

Q.2.

Ans. $\Rightarrow$ Introduction:

Religion & Deen are two distinct terms with few interchanging features as well. Moreover, Deen is broader, and religion is narrower term - In order to understand both terms, we will evaluate them one by one.

Religion:

In terminology, religion is set of beliefs, worships, rituals, traditions and guided principles. It is, therefore, related to person's private life. Additionally, religion is responsible for individual upliftment. As hinted in above paragraph, religion is narrower than deen, it must be noted that basis of every deen is religion - its beliefs and rituals.

Deen:

On the other hand, deen is something which includes full features of religion, but also is complete code of life. It guides followers not only the individualistic moral elevation, but also the social and collective conduct. In other words, Deen is one which guides in all forms of systems like judicial, political, educational, and social ~~to~~ system. There exists many religions which claim to guide in every aspect of life; but providing complete and full

guidance is rarely seen. Islam is claimed as deen, and it is perfect example of deen. Let's by taking Islam as deen example, understand the difference of deen and religion.

⇒ Case study of Islam: Understanding deen & Religion
For a deen, a "religion" is prerequisite.
It must consist of

Religion + Complete Code of life

Now let's examine Islam on the basis of above-set logic. Islam is proclaimed as deen in the Quran in Chapter: Aal-e-Imran
"Indeed, deen in the sight of Allah is Islam"

1) Religion features:

Islam has basic five pillars

⇒ Tauheed: Belief in one God

⇒ Prayer: Offering prayer

⇒ Fasting: Fasting to purify, in name of God

⇒ Zakat: Distribute in the name of God

⇒ Hajj: Collective prayer type, performed in Makkah

As religion, Islam encompasses beliefs, and worships. So, it qualifies as deen. Now let us examine its feature other than religions.

2) Features of Islam as Deen:

Islam has guided followers in every aspect ranging from individual level to social

conduct. Few aspects are listed below

i) Educational System:

Islam emphasized education in very early phase. There was place "Suffa" considered as institution of education. Similarly prophet emphasized for seeking education.

"It is obligatory on every muslim to seek knowledge"

ii) Social System:

It is the system which governs relation between individuals, groups and institutions. Following aspects were prescribed by Islam.

A) Family

B) Institution of Nikkah

C) Care for Parents & Children

D) Care for Relatives

E) Gender Equality

these prescriptions were guided by Quran and prophet's teachings. In one place prophet emphasized to marry, if you are able to (Bukhari). And every teaching including education or other is based on gender equality.

iii) Political System:

Islam has provided with basis rules and standards of political system. Fundamentals

are:

=> Sovereignty of God

=> Viceregency (Ikhlafat)

Additionally, consultation based politics model is taught, evident from Prophet and caliphs regular consultation with companions.

Islam has complete set of principles for every matter, and also basic set of solution finding ways for upcoming problems. Our main focus was just to analyze, Islam as the case for understanding difference between religion and deen. Islam includes judicial, Economic and collective systems, thus qualifies as perfect deen.

=> Need of Religion in Scientific Age:

As communists and like claim any system or religion is outcome of particular age's economic conditions. This implies religions started thousands of years ago are no longer needed in current scientific era. As witnessed in French revolution of 1789, they replaced religion with reason. But question remains here, Is religion needed in current scientific age? For answering this, we need to analyze problems faced today, and any religion which could solve them.

i) Problems in Today's Scientific Era:

World has advanced in great pace

after industrial revolution of 1700s. It has brought us with luxury, travel time reduction, and faster communication. While these positive aspects, this scientific age has enormous negative impacts on individual and moral behavior in addition to social consequences. Few issues are listed below:

- ⇒ Animalistic Passion
- ⇒ Selfishness
- ⇒ Hunger for Power
- ⇒ Disintegration of Family system in West
- ⇒ Poor treatment of Women in Backward East
- ⇒ Moral value collapsed
- ⇒ Spiritual decline
- ⇒ Lack of Care & Empathy for Others

Above-mentioned problems are consequences of rapid industrialization and decline of religious teachings. Now we will evaluate, how religion can be used to allivote these problems.

ii) Need of Religion in Scientific Age:

In general science is based on observation and experiment, and religion being the set for moral beliefs. That's the reason, religion is sometimes ignored by scientists. But what if religion is based on logical principles and reasoned values? like take, example of Islam whose all systems are well established and implemented in the modern world as well. One example is tax system.

So religion like Islam provides solutions to modern day problems in scientific age. Let us examine few problems and their ~~need in science~~ need to be solved by religion only.

A) Animalistic Passion:

This problem arises; when a person is so involved in it's work that it eventually forgets his/her other duties. Person strives hard to earn and achieve goals. This has led to serious issues of depression and anxiety in west mainly. People suffer from this depression, and eventually are not able to achieve that very goal that they strove for like animals.

