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Islamic Studies :

Part - II :

Question : 2

Q: Discuss the Concept of benevolence (Ehsan) and Purity (Tazkiya) in the light of Islamic teachings.

The concept of benevolence (Ehsan) and purity (Tazkiya) are deeply rooted in Islamic teachings and are essential aspects of a Muslim's spiritual and moral development. Both concepts are frequently discussed in the Quran and Hadith, emphasizing their significance in the life of believers. Here we explore these concepts in detail.

Benevolence : (Ehsan)

Ehsan in Islam refers to the excellence, goodness and striving for performance in worship and actions. It is about performing every action with the consciousness that Allah is watching, leading to

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Leading to sincerity and high moral standards.

"And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good (muhsineen)"
(Surah Al-Baqara)

The concept of Ehsan is deeply understood in the belief in the oneness of Allah (Tawhid) and the understanding that all blessings and favours come from him. Muslims are encouraged to embody benevolence in their daily lives

by showing

- 1 Compassion
- 2 Mercy
- 3 Charity towards others

"Gabriel said: Tell me about Ehsan. The prophet (PBUH) said:

"It is to worship Allah as though you see Him, and if you cannot see Him, then indeed He sees you"

(Sahih Bukhari)

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Purity (Tazkia):

Tazkia means purification and growth, specially the purification of the soul from sins and impurities, and the cultivation of virtue and piety. It involves a continual process of self-improvement and spiritual cleansing.

"He has succeeded who purifies it (the soul) and he has failed who instills it (with corruption)"
(Al-Du'aa)

Tazkia encompasses the purification of the soul from the vices such as arrogance, jealousy and greed, as well as the observance of ritual purity through acts such as ablution (wudu) and ritual bathing (ghusl).

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Tazkia is not only about the external cleanliness but also about purifying one's intentions and actions, striving for righteousness and seeking forgiveness for sins.

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said:

"The believer is not the one who eats his fill while his neighbor is hungry"

(Sahih Muslim)

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Integration of Ehsan and Tazkia :

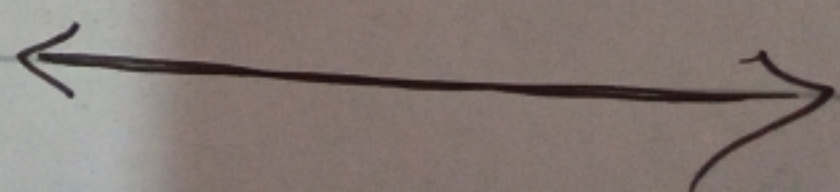
Both Ehsan and Tazkia are interrelated concepts in Islamic teachings. A pure is more inclined towards benevolent actions and acts of benevolence contribute to the purification of the soul. Together, they form the foundation of a righteous and compassionate life according to the Islamic principles, leading individuals towards spiritual fulfillment and closeness to Allah.

"There is no blame upon those who believe and do righteous deeds for what they have eaten (in the past), if they fear Allah and believe and do righteous deeds; and Allah loves the doers of good."

(Surah Al-Maidah)

Conclusion :

In Conclusion, benevolence (Ehsan) and purity (Tazkia) are pivotal to Islamic teaching. Ehsan involves the performing acts of worship and daily activities with excellence and sincerity, while Tazkia focuses on purifying the soul from the immoral traits and fostering virtuous qualities. Together, they form a comprehensive framework for a believer's of moral and spiritual development, ensuring a balanced and fulfilling life in accordance with Islamic principles.



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Question: 4

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

Introduction:

The doctrine of Akh̄rat, also known as the concept of the Hereafter or the Afterlife, holds significant importance in various religious and philosophical traditions, particularly in Islam. It refers to the belief in an ultimate, eternal life beyond the present worldly existence, where the individuals are held accountable for their actions and deeds during their earthly life. This doctrine is deeply intertwined with the principles of faith, mortality and the ultimate purpose of human existence.

