

QUESTION: 2

ANSWER:

INTRODUCTION:

Fasting is one of the most important pillars of Islam. It is incumbent on Muslims to observe fasts. Fasting holds great importance because it creates gratefulness in humans and empathy for the poor. In addition, it leads to the purification of one's sins. Fasting impacts the life of an individual by creating patience and getting closeness to God. Moreover, it creates a sense of brotherhood and generosity in society.

Literal Meaning of Fasting:

The literal meaning of fasting is "restrain".

Definition of Fasting by Imam Sadrudin Islahi:

According to Imam Sadrudin Islahi, author of "Islam at a Glance", "Fasting is not to eat, drink and copulate from dawn till dusk".

Definition of Fasting by Imam Ghazali:

"Fasting is not only to restrain from eating and drinking but also to restrain oneself from evil looking and evil thinking".

Importance Of Fasting:

(i) Pain of Fellow Muslims:

Fasting creates a pain of poor fellow muslims in the heart of other muslims. Fasting make them realize that how poor people endure hunger when they have nothing to buy more food for themselves.

(ii) Gratefulness of the bounties of God:

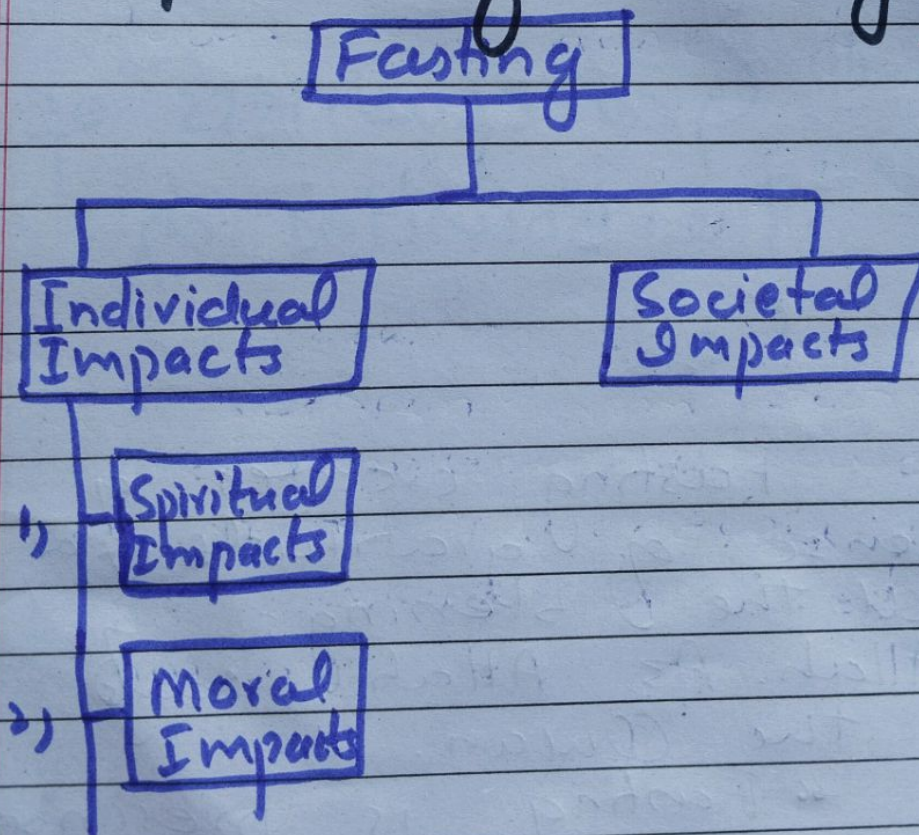
Fasting creates a sense of gratitude for all the blessings of Allah. As Allah says in the Quran.

“Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to people before you so that you may become grateful.”
[Al-Quran].

(iii) Control one's baser self:

Fasting helps human to get control over their baser self (Nafs) because they can't eat drink and copulate." As it is said in the Hadith: "Fasting act as a shield" (Hadith).

Impacts of Fasting:



(A) Individual Impacts:

(1) Spiritual Impacts:

(i) Instill Patience in Muslims:

~~Fadei~~ Fasting creates patience in humans as they have to control their needs during fasting.

