

# ISLAMIC STUDIES

## Question no. 2

### (A) INTRODUCTION

Islam is a complete code of life that guides Muslims in all spheres including personal, social, political, judicial, etc. There are five main pillars of Islam: belief in Allah and finality of prophethood, Salat, fasting in the month of Ramadan, Zakat and Hajj. The first three are obligatory on each and every Muslim, while the last two are compulsory for only those who meet the certain conditions. The concept and importance of fasting and its impact on individual and society would be discussed below.

### (B) CONCEPT OF FASTING

#### (1) Surrendering to Allah

It is a way of surrendering to the desires of Allah and living life according to His will and guidance.

#### (2) Refraining from worldly desires

When a Muslim observes a fast, he refrains from all worldly desires such as

eating and drinking. He surrenders completely to the Will of Allah.

### (3) Refraining from all Evils

A person observing fast refrains from all evils such as backbiting, telling a lie, etc.

## (C) IMPORTANCE of fasting

### (1) In the light of Quran

Allah has stressed great importance on fasting in the Quran. It has been repeated multiple times.

### (2) In the light of Sunnah

Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) himself observed fast in the month of Ramadan and advised his people to do the same as well.

### (3) In the light of Caliphate

All the four rightly guided Caliphs including Abu Bakr (RA), Umar (RA), Ali (RA) and Usman (RA) observed fasting in Ramadan and encouraged their followers as well.



## (D) IMPACT on an Individual

### (1) Instills Piety

By observing fast for 30 days, a person becomes more pious and humble. He frees himself from all bad habits and surrenders his will to Allah.

### (2) Teaches Self control

Fasting teaches a man self control. By refraining from all worldly desires including eating and drinking, a person becomes more disciplined.

### (3) Instills Patience

The act of fasting helps person develop patience by refusing to give into his desires.

### (4) Develops Discipline

By observing self-control whole day for a month, a person develops the virtue of discipline. He becomes more organized in his life.

### (5) Develops good habits

By refraining from evils for the whole month, a person develops good habits.

that helps him succeed in not only this world but Hereafter.

### (6) Develops Empathy

By refraining from eating and drinking, a person experiences hunger and thirst. As a result, he develops empathy for the poor who are unable to afford good food.

### (7) Brings closer to Allah

By following the teachings of Allah, a person comes closer to Allah and hence follows His teachings throughout his life.

## (E) IMPACT on a Society

### (1) Disciplined Society

As a result of fasting, the society at large becomes more disciplined.

### (2) Humble Society

The society becomes more humble and empathetic towards the poor which helps bridge the gap between different classes of a society.



### (3) Decrease in Crime Rate

People take care of each other so nobody feels compelled to resort to crime to meet their basic needs.

### (4) Prevalence of Peace

As a result, the society becomes more peaceful where people live their lives without any threats.

### (5) Better Foreign Relations

People from other countries also prefer to live in such society. As a result, the foreign relations of the society improve.

## (F) CONCLUSION

Fasting in the month of Ramadan is a great blessing of Allah that gives a chance to Muslims to transform their lives. By observing fast, a person can not only bring change on an individual level but can also help his society improve.

## Question no. 4

### (A) INTRODUCTION

Holy Prophet (SAW) lived his whole life in accordance to the teaching of Allah and Quran. His life is an ideal example for all Muslims. His last sermon is also known as a comprehensive charter of human rights. It took place on the last day of Hajj on the 13th Zil Hijjah. It was attended by 25,000 people. Important points of the last sermon will be discussed below.

### (B) The LAST SERMON

#### (1) Right to life

He told the Muslims that Allah has given the right to life to every individual and the blood of one individual is forbidden on the other.

#### (2) Right to sanctity

Every individual has the right to sanctity and everyone should respect it. Any violation in this regard would not be tolerated.



### (3) Rights of Women

All Muslims were advised to observe the rights of women and treat them with great respect.

### (4) Right of Husbands

Muslim women were advised to observe the rights of husbands.

### (5) Right to Education

All Muslims were given the right to education, irrespective of the gender. Therefore, it is the responsibility of parents to educate their children and the duty of children to utilize this opportunity to the best of their abilities.

### (6) Right of Inheritance

Islam has stressed great importance on giving the due share of inheritance to the people. It is the right of every individual to get the due share.

### (7) Right of those not present

Prophet (SAW) asked all those present there to convey his message to those who could not be there. This ensured that the message spread to all Muslims.

## (C) Comprehensive Charter of Human Rights

It can be observed that all teaching of Prophet (SAW) during his last sermon dealt with human rights. It provides a comprehensive guidance on dealing with family, friends, relatives, etc on daily basis. If an individual fulfils these rights, he can become successful in not only this life but also hereafter.

