

Islamic Studies(Part - II)

Q.2.

Ans

Concept of Prophethoodin Islam

The concept of prophethood is utmost important in Islam. It is one of fundamental faiths of Islam. prophets are the messengers of Allah Almighty who carry the message of Allah to people for to guide them spiritually, morally, socially and in every aspect of life. In Islam, the faith in prophethood has given utmost importance that Allah says in Quran: "Disbelieve in any one of the faith means disbelieve in ^{all} faiths." The final prophet Muhammad saw is the Seal

of prophethood. Beliefs in prophet-
hood impacts (individual) at individual
and collective levels.

Concept of Prophethood and Characteristics of Prophethood in Islam:

The islamic concept of prophethood
is that prophets are the carriers
of the message of Allah Almighty.
They provide spiritual knowledge
and guidance to the people so
that they can differentiate between
good and bad, and morality
and immorality. Furthermore,
the characteristics of prophets in
Islam are: they are humans,
they have bounty of Allah,
they are role model, they are

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carriers of spiritual knowledge, each prophet is sent to a nation, and the seal of prophethood.

For example, hazrat Isa was sent to christians and he was the carrier of spiritual book (Injil)

Concept of Finality of prophethood and characteristics of finality of prophethood in Islam;

“Verily, I have been sent as a last of prophets.”
(Prophet Muhammad saw)

The finality of prophet has a significant place and importance in Islam. The concept of finality of prophethood in Islam tells that holy prophet Muhammad saw is

the seal of prophethood, as he was sent with the last and ultimate religion and holy scripture (Quran).

The characteristics of finality of prophethood are the final prophet (Muhammad) is the prophet of whole universe, he is perfect, he is a role model, and his deeds are nothing except but Quran.

“Nor does he speak

from his own inclination

but it is a revelation,

revealed.”

(Al-Quran)

Importance of the concept of Prophethood in individual and collective life:

1. Importance in individual life:

1.1. Purpose of life:

The prophets give individual the proper purpose of his life that his Creator is Allah Almighty only and he should worship and pray him. They carry the message of Allah Almighty to the people so that they should know that they are created for a purpose and they should fulfill that purpose.

“Do you think We have created you (in play)

for “nothing”

(Al-Quran)

2.2 Prophets guide an individual in every aspect of his life;

The prophets are the carriers of divine guidance. Thus, they guide an individual in each and every matter of life. They tell an individual what is prohibited and what is allowed. They also guide him in respect to his duties and responsibilities. They promote good and discourage bad things and immorality. The prophet Muhammad saw, for example, promoted peace when he said,

“The believer is one whose tongue and hands are safe for others.”
(Prophet Muhammad saw)

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2.3. They promote the concept of self-accountability;

The prophets give the concept of self-accountability. They preach to the people that they are created for the purpose to worship Allah Almighty only and to promote righteous deeds and to prohibit immoral deeds. Besides, they teach them self-accountability by preaching them the concept of hereafter (the day of judgement) where everyone has to pay for whatever he has done.

“And every soul will be asked for whatever it has done.”

(Al-Quran)

2. Importance in Collective life;

2.1. The concept of prophethood promotes equality;

At collective level, the prophets teach people the concept of equality of all. as well as they discourage discrimination based on caste, class, or creed.

The prophet Muhammad saw promoted the same concept in his last sermon. Moreover, he also promoted the dignity of mankind.

“An Arab has no superiority over a non-arab, nor does a non-arab has any superiority over an arab. A black has no superiority over a white,

... does a white has
 any superiority over a
 black except by piety
 and good deeds."

2.2 Prophets solidate the bond of
 brotherhood among people;

3. Prophets help people understand
 the message of Allah Almighty
 which is the unity of mankind.
 They discourage the disputes and
 injustice between the people and
 make them understood the importance
 of unity.

"And hold firmly to
 the rope of Allah
 and do not divide."
 (Surah Baqrah 2)

2.3. Concept of prophethood gives the dual concept of rights and responsibilities;

The prophets teach the people the significance of dual concept of rights and responsibilities. They entail people their rights and encourage them to fulfil their responsibilities as these both are needed for harmony of the society. The last sermon of prophet Muhammad saw also supports this idea.

