



Review of “Introduction to Islam” by Muhammad Hamidullah

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Summary:

The first part of the book tells us about the life of Prophet Muhammad, it starts with his birth in Mecca in the Quraysh tribe in 570 CE. He lost his father before his birth and when he was six years old, his mother also passed away. He was then raised by his grandfather Abdul Muttlib, who also died when the prophet was eight years old. After that, he was taken by his uncle, Abu Talib. His early life was very tough, he worked as a shepherd and later became a merchant. Although his life was very hard, he remained honest and earned the title of Al-Sadiq and Amin. At the age of 25 he married Hazrat Khadija who was impressed by his honesty. They worked together, she supported and helped him during his hard times in his early prophethood.

The beginning of his prophethood started at the age of 40 when he got his first revelation through angel Jibrael in the cave of Hira where the first verses of Quran were revealed telling him to “read and recite” in the name of Allah and there he got his mission of guiding the people to the right path and believing in one God. At first it was known only to his wife and close friends who believed him, later, when his message became public many people of Mecca opposed him including the leaders of the Quraysh tribe because their political and religious powers were challenged. Because of this Prophet Muhammad and his believers faced certain hardships such as persecution. He then sent his believers to Abyssinia, to protect them. Then another problem arose which was the boycott. He faced these hardships and when his wife and uncle died, he became more isolated and experienced severe challenges even to the extent of death. So he migrated to Madinah, this migration is known as Hijrah. Before the migration, the event of mi'raj happened and five daily prayers were made compulsory for the Muslims.

Some people of Madinah believed in him because of his honesty and wisdom and this led to a community of people that was based upon equality, justice and mutual respect. He became the leader and wrote his first ever constitution which included the rights and duties of all the people including non-Muslims. He developed brotherly relations between muhajireen and ansar which further helped in the support of his community. Almost a year after the migration, fasting in the month of Ramadan every year was made compulsory for the adult Muslims.

After seeing this, the people of Mecca could not stand back so they came to fight with Prophet Muhammad and the battle of BADR (624 CE) occurred in which the Muslims won despite being lesser in numbers. Then again after a year in 625 CE, the battle of

Uhud occurred because the Meccans came to take revenge for their defeat but this time the result wasn't conclusive. In this time period gambling and other alcoholic drinks were forbidden for the Muslims. After years of struggle, Prophet Muhammad conquered Mecca in 630 CE and Islam expanded across Arabia. In his final pilgrimage in 632 CE prophet Muhammad delivered his final teachings and then passed away in Medina.

After the passing of prophet Muhammad the preservation of the Quran was necessary so as to save its original meanings and teachings. It was compiled into a single book using memorization and writing to ensure its accuracy. The hadiths which served as the practical explanation of the Quran were also verified and together they form the foundation of Islamic teachings that covers all aspects of life including spiritual, social, personal and political.

Central idea:

The central idea of this summary is about the life and mission of prophet Muhammad, highlighting his role as a spiritual and social leader who established the foundations of Islam. Despite facing many hardships and opposition, he brought the message of Islam to guide the people towards the right path that is believing in one God, establishing justice, mutual respect and equality. His life, from his struggles to the battles and final teachings of Islam laid the foundation for Islam that is the complete code of life as it covers all aspects of life. The preservation of the Quran and Hadith ensures that his message remains unchanged and remains a source of guidance for the future generations.

Person 2 / Muhammad Bin Nasir

Method of Preservation of Hadiths:

The compilation of Hadiths evolved from the Sahabas memorizing the Prophet's words with written aids to recording traditions with a chain of narration. Their students then compiled the narrations from various sources. This chain allowed verification of Hadiths by cross-referencing them across multiple sources. Over time, this preserved the narrations as reliably as the Quran. Sahabas documented the Prophet's actions and experiences, with over 100,000 narrators and more than 10,000 unique Hadiths today, ensuring the accuracy of the Prophet's teachings and minimizing repetition.

