

ISLAMIC STUDIES

PART II

Q2

Concept of Tawhid in Islam:

Tawhid means oneness of Allah. There is no deity except for the Almighty Allah. He alone is worthy of worship and all kinds of praise. He has no beginning and no end. He has created everything from scratch without the help of any other being and He provides sustenance for all the living creatures.

Categories of Tawhid:

Tawhid can be categorized into three types

- 1- Tawhid (Oneness in Person):

He is the One and

2. Unity (Oneness in Attributes), -

"And to Allah belong the best names, so invoke him by them" (Al-A'raf - 180).

For example, Allah is the King, the Most Merciful, the Almighty, the Creator etc.

3- Unity (Oneness in Actions):

This means that He alone is the Creator and the Sustainer of everything. He takes help from no one.

“To God belongs the
sovereignty of the heavens”

and the earth and
what lies in them and
He has power over
everything." (Al-Maidah-120).

Influence on an Individual

Tauhid has a great
influence on individuals which
can be explained by the
following points

- 1- Gives a Primary Purpose to Life ::

One sees that One
Supreme Entity has created
me and put me on
top of all other living
beings. There must be a
reason for one's existence.

"I did not create
the Jinns and the
humans except for the
purpose that they should
worship me." (Az-Zariyat-56)

2- Inculcates Humility and Modesty ::

It makes one aware that who am I in front of the Almighty. Allah is watching my every step and is aware of what goes in my head. Allah say,

"Pride is My cloak and greatness My robe, and whoever competes with Me with regard to either of them, I shall throw him into Hell." (Ibn Majah - 4174).

Thus it directs individuals to be humble and modest.

3- Inculcates Trust in Allah:

Tauhid makes one believe that if Allah is capable of so many majestic actions, He sure will take care of me. Thus it inculcates trust in Allah.

"And why should we not trust in God, when He has guided us in our ways? We will persevere in the face of your persecution. And upon God the reliant should rely."

(Ibrahim - 12).

4- Instills Peace and Contentment:-

One who believes in only one God, is automatically granted peace, satisfaction and focus.

"Those who believe, and whose hearts find comfort in the remembrance of God. Surely, it is in the remembrance of God that hearts find comfort."

(Ar-Ra'd - 28)

5- Induces a Sense of Self-Accountability:-

Tauhid automatically

across the sense that Allah will gather everyone one day and ask them about their deeds.

"We will set up the scales of justice for the Day of Resurrection, so that no soul will suffer the least injustice. And even if it be the weight of a mustard-seed, we will bring it up.

Sufficient are we as Reckoners." (Al-Anbiya-47)

Impacts on the Collective Life of the Believers:-

Tauhid not only influences individuals but it also has a great influence on the collective life of the individuals which can be attributed to the following points

1- Strengthens the Concept of Equality:-

Tauhid affirms that everyone is equal in the eyes of the Almighty. No one is superior on the basis of color, race and creed.

"He is dearest to Allah who is more pious." (Al-Hujurat-13)

Thus in the eyes of Allah, superiority is only on the basis of piety.

2- Helps in promoting Justice:-

If a person responsible for ensuring justice does not fulfill his responsibility in this life, he should know that Allah will ensure it on the Day of Judgement and hold him accountable for not doing so. Thus Tauhid promotes justice collectively.

3- Helps in the Alleviation of Crime :-

Tauhid builds an inner sense of accountability, equality and justice leading individuals in a society to control desires, respect others' rights, and thus avoid crimes.

"He (Allah) knows the stealthy look of the eyes and all that the hearts conceal." (Quran).

4. Helps in Creating a More Tolerant and Forgiving Society:-

Tauhid fosters a tolerant and forgiving society by teaching that all humans are servants of one Allah, thus promoting compassion and mercy.

"Show forgiveness, enjoin what is good, and turn away from the ignorant." (Quran)

Thus, it can be inferred from the above discussion that Taahid not only influences the lives of the individuals but also their collective lives in a society.