

Q1.

## Culture and Civilization:

Both culture and civilization come together to form a progressive and developing society. Though both the elements are totally different from one another yet can't stand alone. Civilization being the basic structure of the community with its buildings, people and development can't exist without culture which gives us the moral values, norms, rituals, traditions and beliefs. Muslim civilization existed and ruled because of their <sup>strong holding of</sup> Islamic culture. Though civilization end after sometime because of the ending of conditions which established it, it still has a strong influence. But, culture is passed on shared <sup>across</sup> ~~after~~ generations, it lives longer than many civilizations.

## Major Differences between Culture and Civilization:

### CULTURE

### CIVILIZATION

#### Definitions

Culture is a set of values, rituals, beliefs and norms which are transmitted ~~from~~ and shared in a given society.

①

Civilization is a complex of societies usually made up of different societies which are characterized by specific cultural and technological development.

(National Geographic)

According to Redfield, Culture is an organized body of conventional understanding manifested in art and artefact which persists through traditions and characterize a specific human group.

Civilization is the comprehensive development of human potential in all dimensions i.e. psychological, social, intellectual, moral.

## Elements

1. Values
2. Norms
3. Beliefs
4. Traditions
5. Rituals
6. Languages
7. Symbols
8. Artifacts

According to Will Durant:

1. Organized Central Government
2. Complex Religions
3. Social Classes
4. Job Specialization
5. Cities
6. Art and Architecture
7. Public Works

## Characteristics

1. Culture is learned through enculturation.
2. Culture is dynamic.
3. Culture is shared.

1. Political Organization
2. Economic Provisions
3. Social Traditions
4. Pursuit of art and knowledge

## Layers

1. Contemporary layer - keeps on changing
2. Sub-culture - doesn't change easily yet changes after a long time
3. Culture universalism - passed on to next generations, do not change at all

Civilization is established on some pre-conditions and when these conditions end, civilizations end and so they are not eternal.

## Examples

Arabic Culture  
Chinese Culture

Ottoman Civilization  
Indus Valley Civilization

## Important Characteristics of Islamic Culture by Qadr Baksh Baloch:

- ① Monotheism (Tauheed)
- ② Universalism
- ③ Openness and Pluralism
- ④ Moderation
- ⑤ Eternity

## Important Features of Islamic Civilization:

### ① Monotheism (Tauheed)

Tauheed is the bedrock of Islam. It is the base of Islam-religion and the first condition for <sup>being</sup> a Muslim.

Say: He, Allah is One

قل هو الله احد

(Al-Ikhas)

انى وجهت وجهى للذى خلق السموات والارض حينئذ

Indeed, I have turned my face towards the One Who created heavens and the Earth, inclining towards the Truth.

Role in Civilization:

Tauheed incorporates in the society

1. Accountability
2. Unity
3. Brotherhood

### ② Purification of Self (Tazkiya al-Nafs)

(Imam Ghazali's Theory)

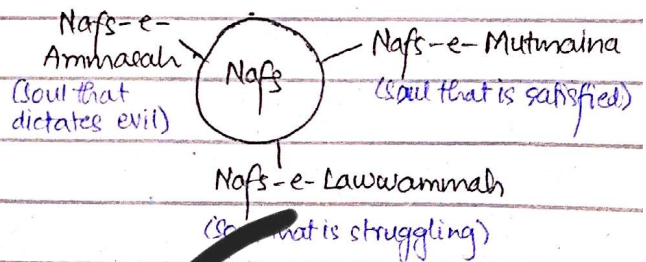
Nafs is the essence of an individual and not the physical body.

Nafs has two faculties

- ① Desire (Hawas)
- ② Anger (Ghazab)

Moderation of these faculties impart a sense of contentment and Excess of it instills aggression, lust and anger.

Successful indeed is the one who purifies their soul and doomed is the one who corrupts it.



قد افلح من زكاه وقراب من سواه

(Ash-Shams)

Role in Civilization:

Purification of soul will instill in society

- ① Unity
- ② Brotherhood
- ③ Religiosity
- ④ Kindness

### ③ Excellence of Faith (Ahsan)

Book Islam: Faith and History

"Shariah is the outer dimension of Islam and Ahsan is the inner dimension."

Ehsaan is the highest value of faith in the One Allah Almighty.

Islam → Iman → Ehsaan

Ehsaan is based on:

Tastefulness  
(Jamal)

Sincerity  
(Ikhlas)

Ehsaan

Completeness  
(Ikmal)

Correctness  
(Sahih)

Is there any reward for goodness except goodness.

كل جزاء الا الحسن الا الاحسن

(Al-Rahman)

Role in Civilization:

- ① Piety
- ② Chastity
- ③ Kindness
- ④ Unity

#### ④ Social Justice:

Social Justice is an important feature of Islamic society. Allah in Quran stress upon stating truth and providing justice within the given time

ولا تلبسوا الحق بالباطل وتكتموا الحق وانتم تعلمون

Do not mix truth with falsehood ~~and~~ or hide truth knowingly. Al-Baqarah

Role in Civilization: 1. Kindness 2. Trust in Government 3. Class Eradication

#### ⑤ Social Equality

All has created all men and women with dignity. Everyone is equal in sight of Allah except for the one who is the most pious.

indeed, We have dignified the children of Adam

ولقد كرمنا بني آدم

Al-Isra

"The noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the one most pious among you."

Role in Civilization: 1. Decreased crime 2. Justice 3. Forgiveness

Al-Hujurat

#### ⑥ Tolerance

"Tolerance is the defining characteristic of Islam." Tony Blair

Allah has not forced religion on anyone and He advised to show tolerance to the one among you.

Let there be no compulsion in religion.

لا إكراه في الدين

Al-Baqarah

Role in Civilization:

1. Kindness
2. Harmony
3. Patience
4. Forgiveness
5. Unity