

Q1. What is the importance of self purification in Islamic society? Explain.

Self-Purification in Islamic Society

Self-purification (Tazkiyah) in Islam is the act of purifying oneself both externally and internally. Islam has emphasized the purification of soul, character and actions because it elevates a man both spiritually and morally. It brings a person close to Almighty Allah where he becomes more receptive to teaching of Islam. It is significant in Islamic society as it provides inner peace and contentment. Self-purification purifies one's intentions as well and helps in the formation of more harmonious society. It brings positive impacts of justice, patience, humility, honesty, sincerity and alignment of one's life to the will of Allah, ultimately leading to the life of piety and righteousness.

Importance of self-purification in islamic society

① It helps in achieving inner peace and contentment

When an individual purifies one's soul, it produces a sense of inner peace and satisfaction and the person becomes close to Almighty Allah. The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said that

"He who has no peace in his heart will never find peace in his life"

(Al-Tirmidhi)

② It produces spiritual elevation in an individual

The self-purification or tazkiyah leads to greater closeness to Allah. When a person removes all the negative practices such as hatred, injustice, discrimination, envy, sins and instills positive actions of truth, and righteousness, he cleanses his soul from all impurities and become closer to Allah.

As Allah says in Holy Quran,

"He has succeeded who purifies it and he has failed who installs it with corruption."

(Surah Al-Sham: 9-10)

③ It leads to moral and ethical development

The individual becomes better in the society both morally and ethically because he cultivates good character within him. He becomes kind ~~and~~, just and humble and removes evil things. The prophet (PBUH) has said that

The best of you are those who have best manners and character

(Sahih Bukhari)

④ It produces a person self-accountable in the hereafter

Islam teaches that everyone will be asked about their good and bad deeds in the ~~life~~ hereafter. When a person achieves

self-purification, he prepares himself for next life by ensuring that his actions and intentions align with the teachings of Holy Qur'an and Sunnah.

⑤ Self Purification purifies one's intentions (Ikhlas)

It purifies one's intention for all the actions that ensures all activities are done sincerely for the sake of Allah. This is very important in Islam because everyone is judged by their intentions. A purified soul removes all desires of achieving praise or worldly benefits. Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that

Actions are judged by intentions
and everyone will be rewarded
according to what they intended.

⑥ It leads to achieving Allah's Mercy and forgiveness

Self purification engages a person in right deeds. The person becomes closer to Allah's mercy and forgiveness because he seeks repentance, and forgiveness. ~~and so~~ Hence, self purification not only benefits a person in this world but also in the hereafter.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said that,

Allah said: on son of Adam as long as you call upon me and ask of me, I shall forgive you for what you have done, and I shall not mind.

(Sahih Muslim)

⑦ Self Purification produces social harmony

When the person becomes righteous and purifies his soul, he is more likely to act justly, forgiving others and promoting peace. It removes selfishness, hatred and fosters unity and mutual support leading to a more harmonious society.

⑧ It fosters gratitude and humility

The person becomes aware of Allah's blessings when he purifies his soul and more likely to develop gratitude and humility. He recognizes that success and wealth comes from Allah and not his own efforts alone. As Allah says in the context of Surah Ibrahim

If you ^{give} thanks I will give
you more; but if you are
thankless of my blessings,

verily my punishment is
indeed severe

Surah Ibrahim (14:7)

Conclusion

Self purification (Tazkiyah) is of paramount importance in Islam. It is significant not only for individual life but also spiritual, moral and ethical development. Due to humility, truthfulness of an individual, it leads to a harmonious society. It brings a person closer to Allah and makes him accountable for the day of resurrection as well.