

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

“ISLAM”

The only choice!

Why?

By Qazi Fazlullah

Islam is an Arabic word derived from the Arabic word called “Sil’m”, or “Sal’m”, meaning peace and reconciliation.

Islam literally means submission, the most basic defining principle of the Deen of Allah (SWT).

Allah (SWT) has sent this Deen to all of His Messengers and Prophets for the good of humankind, both in this world and in the hereafter.

This Deen was started with Adam, processed through all the Prophets and Messengers, including Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and completed with Muhammad (peace be upon all of them). This is the Deen of:

1. Allah the Almighty.
2. All the Messengers and Prophets.
3. All of humankind.

All the Messengers and Prophets brought the same message to a specific region and specific people and those who accepted this message are called Muslims.

The Deen of Allah was completed with Prophet Muhammad (SAS). His message was global and eternal until the Day of Judgment. All human beings are the addressees of His message, and are bound to accept the message in order to live a prosperous life in this world, and also in the Hereafter.

Islam is a complete code and system of life. It is not a religion which is defined in the dictionary as a few set of rituals.

Islam consists of 3 branches:

1) Faiths and Beliefs.

- i. Belief in Allah as the Supreme and Eternal being who:
 - a. Exists because of Himself.
 - b. Is Eternal, i.e. since ever, forever.
 - c. Needs no one, while everyone and everything is in need of Him.
 - d. Is the sole Creator of the entire universe.
 - e. Is the King, Ruler, Lord, Provider, and Maintainer of the universe.
 - f. Has no associates, partners, children, or parents, and no one is equal to him.
 - g. Is the only Deity to be worshipped.
 - h. Is the only One to be asked and invoked for any help.
- ii. Belief in Allah's (SWT) Angels.
 - a. Specific immaterial creatures of Allah (SWT) created of light having no gender, no desires, and obeying Allah, serving His cause, and performing their duties to the fullest in a perfect manner.

- iii. Belief in His divine scriptures and revealed books. The holy Qur'an is the last and the final perfect criterion.
- iv. Belief in all His Prophets and Messengers consisting of approximately 124,000, with Prophet Muhammad (SAS) being the final Prophet and Messenger.
- v. Belief in the last day of this world that it shall surely end for it is not an eternal world.
- vi. Belief in "Taqdeer", that each and everything occurs according to the planning and decree of Allah (SWT), and is known to Him since ever.
- vii. Belief in life after death, that Allah (SWT) will put everyone to accountability and He will recompense them accordingly.

2) Character in Islam

A noble and gentle character is the jewel and beauty of a human. Components of this character are:

- i. Justice to all, even to other creatures of Allah. Everyone must judge themselves so they may not do any wrong to anyone or anything.
- ii. Kindness to the creatures of Allah as much as one can do.
- iii. Forgiveness to one who did any wrong by mistake, by accident, or otherwise if the person is ashamed and feels sorry of what he has done. However, if there is someone whose nature is to harm others for no reason, then revenge to equal limits is not against noble character.

iv. Not to get involved in discussion, reasoning, and arguments with an ignorant, arrogant and/or stubborn individual, as he/she is wasting your time and his/her own as well, and it may lead towards a fight.

3) Deeds and Actions

Human beings have two aspects:

1. Their relation to Allah.
2. Their relation to fellow human beings.

In regards to their relation to Allah, they may practice five deeds.

1. To declare that there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.
2. Pray five times a day.
3. Fast in the month of Ramadan.
4. Give alms, or Zakat. Every Muslim who owns “Nisab” (a specific amount) of his/her savings is bound to pay 2.5 percent to the poor and needy Muslims at the end of each lunar year.
5. Hajj or pilgrimage to the House of Allah situated in Makkah (Saudi Arabia). This is mandatory once in a lifetime for one who can afford it.

In regards to their relation with each other, humans are social by nature, and are in need of each other. They have four fields:

1. Family life – As we know, a new family starts with marriage.

Marriage is a social contract between two people, one male and one female. It is a neutral consent of both parties with the prior permission or later approval of their guardians to keep the family intact.

After marriage, responsibility of livelihood, maintenance and protection lies on the shoulder of the man, for he is considered the head of the household for a smooth running of the family's life. However, the couple, and their children live as colleagues and companions, while the female by nature is responsible to take care of the young children.

2. Financial deals, etc: Some people have more than their needs, while others have less. This requires transactions to be made amongst them in order to attain what they need. The basis of transactions in Islam is honesty, truthfulness, professionalism, and trust.
3. State and Government: Humans by nature are animalistic when they are in need or in want of a particular thing. They may try to attain it in any way, and may attack another's property, life, and honor. Thus, all of these must be protected by an authority.

The authority is in the hands of the State and Government system. It must be according to the laws of their Creator and Lord, Allah the Almighty.

The basis of such a state and government is equality and justice to all of its citizens, and to maintain peace.

4. International relation: A state cannot remain in isolation, and requires relations to other states. That relation must be based upon equality, justice, sincerity, and trust.

May Allah (SWT) guide us and all of humanity to the Straight Path. Ameen