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**Assignment - 1**

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**Good & Evil (Khair & Sharr) and Virtue & Sin (Maroof & Munkar)**

In Islam, the concepts of Good & Evil, known as Khair & Sharr, and the concepts of Virtue & Sin, known as Maroof & Munkar, play a significant role in guiding ethical behaviour and shaping the moral compass of individuals within the Muslim community. These concepts are deeply rooted in Islamic teachings and serve as fundamental principles for leading a righteous and virtuous life.

**The Concept of Good and Evil (Khair and Sharr):**

**1. Divine Perspective:**

* In Islam, the concept of good (Khair) and evil (Sharr) is deeply rooted in the belief that God (Allah) is the ultimate source of morality.
* Good actions, intentions, and qualities align with God’s will and benefit humanity, while evil actions oppose God’s guidance and harm others.
* The Qur’an emphasizes that God is the Judge of what is good and evil, and humans are accountable for their choices.

**2. Objective Morality:**

* Unlike relativistic views, Islam holds that moral standards exist independently of social context or cultural norms.
* Good and evil are not subjective; they are grounded in divine revelation.
* The Qur’an serves as the ultimate guide for distinguishing between right and wrong.

**3. Examples from Islamic Teachings:**

* **Acts of Worship**:
  + Shahada (**faith**) is the declaration of belief in the oneness of Allah and the prophethood of Muhammad.
  + Performing the five daily prayers (**Salat**) is a fundamental good deed. It connects believers to God and reinforces their faith.
  + Fasting during Ramadan (**Sawm**) teaches self-discipline and empathy for the less fortunate.
  + Giving charity (**Zakat**) demonstrates compassion and solidarity with those in need.
  + Making the pilgrimage to Mecca (**Hajj**) symbolizes submission to God’s command.
* **Virtuous Qualities**:
  + **Honesty**: Being truthful in speech and actions. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was known as Al-Amin (the trustworthy) even before his prophethood.
  + **Humility**: Recognizing one’s limitations and showing modesty. Arrogance is considered a grave sin.
  + **Patience**: Enduring difficulties with grace and trusting in God’s wisdom.
  + **Generosity**: Sharing wealth and resources with others, especially those in need.
* **Evil Actions**:
  + **Oppression**: Unjust treatment of others, whether through physical force or systemic injustice.
  + **Lying**: Deliberately deceiving others, which undermines trust and harms relationships.
  + **Backbiting**: Speaking ill of someone behind their back, causing harm to their reputation.
  + **Injustice**: Violating the rights of others or denying them their due.

**4. Significance in Ethical Behaviour:**

* The concept of good and evil serves as a guide for ethical conduct.
* Muslims strive to do good deeds to attain God’s pleasure and spiritual growth.
* Avoiding evil actions is equally important to maintain a righteous life.
* The intention behind actions matters; sincerity is crucial.

**The Concept of Virtue and Sin (Maroof and Munkar):**

**1. Virtue (Maroof):**

* Maroof refers to righteous actions, character traits, and behaviours.
* Examples of virtue include:
  + **Sincerity (Ikhlas)**: Doing good solely for God’s sake, without seeking praise or recognition from others.
  + **Forgiveness (‘Afu)**: Pardoning others and letting go of grudges.
  + **Gratitude (Shukr)**: Acknowledging God’s blessings and expressing thankfulness.
  + **Justice (‘Adl)**: Treating others fairly and equitably.
  + **Mercy (Rahmah)**: Showing compassion and kindness to all creatures.
  + **Chastity (Hayaa)**: Modesty and purity in behaviour.
  + **Courage (Shuja‘a)**: Standing up for truth and justice, even in challenging circumstances.

**2. Sin (Munkar):**

* Munkar signifies sinful actions, vices, and harmful behaviour.
* Examples of sin include:
  + **Lying**: Deliberately deceiving others, which goes against truthfulness.
  + **Backbiting**: Speaking ill of someone behind their back, causing harm to their reputation.
  + **Theft**: Taking what does not belong to you, violating property rights.
  + **Arrogance**: Considering oneself superior to others, leading to pride and disdain.

**3. References in the Qur’an:**

* + The Qur’an repeatedly emphasizes doing good (maroof) and avoiding evil (munkar).
  + Surah Al-Baqarah (2:177) states: “Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveller, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves.”
  + Surah Al-Baqarah (2:195), Allah says, "And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good."
  + Surah Al-Hujurat (49:11) reminds believers to avoid suspicion, backbiting, and mockery.
  + Surah Al-Isra (17:26-27), Allah admonishes against committing acts of immorality and injustice.

**4. Practical Application:**

* + Muslims seek virtue through acts of worship, kindness, and ethical conduct.
  + Avoiding sin involves refraining from harmful behaviour and seeking forgiveness when mistakes occur.

**Ethical Conduct in Business and Social Interactions**

Islam promotes ethical conduct in all aspects of life, including business dealings and social interactions. Muslims are encouraged to engage in fair trade, honesty, integrity, and compassion towards others. They are also instructed to avoid practices that exploit or harm others and to uphold principles of justice and equity.

**Hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH):**

The Hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also provide practical guidance on leading a virtuous life and avoiding sinful behaviours. For instance, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "The best among you are those who have the best manners and character" (Sahih Bukhari).

**Conclusion**

In Islam, the concepts of good and evil, virtue and sin, serve as guiding principles for leading a righteous and morally upright life. By embracing these concepts and striving to uphold ethical behaviour in all aspects of their lives, Muslims seek to attain spiritual fulfillment and earn the pleasure of Allah. Through faith, worship, and righteous deeds, believers aim to cultivate a society based on compassion, justice, and moral integrity.

**References**

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