Islamic Conception of Life:

Throughout history, civilizations have evolved at different paces. Some groups advanced quickly, while others lagged behind, not necessarily as "savages" but due to slower development. Today, the US and Russia are global leaders, while others, like some isolated tribes, remain primitive. The reason some civilizations decline after a brief period of success, as Ibn Khaldun suggests, is that leadership needs to change regularly to ensure longevity. Civilizations that don't allow outsiders to integrate eventually disintegrate. Islam, however, is open to all people, allowing anyone to lead.

Civilizations that focus solely on spirituality may lose intellectual progress, while those focused on materialism may become egotistical and spiritually stagnant, hindering growth and evolution.

Islamic Ideology

Islam promotes a balance between spiritual and material aspects of life, rejecting both extreme asceticism and materialism. It encourages nurturing both body and soul, with practices like fasting seeking God's pleasure while offering physical benefits. Acts like paying taxes gain spiritual value when done with the intention of fulfilling God's commands.

The Quran links faith with good deeds, emphasizing that belief without action holds little value. The distinction between good and evil is guided by Islamic law and one's conscience. The Prophet Muhammad taught that legal rulings should be based on facts, with deceit leading to accountability. Islam encourages selflessness and generosity but also stresses balance—helping others while fulfilling personal needs, using resources responsibly, and enjoying lawful pleasures without excess.

Society

While Islam promotes individuality, it also stresses the importance of social collectivity. Worship, pilgrimage, fasting, and Zakat (charity) are communal practices that bind the Muslim community together. Islam also recognizes that individuals have different qualities, but affirms that all people are equal before God, with superiority based on piety, not material wealth. Spiritual integrity is valued over material success, distinguishing humans from animals in their moral and spiritual pursuits.

Predestination

The question of free will vs. predestination is addressed by Islam without seeking a logical resolution. Islam teaches that while God is omnipotent and may predestine

outcomes, humans are still responsible for their actions. Success or failure in this world is judged by God based on effort and intention, not mere results. Predestination in Islam also means that only God can determine the goodness or evil of an act. Divine law, revealed through prophets, guides human behavior, with the Quran being the final, preserved message. Muslims are encouraged to follow this law in every aspect of life and contribute to spreading the message for the benefit of all.

Faith

Faith in Islam is deeply personal, shaped by beliefs, experiences, and age. It emphasizes that religion is a matter of personal choice, with no compulsion in belief, as the Quran states, "There is no compulsion in religion" (2:256). Islam encourages individuals to seek truth and understanding, acknowledging that belief evolves over time. Central to Islamic faith is the belief in the oneness of Allah, rejecting atheism, polytheism, and any division among gods. Allah is the Creator of all, ruling over the universe, and is described in the Quran as omnipotent, omniscient, and merciful, with 99 names reflecting His divine attributes. Islam teaches that belief in a singular, all-powerful Allah aligns with human logic, offering clarity in contrast to the conflicts of dualism or polytheism.

Angels

In Islam, angels serve as intermediaries between God and humanity. While God is beyond human comprehension, angels transmit divine messages to prophets. The angel Jibrail is the primary messenger who delivered God's revelations to the Prophet Muhammad. The Quran mentions other angels, like Mikail, but Jibrail holds the highest status. The process of revelation was physically intense for the Prophet, with signs of heaviness and strain when the messages were delivered. The Prophet would then recite these messages to his followers, ensuring the preservation of God's word.

Revealed Books

In Islam, belief in the Revealed Books is fundamental. These include the Quran, as well as earlier scriptures such as the Torah of Hazrat Musa, the Zubur of Hazrat Daud, and the Injeel of Hazrat Isa. While the original texts of these books have been lost or altered, Muslims are required to believe in all Divine revelations sent before the Quran. The Quran mentions that messengers were sent to all nations, and the core message of these revelations is the same: the Oneness of God and the call to righteousness. However, the specifics of laws and practices differed across eras, and the Quran is considered the final and complete message.

Prophets

Prophets in Islam are chosen individuals tasked with conveying God's message to humanity. They are models of piety and good conduct. While miracles are attributed to many prophets, their true role is to teach God's will. The Quran mentions key prophets such as Hazrat Adam, Hazrat Nooh, Hazrat Ibrahim, Hazrat Musa, Hazrat Daud, Hazrat Isa, and Hazrat Muhammad, with Muhammad being the last and the seal of the prophets. Some prophets received new books of revelation, while others followed and spread the teachings of previous prophets. The message of all prophets is consistent: belief in the One God and the importance of good deeds.

