

Question No.1

Define Tauheed as the bedrock of Islam. What is its significance and impact on individual life and Society? Elaborate

I. Introduction

Belief in the unity and oneness of Allah, Tauheed is the first and the main principle of Islamic faith. Tauheed signifies a firm belief in the fact that there is only one Creator and Sustainer of the universe and that is Allah. There is no other creator or deity who can claim any partnership in His ~~god~~ Ownership of the universe. Tauheed has immense impact on both the individual life and societal aspects of human life.

II. Meaning of Tauheed

Tauheed has been derived from Arabic root word "Wahhada" which means 'to unify' or 'make one'. Hence, Tauheed implies the

belief in the absolute Unity and Oneness of Allah who is the Sole Creator and Sustainer of the universe. There is none who can match Him in His Personhood, attributes and names, and His actions. He is the only Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Creator of the entire universe.

III. Significance of Tauheed in the Light of Quran

Quran holds significant testimony to the concept of Tauheed and its significance. The first Surah of the Quran begins with the words:

"Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds."

Similarly, Surah Ikhlas begins with:

"Say, He is Allah; the One and Only; Allah, the Eternal, the Absolute; He begetteth not nor is He begotten. And there is none like unto Him."

Moreover, Allah Himself proclaims:

"I am your God and there is no other God. So worship Me and keep up my prayer!"

Also, at another place in Holy Quran:

"Had there been any other deity except Allah, they would certainly have both been perished."

IV. Impacts of Tauheed on Individual Life

Tauheed has significant impacts on the life of an individual as follows:

A. Tauheed Creates a Sense of Accountability and Integrity

The consciousness that Allah is watching over all the time and He is everywhere, creates a sense of accountability in the life of an individual. Individuals, hence, tend to be

cautions in their actions and behaviors.

B. Gives Sense of Purpose to Life and Existence

Knowing that everything is from Allah and He is the ~~best~~ ^{sole} Creator, gives a sense of purpose to human life as they now tend to align their life in line with Allah's guidance and principles. The purpose of life becomes absolute service to the Creator of the universe.

C. Spiritual Fulfillment

Acknowledging God as the Only provider, individuals worship only Allah and ask for only His support. Hence, this creates a spiritually fulfilling impact on individual lives.

D. Hope and Consolation in Difficulties

The existence of one God who is the most kind and humane gives humans hope

and consolation in the face of adversities. They seek Allah's help and remain optimistic. The Quran says:

"Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest and peace."

V. Impacts of Tauheed on Society

Tauheed equally shapes all aspects of a society in considerable ways:

A. Creates Social Equality

Tauheed leads to social equality as it erases any distinctions of any sort based on the belief that Allah is the Creator of everything and everyone, hence, all others are equal and dependent upon Allah. Hence, all humans become equal notwithstanding any differences of any sort. This strengthens social equality in society.

B. Fosters Sense of Brotherhood and Unity

The belief that all Muslims are one Ummah and worship the same God and creation of one Allah, fosters a sense of unity and brotherhood and strengthens social bonds.

"The believers are but one brotherhood so make peace between your brothers; so you may be shown mercy."
[Al-Burhan]

C. Creates Peace and Social Justice

Being followers and worshippers of the same God and the actions and behaviours being observed by Allah, Muslims tend to avoid wrongdoings and treat all equally with fairness. This creates peace, harmony, and a socially just society.

VI. Conclusion:

To sum it up, Tauheed refers to belief in the absolute unity ~~one~~ of One and Unique God. Tauheed has been strongly emphasized in the Quran. Tauheed shapes not only

individual life but also collective aspects of a society. It creates a sense of meaning in individual life and establishes justice and harmony in the collective life.

Question No. 2

Describe the characteristics of Military Strategist in the light of Sirah of Muhammad (PBUH) with arguments.

I. Introduction

The life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) serves as exemplary in all aspects of life. Muhammad (PBUH) was an excellent military strategist whose military strategies and ideal leadership allowed them to conquer the Arabian Peninsula in a decade. His bravery, strategic excellence, military and intelligence tactics on the battlefield and beyond the battlefield were awe-inspiring. Muslims' military

organization was elevated to new heights by the prophet which was highly disciplined and trained.

II. Changing the Philosophy and Purpose of War

The Prophet (P.B.U.H) altered the philosophy and aim of war. The pre-Islamic war was carried out for plundering, robbing, violence, and did not care for any human sufferings. The Prophet changed the philosophy of war as it was now fought in the cause of Allah, to suppress injustice and eradicate cruelty. The war became humane and principled.

III. Qualities of Muhammad (P.B.U.H) as a Military Strategist

A. Love of God

He had extreme love of God whose message he was carrying in one hand (Quran) and sword in another. This divine affection made him

ever-ready for any form of sacrifice.

B. Unmatched Bravery

The Prophet (PBUH) displayed remarkable bravery on and beyond the battlefield. Hazrat Ali reported:

"When the danger intensified and the people met each other in battle, we would seek protection by the messenger of Allah. None of us would be closer to the enemy than him."

C. Strategic Excellence

It was due to his strategic excellence that the Muslims were able to form a unified force despite diversity and were able to conquer around three million sq. km of land in a decade.

IV. Key Military Strategies of the Prophet (PBUH)

In the words of Montgomery

Watt, "The intensity of the wars waged by Muhammad was the least in history as there were only 1058 deaths in around 100 battles fought."

A. Preparation for War

The Prophet was very much conscious about prior preparations for any war in line with the commandments of Quran which says:

"And against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies."

B. Secrecy in War Planning

The Prophet always kept cards close to his chest and ~~never~~ never disclosed war plans with any except his closest allies.

C. Espionage and Surveillance

The Prophet had

deployed his people throughout Arabia to inform of his enemy's plans. He had sent spies to know the exact strength of the enemy in the Battle of Badr:

D. Strategies on the Battlefield

The Prophet (PBUH) adopted innovative strategies on the battlefield to thwart enemy plans. E.g. In Battle of Ahzab, a trench was dug on the southern side of Medina which was open to attack.

E. Rights of Non-Combatants Protected

The non-combatants were declared safe from any attacks in the words:

"Do not attack any old man, any woman, or any child." [Hadis]

Also,

"Do not kill those sitting in places of worship." [Hadis]

F. Human Treatment of Prisoners of War

"No prisoner should be put to the sword." [Hadis]

G. Respect for Treaties

He had absolute respect for official treaties and covenants and abided by all the terms.

"There is no religion for those who can not be trusted and who can not uphold a covenant." [Hadis]

H. Military Organization Under the Prophet (PBUH)

The Prophet was the commander-in-chief of the Muslim army. There was ~~no~~ standing army as every tribe would represent itself separately during wars under its own tribal banner and under its own chief.

V. Conclusion:

The life of Muhammad (PBUH) as a military strategist serves as unmatched in human history. From a small force

of few individuals, the force grew to around 30,000 (Tabuk expedition) thanks to the extraordinary strategies and tactics employed by the Prophet (PBUH). Hence, he was able to establish Muslim reign over Arabia within a decade.