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Importance of Doctrine in Human Life:

These are the following importance of doctrine in human life are as;

1. Moral Accountability:

The doctrine of Akhirat underscores the idea of moral accountability. Believers are taught that their action in this life will be judged in the Hereafter and they will be rewarded or punished accordingly. This belief serves as a moral compass guiding individuals to lead righteous lives and fulfill their obligations towards themselves, others and the divine.

"Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear"
(Surah Al-Baqala)

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2. Justice and Equity:

The concept of Akh̄rat ensures that the justice prevails ultimately. It offers solace to those who suffer injustice in the world by promising them recompense in the Hereafter. This belief in divine justice provides comfort and reassurance to individuals facing oppression, adversity and persecution.

"Indeed, Allah commands you to render trust to whom they are due when you judge between people to judge with justice. Indeed, Allah is ever Hearing and Seeing".

(Surah Al-Nisa)

3. Purpose and Meaning:

Belief in Hereafter infuses life with purpose and meaning. It encourages individuals to strive for excellence, pursue virtue and contribute positively to society.

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4. Consolation in Adversity :

The doctrine of Akhsat serve as a source of solace and comfort during times of hardship, grief or loss. It offers hope for a better future beyond the trials and tribulations of earthly life. This belief in an everlasting paradise provides consolation to those facing personal struggles, illness, or bereavement.

"For indeed, with hardship comes to be ease"

(Surah Ash-Shura)

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5. Ultimate Desistation:

The concept of the Hereafter reminds believers that their earthly life is transient and temporary. It encourages them to focus on preparing for the eternal life to come rather than becoming excessively attached to worldly possessions or pursuits. This awareness fosters a sense of detachment from materialism and cultivates spiritual growth and devotion.

"Every soul will taste death,
Then to us will you be
returned"
(Al-Quran)

6. Incentives for Virtue:

Belief in the Hereafter serves as a powerful incentives for practicing virtuous deeds and abstaining from sinful behaviors. The promise of eternal rewards encourages individuals to act with compassion, integrity and righteousness, fostering a harmonious and ethical society based on principles of justice and morality.

Summary of Ideas Presented:

In Summary, the doctrine of Akhdat holds immense significance in human life. It providing moral guidance, reassurance in adversity, purpose and meaning and the promise of ultimate justice and reward. It shapes individual behavior, societal values and ethical fabric of communities, emphasizing the importance of being a righteousness and virtuous life in anticipation of the Hereafter.

Question: 5

Q: How does Islam highlight dignity of Human and greatness human rights for all? Discuss.

Introduction:

Islam places a profound emphasis on the dignity of human beings and the sanctity of human rights, explained in the theological, legal and ethical standards central to Islamic belief. The notion that all humans are created with inherent dignity by Allah, with rights and responsibilities that promote justice, compassion and equality. By advocating for the protection of life, equality, social justice and the fair treatment of all individuals. Islam tells us to create a society where the human dignity and rights are upheld universally.

1. Theological Foundation:

Creation and Purpose:

According to the Quran states that the humans are created by Allah with inherent dignity.

"We have certainly created man in the best of stature"
(Al-Quran)

Equality of all Humans:

Whether the man, the dignity of all human beings regardless of their race, ethnicity and social status.

"O mankind, indeed we have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another"
(Al-Quran)

2. Legal Framework:

(i) Sharia (Islamic Law):

It is also major component of Islam. One of the primary objectives of Sharia is the protection of life.

"Whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely"
(Surah Al-Maidah)

(ii) Rights and Justice:

Sharia provides a comprehensive framework for justice, ensuring that everyone receives that due rights

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourself or parents or relatives"
(Surah Al-Nisa)

(iii) Rights of Women and Minorities :
 Islam grants women rights to education, property and participation in social and political life.
 The rights of non-muslims also protected under the Islamic law. They are entitled to practice their religion, maintain their places of worship and live in safety.

3 Ethical Guidelines :

Universal Brotherhood and Compassion :

The prophet Muhammad (SAW) emphasized the concept of brotherhood, stating,

"None of you [truly] believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself"

(Sahih-Bukhari)

Charity and Social Welfare :

i. Zakat :

Zakat is the pillar of Islam that mandates Muslims to give a portion of their wealth to those in need, to ensuring economic justice and social welfare.

ii. Community Support:

The concept of Zakat (charity) further emphasizing the importance of helping others, reflecting the Islamic principles of social solidarity.

