

Islamic Studies.

Part II.

Question no. 03.

Describe how Islam recognized the dignity of human specially women. Describe what efforts have been adopted to maintain it?

Introduction:

Human right are often seen as the modern achievement of the intellectual West. The United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights UDHR (1948) is regarded as the primary text articulated for guaranteeing rights. However, Islam has guaranteed these rights 14 centuries ago. The rights given by Islam are divine Grants. They are not anthropocentric or politically negotiable.

Islam has dignified humans as beings that are inherently respectable. As ALLAH swt describes in Quran, Verse 70 of Suresh Bani Israel:

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ

And we have honoured the progeny of Adam.

Islam has not differed between the rights of men and women. In the sight of ALLAH both are equal and thus worthy to respect.

Background:

(الماضي)

During the days of 'Jahiliyyah' ignorance, human beings were treated disgracefully. Respect and pride was only confined to the wealthy and rich few, while all others were considered as worthless.

Exp

The Birth of a female was considered as something of embarrassment. Whenever a female was born, her father used to hide himself due to embarrassment. They used to bury the female infants alive. Islam abolished all such practices and dignified women. It is after Islam, that women were given their due respect.

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Islam and dignity of human:

Islam has dignified human beings as being his best creation. Moreover ALLAH almighty has given a special dignity to human beings in the following ways

A

(i). Sanctity of life

Exp

Human's life is considered as sacred. It is strictly forbidden to take the life of any person without a reason. As it is mentioned in Quran;

او فساد في الارض
 من قتل نفسا بغير نفس فكانما قتل الناس جميعا (البقرة)

Explanation:-

Whoever kills a life without a response to murder of mischief on Earth is as if he has killed whole of humanity.

In fact in Islam it is considered a basic objective to 'preserve the life'.

(ii). Protection of wealth.

Islam has also provided the protection of wealth which shows that Islam's concern toward property of people. Before Islam, usury, loot and plundering and occupation of others' wealth was common. However Islam forbids it by saying;

Al-Baqarah 188 | ولا تأكلوا اموالكم بئيم بالباطل

Explanation: And do not consume each other's wealth in the wrong manner.

(iii). Equality:

Islam has given equal dignity to all human being. Back in the days of 'Jahiliyyah' dignity was a right of the rich only. However

Islam has diminished such differences stating that:

Al-Hijab 13 | يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَىٰكُمْ

Explanation:-

Those who have to O people! Indeed we have created you from a male and female and make you in tribes and persons so that you may be recognized. Verily! the most honourable among you is the most pious righteous.

iv. Created for the best purpose.

It is the humans whom ALLAH has created for the biggest purpose. As he says that;

| وَمَا خَلَقْنَا الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا |

And we have not created Jinn and humans except to worship us.

This shows that not only human beings are dignified alone but also are entrusted for the best work; to worship ALLAH.

v. Prostrated by Angels..

ALLAH swt made Angels prostrate in front

of the first human being: Adam. This shows the rank and state human beings are entitled with.

Islam and dignity of women:

Islam has given equal rights to both men and women. Abolishing the ignorant practices of the past, Islam endorsed women with a very high rank.

i. The share in inheritance:

It is Islam who has prescribed proper share for women in the inheritance. As in Quran ALLAH say;

رجال نصيب مما ترك الآباء والأقربون و
نساء نصيب مما ترك الآباء والأقربون

For men is a share of what left by their parents and relatives and for women is a share for ^{what} their parent and close relatives left

ii. Equal opportunity to education

Men and women both have equal opportunity toward education. As Prophet^ﷺ said that

Aquiring Education is mendatroy on every Muslim (men and women).

iii. Status as a mother.

A Sahabi came to Prophet and asked who is more entitled for my good behaviour. Prophet replied: Your Mother. He asked ^{again} ~~who~~ Prophet replied, Your mother. He asked the 3rd time and Prophet again replied, your mother. On his 4th time, Prophet replied your father.

This shows that Islam has given a high status to mothers.

iv. Status as a daughter:

Daughters are beloved in Islam. On an occasion Prophet said that whoever has two daughters and his conduct with them is good he and Prophet^s will be like this on the day of resurrection (pointing 2 fingers)

v. Status as a wife:

Husband and wife is the most beautiful relation. At the same time, it requires certain right and responsibilities. Prophet PBUH has highlighted their rights in various hadith. He mentions:

The best among you is the One who is the best with his family and I am the best with my family.

Efforts adopted to maintain it.

i. Preserved in the scripture:

These rights have been preserved in the scripture both Holy Quran and Hadith. The status given to women in Islam is not anthropocentric and hence can not be challenged.

ii. Punishment in case of attacking chastity of women

Islam condemns attacking the chastity of women. For instance ALLAH says that if they accuse a woman of adultery and fails to bring 4 witnesses then beat them 40 lashes.

