

QNo.1: What is difference between Religion and Deen?
Describe the importance of Deen in human life?

1- Introduction:

Ever since the start of human life on Earth, human beings have pondered upon their true purpose of existence. In order to make sense of things, contacted ideas were turned into religions. Some started worshipping stars, some sun, other moons and some even built idols to worship. Over the course of time, Allah sent several messengers with books and revelations to guide mankind. In essence, the first human was a Muslim, but Islam as a religion was introduced much later. Hence 'Deen' is a complete code of conduct which dictates every aspect of life while religion is a constructive concept that is limited to a person's own belief and judgement. There are thus, many religions in the world today but only one Deen i.e. Islam.

2- What is Religion and Deen:-

Religion:

The word Religion or "Mazhab" is derived from the arabic word "zhab" which means "the way to act". It is a concept that is based on national dogmas and holds no logical supportbase. It is a personal way of life with no revelations to back its claim.

Deen:

The word 'Deen' (دين) is derived from the Arabic word 'Dana' which means "to surrender". Deen is a complete code of life which provides the basis of morality and separates right from wrong. It deals with a personal as well as collective concept of society. It means complete surrender to God (Allah) and his will.

3- Difference between Deen and Religion:

Deen Islam

Religion

1) Meaning:

"Deen" means to surrender and to worship one God only (Allah)

Religion means "to characterize or the way to act" in life / rituals etc.

2) Purpose:

Deen deals with the personal as well as collective (societal) lives of a believer.

Religion deals with the personal aspect of human life (To each, his own).

3) Concept of Social Solidarity:

Deen propagates the concept of a collective society.

Religion on deals with the personal level, not societal level.

4) Accountability:

Deen provides and dictates a way of life in dunya as well as

Religion only deal with the hereafter.

5) Basis:

Deen is based on the logical thinking and concepts.

Religion is based on illogical dogmas.

6) Dictated by:

It is dictated by Holy books (Quran) and revelations (Shariat).

It is dictated by rituals and events.

7) Code:

It provides a ^{complete} code of public and private life.

It provides the code for private life only.

8) Path:

Fi Sabil-lillah (in the Path of Allah)

Fi Sabil-it-Taghut (in the path of Shaitan and his followers)

9) Belief basis:

Belief is based on conviction of mind.

Blind Belief is based on dogmas.

10) Example:

Islam as a deen for all mankind is a complete code of conduct and a universal religion.

Secularism is a belief that religion is one's private matter. Hence "Atheism" - a religion with no God is a perfect example.

4- Importance of Deen in Human life:

Deen provides a complete code of life whether public or private - It sets standard for morality in a society and helps it develop over time into a peaceful one. Deen is total submission to God (Allah) and managing worldly matters in the light of Quran and Sunnah while keeping the hereafter in mind. It is said

"Deen for Allah is Islam"

(Quran)

a): Standard for morality:

Deen sets a standard for morality by separating the good from the evil. In the Arab world, when buying women alive was a common practice and when alcohol was a traditional beverage, deen Islam gave a proper ruling over the prohibition of such evils. The drunk times that disturbed the order of society were eradicated and women were granted their rights for the first time.

"The best amongst you, are the one who are good to their women."

(Hadith)

b): Complete code of life:

Islam provided the complete code of conduct. Every matter from getting married

to fighting a battle had its roots discussed in Islam either through Quran or Shari'ah.

c): Filling the theological Vacuum:

Islam not only provides the man his meaning in life but also fills the need for religion. As a universal religion it is applicable to all mankind till the end.

d): A key to Individual freedom:

Islam grants every individual the right to exercise individual freedom. It is the only deen that has personal accountability as every individual is answerable for his own acts. He is free to roam around in the world and do whatever he sees fit (within deen's parameters).

e): Aid to Scientific advent:

The advent of Scientific discoveries started with some great Muslim philosophers.

"And these are signs in the universe, who ponder."

(Quran)

Islam encourages its believers to think and ponder upon the wonders of the world. This helps in discovering new realities of the world.

f): Social Solidarity:

"Ibn - Khaldon" gave the concept of "Asabiya", a sense of social solidarity that helps societies grow and reach their peak in civilization cycle. Deen Islam act as that force and drives Muslims together as a community.

"Every Muslim is The brother of another Muslim."

(Sahih Bukhari)

5): Conclusion:

Although Islam as a deen was introduced through the last Prophet - (PBUH) upon the Arabs, it has been there since Adam (AS).