"Fasting is half of patience"

(ii) Closeness to God:

A person who observes fast get close to Allah as he endure hunger and thirst for Allah.

"Fasting is for me and I will give its reward" [Al-Quran]

(iii) Purity of heart:

Fasting ~~ere~~ purify the

heart of an individual as he keeps fasts for seeking the pleasure of Allah not humans. As Holy Prophet said:
"Fasting is free from hypocrisy".

2) Moral Impacts.

(i) Protection from Sin:

During fasting, Muslims do not commit acts which are forbidden by Allah. As Holy Prophet said:

"Fasting protects you from vice" [Hadith].

(ii) Purgation of sins:

Fasting leads to the forgiveness of the previous sins of humans. As Allah says in the Holy Quran:

"Those who fast in the month of Ramadan, Allah will forgive all his previous sins".

iii) Character building:

Fasting build a strong character as a person get habitual to virtuous deeds.

B) Societal Impacts:

(i) Unity and Congregation:

During fasting people strictly say prayers in the mosque. As a result, muslims meet one another multiple time during the day.

(ii) Sense of Generosity and charity:

Fasting creates a sense of generosity and charity in society. As

people give zakat and good during ramadan. Thus, fasting creates a sense of cooperation in the society.

iii, Suitable environment for collective training:

Observing fasts for one lunar month and saying prayers daily, ~~are~~ are the source of collective training for members of society. People after Ramadan try to carry on with these rituals.

CONCLUSION:

Fasting is the most important pillar of Islam. It has several ~~very~~ beneficial impacts on the life of an individual and society. As, it makes an individual close to God, and get purgation from sins.

QUESTION: 3

ANSWER:

Introduction:

The treaty of Hudaibiyah occurred in 5. A.H. It was is the best example of the diplomacy of Holy Prophet. As a result of this treaty, Muslims averted the probability of war with Quraish, accepted the harsh terms of treaties for Muslims. In addition, Muslims got the affirmation of 10 years of peace and the permission to perform Hajj and Umrah next year. Moreover, as a result of this treaty and peace with Quraish, Muslims focused to fight battles with other enemies.

Background of the Treaty of Hudaibiya:

Holy Prophet had a dream that he is going Umrah in Kabah. Next day, he asked his companions to accompany him for Umrah. He commanded his companions not to carry swords with them as they are going to offer Umrah only not to fight. When the Holy Prophet was about to reach Makkah to perform Umrah, he was prevented by Quraysh to enter Makkah. As Quraysh was suspicious that Muslims ~~are~~^{were} coming to fight battle with them. As a result, Holy Prophet said Hazrat Usman to clear the misunderstanding about the arrival.

A1 Treaty of Hudaibiya: Diplomatic Gamechanger for Muslims:

(i) Treaty of Hudaibiya
averted war between
Muslims and Quraish:

By means of this
treaty, Muslims had
avoided war/battle with
Quraish which seemed
imminent during that
time.

(ii) Acceptance of harsh
conditions of treaty
to ensure peace:

During signing this
treaty, Quraish asked
Holy Prophet not to
write "Muhammad: The
Prophet of Allah" rather
write "Muhammad bin Abdullah"
on a signature. Holy Prophet
accepted their condition
for avoiding bloodshed.

(iii) Ten years of Peace with Quraish:

One of the 7 clauses of the treaty of Hudaibiya maintained that there would be ten year peace between Quraish and Muslims. This was a diplomatic win for Muslims.

(iv) Permission to offer Hajj or Umrah next year:

By means of this treaty Muslims were allowed to offer Hajj or Umrah next year for a limited number of days.

(v) Focus of Muslims on eradicating other enemies:

After this treaty, Muslims shifted their attention towards other

enemies. As this treaty ensured peace for 10 years.

(ii) Observance of the terms of treaty by Muslims:

This treaty imposed a condition that if any member of Quraysh reaches out to Muslims for help he would be returned back and if a Muslim approaches Quraysh then he would not be returned. When a person met Holy Prophet and asked for protection, Holy Prophet returned him back. It shows that back in the days, treaties were followed in letter and spirit.

CONCLUSION:

Treaty of Hudaibiya is the best example of the diplomatic skills of

Holy Prophet. As a result
of this treaty, war was
avoided with Quraysh,
and Makkah, Muslims
got 10 years of peace
with Quraysh.