Eschatology

Islamic eschatology focuses on the belief in the Day of Judgment, when all humans will be resurrected and judged by God based on their deeds. Those who have lived righteous lives will be rewarded with Paradise, while those who have sinned will face punishment in Hell. The descriptions of Paradise and Hell in the Quran are symbolic, using worldly imagery to convey a deeper, abstract understanding of the afterlife. Paradise is described as a place of eternal bliss, while Hell is a place of torment, though some theologians believe that God may eventually pardon even the disbelievers after a period of punishment. The final goal for believers is to witness God's presence, which is considered the ultimate reward.

Devotional Life

Islam combines spiritual and practical aspects of life, with daily prayers (Salat) being central. These prayers, performed five times a day, involve physical postures as acts of submission to God. Worship fosters unity, equality, and reflection, both individually and communally. Flexibility is allowed for those unable to pray due to illness or other circumstances. Islam encourages constant remembrance of God, promoting spiritual growth and social cohesion within the Muslim community.

The Fast

Fasting during the month of Ramadan is a key religious duty for Muslims, involving abstaining from food, drink, and carnal pleasures from dawn to sunset. It is a spiritual exercise aimed at drawing closer to God, with physical benefits such as improved hygiene and willpower. While fasting is obligatory for healthy adults, exceptions are made for women during menstruation and certain medical conditions. The practice

extends across seasons due to the lunar calendar, and its goal is spiritual purification, not just physical discipline.

The Hajj

The Hajj, a pilgrimage to Mecca, is the third pillar of Islam, obligatory for Muslims once in their lifetime if they have the means. It involves several days of rituals including wearing a simple dress, meditating at Arafat, performing symbolic acts like the stoning of Satan, and circumambulating the Kaaba. The pilgrimage symbolizes submission to God and equality among Muslims, promoting spiritual unity. The Hajj also has historical and social significance, strengthening the bonds of the Muslim community worldwide.

The Zakaat

Zakat is an obligatory tax, considered a religious duty in Islam, aimed at purifying wealth and supporting the community, particularly the poor and needy. It is calculated based on various forms of wealth, such as savings and harvests, and is essential for maintaining social harmony and justice. The Quran outlines the proper distribution of zakat, ensuring it reaches those who need it most, including Muslims and non-Muslims. The practice reflects Islam's integration of spiritual and social responsibilities.

Central Idea:

The author comprehensively describes Islam in this book, with the said passages especially focusing on the Islamic ideology, and the basic beliefs of Islam. The author starts by focusing on the authenticity of the Hadiths, with explanations on why they can not be falsely narrated. Then he moves on to the Islamic ideology, and how Islam focuses not only on the spiritual aspect of life, but also the material aspect equally. The author also states that Islam also focuses on social circle just as much as it does to the personal or individual life. Then the author discusses the various belief sets in Islam, from the belief in oneness of Allah and in Prophethood, to belief in angels and eschatology. He then proceeds to discuss the role of different religious activities such as prayers, fasting and Hajj, and how they are equally important for the individual life and the social life and development of the society. These activities also increase the cohesion and equality among the Muslim Ummah. Along these spiritual topics, the author also discusses philosophical topics like Predestination and Free will, and Afterlife in the light of religious teachings.

Person 3 / Tayyiba Imran

The paragraphs 186–288 highlight three essential parts of Islam: **Zakat** (mandatory charity), **spiritual growth**, and the **moral system**. These principles show how Islam creates a balance between personal responsibilities and helping the community, combining inner growth with practical actions for a better society.