"It is true that you have certain rights over your mates (females) but they also have rights over you (males)."
(Prophet Muhammad saw)

Conclusion

In a nutshell, there is much importance of both the concept of prophethood and the finality of prophethood in Islam. They are the ~~cornerstones~~ ^{pillars} of the Holy Scriptures of Allah Almighty and they are ~~assigned~~ ^{entrusted} with the work of guidance and ~~welfare~~ ^{well-being} of whole humanity.

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Ans

Introduction

Zakat is the most emphasized obligatory ~~worship~~ ^{act of worship} in Islam. Allah Almighty has commended

people to pay zakat for His sake.
 There are many impacts of zakat on individual and society. Besides, there are moral, social and spiritual impacts of zakat as well.

“واقبوا الصلاة و اتوا زكوة”

“And pray (salah) and pay zakat.”
 (Al-Quran)

Meaning of Zakat

1. Literal meaning of Zakat; 2.01.20

The word zakat is derived from arabic word which means 'to purify'.

2. Contextual meaning of Zakat;

Contextually, Zakat means to spend money in the way of Allah.

Philosophy of Zakat

The philosophy of zakat is that it enables the circulation of wealth and prevents the concentration of wealth in few hands. Moreover, its objectives also include the uplifting of economically lower class and establishing of the state as a true islamic welfare state.

Impacts of Zakat

1. Spiritual impacts of Zakat;

1.1. Clossness to Allah Almighty;

Zakat has been commanded to muslims by Allah Almighty. Thus, by paying zakat they fulfill

the commandment of Allah Almighty. When they fulfill the commandment of Allah Almighty, they become close to Allah swt. Moreover, Zakat also leads to their heart and mind's peace and satisfaction.

“Indeed, the peace of heart lies in the worship of Allah.”
(Al-Quran)

1.2 Creates balance between materialism and spiritualism;

When a person spends the way of Allah swt, his love for materialism is balanced with spiritualism. And he starts promoting the true teachings of Islam which

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are : Islam does not promote the
extremism, rather it promotes
moderation.

“Do not exceed your
limits, for Allah does
not like one who does
it.”

(Al-Quran)

2- Moral Impacts of Zakat;

2.1. Zakat abolishes greed and
encourages muslims to earn the
Halal Rizak;

“Earning (Halal Rizak) is
worship.”

(Islam)

and that the

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Zakat encourages a person to
earn in fair way and it also
abolishes his greed for wealth.

When a person pay zakat to the
poor such as the needy for the

cause of Allah SWT, it helps
him to earn shalawat. Rizake for

he does not want to displease

Allah and this also reduces

his greed.

3- Social Impacts of Zakat;

3.1. Zakat promotes Equality of

all mankind;

Zakat helps in stabilizing the

society and promoting equality

of all human beings. When a

person pays zakat, he embraces

that all human beings are equal

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and that there should not be any discrimination politically, socially, economically and religiously. Besides, he aims to build a society based on equality and brotherhood. Consequently, he promotes the Islamic concept of equality and brotherhood.

3.2. Zakat establishes a classless society.
"And We have created you from one soul."
(Al-Quran)

3.2. Zakat promotes the concept of social justice;

Zakat also play major role in establishing social justice. It is evident from the fact that if a person helps the poor and

the needy and contributes in their uplifting, he will also support the concept of social indiscrimination and social justice. Moreover, Zakat teaches him the dignity of mankind thus, he will also promote the same.

3.3. Zakat establishes a classless society and a welfare state;

Zakat assists in establishing a classless society by encouraging the circulation of wealth. Besides, it uplifts the financially lower classes of society thus reduces the ~~indiscrimination~~ and inequality.

Zakat assists in harmonizing the society by giving the concept of equality and rejecting the concept

of concentration of wealth in few hands (i.e. capitalism). Resultantly, it establishes a welfare state which promotes equality, dignity and importance of whole humanity.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, Zakat is an obligatory worship. It is commanded to human beings by Allah swt. Its main objective is to abolish class based society and establish a welfare state. Its impacts include economic stability and balance and purification of soul, and wealth. It also aids in maintaining equality, justice and solidarity in state and consequently leading to welfare state.