

ISLAMIC STUDIES - PART II

Question 21

Doctrine of Akhirah

The doctrine of Akhirah is a concept of existence of a life hereafter. It is a belief that every single living being will die and will then be resurrected for an eternal life.

Concept of Death as a Gateway and not the End

In Islam death is not the finality of life or an end to it. It is a door toward another life. All muslim believe that they will according to the will of Allah on a designated time and then their actual life will begin. As Allah mentions in the Quran

"Every soul shall taste death"

Concept of Accountability

The concept of Akhira is strongly linked to accountability for one's actions and deeds that they commit during this life. Every single deed and action will be accounted for before the court of Allah. Those that lived a good life following the teaching of Islam will be rewarded while the wrongdoers will be punished for their crimes. As Allah says:

"It will have [the consequence of] what [good] it has gained and it will bear [the consequence] what [evil] it has earned"

The Current life as merely a trial:

The present life is merely a test for humans to prove themselves worthy of Heaven. Every single word, action and deed is being penned down to be present in the akhira. As it is mentioned in the

Quran "And we test you [O humanity] with good and evil as trial then to Us you will [all] be returned!"

Concept of Heaven and Hell

Islam present the concept of heaven and hell with Akhirah. One being the bet~~er~~ blessing for the pious and the other being the punishment for those that stray from God's designated path. All will have to give an account of their deeds and by Allah's command will either enter heaven or hell. It is mentioned in Quran that,

IMPACT OF AKHIRA ON AN INDIVIDUAL

For an individual who strongly ~~believes~~ believes in the teachings of Islam, the doctrine of akhirah has an important and huge impact on his life. His life can be impacted in the following ways.

1. Stronger Adherence to Islamic Principles

As a person believes in being resurrected before Allah, he will try to lead the life Islam has prescribed by adhering to the teachings of Islam to get eternal reward as the Holy Prophet said, "I am leaving among you two precious things and if you adhere to them, you will never go astray. They are the Quran and my Sunnah."

2. Live a Moderate Life

When a person knows that this life is temporary he will try to make preparations for the hereafter while continuing to live in this mortal realm. In doing so he will not be burdened much by the happening of the present time and will plan for the future. Thus he will live a moderate life free from extremes.

3. Lack of Attachment to material world.

when a person follows teachings of Islam to get a better position in hereafter they enable him to remove his attachment from material gains by means of Zakat. He also knows that whatever material gain he has will be left here and only his deeds will be taken with him to the next world.

4. Sense of Accountability

Belief in Alchira instills a sense of accountability in an individual. He knows that he is accountable in the court of Allah so he is careful in his actions in the present life. He will try to not transgress the bounds set by Allah. As it is mentioned in Quran.

"So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it!"

5. Dedication towards Islamic Duties

A person's belief in Akhirah will make him dedicated towards the cause of Islam. He will do the duties assigned to all Muslims as vicegerants of Allah and will continue to educate themselves on Islamic teachings and then will in turn teach others.

6. Adoption of Patience and Tolerance

A person who believes in Akhirah will be more tolerant and patient towards other things. He knows that this all is a trial and is temporary so he will not get frustrated easily. Allah loves the patient people and will reward them in here after and hence he will try to adopt everything Allah favors to get pardoned in Akhirah.

7 Lead a Meaningful

Life. A muslim with permanent belief in here after tends to leave a more fulfilled and meaningful life. He is free from all the trappings of society and from the nuances this life offers. He will try to model the behaviour and life style of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) who is said to be the best ~~Explan~~ example of how one should live their life.

Impact of AKHIRA

on Society The belief in Akhirah has a huge impact on society as a whole making it more balanced and less superficial. The society will look to model the society during the time of Prophet P.B.U.H. Islam also teaches on how a society should behave in many aspects and so a society which truly believes in Akhirah will follow such principles.

1 Tolerance towards

Other Groups. Islam teaches tolerance and interfaith harmony. People who know this will treat their neighbours of other religion kindly and oppose any form of harsh treatment or extremism on them.