Zakat:

Zakat, one of Islam's foundational pillars, is far more than just giving to charity. It is a duty designed to reduce poverty, purify wealth, and promote fairness in society. The word "Zakat" means purification and growth, symbolizing that when wealth is shared responsibly, it not only benefits others but also helps the giver grow spiritually. Muslims are required to pay Zakat on certain types of wealth, including savings (2.5% of unused money after basic needs are met), agricultural produce (10% for crops grown with rainwater or 5% for irrigated crops), and livestock or business assets. The Quran specifies the beneficiaries of Zakat, ensuring it aids the poor, those in debt, slaves seeking freedom, travellers in need, and community welfare projects such as healthcare and education.

During the Prophet Muhammad's time, Zakat was managed centrally, with state officials ensuring its fair collection and distribution. Administrative costs, such as salaries for collectors, were covered from Zakat funds, reflecting its practical and organized nature. These funds were allocated to essential services, such as infrastructure development and assistance for vulnerable groups, strengthening community welfare. Spiritually, Zakat is a form of worship that purifies wealth and fosters gratitude, curbing greed and building solidarity between the wealthy and the less fortunate. This act transforms a financial responsibility into a deeply spiritual experience, connecting economic actions with faith.

Cultivation of Spiritual Life in Islam:

Islam places immense emphasis on nurturing the soul and aligning life with spiritual goals. At the heart of this is **Ihsan**, which means worshipping Allah as though one can see Him. This mindfulness turns everyday actions into acts of devotion and consciousness. Spiritual growth is cultivated through practices like Salah (praying five times daily), which keeps Muslims connected to Allah, and Sawm (fasting during Ramadan), which builds patience and empathy for the less fortunate. Dhikr

(remembrance of Allah) fosters inner peace by invoking His name and reflecting on His blessings. These practices are not mere rituals, they shape character by instilling gratitude, humility, and self-control.

Sufism:

For those seeking deeper connection with Allah, Sufism offers a path of devotion and love for divine. It focuses on Tazkiyah, or purification of the heart, to eliminate negative traits like arrogance and greed while fostering sincerity, kindness, and selflessness. Sufi traditions often include meditation, dikar and spiritual mentorship, guiding believers toward closeness with Allah.

Balancing Spiritual and Practical Life:

Islam does not consider spirituality as separate from daily life but as something integrated into every aspect of it. Honest and fair dealings in business, just and compassionate leadership are considered acts of worship. By combining spiritual awareness with worldly responsibilities, Islam ensures that faith thrives not only in mosques but also in homes, workplaces, and communities.

The System of Morality:

Islam's moral teachings are rooted in universal values such as fairness, kindness, and respect for human dignity. The Quran stresses that all people are equal regardless of wealth, race, or status, with the only measure of superiority being piety and good character. Muslims are guided to live ethically in their personal lives, family relationships, and societal roles. Individuals are encouraged to embody honesty, kindness, and gratitude, while family life emphasizes respect for parents, care for orphans, and strong ties among relatives. In societal dealings, Islam prohibits exploitative practices such as fraud, hoarding, and charging interest, while promoting fairness and transparency in trade.

Certain harmful behaviours, like gambling and alcohol consumption, are explicitly forbidden because they disrupt moral judgment and harm communities. The Quran also advocates moderation in all things, encouraging Muslims to use resources wisely and avoid wastefulness. What makes Islam's moral system unique is its integration with worship. Acts like giving Zakat or conducting honest business are seen as expressions of faith, seamlessly blending morality with spirituality.

Islam's Broader Vision for Society:

Beyond personal and moral guidance, Islam offers a framework for building a fair and compassionate society. Public welfare is a key focus, with systems in place to provide interest-free loans for those in debt, housing for the homeless, and funding for healthcare and education through resources like Zakat. The Quranic laws of inheritance ensure that wealth is shared fairly among family members, preventing it from accumulating in the hands of a few and promoting financial security for all. Education is also a vital part of Islam's vision, with the Prophet Muhammad emphasizing the importance of literacy and learning as tools for personal and societal growth.

Conclusion:

Islam offers a comprehensive framework that connects faith, morality, and social responsibility. Through Zakat, wealth is shared to reduce poverty, purify resources, and foster unity. Spiritual practices like prayer, fasting, and remembrance nurture personal growth and align daily actions with faith. The moral system promotes fairness, kindness, and respect for all, integrating ethical living with worship.