Conclusion:-

In a nutshell, Islam has uplifted the status of humans time before these modern charters. Islam dignifies men and women in all cases. And their dignity is preserved forever in the Scripture which is unchangeable.

Question no. 2.

Explain the concepts of Salat (Prayers)
How it impacts social moral and
spiritual life of an individual.

Introduction:

ALLAH has created man to worship him. Human beings are obligated with certain worships and negligence to perform them is a sin. Among the major worships are Salah, Fasting, Charity, Hajj. All the worships have a lot of significance in Islam. They have numerous impacts upon the social, moral and individual's spiritual life.

However, Prayer (Salah) has a most high rank in Islam. It is fard on every Muslim for 5 times a day. Salah is a mean to connect to the creator. When a person continues to pray he finds the pleasure in it. Salah benefits Muslims in wonderful ways and opens the door to Jannah.

Definition:

• Literal :-

Salat is derived from the root words $\text{س}\ \text{ل}\ \text{ط}$ which means 'dua'.

• Terminological:

Terminologically, Salat means an Islamic worship which Muslims offer 5 times a day, having certain standing position, prostration and some specific workings.

Names of Namaz and their timings:

The 5 regular prayers performed daily are:

Fajr (2 fard, 2 sunnah)

Prayed before Sunrise and after $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of night

Zuhr (4 Sunnah, 2 fard, 2 Sunnah, 2 Nafl)

Prayed when the sun is past ~~past~~ ^{zenith} and the shadow of a person is bigger.

Asr (4 Sunnah-e-Moakida, 4 fard)

Prayed when the shadow becomes twice the object.

Maghrib (3 fard, 2 sunnah, 2 nafl)

Sun set, till complete disappearance of Sun below horizon

Isha: (4 Sunnah-e-Moakida, 4 fard, 2 Sunnah, 2 nafl, 3 witr, 2 nafl)

Disappearance of twilight

Nawafil Prayers.

Ishraq: After ^{10 mins of} Sunrise

Chasht: Nearly at 10 am

Anwabeen: After Maghrib

Tahajjud: After fard of Isha and before fajr

Impacts of Salah:

1. Social Impacts

Islam has never alienated between ~~the~~ the deen and dunya. The person who follows deen automatically succeed in dunya too. All of the worships in Islam has social aspects as well.

(i). Discipline:-

Islam teaches discipline. When a person prays Salah 5 times a day on a specific fixed time, he start to follow discipline in his life too.

(ii). Social connections:-

When Muslims visit Masjid 5 times a day, they meet with each other which increases love between them. This fosters peaceful coexistence and unity among Muslims.

2. Moral and Spiritual Impacts

Like every prayer, Islam too has moral and spiritual impacts on human's life.

(i). Stops from immorality:-

Salat prohibits a person from immorality. It is mentioned in Quran:

انما الصلوة تنهى عن الفحشاء

Indeed Salat prohibits from immorality.

When a person has in his mind that he has to stand in front of his Lord so tries to stop himself from evils.

ii. Salat: ~~gives~~ ~~peace~~ a mean to seek help

Salat is a mean to find peace. It is a way to ask ALLAH for help. As ALLAH says that

استقيزوا بالصبر والصلوة

and seek help through Sabr and Salah.

This is the beauty of Salat, that whenever a person is struggling and want a path forward, all he has to do is pray.

iii. Salat as a source to peace:

Salat is a source to peace. Prophet's PBUH said that Namaz is the ^{tranquility} ~~interest~~ of his eyes.

iv. Salat ends sins:

Salat increase the rewards and ends the sins of those who performs it.

Conclusion:

In short, Salah is one of the best worships of ALLAH suit. It is a mean to get peace and tranquillity. Salah increases a person's belief on ALLAH and makes him feel relaxed.

Question no. 03.

Describe basic beliefs of Islam in General and the doctrine of Akhirat in Particular. How Islam reforms the life of an individual and society through them.

Introduction:

Islam offers a set of beliefs to Muslims. These beliefs are not something that are all tangible but a collection of tangible and intangible both. Believing in all such things that Islam commands to increase a person's faith.

There are numerous beliefs such as the belief in ALLAH, Prophets, Books, Angels, Akhirat and in the evil and good. The purpose of such beliefs is to increase man's status in the eyes of his Lord and to strengthen his faith in the divine.

Beliefs of Islam:

Beliefs of Islam are the following:

أُصْنِتُ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ
وَالْقَدَرِ خَيْرُهُ وَشَرُّهُ ...

