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Islamic Studies:Part-IIQ: Question: 2

Discuss the concept of Tawakul (Contentment) and Taqwa (Piety) in the light of Islamic teaching.

Introduction:

In the Islamic teaching, Tawakul (Contentment and Trust in Allah) and Taqwa (Piety) are foundational concepts that shape the spiritual and ethical dimensions of a believer's life. Tawakul emphasizes placing complete trust in Allah's wisdom and providence, accepting His decree with contentment while actively striving in accordance with Islamic principles.

On the other hand, Taqwa entails a heightened awareness of Allah's presence, guiding individuals to adhere strictly to His Commandments, avoid sinful behaviors, and maintain moral integrity in all aspects of life. Together, these principles foster a balanced approach to faith, encouraging both proactive effort and profound spiritual reliance on Allah's guidance and mercy.

2. Tawakul (Trust in Allah):

Tawakul is based in the belief that Allah is the ultimate power, provider, sustainer and controller of all affairs. It entails placing complete trust and reliance on Allah's wisdom and mercy while actively striving and taking necessary actions.

Key Points of Tawakul:

1. Reliance on Allah:

Muslims are encouraged to rely on Allah for guidance, sustenance and support in all aspects of life, understanding that He alone has ultimate control over outcomes.

"Indeed, Allah is the Provider, the Firm Possessor of strength"
(Surah Adh-Ikharat)

2. Acceptance and Contentment:

Tawakul encourages believers to accept whatever Allah decides with contentment and patience, recognizing that His plan is ultimately for the best, even if it differs from one's personal desires or plans.

"And those who strive for us - we will surely guide them to our way. And indeed, Allah is with the doers of good."
(Al-Quran)

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3. Proactive Efforts:

While trusting in Allah, Tawakul does not negate personal effort.

It encourages believers to work diligently and responsibly in pursuing their goals, understanding that success ultimately comes from Allah.

"Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves"

Surah Ar-Ra'd

4. Examples from Prophet Tradition:

The prophet Muhammad (SAW) exemplified Tawakul in his teachings and actions, often advising his companions to trust in Allah's providence while actively engaging in productive endeavors.

3. Taqwa (Piety) :

Taqwa refers to a state of mindfulness and awareness of Allah in all aspect of life. It involves striving to obey Allah's Commands, avoiding what is forbidden and maintaining a high level of moral integrity.

Key Features of Taqwa :

i- God-Consciousness :

Taqwa involves being constantly mindful of Allah's presence and His Commandments, striving to act in accordance with His will in all circumstances.

"O you who have believed, fear Allah as He should be feared and do not die except as Muslims [in the submission to Him]"

Surah Al-Imran

ii- Obedience and Avoidance of Sin:

It entails fulfilling religious obligations (fard) and avoiding sinful actions (haram), as well as striving for excellence in one's character and conduct.

"O you who have believed, obey Allah and His Messenger and those in authority among you". Surah An-Nisa

iii- Internal and External Purity:

Taqwa emphasizes purity of heart and intention, as well as righteousness in actions and interactions with others.

"Indeed Allah loves those who are constantly repentant and loves those who purify themselves".

Surah Al-Baqarah

Conclusion:

In Islamic teachings, Tawakul (Trust in Allah) and Taqwa (Piety) are interrelated concepts and principles that guide a believer's life.

Tawakul involves complete reliance on Allah, accepting His decrees with contentment while actively engaging in righteous efforts.

Taqwa entails a heightened awareness of Allah's presence, driving adherence to His commands and avoidance of sinful behaviors.

Together, they foster a balanced approach to life blending spiritual trust with proactive righteousness,

cultivating resilience, humility and moral integrity. This holistic practice

deepens the believers' relationship with Allah and promotes a life

of ethical and spiritual excellence.

Question: 4

Q: Explain the doctrine of Risalat. Discuss its importance in human life?

The Doctrine of Risalat:

Risalat is an Arabic term that translates to "prophethood" or "messengerhip". In Islamic theology, it explains as to the belief that God has sent prophets and messengers throughout history to guide humanity. These prophets, known as "Rasul" (messengers) or "Nabui" (prophet), were chosen by God to deliver His messages and teachings to people. The doctrine of Risalat is a fundamental component of Islam, emphasizing that guidance from God is essential for human beings to live righteous lives and achieve salvation.

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Key Aspects of Risalat ;

1. Divine Selection :

Prophets are selected by God and are bestowed with wisdom, knowledge and the ability to communicate God's will to people.

"Allah Chooses from the angels messengers and from the people. Indeed, Allah is Hearing and Seeing"

Surah Al-Hajj

2. Revelation :

The messages given to prophets and considered divine revelations, often compiled into holy scriptures, such as Holy Quran for Muslims.