At a societal level, Islam prioritizes justice, education, and public welfare, ensuring resources are distributed equitably and the vulnerable are cared for. By balancing spirituality, ethics, and social duties, Islam provides a holistic way of life aimed at personal fulfillment and societal harmony.

Person 4 / Aiza Shafqat:

THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF ISLAM:

The first Muslim State was established by the Prophet in Madinah, encompassing a diverse community of Muslims, Jews, pagan Arabs, and some Christians. This mix necessitated a level of religious tolerance, which was enshrined in the state's constitution. The Prophet forged defense treaties with non-Muslims, and these agreements were consistently upheld. The Quran highlights the significance of honoring commitments and acting justly, warning of consequences in the Hereafter for those who do not.

International relations in Islam are informed by various sources, including internal laws and treaties with other nations. Islamic scholars emphasize the necessity of keeping promises. For instance, if a foreigner is allowed to reside in an Islamic territory for a specific duration, and a conflict arises between the Muslim state and the foreigner's homeland, the foreigner's safety remains assured. They can continue to stay until their visa expires, return home safely, and take their possessions with them. Throughout their stay, they will also enjoy the protection of the courts, just as they did before the conflict.

In an Islamic state, foreigners are not subject to Muslim law but rather to the laws of their own communities. Each religious group has its own courts, and if two individuals of the same faith are involved in a dispute, it will be resolved by their community's court. There is no separation between civil and criminal cases in this framework. However, if the parties belong to different religious communities, the approach may vary. A non-Muslim can opt to go to an Islamic court if both parties consent, in which case Islamic law will be applied. Additionally, if a foreigner commits an offense against a Muslim outside the Muslim state and then enters the state peacefully, they cannot be prosecuted in Islamic courts.

The Quran advocates for peace and advises against seeking conflict when one is in a position of strength, as God supports those who act righteously. It also emphasizes the importance of keeping promises, even above material gains.

Conclusion:

Islam aims to create a community based on equality, without discrimination by race, class, or nationality. It teaches that each person is accountable to God. Islam views the government as a trust, where leaders serve the people. It is the duty of every individual to promote good and prevent evil, with God judging people based on their actions and intentions.

THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF ISLAM:

Laws have always formed legal aspects of the societies of human beings. Every group of people, no matter where they are from, has added something to the idea of law. Muslims have also had important and valuable contributions in this. The ancients had laws, but they didn't create a system to study or understand law as a science until a scholar named Shafi'i (767–820 CE) introduced it. He wrote a book called *Risalah*, which explained how laws are formed and called this science *Usul al-Fiqh* (Roots of Law). This system covers the philosophy of law, where rules come from, how to interpret them, and how to apply them. The actual laws are like the "branches" that grow from these roots. The Prophet Muhammad, though he couldn't read or write, emphasized the importance of learning from the very first Quranic revelation. When he

created the first Islamic State, starting as a small city-state in Medina, he introduced a written constitution in 622 CE. This document, with 52 rules, outlined the rights and duties of leaders and citizens, laws, justice, defense, how to treat non-Muslims, and social support. Over time, the state grew to cover the Arabian Peninsula and parts of Iraq and Palestine. 15 years after his death, Muslim influence expanded to Spain in the west and China's borders in the east. This constitution is considered a major achievement.

The first revelation to Prophet Muhammad praised the pen as a tool for learning. Prophet Muhammad later established a written constitution for his growing state, which started as a city and expanded across the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Palestine. The constitution, created in 622 CE, included 52 clauses addressing the rights and duties of rulers and citizens, justice, defense, treatment of non-Muslims, and social welfare. Under Caliph 'Uthman, Muslim armies later spread to Spain and China.

War has always been common in human history, and during wartime, people are less likely to act reasonably, as it's a struggle for survival. Leaders often have the power to decide what actions to take against their enemies. While war strategies have existed for a long time, they were mostly based on rulers' decisions. Muslims were the first to separate the rules of war from rulers' whims and make them based on law. They created the science of international law, called "siyar," to guide how rulers should act. In Islamic law, war is treated like a legal matter, with rights and responsibilities for both sides, just like other legal issues.