As it is mentioned in Quran

"There is no compulsion in Islam"

2. Better Judicial System

As everyone is accountable before Allah in Akhirah, Even the judges of the present world they will try to take things in a better way. Even in aspects of individual dealings people will be more just. The criminal will properly punished to escape the hell fire in Akhirah.

3. Increase in Welfare

Work More people will then be drawn toward working for welfare of humanity as Alms giving is greatly encouraged in Islam. The society as a whole will become more balanced and there will be less poor people.

The Holy Quran mentions "The example of those that spend wealth in the way of Allah is like a grain of corn that sprouts seven ears and in each are 100 grains".

4. A More Modest Society

The society will become free from the trappings of cultural norms such as flashy show of wealth and other immoral practices. The people realising the non permanent nature of money will stop spending it on luxuries but on other more meaningful pursuits. The society as a whole would obey the teachings of Islam and become an exemplary society.

5

Better Ethical Conduct in Every Sphere of Life

As every member of society believes in Akhira they will try to improve their conduct and behavior towards everyone. People will begin to take care of fellow muslims and As the Holy Prophet mentions Truthfulness leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Paradise."

Conclusion

The doctrine of Akhira has many impacts on both the life of an individual and a society. It is however upto that person if they continue to abide and keep themselves attached to the concept. In general a person with belief in Akhira will live a better and more fulfilled life and may pay heed to his deeds being his token to heaven.

Question 7:-

Rights of Women in Islam

Islam values women more than any other religion and civilization ever to exist. Islam gives equal rights to women as men and both are held equality accountable before Allah.

1 Right to Own Property

Islam gives right to women to own property in their own name. Allah mentions in Surah Nisa, "And do not wish for that by which Allah has made some for you exceed others. For men is a share of what they earned and for women is a share of what they have earned."

2. Right to Conduct Business

Women can also conduct business in their own name. This is seen by the example of Hazrat Khadija (R.A) who was the wife of Prophet PBUH. She was a business woman who excelled in business dealings and ventures.

3. Right to Acceptance in

Marriage: Allah gave women the right to choose spouse and present their acceptance at the time of marriage. Islam forbids forced marriages. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) when the commandment came from Allah to wed Fatima (RA) to Ali (RA) asked for his daughter's acceptance before marriage.

4. Right to Inheritance

Unlike the old times Islam gives women the right to inheritance and has many verses in Quran that talk about this very subject. Exact amounts of inheritance with respect to relations is mentioned in great detail in Quran.

5. Right to Divorce

Women in Islam have a right to divorce. When a woman obtains divorce it is called Khula. The concept of women having divorce was unheard of before the advent of Islam. Islam recognizes that divorces in some cases are necessary and hence women are given this right.

6. Right to Protection and Care

Women have a right to protection and care in Islam. Islam appoints caretakers/guardians for women. Before marriage this responsibility lies with the father and the is handed over to the husband. The Holy Prophet has commanded:

"I command you to be kind to women (Bukhari)"

7. Right to Life and Respect:

Women are given the right to life and respect unlike how the pagans used to bury their newborn daughters alive. The Holy Quran mentions,

"And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created with preference"

8. Right to take part in Political Activities

Islam gives right to women to take part in political activities as in the time of the Holy Prophet women used to be involved in planning of campaigns and other state matters. Even at the time of Kaliph Umar RA. A woman questioned him on something she perceived as inconsistent.

9. Right to Education

Women in Islam have a specific right to education and the Holy prophet has outright mentioned.

"Seeking knowledge is mandatory for every Muslim"

Role of Women in Islam

Women in Islam are held at esteemed position even compared to men at time. Every single role is widely respected and honoured most common of which are

As a Mother:

Islam teaches that "Heaven lies beneath the feet of a mother". It means that mothers have an esteemed position for all the hardship she goes through to look after her children.

As a Daughter

A daughter is said to be a gift from God and whoever is said to have raised three daughters to be good Muslims he will attain Paradise. This explains the level of love and devotion Islam gives to daughters.

