

NDA ISLAMIC STUDIES MOCK 5

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

A. Belief in Akhirat or the life Hereafter is the day of judgement is a fundamental belief in Islam. It not only plays a crucial motivational role, but also a spiritual one. As per Islam, the world that we currently live in, the life we enjoy is all temporary, it is transient, and that upon death and the day of judgement, one's true eternal life really begins. The afterlife is a cornerstone of faith, it is a foundation which builds a muslim's understanding of existence, morality and purpose. It allows one to be mindful of their actions as there is profound awareness that if not in this life, Allah ^{swt} will definitively hold one accountable in the afterlife. This Islamic belief has been reiterated a myriad of times in the Holy Quran and Surah inclusive of in Surah Al-Muminun, ayat 115 where Allah ^{swt} says, "Did you then think that We had created you without purpose, and that you would never be returned to Us?" (23:115).

WHAT IS AKHRAT

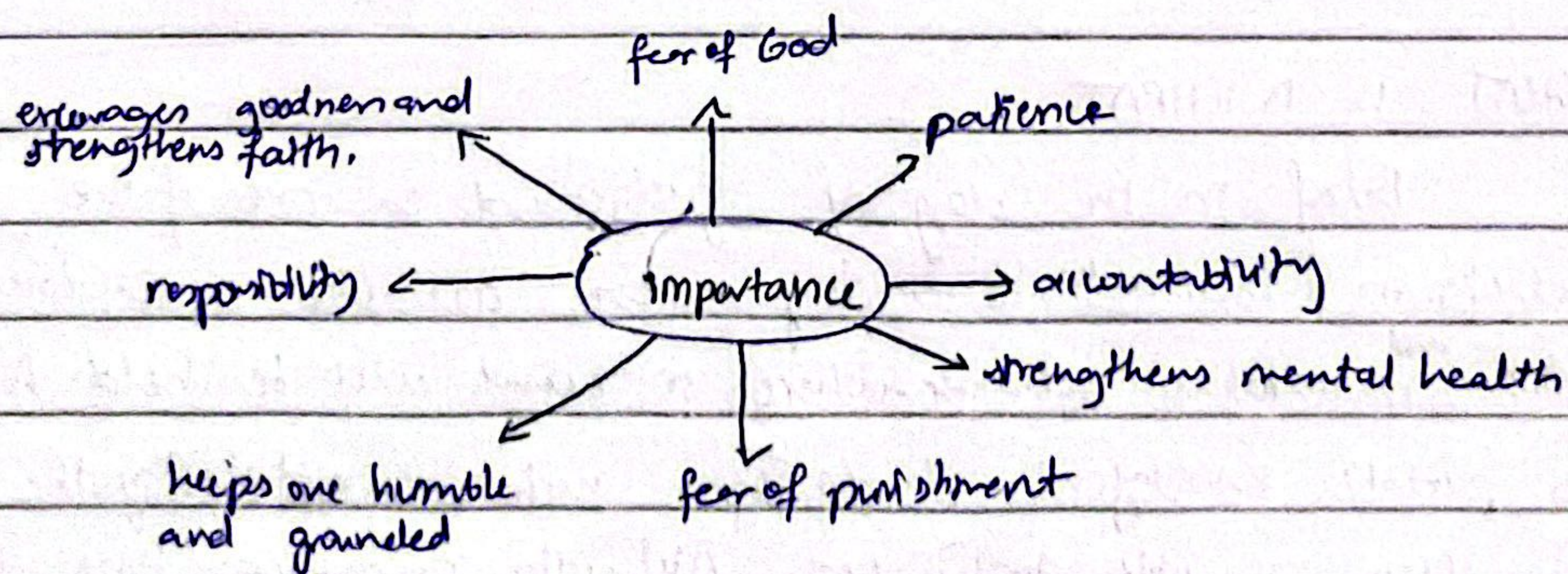
Belief in the day of judgement is one of the five basic beliefs in Islam. It is a day when all life is captured, destruction and mountains collapse where a court will be held to reward or punish everyone's deeds. Upon such accountability, the life Hereafter will truly begin. Akhirah emphasises that there is

more to life than the temporary one we possess, and without this belief, one cannot be a true muslim as was emphasised in several hadith too. It is reported that the Holy Prophet defined Iman (Faith) by stating, "It is that you should believe in God, His angel, His books, His apostles, and the last days and that you should believe in the decreeing both of good and evil."

