

## Question no. 2

Islamic civilisation has a unique identity. Elaborate its characteristics.

### 1. Introduction:

Islamic civilisation is the first moderate civilisation of Arabian world. Civilisation is defined as the social order through which culture is promoted. Islamic civilisation is unique in a sense as it promotes a tolerable social, political, economic and religious culture. The west, which holds the emblem of liberty, fraternity and rights of people, itself started realising the importance of giving rights to human after 'magna Carta' 100-1200 BC. In Islamic world, human rights are the core of religion Islam. Muhammad (PBUH), the messenger of God, were the first who made peace in Europe, he was the first who led simplest life ever a person have lived. He told people the principles of tolerance, respect, compassion and justice.

## II- What is civilisation?

A culture is the complex whole of everything like: social norms, knowledge, belief, art, social law, custom, and other capability or habit acquired by a person as a member of society. — Edward Tylor —

According to **Will Durant**, civilisation is defined as follows:

"civilisation is social order promoting cultural creation. Four elements constitute it: Economic provision, political organisation, moral traditions and the pursuit of knowledge and the art".  
It begins where chaos and insecurity ends.

## III- How Islamic civilisation has a Unique Identity?

Islamic civilisation has a unique identity, although all other civilisations has some <sup>good</sup> ~~unique~~ virtues of Islamic civilisation but not all.

## ① Islamic civilisation is based on Tawhid.

Islamic civilisation is based on the concept of Tawhid. Tawhid is the unity in God, who has unique attributes, doings and personhood. All the attributes, customs and traditions of Islam are derived from this concept. Islamic credo signified that:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

There is no god but Allah, Muhammad is his messenger

## ② Islamic civilisation gave rights to women equal to men

Since the inception of Islam women are given rights. Islam countered the pre-Islamic traditions that were oppressive and brutal for women. In first world countries (Europe, USA) the rights were given in the 'universal declaration of Rights in 1948'. Islam was the sole bearer of women rights. In Islam men is made 'Qawm'. It originated from 'Iqama', the

Call for the actual standing for the prayer. It means, God has ordered men to sustain her, fulfill all her needs and keep her in ease. She is not obliged to spend her income even on her children, however, by free will she can do it.

### ③ Rights of 'Dhimmis', 'contractees' and non-muslims:

Islam gave rights to non-muslims who seek abode in muslim land.

Dhimmis in lieu of Zakat and military services pay 'Jizya' in muslim land. Muhammad (PBUH) said:

"Whoever is hard towards such people or curtailed their rights, or burden them more than they could bear or demand something against their free-will, I shall myself be complainant of him on the day of Judgement"

### ④ Justice in Islamic civilization:

Islam said the person who commit the crime will be

accused for it, nor his brother, father and other family member. In Arabic and in European culture, the family of criminals was accused, their homes were burnt and properties were snatched.

Everyone of you is shepherd.  
Everyone of you is responsible for your own flock: The Imam is shepherd and responsible for his flock. A man is the shepherd of the family and is responsible for his flock. A woman is the shepherd of her husband's household and is responsible for her flock.

— Al-Bukhari —

Quran said that Justice is nearer to piety:

أَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ أَجْرَهُ رَبِّ الْعَزَّوَجَلَّ

Be just! that is nearer to piety

— Surah Maida 5-8 —

## ② Virtue and Righteousness in Islamic Civilisation:

Islam does not believe

in 'Individualism' and 'cultural relativism'. It is the popular slogan of west. They believe that religion is their ~~religion~~ individual matter. one can be of any religion based on his beliefs and wishes. In 'cultural relativism' the primary victim is the 'family', Individuals can observe conventional way of married life or become single parent or to adopt same-sex marriages. That is the reason, the society of west is marred in various immoral practices. Islam negate the narcissist beliefs of western society.

**6- Conclusion:** In a nutshell, Islamic civilisation develops a complete society. It protects the rights of women, children, minority, Dhimmist, Contractors and non-Muslims. It prevents society from moral denigration. It helps society in flourishing in socio-political, Islamic, cultural and economic realm. It negates the old beliefs of Arabian and European society.