QUESTION: 4

ANSWER:

Introduction:

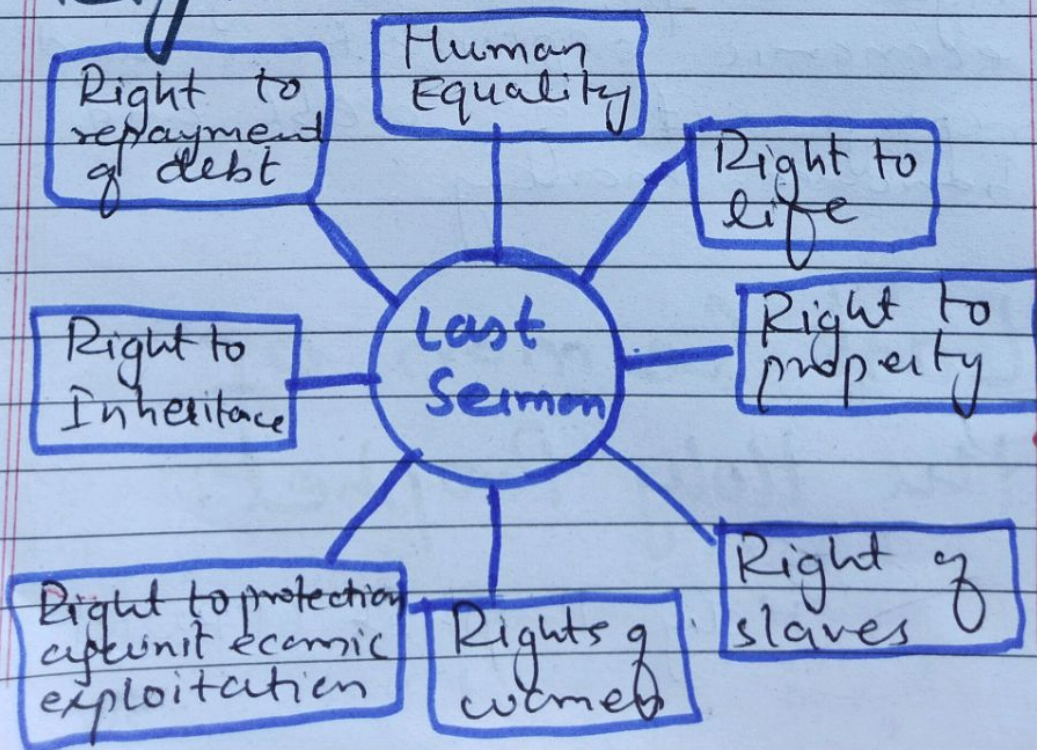
The last sermon was the comprehensive document on the human rights. Holy Prophet gave in the most explicit terms the message of human equitation. In addition, he emphasized on the rights of women and slaves. Similarly, he gave everyone the right to life, property and inheritance. Furthermore, he gave the right to protection against economic exploitation and repayment of debt and borrowed money.

Last Sermon of the Holy Prophet:

Holy Prophet (PBUH)

had given this sermon on the occasion of his first and last Hajj on 19 Dhul-Hijjah, to A. H. He (PBUH) had given this sermon because he realized that he is about to die. Before death he wanted to teach people about the rights they have on one another.

The Last Sermon: A Comprehensive Document on Human Rights:



ii) Message of Human Equality:

In the last sermon, Holy Prophet gave the message of human equality. He said:

“An Arab has no superiority over the non-Arab and the non-Arab has no superiority over Arabs. Similarly, a white has no superiority over black vice versa.”

iii) Rights of Women:

Before Islam, women were treated badly by the people. In the last sermon, Holy Prophet emphasized on the rights of women.

“Fair Allah in the matter of women, you have take them on the security of Allah”.

iii, Rights of Slaves:

Slaves were treated as tools with voice before Islam. Islam has given right to slaves. Holy Prophet said in the last sermon:

“Feed your slave with food that you eat and cloth that you wear”.

iv, Right to life:

In the last sermon Holy Prophet (PBUH) had given the right to life to all people without any discrimination.