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS BELIEF

This belief is crucial to keep mankind on the right track, it serves as a constant reminder that whatever sins we commit shall be questioned. It reminds mankind that we are like a mere speck of dust amidst all of Allah's creations, hence that reality check enables one to be grounded, and remain in touch with the greatness of God. As was reported in Surah Al-Nahl verse 65, "And Allah sends down rain from the sky, giving life to the Earth after its death. Surely, this is a sign for those who listen."

IMPORTANCE OF THIS BELIEF ON AN INDIVIDUAL LEVEL



The foreboding thought of Akhrot holds the power to instill a deep rooted fear of Allah^{sw} in the hearts of believers. It is a constant reminder that, "Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed, to Him we shall return," ~~with~~ (2:156), which allows one to remember to always be mindful of our actions as we must "fear Allah, and know that you will meet Him," (2:233). This fear ~~also~~ encourages believers to condemn wrongdoing, to abstain from them, and be motivated to do right. This fear of Allah^{sw} coincides with fear of punishment thus resulting in moral and rewarding behavior.

The belief in Akhrot possess the potential to truly transform the character of man, it is like constant encouragement to be pure in character and to do good and be good to themselves and others. This coincides with how when one is aware of the ~~rewards~~ ^{good} and sins one can be questioned about, it encourages man to be mindful and responsible with their actions, and to ~~do~~ maximize good deeds such as helping others or taking care of them. At the end of the day, it is a harsh reminder that man can hide their actions whether good or bad from everyone but Allah^{sw} as stated in Surah Al Zalzalah verses 7-8, "So whoever does an atom's weight of good, we will see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil, we will see it."

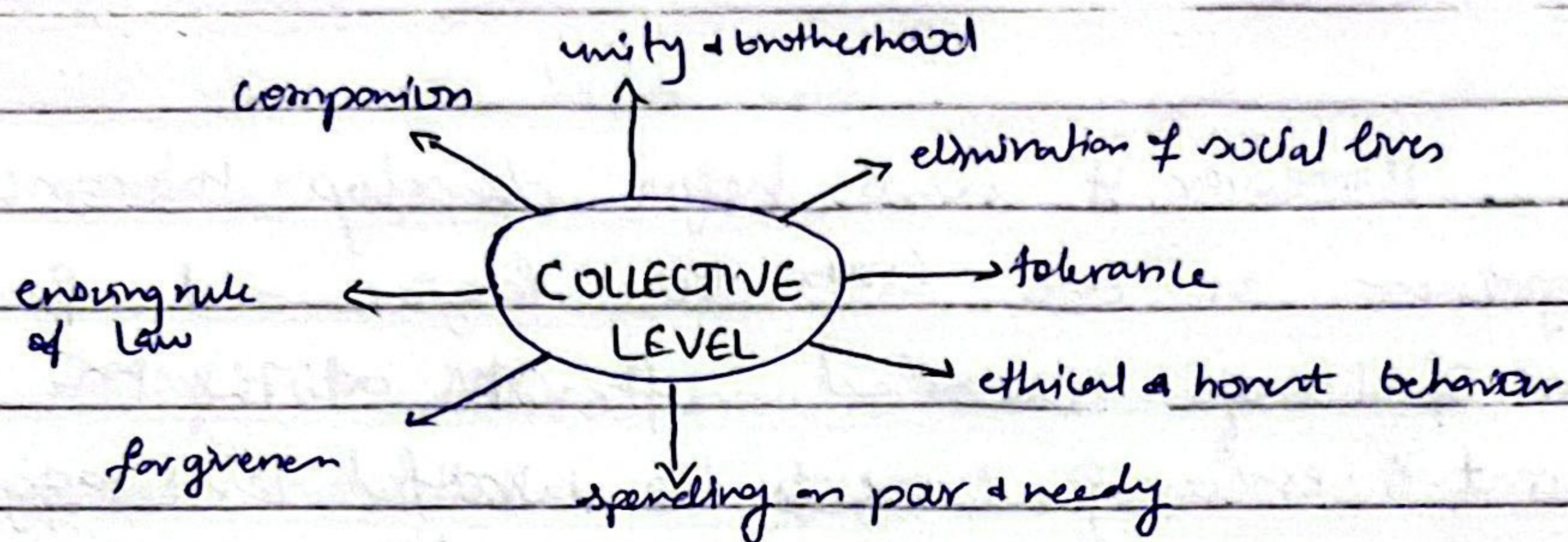
Moreover, this belief not only cultivates goodness, but also

