

Q.NO.02.

Fasting In Islam:

Concept of Fasting In Islam:

Fasting or Saum is one of the five pillars of Islam, mandated to be observed by the Muslims during the Holy month of Ramadan. The act of fasting involves abstaining from eating, drinking, having sexual relationships, and involving in sinful acts. This behaviour is to be followed from sunrise (fajr) to sunset (maghrib). It is a spiritual exercise aimed at achieving taqwa (i.e. Piety and Belief of God).

Quran on Saum:-

Quran says in Surah Baqarah that;

"O you who believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you, that you may become righteous."

— Surah Baqarah

This ayah from Surah Baqarah 02:183 demonstrates the significance of fasting (sawm) in the eyes of Allah. It is imperative to note that fasting is compulsory (wajib) and not a choice. Therefore, it is an obligation over each and every Muslim to observe sawm during the Holy month of Ramadan.

Importance of Fasting.

- 1- It strengthens self-control and patience.
- 2- It demonstrates the submission of Muslims to Allah.
- 3- It fosters a sense of gratitude and thankfulness for the blessings of foods and sustenance.
- 4- It makes Muslims realize to some extent the hardships of our Prophets and their companions during the times of scarcity and war.
- 5- Ramadan is a month of mercy, and fasting means seeking forgiveness.

Prophet (PBUH) on Sawm:

On an occasion, Prophet (PBUH) ~~declared~~ identified the importance of Ramadan as under;

“Whoever fasts during the month of Ramadan out of faith and seeking its reward in after life, his past sins will be forgiven.”

— Sahih Muslim

Impacts of Fasting:

1. On Individuals.

Fasting or saum is an extremely influential practice and has numerous impacts on individuals as well as on the society as a whole.

1. Promotes Spiritual Growth

Fasting strengthens the fear of Allah and taqwa, thereby strengthening the connection of individuals with Allah. It encourages the acts of worship and charity which also strengthens iman.

2. Fosters Moral Discipline

Since Saum requires practicing control over anger, desires, and negative traits like envy and backbiting, it fosters moral discipline among individuals. Beside this, it also teaches humility and reliance on Allah.

3. Improves Physical Health

Since Muslims have to observe control over their eating cravings and temptations, fasting also cleanses and detoxifies the body and improves metabolism. Thus, it promotes mindful eating habits.

The physical benefits of Saum have been scientifically proved.

As marked by the World Health Organization, intermittent fasting is not only good for physical health but it also has positive impacts on mental health.

4. Psychological Influence

Sawm fosters resilience and patience by teaching individuals to control their desires and thoughts. It also increases the reliance on the Almighty Allah, thereby reducing stress and anxiety.

2. Impacts on Society

1. Unity and Brotherhood

The month of Ramadan creates a sense of solidarity as Muslims observe fast across the globe. Shared meals 'iftar' and collective prayers strengthen community bonds.

2. Charity and Generosity: Removing Economic Disparities

Majority of the Muslims pay zakat and sadaqah during the month of Ramadan. This reduces economic disparities among the community, thereby promoting social welfare.

3. Harmony in Society

Fasting means abstaining from all sinful acts and thoughts beside eating and drinking. The emphasis on abstaining from harmful acts such as lying, backbiting and dishonesty leads to harmonization in community and strengthens community bonds.

On an occasion, Prophet (PBUH) said that:

"When one of you is fasting, he should abstain from foul speech and ignorant behavior."

— Sahih Bukhari

4. Fosters Social Awareness

Fasting fosters among individuals and societies a sense of empathy for less fortunate people by experiencing hunger and thirst.

CONCLUSION:

Fasting is a profound act of worship in Islam. It nurtures piety, patience, empathy and self-preservation. The versatile positive traits associated with it foster harmony and equity and strengthens community bonds.

"Verily, among you are those who pray and observe fast (sawm) will be preferred on the day of resurrection."

- Al-Quran.

Q. NO. 03.

Treaty of Hudaibiyah

The treaty of Hudaibiyah was signed between Muslims of Madina, led by the Prophet (PBUH), and the Quraish of Makkah. The treaty marked a pivotal moment in the Islamic history. Despite appearing to be a setback at the beginning, it turned out to be a masterstroke in the diplomacy and enabled Muslims to expand their territory and increase their strength and influence.

Background of the Treaty:

Prophet (PBUH) along with his 1400 companions left for Makkah with the intent of performing Umrah, but the Quraish of Makkah stopped him from entering Makkah. They feared that it would undermine their control over Kaaba and they will be perceived as weak.

