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Islamic studies-Mock I

Question no: 2

Difference b/w deen & religion. Need of religion in scientific age.

Introduction:

Deen and religion may seem same terms but in literal context both have different meanings. Religion establishes the relation of devotee with God while deen establishes the relation of devotee with God as well as with its creation. In this scientific age where it is easier to believe in atheism, religion connects a man with his creator. This spiritual bond enables him to survive the testaments of life. To understand science is to understand religion and that must be islam.

Understanding religion

Religion also known as Mazhab, comes from a root word "zahab" which means to go. Religion establishes a relation between God and man. It enables man to understand how diverse God is and so is his creation. It builds a spiritual connection between body, soul and God. Those who believe in God, believe in religion. There is an english quote that says as,

"A woman who believes in God can never be fooled by anyone"

Universe has a different way to leading us to God. Some may find it earlier while some struggle their whole life to find God. But a famous singer Abida Parveen says,

منہ ڈھا دے، مسجد ڈھا دے، ڈھا دے جو کچھ ڈھانا

پر کسی دا دل نہ ڈھاوی رب دلاں وچ رہنا

"Destroy the temples, destroy the mosque, destroy whatever you want but never break someone's heart, God live in hearts."

Understanding Deen:

A deeply rooted connection with God as well as with his creation accomplishes a deen. In a very precise and well-defined manner deen can be understood as,

A complete submission to the will of Allah, against the will of man is deen

A deen comprehensively guides an individual to build the relation with God and his creation. Deen guides the man in the life here and after. It is a complete set of rules that guides individual of every colour, creed, caste and era in every aspect of life. What else a man ask for? A guide, a book, a person, a deen that will lead him to God. That deen is Islam, the book is Holy Quran and that individual is Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) whose seerah enlightens the path of life for us in the world here and after.

Islam as a deen

Islam

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
Deen of peace Deen of welfare success here and after complete guidance code of life

The word islam is derived from urdu word 'salamti' which means 'to establish peace'. Islam as a complete deen gives us complete code of life and guides every individual to establish peace and harmony. There might be other religions in the world but the only deen that establishes a strong connection between God and his creation is islam. In Quran Allah says,

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام

"Truly, the religion with Allah is islam"

- Surah al-imran: 3

Difference between

Deen

- Only islam
- Strong relation of man with God and with his creation.
- Complete guidance for man of every age and time.
- Guides an individual in the life here and after
- Abolishes all the false and rotten cultures for well-being.
- Guides to establish peace and refrain from war.
- Teaches peace, harmony, tolerance and respect.
- Equality and equity for all e.g system of zakaat.

Religion

- Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Zionism, etc
- Establishes relationship with God only.
- Cannot guide a man in life affairs
- Cannot guide a man about life here after.
- Creates rotten culture e.g Satti in hinduism.
- No proper guidance about wars.
- Expecties
- Based upon status quo e.g priest is more prestigious.

Need of religion in scientific age

Undoubtly, religion enables man to know about God but in a contemporary ~~for~~ world that believes in science and evidence-deen fulfills the need of hour. Islam being a complete deen answered the mysteries of 21st century 1400 years ago. For instance, big bang theory, black hole (surah ehzaab), time travelling (Surah al-Kahf), traces of water on sun and traces of fire on moon all have been mentioned in Quran 1400 years ago. The rotation of earth has been proven by scientist as it is mentioned in Quran. There are way more theories and evidences mentioned in Quran that scientists are still conspiring and investigating about. As Allah says in Quran,

**"Surely, there are signs
for those who think"**

So, in this scientific age deen is more perfect and necessary than religion.

Concluding

To conclude the debate it can be infer that deen is perfect in all domains as compared to religion. A complete code of life that guides in every matter of life is the most perfect deen and that deen is islam. Religion is a branch of deen that tells about God but deen is the pathway that leads to God, his pleasure and his creation across the universe.

Question no: 3

Philosophy of zakaat- Social, moral and individual impacts of zakaat

Introduction:

Allah has made it obligatory for all muslims to spend zakaat once a year. The purpose is to maintain the regulation of wealth in a society. When the wealth is circulated in a society, inflation and poverty decreases. That is why islam being a complete deen helps the poor and tests the true intentions of wealthy with the wealth given by Allah to him.

Philosophy of zakaat

When Allah created his creation, he created their necessities, wealth, rizq all with them. **Indeed He is the provider and sustainer of all** then a question arises why do this dichotomy of rich and poor even exist.

in society? The answer to this question and the philosophy behind zakaat lies in Holy Quran.