Islamic law aims to regulate all aspects of human life, both material and spiritual. It starts with religious practices and extends to issues like taxes, contracts, crimes, war, peace, and inheritance. Since humans are both body and soul, the government should address both, ensuring a balance to prevent harm to civilization. However, just as specialized experts are needed in various fields, religious matters should be handled by those with the proper knowledge and expertise.

Islamic law emphasizes that rights and duties are always linked, not only in human relations but also between humans and their Creator. It teaches that religious duties are the responsibilities corresponding to the rights God has given people. Muslim jurists classify actions based on their goodness or evilness. Actions are divided into five categories:

absolute duties (good), recommended actions (mostly good), neutral actions (indifferent), forbidden actions (absolutely evil), and discouraged actions (mostly evil).

The Quran guides Muslims to distinguish between good (ma'ruf) and evil (munkar). Ma'ruf refers to universally recognized good, while munkar refers to universally recognized evil. Islamic morality mostly aligns with this clear distinction, though there are rare cases, like the prohibition of alcohol, where human opinions may differ..

Human beings can be divided into three categories:

those who are naturally good, those who are bad and try to escape supervision, and those who behave well out of fear of punishment but may commit injustice if they can avoid detection.

The first group doesn't need laws or guidance, while the other two require laws to maintain social order. The majority of people fall into the third category and need appropriate laws and sanctions to prevent harm.

Islam teaches that God is the Creator, Sustainer, and supreme Legislator, transcendent and beyond human perception. He is Supreme, All-present, just, and merciful, providing guidance to humanity through chosen messengers. Unlike humans, who evolve, God is eternal and unchanging, giving laws suited to human capacities.

The Quranic law allows different religious communities (like Christians, Jews, and others) to have their own courts and judges, applying their own laws in civil and criminal matters. If disputes involve members from different communities, a private international law approach is used, instead of forcing everyone to follow the ruling community's laws. Islam ensures the protection of all subjects' rights.

After the Prophet's death, divine revelations ended, and the Muslim community relied on the laws already established by him. The Quran made it clear that anything not prohibited by the Prophet's teachings is lawful. Muslim jurists have also used laws and customs from other countries, adopting what aligns with Islam, making this source of law ongoing.

Fifteen years after Prophet Muhammad's death, Muslims ruled vast territories across Asia, Africa, and Europe. Caliph 'Umar adapted local fiscal systems, continuing some and changing others. During the first century of the Hijrah, Islamic administration evolved, with early legal codes compiled by jurists like Zaid ibn 'Ali. Yemen, historically rich and culturally advanced, saw waves of emigration, influencing the region's development. Under Caliph 'Umar, many Yemenite tribes settled in Iraq, especially in Kufah, where the study of Islamic law flourished, with notable jurists like Abu Hanifah emerging from the city.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Muslim law originated as the law of a state and community, evolving to meet the changing needs of time and place. Even today, it continues to be recognized as a force for good, particularly in Muslim countries that were once under foreign rule and are now reintroducing the Shari'ah into all aspects of life.

THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF ISLAM:

Islam provides guidance for all aspects of life, both material and spiritual. It encourages its followers to seek well-being in this world, but also emphasizes the importance of the afterlife. The Quran teaches that some people only seek worldly gains, while others ask

for both worldly and spiritual goodness. Islam reminds that everything on earth, from nature to the stars, has been created by God for human benefit. It encourages people to use these resources wisely, considering both their present and future needs. In Islam, asking for charity is seen as shameful, but helping others is very praised. The best people are those who give up their own needs to help others. One person was praised by the Prophet for giving everything he had for a good cause, while another wanted to give all his money to charity but was told to leave some for his family so they wouldn't depend on others. The Prophet also taught that spending too much on yourself is not good; it's better to help the poor.

Inheritance

In Islam, both personal rights to property and the needs of society must be balanced. When someone dies, their property must be divided according to Islamic law. Close relatives automatically inherit their share. The law ensures equality between children, so no son or daughter can get more than the other. Only after these are settled do the heirs receive their share. If someone causes the death of a relative, they can't inherit from that person. Inheritance doesn't happen between people of different religions, but a will can allow a Muslim to leave something for a non-Muslim spouse. In places where Islamic inheritance laws are not followed, Muslims can still distribute property according to their beliefs.