one faith. It is a sore reminder, that all of humanity will be questioned on their actions whether it pertains to how they treated others, or how they practiced their faith. This faith encompasses the pillars of Islam that such a name as was reported to have been said by the Holy Prophet ^{PBUH}, "The first action for which a servant of Allah will be held accountable on the Day of resurrection will be his prayers," this fact ~~also~~ brings one closer to namaz, and other pillars which in turn strengthens one's relationship with God as namaz is often known as a call to God wherein you can ask Him ^{not} for anything your heart wishes. Furthermore, it keeps believers firmly grounded in the reality that there is more to life than what currently is, enabling them to be thankful for what they have whilst also not agitated about what they do not have.

Last but not least, this pillar of belief encourages one to be patient. It reminds mankind that even if this life is not ideal or what they ~~expected~~ expected it to be, the afterlife will be, that all one must do is be patient, and pray for the best in this life and hereafter. It allows one to oversee the temporary setbacks faced with in this temporary life as the ayah Bazarah ayats 155-156 say, "And We will surely test you with something..... But give good tidings to the patient, who, when disaster strikes them, say, 'Indeed we belong to Allah, and ~~to~~ indeed to Him we will return.'" (2:155-156). It also strengthens one's mental health, and reminds one that "verily with hardship comes ease." This belief is also why the suicide rate of Muslims is significantly lower than that of other religions as suicide is considered haram.

In Islam, and ^{the} believers would never risk ~~it~~ going to Hell over such a thing. Hence, ~~the~~ Muslims fight through all battles and hardships, embracing patience and avoiding their mental health with the thought that God will surely make things better for them even if not in this life, but surely in the Hereafter.

IMPORTANCE OF THIS BELIEF ON SOCIETAL LEVEL



The underlying belief in the life Hereafter is what enables mankind to not only ^{improve} the individuality of man, but on the societal / collective spectrum as well as aforementioned, since one is to instill the attributes of kindness and generosity in man, it motivates them to spend money on the poor and needy in the form of sadaqah in order to be able to reap the rewards on the day of judgement. It is a well known Sahih Muslim hadith wherein the Holy Prophet reported that the rich would be poor on the day of judgement except the ones who spent their money in the way of Allah ^{SWT} for the needy. This allows wealth sharing and alleviating poverty. Understanding the plight of fellow Muslim brothers and sisters and being

willing to spend on the lesser fortunate of the ummah establishes a sense of brotherhood when they give what's theirs to help others. ~~It is an outcome of what~~ Surah Thajat ayat 10 states, "The believers are but one brotherhood, so make peace between your brothers. And be mindful of Allah so you may be shown mercy." Muslims are mindful to be compassionate about this as they wish to be rewarded at Akhirat.

Moreover, it also helps develop tolerance and forgiveness as one learns to forgive and forget in the hopes of being rewarded for it at the time of Akhirat. It encourages one to be mindful, less aggressive and just kind to all those around him which allows for a stable and peaceful community free of social evils. Social evils in modern day are adultery, pornography, corruption and ethical and moral degradation, the grim reminder that every soul shall taste death and everything reminds the ummah to not stray. Such Al-An'am verse 108 says, "O believers! Do not imitate what they imitate besides Allah, or they will imitate Allah spitefully out of ignorance. This is how we have made each person's deeds appealing to them. Then to their Lord is their return, and He will inform them of what they used to do." This promotes morals and ethical attributes.

Lastly, the fear/belief in akhirat poses a significant

role in ensuring the rule of law, and ethical and honest behavior too. It encourages one to obey the code of law as prescribed in the Quran, and to not commit wrongs toward themselves or others to obtain rewards on the day of judgement. This ensures a civil and lawful society. In Surah Al Maidah, it was ordained, "To each of you, We have ordained a code of law, and a way of life. If Allah had willed, He would have made you one community - but His will is to test you with what He has given each of you."

Belief in Akhirat has revolutionary effects on both the ~~social~~ individual and societal aspects of one's life. Its importance resonates around the fact that the only thing halting one from doing evil is fear of accountability which this belief ordains. The whole belief encourages one to fight temptation, and wrong and be the best possible version of themselves which requires patience and *imrab* thus creating an ummah of well behaved, compassionate people. It reminds one that the social status one has in this life is not a matter of life and death, but rather a test that will ensure their status in the Afterlife as is indicated by Surah Imran verse 3:185, "And the life of this world is only the enjoyment of delusion" as "every soul will taste death. And We test you with good and evil as a trial, then to US you will be returned" (21: 35).