3. Guidance and Law:

Prophets provide guidance on how to live a moral and ethical life, establish laws and set examples through their actions and teachings.

"And declare (O Muhammad) that [the Quran] is a guidance and healing for a believers"
(Surah Fussilat)

4. Finality with Muhammad (PBUH):

Muslims believe that Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet, sealing the line of prophethood, and that his message, the Quran is the final and complete guidance for humanity.

≈ The Chain of Messengers and prophethood has come to an end.

"There shall be no messenger nor prophet after me" (Al-Hadith)

Importance of Risalat in Human Life:

1. Spiritual Guidance:

Prophets provide spiritual guidance, helping individuals understand their purpose in life and their relationship with God. The guidance is crucial for developing a sense of spirituality and inner peace.

2. Moral and Ethical Framework:

The teachings of prophets offer a moral and ethical framework that helps people distinguish right from wrong. This framework is essential for building just and harmonious societies.

"And most surely you conform
(yourself) to sublime morality".
(Al-dukhan)

3. Legal and Social System:

Many prophets brought laws and social systems that addressed the needs and challenges of their communities. These systems often laid the foundation for justice, equality and welfare in society.

"O you who believe,
stand firm for justice
even against your own selves"
(Surah An-Nisa)

4. Inspiration and Role Models:

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) serve as a role models for believers, demonstrating how to live according to God's will. Their lives inspire people to strive for higher moral standards and personal growth.

"Put your trust in the ever
living, who never dies and
glorify His praise"
(Surah Al-Furqan)

5. Unity and Brotherhood:

The teaching of prophets often emphasize the importance of unity, compassion and brotherhood among people. This helps foster a sense of community and mutual support.

"Allah will not be Merciful to those who are not merciful to mankind" (Sahih Bukhari)

6. Accountability and Afterlife:

Belief in prophets includes the understanding that humans are accountable for their actions and that there is an afterlife where they will be judged. This belief encourages people to live responsibly and ethically.

"Indeed, your Lord extends provision for whom He wills and restrict [it]."

Conclusion :

The doctrine of Risalat is central to the Islamic faith and holds significant importance in human life. It provides a comprehensive guide for spiritual, moral and social conduct, influencing individuals and societies profoundly. The teachings of prophets continue to inspire and guide millions, promoting a life of righteousness, justice and compassion.

Question: 8

Q: Write a short note on the following:

i. Ijma (Consensus):

Ijma or consensus, holds a significant position within Islamic jurisprudence serving as a secondary source of authority alongside the Quran, Hadith and Qiyas.

The consensus emerges from the collective agreement of qualified Islamic scholars (Ulema) on the matters not explicitly addressed by the primary sources of Islamic law.

"My Community will never agree on an error"
Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

The process of ijma involves scholarly deliberation, debate and the eventual agreement among experts known for their legal reasoning (ijtihad).

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Formation and Authority of Ijma :

Ijma is formed when scholars, through rigorous debate and analysis, reach a unified opinion on a particular issues when within Islamic law this consensus is considered binding and authoritative within Islamic legal framework providing guidance on new complex matters that arise over time.

3. Conditions and Validity :

For ijma to be valid, it requires the participation of qualified scholars who possess the necessary expertise in Islamic jurisprudence. These scholars must be of sound mind, capable of independent legal reasoning (iftihad) and adhere to the foundational principles of Islamic law.

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The Consensus must be based on evidence from the Quran, Hadith and established legal principles (Usul al fiqh), ensuring consistency with a broader objectives of Sharia.

4. Significance and Applications of Ijma:

The significance of Ijma lies in its role in ensuring coherence and unity within Islamic legal interpretations. It helps address new issues and challenges faced by Muslims communities globally.

5. Concluding Thought:

Ijma stands as a testament to the dynamic nature of Islamic legal thought, providing a mechanism through which consensus-based ruling uphold the principles of justice, equity and moral guidance within the Islamic legal tradition.

Question: 8

Q1: Write a short note on following:

ii. Concept of Veil in Islam:

The concept of the veil or hijab in Islam is deeply understood in the principles of modesty, privacy and dignity. It is primarily applied to women and varies in its manifestation across different cultural, traditions and social contexts within the Muslim world.

"And Tell the believing women that they must cover their gazes"

(Surah An-Nur)

The veil symbolizes a commitment to modesty and decency, encouraging women to cover their bodies in the presence of non-relative men. This practice aims to promote respectful interactions, safeguard personal dignity and uphold Islamic values of propriety and Chastity.