... on ALLAH, His angels, His book, His Prophets
the days of, and the good and the evil.

It is a responsibility of every Muslim to believe on all these. Any person who fails to believe in these will be considered as the one whose stubbornness.

As Quran says that:

فَإِنْ آمَنُوا بِمِثْلِ مَا آمَنْتُمْ فَقَدْ هَدَوْا بِهِ وَإِنْ
تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّمَا تَتَّبِعُونَ شِقَاقَ

Beliefs in ALLAH:-

Believing ALLAH is the root of every believe. It is obligation to every Muslim to believe ALLAH and his oneness. It is outrightly mentioned in Quran that ALLAH is one.

وَالْهَكَمُ إِلَهُ وَاحِدٌ

Moreover it should be firmly believed that:

- ALLAH is one
- He do not have any son, wife or father
- He is pure (سُبْحَانَهُ)

If someone partners someone with ALLAH, it would be considered as a Shirk which is highly prohibited in Islam.

ALLAH says that he forgives every sin except to be entranced.

Belief in Angels:

ALLAH has created angels who are in constant worship of him. Angels also perform some specific tasks with the permission of ALLAH, under his command. There are numerous angels. Most important are enumerated below.

Izrat Jibreel: For bringing revelation to Prophets.

Izrat Mikael: For provision and rain.

Izrat Israfeel: He will blow the trumpet.

Izrat Izrael: He ^{takes} occupies the soul out of body.

Raman Kubeen: On our shoulders, writing our deeds.

Nakar Nakeer: They will question us in the grave.

It is necessary for Muslims to believe on them. Muslims are forbidden to criticize them.

مَنْ كَانَ عَدُوًّا وَجِبْرِيلَ وَمِيكَالَ فَان
اللَّهُ عَدُوٌّ لِلْكَافِرِينَ

Whoever is an enemy to Jibreel or Meekal so ALLAH is an enemy to such Disbelievers.

Belief In Books:-

In order to guide humanity, ALLAH has sent books to his Prophets. These books and scriptures guides humanity on good and bad. Scriptures and Books sent by ALLAH are,

Torat → Hazrat Musa

Zaboor → Hazrat Daoud

Injeel → Hazrat Isaa

Quran → Holy Prophet PBUH.

other than these, He also sent some scriptures on Hazrat Ibrahim and other Prophets.

Belief in Prophets:-

Prophets are the direct messengers of ALLAH. ALLAH has sent his message via books and the book upon the Prophets.

There are by and large approximately 1 Lakh and 14 000 Prophets.

The most important ones are

Hazrat Nuh, Hazrat Isaa, Hazrat Daoud, Hazrat Musa, Hazrat Muhammad PBUH.

They are referred to as 'الرسل'.

Belief in Akhirah-

Akhirah is the concept on which the whole life of the Muslim depends upon. It is Akhirah, through which motivates

Muslims to perform good acts in the worldly life.

The concept of Akhirah is mentioned numerous times in the Quran which shows its significance.

Quran discusses the condition at the time of Akhirah and this motivate Muslims to remain steadfast and do good.

The word Akhirat is mentioned in Quran in different words such as,

الْآخِرَةِ

الْآخِرَةِ

الْآخِرَةِ

- Signs of Akhirah are discussed in Quran
- Situation of humans is also mentioned
- Decisions will be made on the final day.

Reforming life of An Individual through beliefs:

1. Encourages good deeds:-

- When man knows that there is an entity upon whom I am answerable to, he does good.
- The concept of reward or punishment in Akhirah leads man to perform good tasks

2. Makes him steadfast,

When human beings believe that their good efforts will not go in vain they remain steadfast and continue to strive for doing good. The concept of Jaza and Saza in Akhirah makes him remain steadfast.

3. Gives a purpose to life.

The Beliefs of Islam enriches man with a purpose. A man knows why he has been sent and thus he lives accordingly.

4. A source to tranquility:-

Believing that there is a power who can do anything. Who is always there for us. Makes man feel peace and tranquility.

Conclusion:-

Summarizing, Beliefs are a source of living a purpose driven life. They help Muslims live peacefully and work the true reality that is the Akhirah.

Question no. 07.

Short note on Edw.

Importance of education in Islam

Education is given a lot of importance in Quran and Hadith.
In fact - the first word of the revelation was **اقراء - Read.**

Moreover Prophet ﷺ in his hadith said that

Acquiring Education is an Obligation to every Muslim.

Additionally ALLAH has sent the Prophet for the purpose of Education. As Prophet himself says:

Indeed I am sent as a teacher.

Quran questions that those who know and not know can be equal.

يعلمون
قُلْ لِّسَوَى الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