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ
مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ وَبَشِّرِ
الْبَاطِلِ إِنَّهُ يَصْطَلِبُ فِيهِ

"Be sure we shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or fruits, but give glad tidings to those who patiently preserve"

- Surah al-Bakrah : 155

Here Allah mentioned that he will test poor with fear and hunger and he will test the rich with the wealth. So zakaat is test for wealthy whether they distribute the wealth given by Allah or not.

Social impacts of zakaat:

- ↳ Regulation of wealth in society
- ↳ Decrease in poverty
- ↳ Harmonize the society
- ↳ Social interaction

Regulation of wealth:

Zakaat ensures regulation and circulation of wealth in a society so that wealth will not remain confiscated to one specific hand.

Decrease in poverty:

Zakaat decreases poverty in a society. In the reign of Hazarat Umar is the system of zakaat was so in-lined that there was no one left eligible to be given zakaat.

Social interaction:

Zakaat maintain an interaction between poor and rich and abolish the class difference from society.

Individual impacts of zakaat:

- ↳ Man feels grateful to Allah
- ↳ Enhance wealth management skills
- ↳ Patience and tolerance
- ↳ Reduces addiction of wealth.

Gratefulness:

When a man distributes zakaat among needy, he gets an exposure to their issues of food, health, shelter. When he compares his hardships to theirs, a sense of gratefulness settles his heart at peace. Allah also mentions in Quran,

"If you will be thankful.
you will be given more"

Wealth management skills:

Distribution of wealth improves the skill of wealth management in any individual. He learns how to distribute 2.5% of his wealth among needy.

Moral impacts:

- Ends the class difference
- Prevails respect for each other
- Equality and equity for all

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, it can be concluded that zakaat is a test of patience and wealth for all the muslims. It harmonize the society by equal circulation of wealth and decreases poverty. This shows how perfect is islam that only one obligation benefits in social, moral and individual context.

Question no: 4

Sirah of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H). Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) as diplomat and educator.

Introduction:

The Sirah of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) is the guiding torch in the dark forest of life and hardships in this world. His Sirah is the practical implication of Quran and Allah's orders. His Sirah is the pedagogy of guidance for every being in every affair of life whether its personal, professional, social, religious, political, His Seerah guides in all affairs by all means. The examples He set as diplomat during conquest of Makkah, pact of Hudaibiya, migration to Ethiopia and his role as an educator and mentor are very impressive and commendable.

Sirah of Holy Prophet (P. B. U. H)

The Sirah of our last Prophet Muhammad Khalam-un-Nabiyeen Sallallahu alaihi Wa salam is the second most authentic source of guidance for humanity after Quran. His sirah is the practical implication of what Allah has mentioned in Quran. His Sirah is the source of enlightenment and guidance in every domain and in every era. As Allah mentions in Quran,

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ؕ

"And we have not sent you except as a mercy to the worlds"

- Surah al-aniya: 107

The word عالمين shows Allah has sent him as a mercy for all universes that had existed, are existing and will be existing till the day of qyamah. Just as Allah himself is merciful for his creation, He has made his beloved Prophet (P. B. U. H) a mercy for all worlds.

In the light of Sirah:

The remarkable role of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) as,

- Peacemaker
- Educator
- Mentor
- Diplomat
- Business man
- Military Strategist
- Father
- Husband
- Companion
- Neighbour
- Rival
- Traveller
- Individual muslim

sets a huge benchmark for all humans to live an ideal and peaceful life by fulfilling rights and duties of Allah and his creation.

Role of Holy Prophet

Diplomat

sets rules for
diplomacy

Negotiation

Letters and invitations
to foreign emperors

Diplomacy over war

Peaceful co-existence

Pact of Hudaibiya

Conquest of Makkah

Migration to
Ethopia

Educator

Comprehensive yet
precise discussions

Politeness

Loud and clear

with practical examples

Repeating the topics

Diversification

Easy to understand

Interesting debates
and opinions

Role as diplomat:

Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H)

set a bench mark in diplomacy from negotiating to avoiding long wars. His art of negotiation has helped Hazrat Khidaja (R.A) in her business. He set international laws for diplomats such as;

- Protection of diplomats
- Shelter to diplomats
- Respect to their message
- Maintaining mutual respect.

His act of tolerance and peaceful negotiations during conquest of Makkah, pact of Hudaibiya, migration to Ethiopia, mesak-e-madina proved the excellency and success of his diplomacy around the world. Even today, his art of diplomacy is role models for the diplomats for a successful diplomacy.

Role as educator :

Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) is the best educator among all the teachers and mentors. His polite and comprehensive manner to explain things were was loved and praised by everyone. He used to teach using live and practical examples. He used to ask for opinion to Sahabas in the mid-debate to make them stay engaged to the topic of discussion. No doubt his methodology as an educator is the role model for all teachers.

Conclusion:

It is an evident fact that Sirah of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) is a role model and guiding light for all the humans around the world.