As a wife

Wife in Islam is said to be partness of men in marriage. Men have been assigned the role of being Providers for their wife and children and have to make sure all basic needs of his wife are met.

Status OF Women In Islam

Status of women in Islam was a unique concept when it was first revived. In the last century we have seen women in the western world being liberated from trappings of culture and getting due rights which Islam gave more than 1400 years ago.

According to the teachings of Islam ~~women~~ women are not inferior to men and hold equal status. In Surah Nisa Allah mentions

"O mankind fear your lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another and the wombs.

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Muslim Women Vs Women in the West

In the Past

In the past, even after the advent of Islam women continued to be mistreated in other societies. Women were considered as either objects to be possessed by men or slaves to be used however men wished.

Women in the western world were never given any rights and were not treated like human. As the time passed and people from other cultures started witnessing the lifestyle and rights they enjoyed by women they started advocating to their own.

The wave of Feminism in the west

The rise of feminism in the west is not because of women there being more liberated but the opposite.

These feminists have been advocating for rights similar to what Islam grants them.

In Present Times

In the present time we can see one feminist movement after another that demands equal rights for women in the west. The Muslim women are superior to these women because they no longer have to worry about their rights as their rights are codified in Quran and preserved for all eternity while the western women have to continue to struggle for theirs which can be taken away easily.

Conclusion

Women in Islam hold a great status and have similar rights to men. Compared to muslim women, the women in the west do not enjoy such liberties and have a long way to go before attaining a status similar to the status provided to women in Islam.

Question 5-

Extremism the Bigger Challenge

Extremism is the bigger of the two evils as extremism breeds Islamophobia. Islamic Extremist Ideologies lead people to believe that Islam is an extreme religion which is not the case.

Extremism poses threat to peace security and stability giving rise to other evils

Islamic Teachings on Moderation.

Islam is a moderate religion that forbids extremism in any forms. The Holy Prophet said,

Beware of extremism in religion
for those who came before you were
destroyed because of their extremism
in religion

Contemporary Situation of Muslim World

In the contemporary Muslim world many challenges are being face and most of them are due to religious extremism

1. Sectarian Conflicts

Recent years have seen many sectarian conflicts, this is due to increase in extremist sentiments and lack of tolerance among groups for each other whereas the Holy Prophet teaches "None of you has faith until you love for your neighbour what you love for yourself".

2. Hate Crimes

On part of the western world being more extremist towards the muslims there have been a surge on crimes committed out of hatred for Muslims among individual who do not even know one another such is the extent of hate and extremism.

3 Ban on Muslims practicing Islam

In countries like ~~France~~ France public practice of Islamic modesty such as wearing burka and head scarf has been declared forbidden. A person doing so will be subject to violation of law. These policies are because of extremist nature of prejudice being harboured by the west.

4. Discrimination faced by Muslims

Muslim around the world face discrimination for being muslims. they are thought of as lesser beings and unworthy of equal rights and just treatments. Because of few people with extremist tendencies misrepresent Islam.

5.

Misrepresentation of Muslims and Islam.

In the western media, Islam is widely misrepresented. Islam has been treated as a the religion of hate while in reality Islam is the religion of love. It promotes peace and justice not crimes and murder infact the prophet say

"He who murders one, murders whole mankind"

6 Isolation within Community

In a community muslims tend to isolated as they are considered to be less approachable. People fears Muslims because they are misrepresented by extremist organizations that carry and propagate their own version of Islam.

Islamophobia & Extremism

Extremism is the cause of all evils hence Allah and His prophet admonish it. Due to rampant extremism the picture of Islam has been projected as bruttle religion that endorses murder. The terrorist largely in part are extremists and not worthy of being called Muslims. They are the cause of Islamophobia in the world.

Conclusion

Islamophobia while is a big problem faced by the muslim world now adays is not the biggest problem. Extremism is the bigger problem that must be eliminated to eliminate Islamophobia. Both are inter-linked and thus true message of Islam must be spread to curb Extremism and in turn Islamophobia