The Negotiations with Quraysh.

The Muslims set their camps outside Makkah at Hudaibiyah and engaged ~~with~~ in negotiations with the Quraysh of Makkah. Prophet (PBUH) led the negotiations from Hudaibiyah. Ultimately the treaty with following terms was signed.

Terms of the Treaty.

- 1- Postponement of Umrah for an year.
- 2- Ten years' truce between Madina and Makkah's Quraysh.
- 3- If any Muslim man would run from Makkah and seek refuge in Madina without the consent from his guardian, he shall be sent back to Makkah. However, if any person flees from Madina to Makkah, he will not be returned.
- 4- Tribes could ally with either Quraysh or Madina's Ansaar.

5- Both, Madinah and Makkah would have equal access to trade routes.

Why did the Treaty seem Unfavorable for Ansaars?

Because of the third clause of the treaty that demanded return of refugee, the treaty was unfavorable for Madinah.

Hudaibiyah: The Diplomatic Game-changer for Muslims.

1. Since there was a truce of 10 years among Quaysh and Ansaars, the Prophet (PBUH) along with his companions directed his attention to conquering the empires of Persia, Rome and other Arabic tribes.

2. Muslims expanded their territory to these empires and established their rule there.

3. Islam expanded like it had never been witnessed before.
4. The peaceful nature of Islam became explicit with truce provisions in the treaty.
5. Similarly, after some time clause 3 of the treaty turned out to be unfavorable for Quraish. The Makkans who ran to Madina were returned to Makkah, but they stayed and encamped between Madinah and Makkah. They formed an alliance and turned against Quraish. As a result, Quraish themselves repelled this clause and asked Ansars to keep those who come to Madina.

Quran on Treaty of Hudaibiyyah:

"Indeed, We have given you a clear conquest."

- Al-Quran.

Takeaways from Hudaibiyah

1. Immediate gains are not always favorable in the long term.

2. Peaceful resolutions can achieve what wars can not.

CONCLUSION:

The treaty of Hudaibiyah is a pivotal document in the historical perspective of Islam. It shows the unparalleled foresight and diplomacy of Prophet (PBUH). The treaty proved to be a cornerstone in the expansion of Islam. With the truce agreed under this treaty, Muslims secured time to conquer and establish their rule in Persian and Roman Empire. The expansion of Islam after this treaty is one to be remembered. It clarified to the world that Islam was no longer a weak religion.

Q. NO. 04.

The Last Sermon of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) delivered his last sermon on the occasion of his Farewell Pilgrimage (Hajjat ul Wida) in 10 Hijri at the Mount of Arafat. It stands as a timeless and unprecedented declaration of Human Rights. It encapsulated the principles of morality, equality, social responsibility, justice and moral conduct as the cornerstone of Islamic values.

What were the key Human Rights in the Last Sermon of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)?

1. Equality of Humankind.

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) clearly abolished any and all kinds of discriminations based on



race, color, caste, gender and promoted the principle of universal equality. He declared that;

"... No Arab has any superiority over a non-Arab; neither does a white man has any superiority over a black man - except by piety and good deeds."

— Seerat-e-Nabwi
by Allama Shibli
Naumani.

2. Sanctity of Life and Property:

The sermon declared the life, property and reputation of people as sacred and inviolable. The Prophet (PBUH) declared in his last sermon that:-

"Indeed, your blood, your life, and your honor are sacred to one another."

— Seerat-e-Nabwi.

3. Rights of Women.

The prophet (PBUH) announced mutual rights and responsibilities of men and women over one another. He further emphasized treating women with kindness and respect. He (PBUH) declared that;

"O people, fear Allah with regard to your women. You have rights over them, and they have rights over you."

- Sunnat-e-Nabawi.

4. Prohibition of Exploitation

The prophet (PBUH) abolished unethical practices of interest (Riba) and usury and called for just practices in economic dealings. He (PBUH) said that;

"All usury (riba) is abolished. Your capital is yours to keep....."

- Qisas ul Anbiya.



5. Justice and Accountability.

He (PBUH) stressed the importance of honesty and trust. He (PBUH) said that;

"Be ware, whoever has any trust with him, he should return it to its rightful owner."

— Seerah-e-Nabuwat

6. Brotherhood and Unity.

He (PBUH) promoted solidarity and fraternity. He (PBUH) said that;

"All believers are brothers. No one is allowed to harm another..."