## Question no. 2

Describe the rights of Women in Islam in context of current Waves of Women Rights?

### I. Introduction:

Islam gives rights to women in its inheritance. In Islam, women are given rights equal to men. If one says, Islam has given more rights to women than men, it would not be wrong. The things for which women is prohibited are defined with rationality in Quran and Sunnah. There have been four waves of feminist rights. In first wave (1920) women demanded 'suffrage', In second wave (1980), they demanded 'wages equal to men', In third wave, 'gender neutrality' was the core of discussion. In current wave 'me too' movement, women are raising flags for 'socio-political and economic' rights. Islam has given all these rights to women during 600 BC.

# II Rights of Women in Islam: Current feminist movements

## i- Right to vote: First wave

After world war I, women, in European society worked for the first time in offices and industries. They were the sole earner of bread and butter for their children so they started demanding voting rights and equality in legislation at par with men. Islam has given voting rights to women, since the very start. Upon Hazrat 'Umar's' selection as Caliph, he went door to door to take consent of women for his caliphhood.

## ii- Right of Heritance: Second wave

Women will get share of half of share equal to men in property. The reason for that is: women is not responsible to spend her income on her family. men will be the sustainer of his family. In European society, right of property was not given until the end of 19th century.



### ④ Right to testimony: Second wave

In European society, women had no right to testimony. As Aristotle said: As far as women are concerned, they are inferior to men. And, men will have dominant character.

In Islam, women can give testimony against men or the ruler of that time, which must be given weightage.

### ④ Appointment of Women on Migrant post:

Umm-e Atiya and Umm-e Haram bin Malhan fought seven ghazwas with prophet (PBUH). Umm-e Haram bin Malhan was the first 'Navy fighter'. Hazrat Shifa bin-te-Abdullah of Makhzum was appointed as 'market inspector' by Hazrat Umar (RA).

### ⑤ Right of Representation in Legislation: Third wave 'Gender neutrality'

Islam has given right of representation in legislation to women.

Women were included in Consultation Council of Hazrat Umar. Women were sought suggestion to fix the amount of dowry. Hazrat Abdul Rehman went door to door to sought suggestions for appointment of Hazrat Usman. In European societies, Women were deprived of right of legislature. They were not given representation equal to men. That is why, the movement of 'Gender neutrality' emerged in late 1990s.

### ⑥ Social rights of Women: 'me too' Women's movement:

In current feminist movement, 'me too', social rights related to 'family structure', independence and socio-political recognition is on demand. Islam has given these rights since the very start of its emergence

كُنَّ لِبَاسًا لَكُمْ وَأَنتُمْ لِبَنَاتِكُنَّ

'They are garments for you, you are garments for them'

— Surah Baqarah: 187 —

• In Islam Women is attributed with the title 'in', it means that a woman is the fortress against the devil. she keeps her husband away from sin. While a man is "Qawwam", protector and sustainer of a woman.

'Do not inherit a woman against their wishes'

Surah Nisa : 19

A lady named 'Khanza binte-Khadim' came to prophet with the claim that his father got her married against her wish. Prophet nullified her marriage.

### ① Freedom of speech in Islam:

Islam has given women the freedom of speech. one of a woman in Makkah raised question about 'caliph Umar' second piece of cloth to make an Apparel, the son of caliph Umar gave testimony of caliph that he had taken the second piece of cloth from his possession. In ancient Europe, women were 'beat with impunity' in UK, Islam gave respect to women and

right to question.

## ② Right to life and dignity:

'When the news of birth of a daughter broke on them, their face turn dark and they pent up with anger'

— Surah Nahal : 58 —

Islam gave women right to life and property. Ancient Arabians killed their newly born daughter. punish their women for the birth of baby girl. Islam Countered all these wrong narrative. Muhammad (PBO) loved his daughters: Fatima, Ummie Qalsoom, Ruqya, Zainab.

## Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Islam is a religion of peace. It gave women rights in socio-political, economic and religious realm. It gave women Independence. Islam gave all the rights to women in 600 CE, when the west and Arabian countries were merged in darkness. Islam brought light to hope for women. It gave all the rights demanded in current waves of feminism.