Deen is a complete code of life while religion is limited to a specific time and people with rituals to satisfy their theological needs. Deen Islam has been essential for Muslims of all time and everywhere in the world because of its universality. It is a deen for mankind.

Qno. 2: How Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the perfect example for all mankind? Elucidate.

1): Introduction:

Born in the Arab world in 570 CE, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) navigated his way in life first without father and later without mother. Despite being an orphan, he grew up to be a kind-hearted soul with a positive stance on life. Even before accepting Islam, he had built an image of "Sadiq and Ameen" for himself in Makkah. He spread the message of Islam through love and the strength of character. He served as the perfect example for all mankind.

2): Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) - A perfect example for mankind:

Allah Almighty picked Muhammad (PBUH) as his last messenger. He (PBUH) therefore possessed all the essential qualities and attributes to convey the peaceful image of Islam as the only deen.

A): A Mercy for all mankind:

The finality of Prophethood meant that no more revelation or book will be revealed. Thus the deen Islam will be for all of mankind till the day of judgement. It was therefore said in Quran

"وما ارسلناك الا رحمة للعالمين"
 بے شک ہم نے آپ کو قاف ہمارے کے لئے
 رحمت بنا کر بھیجا "

"Indeed we sent you, Muhammad (PBUH) as a mercy to all mankind."

(Al-Quran)

b) Sadiq and Amin:

Even before the advent of Islam, Prophet (PBUH) was given the title of "Sadiq" (truthful) and Amin (Honest) because of his character. Everyone in Makkah admitted that Prophet (PBUH) was always honest and supported truth in all forms.

Even Kuffar including Abu Jahal admitted to his qualities and excellency of character.

c) Bravery - Participation in Wars:

Prophet (PBUH) was a preacher of peace but after the advent of Islam and migration from Makkah to Madina, the circumstances forced him to Jihad.

(After Islam) Life of Prophet (PBUH)

Makkah
(13 years)



No wars

Madina

(10 years)



- 28 Wars (Personal)

• Personal participation

After life being made difficult in Makkah, He (PBUH) migrated to Madina and sent several diplomatic missions elsewhere to spread the word of Islam. He (PBUH) himself fought almost 28 wars some of them are as follow.

2AH	Battle of Badar	(First battle)
3AH	Battle of Uhud	
5AH	Hudaibiyah treaty	
7AH	Battle of Trench	
8AH	Battle of Hunain	
9AH	Battle of Tabuk	(last battle)

• Rules for battle:

Even in case of war, Prophet (PBUH) highly warned soldiers to not to kill innocent (women, children, wounded, monks etc) and not to damage property (buildings, fields) and not to slay dead bodies etc.

• Raised voice against injustice in Arab:

All the practices of buying women alive and injustices were brought to light by Prophet (PBUH) in Arab and put an end to

D): Personal life - Attitude towards family:

i). Relation with Mother:

Prophet (PBUH) upon losing his mother at a young age, still went to see her grave every now and then. He (SAW) said

that if his (PBUH) mother called him and he was saying prayer, he would break it and tend to her immediately.

ii) His character:

Aisha (RA) upon inquiring about Prophet's (PBUH) character said,

"His character is Quran."

iii) Towards his wives:

All the wives of Prophet (PBUH) were content and happy with his behavior and justice.

iv) Towards neighbors

Once a woman who ^{went to} throw garbage on Prophet (PBUH) fell sick, He (PBUH) went to inquire about her health despite the hostile behavior.

v) Towards companions:

Prophet (PBUH) treated all his companions as his brothers and treated them with kindness. Once a person brought grapes and Prophet (PBUH) ate it himself without sharing. When the person left, the companions inquire, He (PBUH) told them that it was sour and so he (PBUH) didn't share.

E) As a diplomat / Peacemaker:

Even before the advent of Islam, Prophet (PBUH) was a part of Haly-al-Fazool (a treaty for peace and security in the region). He propagated the message of

(PBUH)

peace through love and his character. He was later part of charter of Medina (a 63 constitutional article based document for peace) as well as Treaty of Hudaibiyah. He (PBUH) also mitigated between Aws and Khazraj as well as Muhajir and Ansar. His diplomatic efforts led Islam to spread like wildfire in Arab.

3- Conclusion:

Prophet (PBUH) was chosen to be the final prophet because Islam is a universal religion and applicable to all mankind. Hence the character of Prophet (PBUH) was perfected in all manners to guide everyone towards the true meaning and understanding of Islam. His character was the practical application of Quran (the divine book for everyone) till the end of time. Therefore it served and still serves as the perfect example of a true believer and mankind.