Examples from the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) Life :

a. Respect and Honor :

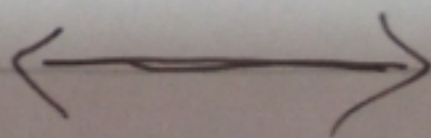
The prophet Muhammad treated everyone with respect and dignity, regardless of their social status or faith. He famously stood in respect for a Jewish funeral procession, illustrating his respect for human dignity.

b. Justice for all:

The prophet upheld the justice for all individual, including women, children, slaves and non-Muslims. His farewell sermon encapsulates many of these principles, urging the community to treat everyone justly.

Conclusion:

In Conclusion, Islam's emphasis on the dignity of human beings and the greatness of human rights is deeply rooted in its theological foundations, legal principles, ethical guidelines and the exemplary life of the prophet Muhammad. By advocating for equality, justice, compassion and social welfare, Islam seeks to establish a society where the inherent dignity of every human being is recognized and respected.



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Question: 8

Q: Write short notes on the following

i. Ijtihad :

Ijtihad is an essential concept in Islamic jurisprudence that involves making independent reasoning or interpretation in cases where the Quran and Sunnah (tradition of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)) do not provide explicit guidance.

"So take warning, O people
of vision"
(Al-Quran)

This process is undertaken by a Mujtahid, an Islamic scholar with extensive knowledge of the Quran, Hadith and Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh) and proficiency in Arabic.

Ijtihad played a significant role in the development of Islamic law and the various schools of thought.

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Role of Ijtihad in Islamic Jurisprudence :

1. Contextual Flexibility :

Ijtihad allows for the adaptation of Islamic principles to new and evolving circumstances, ensuring the relevance of Islamic Law.

2. Scholarship and Authority :

Only those with give have a deep knowledge of Islamic text and principles are qualified to perform ijtihad, ensuring informed and responsible interpretation.

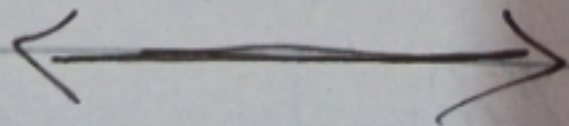
3. Dynamic Tradition :

Through, Ijtihad, Islamic law has historically been able to address a wide range of issues, from early Islamic governance to contemporary challenges in ethics, technology and society.

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"And to those who exist
we show our path"
(Al-Quran)

While the concept Ijtihad may not be explicitly mentioned in the Quran and Hadith, but its defining principles of reasoning, striving of knowledge and adaptive divine guidance to new contexts are deeply explained in the Islamic traditions, making it is a vital tool for the ongoing development and relevance of Islamic jurisprudence.



ii- Accountability in Islam :

Accountability in Islam, known as Hisab. It is the belief that individual is responsible for their actions and will be judged by Allah on the Day of judgement. This concept is understood through Quran and Hadith, which emphasizes personal responsibility and the ultimate reckoning in the after life.

"Verily you are accountable for your speech, so do not say anything except [that which is] good" (Al-Quran)

Muslims are expected to adhere to moral and ethical standards, including honesty, integrity and justice, in their personal and communal lives.

Key Features of Accountability :

1. Social Justice :

Social justice is a critical aspect of accountability, urging individuals and communities to support equity, help the needy and oppose oppression.

2. Self-reflection :

Regular self-reflection is encouraged to assess one's actions and seek repentance for any wrongdoing.

3. Governance Responsibility :

Accountability also extends to governance, which leaders and authorities are held to high standards to ensure just and fair rule.

Islamic legal system incorporate mechanisms for holding individual accountable, ensuring justice through fair trials and appropriate punishments.

The Concept of reward and punishment in the afterlife underscore the importance of accountability, motivating ethical conduct.

"Additionally, community welfare is emphasized, advocating for collective accountability where the Muslim support one another in upholding ethical standards and contributing to the common goods."

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