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BATCH: 401

Question 2

Philosophically and religiously,
Write a note on the status
of mankind in Islam?

STATUS OF MANKIND IN ISLAM

Mankind is the only creature on Earth with the sense of living life with certain rules and regulations. Among all the creations, only mankind can be seen with the unique position of rights and responsibilities, dignity and a capacity for reason and self reflection. Before the revelation of Quran, mankind was living with free will violating human rights and status. But Quran was revealed for all mankind to know their status and live with dignity.

Status of Mankind Before the Advent of Islam:

Before the advent of Islam, the world was living in ignorance and social and moral decline. Discrimination on the basis of class, slavery, and denial of basic rights of women were common. There was prevalence of age of darkness and idolatry was common even when many prophets preached Tawheed. So, the world was basically in chaos in all manners.

Islam gave Status to All Mankind:

With the emergence of Islam, when Holy Prophet SAW was given the revelation of Quran, status of mankind from the creation was defined.

"We have honored the children of Adam, and carried them on the land and sea, and provided them with good things, and honored them

even many of those
we created" (AL-Quran)
Allah has honoured the whole
mankind among his many
creations.

Status of Mankind Represented with his Rights

Islam gives rights to all ^{mankind} Muslims
regardless of caste, color, creed, or
gender. These rights have raised
status of a human. These rights
are balanced with responsibilities.
Each and every human has to
fulfil its responsibility and
receive rights from others.
Mankind was ~~unknown~~ unaware
of the dignity and value of
fellow humans and used to
violate their rights leading
to humanity decline.

Islamic Philosophy of Human Rights - Raising Mankind Status

Islam describes rights and responsibilities of all humans. Quran is the source of guidance not only to Muslims, but to everyone on Earth and Universe. The status of mankind can be evaluated from the following ayats and ahadees.

Ethical Principles of Life by Islam:

There are seven global ethical principles of life stated by Islam. Few of them are following:

• Protection of Life:

Islam values life of all humans equally.

"Whoever kills a human being
..... its shall be as if he
killed all mankind" (AL-Quran)

No one is allowed to take life

of any other person.

- Religious Freedom, Tolerance and Pluralism:

Everyone is free to practice their religion in Islamic world.

"There is no compulsion in deen. The right direction is therefore distinct from error" (Al-Quran).

This ayah ensures the safety and tolerance towards mankind of other religions.

- Preservation of Honor, Dignity and Lineage of Mankind:

Islam places great emphasis on safeguarding the honor, dignity, and lineage of every human being as part of its moral and social framework. Allah has honoured children of Adam, and to preserve this dignity, Islam prohibits any kind of disrespect, humiliation, or injustice.

Fundamental Human Rights Prescribed by Islam:

1400 years ago, Islam has already provided rights to all mankind.

Today's humanitarian rights organizations cannot explain or give detailed rights to everyone.

• Equality in Sight of Allah and His Deen:

Everyone is equal in sight of Allah. Our visible differences are just for recognition. Allah says in Quran:

"O people! We have created you from a male and a female and made you races and tribes, that you may know one another. The best among you in the sight of Allah is the one, who is most righteous..." (Al-Quran)

• Right to Basic Needs:

All mankind has right to basic needs in Islam.

"And give the relative his rights, and the poor, and the wayfarer, and do not squander wastefully." (Al-Quran)

• Sanctity of Property:

Islam gave the right to property to humans.

"O Believers! Do not consume each others wealth illicitly, but trade by mutual consent" (Al-Quran)

No one can steal anyone's property in Islamic world.

Status of Non-Muslims in Islamic State

Islam takes care of its Non-Muslim citizens and gives them proper rights.

- Right to Life and Property for Non-Muslims:

Charter of Madinah and charter granted to Christians of Najran is the best example of rights of Non-Muslims. Holy Prophet SAW declared rights of Muslims and non-Muslims in the first ever written constitution in the world.

- Freedom of Religion and Worship:

Non-Muslims have religious freedom and it is compulsory for Islamic state to protect their places of worship.

"And do not abuse those whom they call upon besides Allah." (Al-Quran)

Status Granted to Women by Islam

Islam for the first time gave status to women by

defining their rights.

- Men and Women Equal in Sight of Allah:

The concept of disrespecting the birth of a girl was condemned and equality of both genders was assigned by Allah SWT.

"I will not waste the work of any worker among you whether male or female. You are one of another." (Al-Quran)

- Order to Respect Mothers Abundantly:

Mothers are given a lot of respect in Islam. According to Hadees, a man asked Messenger of Allah SAW about who is most entitled to be treated with best companionship. Prophet SAW replied "Mother" three times and "Father" on fourth time upon asking.

- Order to Treat Wives in the Best Manner:

Wives have been given separate status in Islam.

"The best of you is the one who is best to his wife, and I am the best of you to my wives." (AI (Hadees)).