2. Variations and Interpretations of Veil :

The interpretation and practice of veiling vary widely among Muslim communities. Some women wear the hijab as a headscarf covering the hair and neck, while others may opt for more extensive coverings like the niqab (which covers the face except the eyes) or the burqa (which covers the entire body including with a face mesh screen). These variations are influenced by cultural norms, personal beliefs and differing interpretations of religious contexts, reflecting the diversity within Islam.

"And tell the believing women to draw their headcovers over their chests".

(Surah An-Nur)

3. Controversies and Misconceptions:

The veil has been a topic of controversy and misunderstanding, often seen through a western lens, as a symbol of oppression or as a barrier to women's freedom.

However, for many women, wearing the veil is a personal choice and an expression of religious identity and faith.

“Why, when you heard it, did not the believing men and believing women think good of one another and say,

“This is an obvious falsehood?”

(Surah An-Nur)

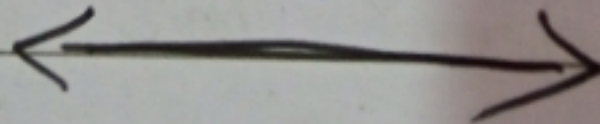
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Conclusion :

In conclusion, the concept of the veil in Islam is deeply interconnected with notions of modesty, respect and adherence to religious principles. It serves as a visible expression of faith and identity for many Muslim women, while also prompting broader discussions on gender, culture and religious diversity within contemporary societies.



Question: 6

Q: Explain the System, Components and Principles of Accountability in Islam?

Introduction to Accountability in Islam:

Accountability in Islam is a fundamental concept that governs the behavior and actions of Muslims. It is deeply understood in the Holy Quran and the teaching of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), it emphasizes personal responsibility, moral conduct and the belief in final reckoning on the Day of Judgement. This system is designed to ensure that individuals lead a life of righteousness, transparency and fairness, being mindful of their duties towards Allah, themselves and society. The principles of intension, justice, repentance and mercy for the sake of Islamic accountability, guiding Muslims to act ethically and seek forgiveness for their transgressions.

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II: Systems of Accountability in Islam:

1. Divine Guidance:

Accountability in Islam is primarily based on the guidance provided by Allah through the Holy Quran and the teaching of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

As guidance and mercy
for the doers of good
(Al-Quran)

2. Belief in Hereafter:

Muslims believe in the Day of Judgement (Yawm-al-Diyamah), where every individual will be held accountable for their actions of this life.

"And indeed the Hereafter is better for you than the present."

(Surah Duha)

III. Components of Accountability:

1. Personal Responsibility:

Each individual is responsible for their own actions and choices. No one can bear the burden of another person's deeds.

"You who have believed, upon you is [responsibility for] yourselves"

(Surah Al-Maidah)

2. Accountability to Allah:

Muslims are accountable to Allah for their actions. This includes both their outward deeds (actions) and inward intentions (niyyah).

"Every person is held accountable for the offence committed by his tongue and his hand". (Hadith of Ali (R.A))

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3. Accountability in Society:

There is also accountability in the societal context, where individuals are responsible for their interactions with others and their contributions to the community.

"Verily you are accountable for your speech, so do not say anything except [that which is] good."

(Hazrat A. R. R.A)

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IV. Principles of Accountability in Islam :

1. Intension (Niyyah) :

Actions are judged based on the intentions behind them.

A sincere intention to do good for the sake of Allah is highly valued.

2. Justice and Fairness :

Allah is just and fair in His judgment. Every individual will be treated equitably based on their deeds and circumstances.

"On that Day you will be brought to judgment and none of your secrets will remain hidden"

(Surah Al-Haqqah)

3. Transparency:

Accountability involves openness and transparency in one's actions. Muslims are encouraged to be honest and upright in all their dealings.

"Do not cause corruption on earth, but call on Him with fear and hope, Surely, the mercy of Allah is always near for those who do good."

(Al-Quran)

4. Repentance (Tawbah):

Islam emphasizes the importance of seeking forgiveness and repenting for sins. True repentance involves secret the wrongdoing abandonment of the sin and a sincere intention not to repeat it.

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5. Mercy and Compassion:

Allah holds individuals accountable for their actions, His mercy is also vast. He forgives those who sincerely repent and strive to amend their ways.

"In the name of Allah,
the Most Gracious,
the most Merciful,
Praise be to Allah,
the Lord of all the worlds"
(Surah Al-Fatiha)

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Conclusion :

Accountability in Islam is a comprehensive concept that encompasses personal responsibility, societal interaction and spiritual obligations. It emphasizes the importance of sincerity, justice and repentance, all within the framework of belief in Allah and the Hereafter. Muslims strive to then live these lives in accordance with these principles, knowing that they will ultimately be answerable to Allah for their deeds.