Q7. ~~Explain~~ Assess the causes of decay of the status of the Muslim ummah. Suggest the way to address these causes.

A. With the dawn of a new era, the Muslim ummah too faces a new era of challenges. Historically, the challenges were conquering land, fending off Muslim territory and so on whereas now, most of the risks are superficial and worldly. The impact of these ~~setbacks~~ factors has been denegating on the once emboldened Muslim ummah is now ~~divided~~ fragmented into pieces. There are a myriad of causes which have conspired into this decay inclusive of lack of unity, sectarianism, social political divide, and lack of compassion and many more reasons. Some of the most prominent reasons are include of moral and intellectual stagnation, weak leadership, and westernization. In order to remedy this ~~decline~~ decay, it is crucial to take preventative and reforming measures both.

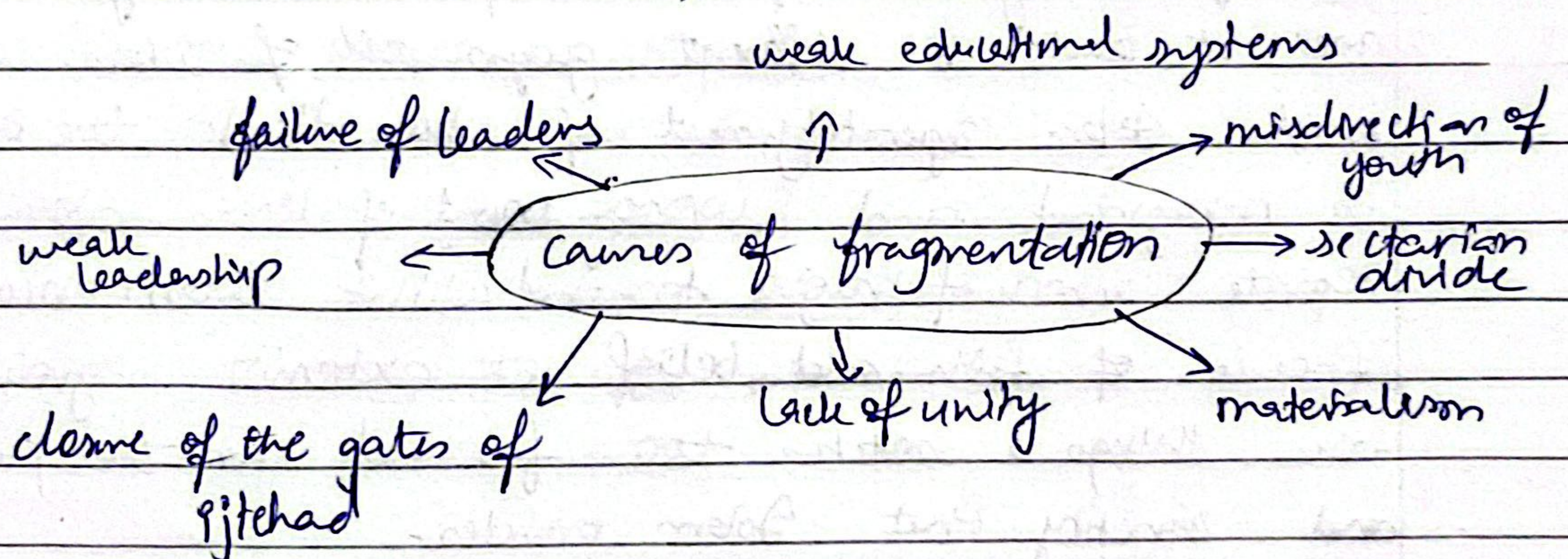
CAUSES OF DECAY

WESTERNIZATION

The ~~top~~ prominent, and rapid onslaught of westernization has resulted in fatal attacks to the integrity, customs and morality of the Muslim ummah. Western concepts ~~and~~ traditions such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, clubbing, drinking and drugs have become increasingly popular in Muslim centres even with Muslims and the globe indulging in such festivities which are not a part of Islam. Furthermore, drinking, clubbing

eating pork etc are so widespread now, even in muslim countries to the extent that people have become overly desensitized to such sins thus resulting in a large part of the ummah participating in such wrongs hence causing damage to the moral integrity of the ummah thus leading to its decay. Social media has also ~~also~~ played a pivotal part in this desensitization with ~~its~~ portraying it as normal thus the newer generations in specific do not really see it as sinning.

