**HUM112\_Handouts\_Lecture01**

**Definition of Islam**

Islam, derived from the Arabic root "Salama," means peace, submission, and obedience. In a religious context, it signifies total submission to God's will and law. All phenomena in the world except humans are inherently obedient to God's laws, embodying a state of Islam. True submission to God brings inner peace and societal harmony.

**Distinguishing Qualities of Islam**

1. **Unity in Injunctions:** Islam teaches worship of Allah alone, as evidenced by texts in the Qur'an and Hadith. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is regarded as the final prophet, completing a long line of messengers, with Jesus expected to return at the end times to enforce Islamic principles.

**Ahadees in Context :** Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:“Indeed I am to the other prophets as is a man who built a house beautifully and perfectly, except one brick which was not placed in its corner. People circle and admire it, but say, ‘If only a brick was put in this place!’ I am that brick, and I am the last of all prophets.”

1. **Everlasting Religion:** Islam is the last and eternal religion, preserved from distortion until the Day of Judgment. It confirms the earlier scriptures and surpasses them in guidance, making its teachings relevant for all times.

**Allah (SWT) says: (**And We have sent down to you (O Muhammad (PBUH) the Book (this Qur'an) in truth,confirming the Scriptures that came before it and a witness over them.) [5:48]

1. **Comprehensive and Complete Religion:** Islam enhances previous teachings, promoting an eternal and universal message. It governs all aspects of life—spiritual, physical, and social—ensuring that no element stands separate from one another, creating a cohesive lifestyle for its followers.

**Allah (SWT) says:** **“This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favor upon you, and have chosen Islam for you as your religion.” [5:3]**

1. **Universal Religion:** Islam is intended for all humanity, transcending race, nationality, or class. Belief in Allah and Muhammad (PBUH) as the last messenger brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds, creating a sense of unity among Muslims.
2. **Perfect Religion:** The laws and teachings of Islam are unchangeable divine commands, unlike human-made laws that evolve over time. They remain relevant across cultures and eras, making Islamic teachings timeless and applicable in any context.

**Characteristics and Applicability**

Islamic law is designed to sustain through ages and diverse circumstances, with general principles guiding contemporary issues. Scholars derive rulings from the Qur'an and Sunnah, ensuring that the applicability of Islamic law is relevant for current and future generations. Both the social and physical needs of humanity are recognized as equally important in Islam.

**Equality in Islam**

Islamic laws apply to all individuals without discrimination based on wealth, status, or ethnicity. The principle of justice was exemplified by the Prophet's refusal to show favoritism, reinforcing the notion of equality under Shari'ah law, where all members of society are treated with fairness and impartiality.

**Unchangeable Nature of Islam:** The Qur'an and Sunnah have remained unchanged since their revelation, preserving their original text and meanings. This steadfastness distinguishes true Islamic practice from cultural interpretations that may alter the fundamental concepts of faith.

**Tawheed: Faith in the Unity of God**

**Importance of Tawheed**

Central to Islam is the belief in the oneness of God, emphasized by the declaration "La ilaha illallah." This fundamental principle distinguishes Muslims from unbelievers and shapes their worldview. Tawheed underpins the entire Islamic faith and stands as the essence of worship. Muslims are taught that only through the acknowledgment of Allah's oneness, they can achieve true faith and be aligned with the divine purpose.

**Allah (SWT) has mentioned Tawheed** **in Quran: “**And We did not send any Messenger before you, but We revealed to him (saying): none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allah), so worship Me (Alone).**”** [Al-Anbiya:25]

**Types of Tawheed**

1. **Tawheed-ar-Rububiyya**: This aspect acknowledges Allah as the sole Creator and Sustainer of the universe. It asserts that all creation relies on Allah for existence and that He alone has the power over all things.
   * **Significance**: Recognizing this oneness leads to a deeper understanding of dependence on Allah, fostering a humble approach to life.
2. **Tawheed-al-Uluhiyya**: In this category, the emphasis is on exclusive worship of Allah without partners or intermediaries. This encompasses all forms of worship, including prayer, supplication, and acts of devotion.
   * **Significance**: This principle ensures that believers direct their hearts and actions solely towards Allah, thus cultivating sincerity in worship and reinforcing the connection between the believer and the Creator.
3. **Tawheed-al-Asma was-Sifat**: This aspect involves accepting Allah’s names and attributes as unique, incomparable, and perfect. Muslims believe that no one and nothing can embody the attributes of Allah.
   * **Significance**: Understanding the divine attributes enhances a believer's awareness of God's nature, fosters reverence, and facilitates a more profound relationship with Allah.

**Shirk - The Unforgivable Sin**

Shirk, or the act of associating partners with Allah, is deemed the gravest sin in Islam. It not only compromises the essence of Tawheed but also leads to a complete loss of all righteous deeds.

* **Types of Shirk**:
  1. **Shirk in Rububiyya**: Denying Allah’s sole role as Creator and Sustainer.
  2. **Shirk in Uluhiyya**: Worshipping deities other than Allah or associating others in worship with Him.
  3. **Shirk in Asma was-Sifat**: Attributing erroneous qualities or limitations to Allah.
* **Understanding Shirk**: Muslims are urged to educate themselves about shirk, actively avoiding it to not jeopardize their faith and relationship with Allah.

**Effects of Tawheed on Human Life**

* **Broader Perspective**: Believers view the universe as interconnected, fostering empathy and compassion for all of creation, not confined to specific groups.
* **Self-Esteem and Independence**: Recognition of divine authority builds inner strength and diminishes reliance on worldly powers, helping individuals to stand firm in their beliefs.
* **Humility**: Awareness of God's ultimate authority instills modesty and discourages arrogance, as believers recognize their place in the grand scheme of creation.
* **Moral Integrity**: Tawheed encourages virtuous behavior and accountability for one’s actions, as Muslims understand they are accountable to Allah.
* **Hope and Resilience**: Believers maintain hope through hardships, relying on God's eternal support and mercy, empowering them to navigate life's challenges with resilience.
* **Determination**: Faith in God's backing offers unwavering resolve in fulfilling divine commands, standing in stark contrast to the despair often seen in non-believers.

**Meaning of Kalima**

The term "Kalima" refers to the declaration of faith in Islam, known as the Shahada. It is the statement of belief that says: **"There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."** This proclamation signifies one's entry into the faith and commitment to the tenets of Islam.

**Difference Between Deen and Religion**

* **Deen**: Derived from the Arabic root meaning 'way' or 'path', and represents a comprehensive way of life that encompasses all aspects of a person’s actions, including spiritual, social, and ethical dimensions. It signifies submission to God's will and implies guidance through the Qur'an and Sunnah.
* **Religion**: Generally interpreted as a **structured** **system** of beliefs, practices, and values observed within various faiths. While it may often focus on communal activities and rituals associated with worship, the term may not encapsulate the holistic lifestyle and comprehensive nature of the concept of Deen in Islam.