

PART - II

Q.5:

ANSWER

The Muslim Ummah today faces challenges in maintaining unity due to rising sectarianism. Sectarianism results in divide and politicisation of religion. Despite being bound by a shared faith and values rooted in Quran and Sunnah, divisions have weakened the collective strength of Muslims worldwide. Unity, however, remains a central tenet of Islam, emphasised repeatedly in Quran and Sunnah.

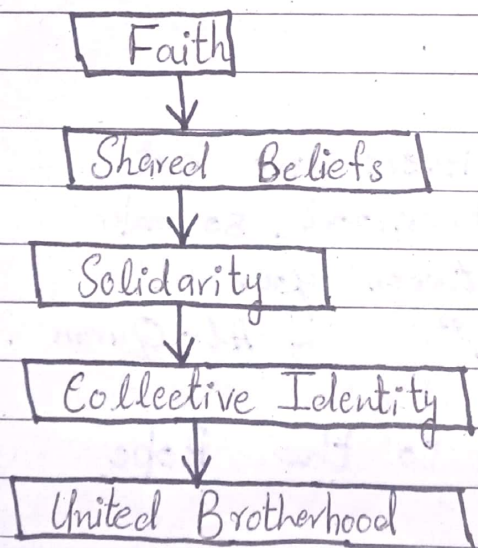
"The believers are but one brotherhood, so make peace between your brothers." - Al-Quran

1. Adherence to the Rope of Allah

The Quran emphasises unity by urging Muslims to adhere to divine guidance. Usually, differences among Muslims occur due to different approaches to

the religion. However, a difference in jurisprudence should remain theological and not become ideological. The core tenets of belief are similar for all Muslims, such as belief in oneness of Allah and the finality of Prophethood. Muslims should unite over a collective identity rooted in these core tenets.

“And hold firmly together to the rope of Allah and do not be divided.” — Al-Quran



2. Brotherhood Among Believers:

Islam denounces all kinds of identity politics such as ethno-centrism and

nationalism. This is because Islam promotes Muslim status as the only identity for adherents of religion. Brotherhood is formed through solidarity that is constructed through regular congregation, charity work, and addressing inequalities. Islam obligates salat, saum, zakat, and promotion of virtue and prevention of sin upon all Muslims. These practices should be encouraged, promoted and adopted to build a brotherhood that would transcend worldly differences.

"The believers, both men and women, are guardians of one another." Al-Quram.

3. Combating Sectarianism

Sectarianism poses serious threats to unity of Muslim Ummah. It is an evil that should be nipped in the bud before it poisons the Ummah further and exacerbates the divide. Combating sectarianism would require realistic solutions and to address the root causes. The following steps can be effective in limiting and combating sectarianism:

3.1 Focus on Inclusive Governance

It is essential that a leadership is cultivated that prioritises welfare of all citizens irrespective of sectarian affiliation. A prime case study for this is the country of Azerbaijan. The country's population is mostly Muslim and almost equally divided between the two major sects. However, social schism is non-existent. Thus, inclusive and fair governance reduces sense of marginalisation.

“Indeed, Allah commands you to return trusts to their rightful owners; and when you judge between people, judge with fairness.” — Al-Quran

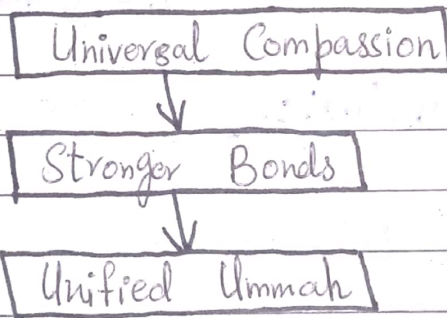
3.2. Open Dialogues and Public Seminars

As argued earlier, difference of thought can actually be a positive force. It would be an enriching endeavour to get scholars of different schools of thought to engage in open dialogues. This would highlight to the masses that core values of Muslim Ummah are shared and should

form the basis of Muslim unity.

4. Mutual Compassion

Compassion helps build a strong sense of togetherness. All Muslims should be sensitised about issues of Muslims globally. This can be done through education from early years at every Muslim child. The plight of Muslims anywhere should not be deemed secondary due to attributes such as race and nationality.



“You see the Muslims being merciful among themselves and being kind, resembling one body.” — Al-Hadith.

5. Collective Struggle for the UMMAH

Muslims around the globe who are

citizens of Islamic countries should prompt their national governments to address and combat issues that concern all Muslims such as Islamophobia in West and India, and humanitarian crises in countries like Sudan and Yemen. This will be the entire Ummah a collective goal to protect the interests of Muslims, setting aside their differences.

“Surely Allah loves those who fight in His cause in solid ranks as if they were one concrete structure.” — Al-Quran.

6. Conclusion

Unity in the Muslim Ummah is an essential duty emphasised in the Quran and Sunnah for collective strength and prosperity. By resolving divisions, promoting brotherhood, justice, and mutual compassion, Muslims can overcome superficial barriers. Practical steps like economic cooperation and combating sectarianism can help rebuild solidarity, enabling the Ummah to reclaim its identity.