“Your life is as sacred as this day, month and year”.

v, Right to Property:

Holy Prophet (PBUH) had also given the right to property to all human beings.

“You are not allowed to take the property of

your brother except what he gave you willingly?"

(vi) Right to Inheritance:

In the last sermon, Holy Prophet (PBUH) emphasized on the right to inheritance.

"Everybody has a share in the inheritance"

(vii) Right to protection against economic exploitation:

In this sermon, Holy Prophet (PBUH) forbade the economic exploitation in the form of riba as he forgave riba of his cousin that others had to pay.

"I forbade taking riba which was the custom of the Arab of Jahiliyah"

(viii) Right to repayment of debt:

In this sermon, he told people to repay debt that they had taken.

“Pay back all the debt and borrowed money”.

Comparison of the rights in last sermon to the West's UDHR:

The last sermon dates back to 1600 years ago while UDHR goes back to 1948. In the last sermon rights were given to all people without any discrimination. Rights given in United Declaration of Human Rights are confined to signatory countries. Moreover, UN express silence on the rights abuse in Palestine and Kashmir. In Islam, there is a concept of double accountability for not following the teachings of Islam.

CONCLUSION:

The last sermon is the comprehensive document of human rights. As, it gave rights to all people without any discrimination till the end of the time.

QUESTION: 8

Part "i"

Introduction:

In Islam there is a concept of equality irrespective of gender, caste and religion. It can be proved from the verses of Holy Quran and the Hadith of Holy Prophet. This unique concept of equality in Islam can not be find else where. As other religions have bigoted world view.

Unique Concept of Equality in Islam:

(i) Concept of Equality in Quran:

In Islam, Allah has repeatedly said about the equality of Human.

"We have created human from one soul"

Concept of Equality in Hadith?

The concept of human equality can be deduced from multiple sayings of the Holy Prophet.

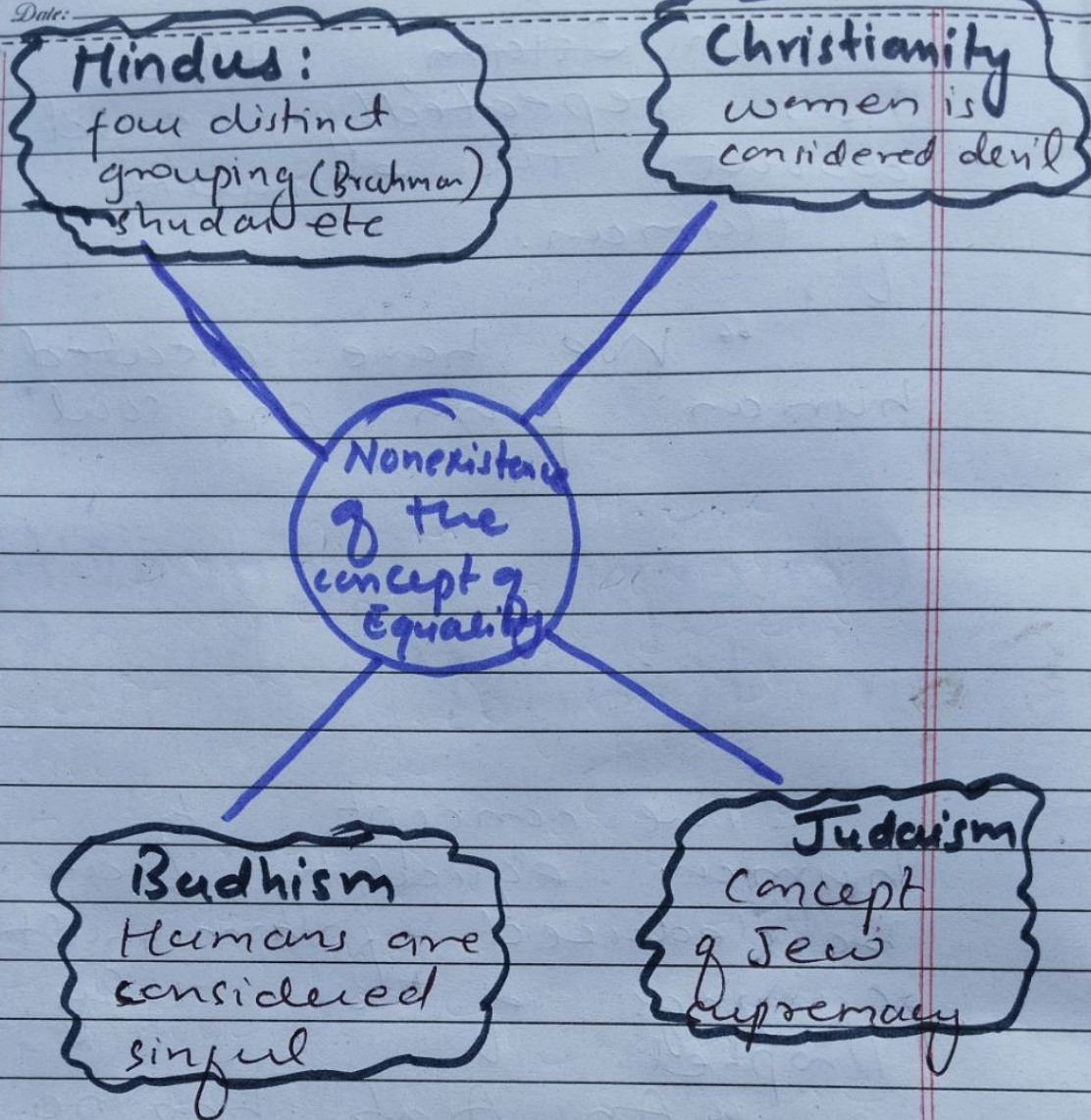
"An Arab has no superiority over non-Arabs and a non-Arab has any superiority over Arab"

