment from God. These are part of many

prayers that can be left without establishing.

Example:

Four Nawafil in Asha.

iii) Thankfulness prayer

These prayers are celebrated on a special event to thank God.

Example:

Prayer on Solar and Lunar Eclipse.

iv) Eid prayers

These are two prayers in a lunar year. Eid-ul-fitr and Eid-ul-Adha.

v) Prayer on dead

Prayer is also established when a believer leaves this world. This prayer is Fata-e-Kafaya.

Example:

Namaz-e-Janaza

## b) Impacts of prayer

The prayer greatly affects who establishes it. The impacts of prayer tremendous.

### i) Spiritual impacts

The following spiritual impacts prayer has on an individual.

#### a) Remembrance of God

one who establishes prayer has remembrance of God. He realizes that Allah is the creator of the universe.

#### b) Repentance of evils

one who celebrates prayer repents his previous evils done by him and makes resolution for the future not to do again.

### i) Realization of higher life

Prayer also leads one to realize that higher life is hereafter. This life is temporary.

### ii) Moral impacts

The moral impacts of prayer are discussed below in heads.

#### a) Eradication of indecency

Prayer eradicates indecency from society. Since, it is against the commandments of God to spread indecency in a society. Thus, indecency is prevented.

#### b) Justice

Prayer also promotes justice. One who establishes prayer is naturally forced to dispense justice and avoid injustice.

### iii) Social impacts

Prayer also has social impacts.

#### a) Promotion of equality

There is no distinction in a prayer among people on the basis of class, race or wealth. All stand side by side during prayer. Thus, prayer promotes equality in a society.

#### b) Inculcation of discipline

All prayers make queues during prayer. Making of queues inculcates discipline among individuals in a society.

#### Conclusion

To sum up, prayer is a religious duty. It has primarily three types. Prayer greatly affects an individual in all aspects spiritually, morally, and socially.