FRAGMENTATION (CAUSES)



The golden age of Islam declined with the fall of the multiple leaders who failed to maintain the integrity of Islam, but rather were just symbolic figures of muslim authority such as the Mughal emperor Akbar. The lack of military skill, education, and intelligence caused the muslim ummah to decay even then. The consequences of such resulted in colonialism, westernization as aforementioned and were just some of the

initial steps towards the fragmentation of the social and moral fabric of the muslim ummah. The movement that alleged muslim leaders chose to forge an materialism, and following the path of western countries, ~~the~~ another part of the muslim ummah decays.

Moreover, there has been a severe surge in sectarianism and ~~terrorism~~ extremism too on of late which results in the brotherhood of muslims ~~but~~ splintering into pieces. As of current day, there are at least 8 different groups all of whom which practice Islam separately, most of whom think the other is misguided and wrong. Most of these stem from separate schools of thought too, and whilst Islam encourages freedom of faith, and belief yet extremist groups take things a notch too far and ruin the peace and serenity that Islam provides.

Furthermore, a significant dominating factor was the closure of the gates of ijtihad which led to intellectual rigidity and reliance on past interpretations (taqlid) which are no longer applicable in modern context. The sphere of the world is ever changing and ~~closure~~ premature of ~~the~~ closure of the gates of ijtihad results in the stifling of critical thinking, scientific and innovation which has resulted in the muslim

would to fall behind in science and technology even though ~~they~~ muslim scholars were once the pioneers of the ~~modern~~ world such as algebra by Al-Khwarizmi, chemistry (Jabir Ibn Hayan), camera^{optics} (Ibn al-Haytham), surgery (Al-Zahrawi) and many others. The lack of critical thinking led to undue stagnation and decay of the ummah the brunt of which is seen in socio, political and economic aspects of the world.

The last but potentially most threatening cause of decay is the misdirection the muslim youth faces. This misdirection results in misguidance, and the adoption of normalized evils such as drugs and extra-marital affairs. The youth, the next generation are the future leaders of the world and representatives of the muslim ummah, and their misdirection can have severe consequences for the ummah including being plunged further into decay.

WAY FORWARD I.E. HOW TO REMEDY THIS

First and foremost it is of the utmost importance to educate muslims on the true values of Islam. Education is one of the fundamental principles Islam wholeheartedly supports so much so that even the first revelation was "Read". If the ummah especially the youth are well educated of the true value and meaning of Islam then they will stop being

derelinked to sins. Moreover, education would allow the Muslims to once again flourish and birth scholars like Islam used to perform.

Furthermore, it is crucial to teach children about Islam from a young age, to engage them with religion and ensure they are excited to learn more about it rather than forcing them to adopt practices such as namaz and fasting, which they will not do wholeheartedly if they do not know the reasoning behind it. Mosques all over should encourage the admission of children and even have daycare centres. Moreover, there should be a section within the women section with child sized prayer mats where ~~girls~~ kids can pray in congregation so as to make it more enjoyable for them. Moreover, mosques should once again be centres for learning as they were at the Holy Prophets time with weekly classes for adults and children both. For children they should ~~have~~ ^{impart} knowledge of Islam in an engaging manner.

The youth is the future hence it is wise to have children learn the core values of Islam from a young age and such can be done by Islamic cartoons etc. The teenagers etc can be encouraged with scholars like Mufti Memon who young adults love as he is engaging, funny, ~~not~~ not judgemental and

extremist. Furthermore, religious scholars and imams of all sects should stop spreading misinformation and hate, extremism should be condemned on all fronts and the ummah should be united again.

The muslim ummah albeit facing disintegration and decay has the potential to rise again, stronger and more united than ever. However, it is crucial that ~~muslims~~ we as muslims be more patient, kind and compassionate towards our fellow brothers and sisters. It can indubitably flourish again however it is crucial to strictly distinguish right from wrong, and discourage extremism and seporate sects. The ummah must band together, united, and the youth must be nourished properly. As for the muslim countries which have muslims drinking, ~~the~~ etc there should be stricter checking, and I believe that the OIC had can host a yearly meeting for muslim leaders to convene and discuss methods to lead the ummah to prosperity once again.