Similarly, daughters, sisters and other women were also given rights in Islam.

Dignity of Men and Women in Islam

All humans are dignified by Allah in Islam.

- The Most Superior Creation of Allah SWT:

Allah has honoured humans as shown in ayah:

"We have honoured the children of Adam

and caused them on
land and seas, and
provided them with good
things and honored them
over many of those we
created." (Al-Quran)

- Created in Best Possible Manner:

Allah has created humans
in the best design:

"We created Man in
the best design" (Al-Quran)

- Ordered Angels to Prostrate
Before Adam:

The human dignity can
be understood from this ayah:

"And (Remember) when we
said to the angels "to
prostrate before Adam" so
they did, but Iblis who
refused and acted arrogantly
and became unfaithful." (Al-Quran)

Conclusion:

Islam has raised status of mankind by giving them rights and responsibilities. Before that humans were morally and socially destroyed and had no values of life.

Question 1.

Culture and civilization..... characteristics of Islamic culture?

Culture and Civilization

Culture and civilization are the two things by which a group of people are recognized and differentiated from each other. It can depend on ethnicity, religion, norms and other values. Each culture and civilization have their own characteristics including Islamic culture.

What is Culture?

Culture has many definitions by different authors. But UNESCO defines it as:

"Set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of a society or a social group, that encompasses not only art and literature, but lifestyle, value systems, tradition and beliefs"

Importance of Culture:

Culture provides community with an identity and a sense of unity. It positively impacts social development of a society.

Culture provides sense of patriotism and provides economic benefits and values to a society.

It is the basic ground for progress and stability to a community.

characteristics of a culture:-

- Learned:
Culture is learned and is not inherited
- Dynamic:
Cultures interact and change.
- Shared:
It is shared by all members of a society
- Based on symbols:
Culture is based on symbols like language.
- Integrated:
All elements of a culture are integrated.

What is civilization:

According to Oxford:

"The process by which a society or a place reaches an advanced stage of social and culture development and organization"

Sociologist define civilization as:

"Advanced state of

human society containing highly developed forms of government, culture, industry, and common social norms".

Importance of Civilization:

Civilization represents the collective achievements of humanity in culture, knowledge, governance, and social system. A true civilization is one that balances worldly advancements with ethical responsibility and justice.

Characteristics of Civilization:

- Presence of geographical boundaries
- A strong political system
- A stable economic system
- Developed system of religions
- Social classes
- Technology
- Art and architecture.

Characteristics of

Differences Between Culture and Civilization

<u>Civilization</u>	<u>Culture</u>
• Advancing • May be borrowed • It is a means to an end. • Prone to changes • Easily passed to next generation.	• Not advancing • Not borrowed • It is end. • Stable • It is not passed

Culture and Civilization Shape

Society's Identity:

Culture reflects the beliefs, traditions, language and other elements of society, while civilization represents its organized process and progress in knowledge, governance and social institutions.

Culture and Civilization Provide Framework for Social Order:

By formulating shared standards of right and wrong, culture and civilization ensure that society functions in order and smoothly.

Culture and Civilization Foster Personal Wellbeing:

Culture and civilization provide an environment where individuals can grow morally, intellectually and emotionally and form an ordered society.

Characteristics of Islamic Culture

Islamic culture is shaped by the teachings of Quran and Sunnah. This culture balances the worldly progress and spiritual development.

- Islamic Culture is Faith Based:

Islamic culture is adopted by Muslim society where all the elements of culture are part of Islamic Shariah. Shariah defines all the rules and regulations to live in a society in organized way.

- Islamic Culture is Moralistic:

Islamic culture is founded by ethical principles defined by Quran. When every one feels accountable to Allah Almighty, everyone starts practicing good morals. These morals helps in creating a society where everyone is cared.

- Islamic Culture is Balanced and Moderate:

Islamic culture has values that balance worldly gains with spiritual development. Though it equilibrium, Islamic culture

provides inner peace, harmony,
and dignified way of living with
divine guidance.

"Thus we made you
a moderate community"
(Al-Quran)

- Islamic Culture Promotes
Human Dignity and Equality:

Islamic culture provides
dignity to all humans. As
Allah says in Quran:

"We have honored children
of Adam and honored
them over many of
those we created" (Al-Quran)

Therefore, all mankind is honorable
& in Islamic culture.

- Islamic Culture is Proponent of
Good and Opponent of Evil:

Islamic culture raises
a community that elevates

morality and justice in society.

"You are the best
community ever emerged
for humanity, you advocate
what is moral and forbid
what is immoral, and
believe in God" (Al-Quran)

Conclusion:

Culture and civilization
are the foundation of a
society to live in order,
peace and harmony. Islamic
culture follows the
divine guidance and provides
a stable, peaceful and a
morally good community.