"Humans have been created from one male and female."

Concept of Equality in other religions;

Date: _____

Day: _____



1) Concept of Equality in Hinduism:

In Hinduism, all peoples are not equal to their god. People are divided into 4 categories :- Brahmins and Shudras.

2) Concept of Equality in Christianity:

In Christianity, there

is no concept of equality as women are considered evil. Unlike Islam which give rights to women.

3) Concept of Equality in Judaism:

Concept of Equality does not exist in Judaism as there is a concept of Jews supremacy.

CONCLUSION:

In Islam there is a unique concept of human equality without any discrimination. However, such concept do not exist in Christianity, Hinduism and Judaism.

Part " (iii)

ANSWER

Introduction:

The Islamic culture is distinct from other cultures. The concept of Islamic culture is based on moral values and monotheism. Salient features of Islamic culture is monotheism, belief in prophethood, Day of resurrection, belief in equality, justice, rule of law etc. There are many differences between Islamic culture and the western culture.

Islamic Culture:

The Islamic culture is the epitome of moral values and monotheism.

Salient Features

of Islamic Culture:

(i) Belief in Monotheism:

In Islamic culture, there is a concept of one God.

"There is no God but Allah" [Al-Quran].

(ii) Belief in the last Prophethood:

In Islamic culture, there is a concept of last prophethood.

"I'm the last prophet and you are the last ummah!" [Hadith].

(iii) Concept of Hereafter:

In Islamic culture, there is a belief in the last day of judgement

"Every soul will taste the death" [Al-Quran].

(iv) Concept of Justice:

Islam lays great emphasis on Justice and asks its followers to be just.

“Stay firm in justice even if it is against you, your ^{parents} father and family” [Al-Quran].

v) Concept of rule of law:

There is a concept of rule of law in Islam. Moreover, every body is equal before Law.

“On one occasion Holy Prophet said that even if Fatima bint Muhammad steal something, he would give her the same punishment of cutting off hand”

vi) Concept of Equality

In Islamic culture there is a concept of equality.

“We have created humans from one soul” [Al-Hadith].

Comparison of Islamic Culture with Western Culture:

- 1) In Islamic culture there is a concept of monotheism which is absent in the western culture.
- 2) The Islamic culture is divine while the western culture is the result of thought process of humans.
- 3) As Islamic culture is a concept of hereafter and accountability. In the western culture, people believe that Jesus has atone their sin.
- 4) The Islamic culture provide a perfect balance between matter and moral values. While in the western culture, there

is no concept of morality.

CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, the beauty of Islamic culture is based on its moral principles which is non-existent in other cultures. Thus, the Islamic culture is distinct from other cultures.
