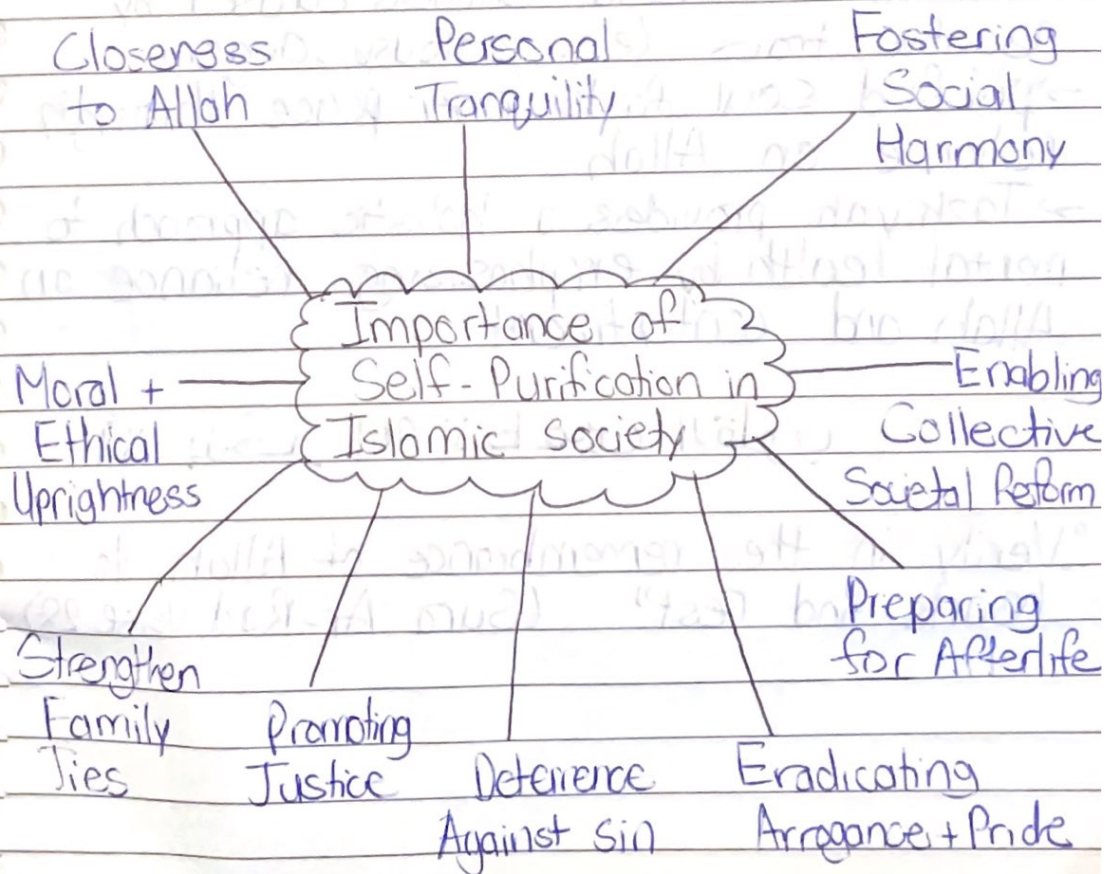


Q.1) What is the importance of self-purification in Islamic society? Explain

Introduction

Self purification, or tazkiyah, is a very significant aspect of Islamic society. Not only is it a fundamental teaching, but it also is integral to personal, social, and spiritual well-being. It not only impacts personal spiritual growth but also strengthens social, moral, and ethical dimensions of society. Below is a detailed explanation of why and how self-purification is important in an Islamic society.



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① Closeness to Allah (Spiritual Growth)

→ removes inner impurities e.g. arrogance, hypocrisy, greed

→ fosters Taqwa, allows believers to develop sincere connection

→ without tazkiyah or cleanliness of heart, external acts of worship lose their impact

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهُ . وَفَدَّ يَابَسًا سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ

"Successful indeed is the one who purifies their soul. And doomed is the one who corrupts it" (Sura Ash-Shams, 9-10)

② Achieving Personal Tranquility

→ eliminates internal conflicts caused by negative traits (e.g. jealousy, anger)

→ purified soul finds inner peace through reliance on Allah

→ Tazkiyah provides a holistic approach to mental health by emphasizing reliance on Allah and contentment

أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ

"Verily in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest" (Sura Ar-Rad, verse 28)

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③ Fostering Social Harmony

→ purification of soul reduces envy, greed, and selfishness, which are the root causes of societal discord

→ tazkiyah provides a framework for building harmonious communities, b/c it promotes mutual respect, empathy, and cooperation

"None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself"
- Prophet PBUH (Sahih Muslim)

④ Strengthening Family Ties

→ purified soul exhibits qualities like patience, forgiveness, and gratitude, which are vital for maintaining strong family relationships

→ purification ensures family members practice forgiveness and patience, reducing conflicts and building stronger bonds

"The best of you are those who are best to their families"
- Prophet PBUH (Sunan Ibn Majah)

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⑤ Promoting Justice

- corruption + injustice thrive in societies where individuals lack moral purification
- tazkiyah ensures justice prevails at both individual and institutional levels
- a purified individual is more likely to uphold justice, even in the face of personal loss or societal pressure

↳ e.g. Tazkiyat al-Lisan (Purification of Tongue)

→ purifying one's speech and communication from falsehood or gossip

→ emphasizes spreading the truth

⑥ Deterrence Against Sin

→ strengthens the heart against temptations, helping individuals resist sin and seek forgiveness

→ acts as a moral compass that helps individuals stay on the right path

"Fasting is a shield; so when one of you is fasting, he should neither indulge in obscene language nor should he raise his voice in anger"

- Prophet PBUH (Sahih Bukhari)

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- ⑦ Preparing for the Afterlife
- self purification is essential for attaining salvation and entering Paradise
 - tazkiyah reminds believers of their ultimate purpose; earning Allah's pleasure and preparing for eternal life.

يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ الْبَنُونَ

"The Day when neither wealth nor children will be of any benefit"
(Sura Ash-Shura, 88)

⑧ Enabling Collective Societal Reform

- a society is only as strong as its individuals
- purification ensures a collective moral and ethical reform that lays the foundation for an Islamic society
- systemic reform begins w/ individual change
- a society driven by self-purified individuals is more likely to succeed in implementing justice, equality, and peace

"All of you are shepherds, and each of you is responsible for his flock"

- Prophet PBUH (Sahih Bukhari)

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Conclusion

Self-purification is not just an individual obligation but a cornerstone of Islamic society. It impacts every aspect of life - personal, social, moral, and spiritual - ensuring harmony and success in this world and the Hereafter. Through adherence to Quranic guidance and Prophetic teachings, self-purification lays the foundation for a just, peaceful, and spiritually vibrant society.