## (D) CONCLUSION

The last sermon of Holy Prophet (SAW) is in fact a comprehensive charter of human rights. This sermon provides a clear path for the Muslims to follow.

## Question 7

### (A) INTRODUCTION

The Pious Caliphate including Hazrat Abu Bakar (RA), Hazrat Umar (RA), Hazrat Ali (RA) and Hazrat Ali (RA) presented an ideal system of governance in complete accordance with Islam.



Importance features of their system of governance will be discussed in the passages below.

## (B) SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE DURING Pious Caliphate

### (1) Rule of law

During the era of Pious Caliphate, all citizens were equal before law. People were held accountable for their actions, irrespective of their social status.

### (2) Accountability of leaders

Leaders were held accountable for their actions. If the same system is implemented today, greedy politicians would be sidelined, preventing the exploitation of public. This would allow only the people truly dedicated for serving humanity to come to the government.

### (3) Transparency

The Caliphate observed great transparency in governmental affairs which helped build public trust. Today, lack of transparency is leading to disgruntled

and disqualified public. By ensuring transparency, public trust could be built, leading to peaceful society.

#### (4) Process of Consultation

During the era of pious caliphate, great importance was laid on the process of consultation. Decisions were taken after consulting the important leaders or the general public in some matters. This helped in reducing error and achieving the optimal results. If this process is implemented today, it would help in making better decisions for humanity.

#### (5) Right man for the right job

The Pious Caliphate always appointed the right man for the right job which ensured meritocracy in society. The prevalent practices of corruption and nepotism have destroyed the institutions. Their proper functioning can only be ensured by appointing right man for the right job. Practising meritocracy would also build public trust and ensure their satisfaction.



## (6) Freedom of Religion

During the era of Pious Caliphate, people were allowed to choose their own religion and nobody was forced to convert to Islam. This helped in building good relations with non-Muslims and ensured peace in society. Giving people the freedom of religion today would remove resentment from the hearts of non-Muslims towards Muslims. This would also help curb Islamophobic sentiments prevailing in the west and bring people closer to Islam.

## (C) CONCLUSION

The Pious Caliphate presented an ideal system of governance which included rule of law, system of accountability, transparency, freedom of religion, meritocracy, etc. The system was so perfect that it is even relevant today. Countries by observing this system of governance can certainly overcome many challenges prevailing today and can ensure a peaceful world.

## Question no. 8

(i)

### CONCEPT OF EQUALITY IN ISLAM

#### (1) Equality before Allah

Both men and women are equal in the eyes of Allah. Moreover, people of race are equal before Allah.

"An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab."

- al-Hadees

Allah has created all individuals equal.

#### (2) Superiority only on the basis of Deeds

A person can only be superior to others on the basis of his deeds. Since only Allah can keep count of true deeds of a person, he should never look down upon others.

#### (3) Equality in Right to Inheritance

Both men and women are given the right to inheritance and strict instructions are given to observe these rights.



#### (4) Equality in Right of Education

Islam has stressed great importance on acquiring knowledge.

"Acquiring knowledge is obligatory for Muslims (men and women)"

~ Al-Quran

Seeking knowledge is the right of every Muslim, irrespective of their gender.

#### (5) Equality in all other Rights

Whenever Allah has given some rights to women, He has also described rights of men along with it and vice versa.

This shows how Allah has maintained equality between both genders.

#### (6) Importance of Equality

Equality helps create a balance in society. It brings peace as individuals of <sup>any</sup> ~~all~~ race, gender or religion live in satisfaction. It also empowers individuals to fight for their rights. Overall, equality is crucial in building a stable society.

(ii)

## IMPORTANCE OF RULE OF LAW

### (1) LAW in accordance to Quran and Sunnah

Law of a country should be in accordance to the teachings of Quran and Sunnah. It will ensure that the rights of all communities are protected. It would provide a system of governance which truly serves its citizens by ensuring rule of law, transparency, accountability, etc. Only by implementing the teachings of Quran and Sunnah, a peaceful society is possible.

### (2) Equality of all Citizens

A society where rule of law is maintained, all citizens are equal before law. Everybody is treated equally, irrespective of their social status, race, or religion. Equality helps create a peaceful society where citizens have faith in their government.

### (3) Deterrence Against Crime

When all citizens are treated equally before law, a true deterrence against crime is maintained. When people know



that they would be held accountable for their actions, they refrain from committing crime.

#### (4) Prevalance of Peace

In a society where there is rule of law, people refrain from crimes so the crime rate drops. As a result, peace prevails and the society starts prospering.

#### (5) Accountability of Leaders

In such a society, even the leaders are held responsible for their actions. This ensures that the leaders serve humanity in accordance to the law and refrain from any frauds and illegal actions.

#### (6) Better Reputation

Rule of law would help build better reputation on the international stage. This would improve relationships with other states.