Religion builds connection of humans with God. It relaxes mind by comforting with hope and beliefs. Islam, as religion taught to "Moderation" in every work, even in worships.

B) Selfishness & Hunger for Individual Power.

World lead by capitalistic nature of economy and governance is instrumental to people's moral decline and rise of selfish behavior. People are keen to acquire more wealth & power, that they blindly subordinate other's rights and values. This problem is solved by religion which teaches "Care for Others". Islam has emphasized redistribution of wealth to avoid selfish behavior. In Quran, Allah says

redistribution "As it (wealth) may not circulate in (wealthy) among you"

⇒ Family System:

West has seen decline in family system. As males are often power gamers and consider women as only lust material. Women on other hand, can't get protection by males, nor their love for ~~not~~ becoming mothers is accomplished. Religion emphasizes family system. As, for instance, Islam holds significance for institution of Nikkah (Marriage). Prophet in (Bukhari) emphasized young to marry, if they can.

⇒ Moral & Spiritual Values decline:

Major reason behind many problems of today's scientific age lie in the relative decline of spirituality & morality. Religion is the only tool which teaches us the moral upliftment required to get love of God and success in current Era.

⇒ Conclusion:

In conclusion, Deen is complete code of life, and religion is set of basic beliefs and moral values. Today's scientific era has many ill, which requires special attention for solution. Moreover, religion can be used to alleviate these moral issues. As Islam contains many teachings for best moral conduct. Prophet holds clearly says, "Best among you is one with best conduct"

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i) Benevolence in Islam.

Literal meaning of Benevolence is "Beauty", while in terminology Benevolence means act done in best possible manner. In other words, something done with extreme beauty. Islam has given huge importance on Benevolence. Benevolence is achieved by Self purified souls only. Let's first describe self-purification.

=> Self-Purification:

Self-purification or Tazkiyatun-nafs is the process by which ills and evils are removed from human soul. It is process by which moral evils like greed and lust are eliminated. There are three stages of nafs

- i) Nafs-e-Ammarah : Sinful soul
- ii) Nafs-e-Lawwamah : Repentful soul
- iii) Nafs-e-Mulmainah : Satisfied soul

Basically process of Reaching "Satisfied soul" is called Self-purification. As mentioned in Quran:

"We chose a messenger among you... as to purify you"

prophet has the duty to purify soul and obligation of prophet is compulsory on us as in Quran "Obey Allah and Obey prophet".

=> Benevolence:

Once soul is purified, now it can act on achieving perfection in worship and dealings.

Benevolence is of two types..

1) Benevolence with Creation of Allah:

Behaving in a way, which is of highest moral way with others, is called benevolence with God's creation. It involves kindness, empathy, solidarity with others. Because Islam values moral values for better social environment. Even with the wife, one should have good moral conduct, As prophet said,

"Best among you, is the ~~best~~ one who is good with wife"

and in other place, prophet said

"Best among you, is the one who is best in conduct"

2) Benevolence with Allah:

Apart from goodness with God's creature, a muslim is required to complete duties which are required for God Himself. These includes

⇒ Sincere worship

⇒ Praying with consciousness

⇒ Fasting in way of God sincerely

⇒ Avoid sin, just for God's pleasure.

→ Conclusion:

God created us "Ashraful Makhlookat", so He requires us to act in same way. He requires us to be morally best in conduct and worship.

ii) Secondary Sources of Shariah:

Shariah's secondary sources include Ijma, Ijtihad and Qiyas. These sources are used for the problems which are not mentioned in Quran and Sunnah. Each source is equally of importance.

- 1) Ijma: literal meaning of Ijma means "collection", and in terminology it means "collective decision by Islamic scholars". Ijma was conducted by many companions, and it was emphasized by prophet, when companions "Ibn-e-Jabab" was sent for missionary work.

- Abu Bakr (R.A) was selected through Ijma and selection of Hazrat Ali was also based on Ijma.

i) Types of Ijma:

There are two types of Ijma. One is Regional Ijma or Ijma done by local or regional scholars. Other is Ijma done by all scholars of globe or "Universal Ijma".

ii) Scholars Views:

Shah Waliullah supported "Regional Ijma" as only practical Ijma. Allama Iqbal considered legislative body as responsible for modern day Ijma.

2) Ijtihad:

It is derived from word "Jahad" mean to strive for. In terminology, Ijtihad means logical reasoned answer from problem, not found in Quran and Sunnah, based on recent circumstances.

Evidence:

When sending missionaries, prophet asked Ibn-e-Jabbar about method of problem solution. He first said ~~Sunnah~~, Quran, Sunnah, and then said about logical reasoning. Prophet conformed that.

Hazrat Umar (RA) used Ijtihad for many actions like soldiers Expedition limit etc.