— Qisas ul Anbiya

7. Establishment of Justice.

He (PBUH) fostered inter-community unity and established the rule of law. He (PBUH) said that;

"The revenge for blood in pre-Islamic era is abolished."

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8. Freedom from oppression

He (PBUH) condemned all forms of injustices and oppressions. He (PBUH) said that;

"O People, the rights of others are sacred and must not be violated..."

Relevance with contemporary

World:-

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
 - Protects right to life, justice, freedom from oppression, rights for women and children, unity and equality of everyone.
2. Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
 - Protects: right to life, Dignity of man, Women right, Justice and Accountability, Abolishment of Usury (Riba) and much more.

CONCLUSION

The last sermon of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a charter of human rights that transcends time and borders. Its relevance after 1400+ years can still be seen much evidently. By implementing the values given in the charter ~~can~~ humans can aspire to achieve unity, peace, respect and mutual understanding.

Q. NO. 08

(SHORT NOTES).

1- The Concept of Equality In Islam:

Islam is a religion of values like justice, peace, unity, brotherhood and equality. The importance of equality among humans has been mentioned in the Holy Quran as well as the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Quranic standards of justice exceed thoughts of race, religion, color and faith.

Holy Quran on Equality:

"O you who believe! stand out against injustice, as witnesses to Allah, even if be it against yourselves, your parents, and your relatives...."

- Al-Quran.

It also declares that;

"Let not the hatred
of a people swerve
you away from
justice...."

Scholars on Equality in Islam:

The scholars of the Holy Quran have decided that the values and virtues given in the Holy Quran apply to everyone irrespective of their caste, creed, race, color or religion.

Equality in Justice:

Prophet (PBUH) said that justice is a responsibility. He also declared that one who is delegated with this responsibility should carry it out with equality.

"If you judge, judge between them with justice."

- Secret-e-Nabuwat

On the occasion of the last sermon, Prophet (PBUH) explicitly declared that

The values of equality and justice are inviolable. He abolished all kinds of discrimination:

"No Arab has any superiority over a non-Arab; neither a white man has any superiority over a black man - except for piety and good deeds."

- Seerat-e-Nabwi.

Basic ideologies of Equality in Islam:

Islam uplifts the value of equality in highest regard. It stems from following basic ideologies:

1. All men are created by the same eternal God - Allah.

2. All humanity belongs to human race and share common parentage of Adam (A.S) and Bibi Hawa (Eve).

3. Allah is just and kind to all men equally.

4. Allah judges everyone by his own deeds of virtue and sin.

5. Allah has bestowed upon every human, honor and dignity.

CONCLUSION.

Equality in Islam has high regard. Quran demonstrates the importance of equality on numerous occasions. The life of Prophet (PBUH) itself is a mirror of values like justice and equality. The teachings from the last sermon of the Prophet (PBUH) also demonstrated the significance of this value. Thus, Islam holds people in high regards and teaches to observe equality.

Aik hi saff mai kharay hogaye
Mehmood-o-Ayaz,

Na koî banda raha, na koî banda
nawaz.

DATE

DAY [M] [T] [W] [T] [F] [S] [S]

2-: The Beauty of Islamic Culture:

Islamic culture possesses a rich tapestry of spiritual and intellectual traditions. They are rooted in the Quran and Sunnah. It reflects values of unity, harmony and encompasses all the important aspects of life.

Key Features of Islamic Culture

are:

1. Shared Faith:

Despite the existence of Islam beyond borders and throughout the globe, it stays united. The diverse cultures, customs, traditions and language followed by Muslims around the world diversifies them. Yet, the shared faith of unity and oneness of Allah unites them.

2. Spirituality and Moral Values:

Islam encourages a life guided by Taqwa. This promotes honesty, compassion and humility among Muslims across the world. The emphasis on worship such as Zakat, Namaz and Fasting fosters a sense of unity and connection with Allah and care for people.

3. Social Harmony and Justice:

Islamic culture fosters egalitarianism, which means that all individuals are equal in the eyes of Allah. The principle of Shura (consultation) in Islamic governance and justice ensures fair treatment and societal well-being.

4. Preservation of Nature:

Beside humankind, Islam also preserves the rights of ^{nature} plants and animals. As declared in Quran:

"Do not waste even a single drop of water, even if you are sitting on a running stream."

CONCLUSION.

The beauty of Islamic culture lies in its harmonious mix of unity, preservation, justice, morality, spirituality and much more, combined with the shared belief in the ultimate authority of Allah. Its values continue to serve as a timeless guidance for humanity.