Exceptional Taxes

During the time of the Prophet and the early Caliphs, *sadaqat* were the only state taxes. Later, in times of great need, Islamic scholars allowed temporary extra taxes, called *nawa'ib* (calamities), to address urgent situations.

Games of Chance

The Quran prohibits gambling and lotteries, calling them the "work of Satan" because they create social harm. These activities often lead to wealth being unfairly distributed, with a small group of people becoming rich while the majority lose money. For example, large sums of money collected from many people through gambling or lotteries end up benefiting less than 1%, leaving 99% worse off. This unfair system, whether private or government-run, concentrates wealth in the hands of a few and harms society as a whole. Therefore, Islam completely forbids gambling and lotteries.

Interest on Money-Lending

Islam forbids charging interest (usury) on money-lending, as it is considered unfair and harmful to society. People pay interest only because they need money and have no

other choice. Islam clearly distinguishes between legitimate business profits and interest, allowing trade but forbidding interest. The Quran warns of serious consequences for those who do not give up charging interest, emphasizing fairness by saying borrowers should repay only the principal amount without being exploited.

Interest is prohibited because it creates one-sided risk—borrowers bear all the burden, while lenders profit regardless of the outcome. To address this, Islam encourages mutual help and cooperation. The State and charitable organizations are expected to provide interest-free loans to those in need, ensuring fairness and support for the indebted.

Daily life

Islam prohibits gambling and alcohol, as both cause harm to individuals and society. Gambling leads to financial losses, especially for those who are already economically weak, with no guaranteed return. Alcohol weakens self-control even in small amounts, and excessive drinking can lead to reckless behavior, wasting money, and harming health.

The Quran acknowledges that both alcohol and gambling may have some benefits but emphasizes that their harm outweighs any advantages. It describes them as sinful acts, harmful to society and individuals, and labels them as the "work of Satan." The Quran advises Muslims to avoid these activities to find success in this life and the hereafter.

THE MUSLIM WOMEN

When talking about women's rights in Islam, it's important to know that Muslim law can change with time, it doesn't support the same level of freedom some women have in Western countries today. Islam expects women to be reasonable, not perfect or extreme. The Prophet Muhammad said that balance is the best way. If you compare women's roles in Islam with other systems, you need to look at everything, not just one thing. In some areas, Islam is stricter about morals than other ways of life today.

In Islam, the position of mothers is highly respected. The Prophet Muhammad said that by taking care of your mother, you can reach Paradise. The Quran also reminds people of the sacrifices mothers make in giving birth and raising children.

Regarding women as wives, the Prophet Muhammad taught that the best men are those who treat their wives kindly. In his Farewell Discourse, he outlined the rights and responsibilities of both husbands and wives. He emphasized that husbands should provide for their wives' needs and treat them well, as they are entrusted to them by God. Wives should be faithful and respectful, and if they are not, the husband can gently

correct them. The Prophet urged men to be mindful of their duty to treat women kindly, as they are leaders in their homes and are a trust from God. In Islam, the birth of daughters is valued and respected. The Quran criticizes the old practice of people being ashamed when a daughter was born, which was common in pre-Islamic times. It teaches that both sons and daughters are equally important, as both genders are necessary for creation. The Quran also states that men and women each have their own rights to what they earn. Men and women are not equal in every way, but they have different roles and functions. For example, men cannot become pregnant, and women have a more delicate physical constitution. Women tend to have lighter bones, while men are generally stronger and able to handle more tasks.

Conclusion:

Islam provides a comprehensive framework for governance, law, economics, and social conduct, emphasizing justice, equality, and balance. It promotes religious acceptance and mutual respect in a diverse society. Islamic law aims to regulate all aspects of life, including rights, duties, and morality, while fostering fairness in economic dealings and prohibiting exploitative practices. Women's roles are respected, with emphasis on their dignity, rights, and responsibilities within the family and society. Overall, Islam aims to balance worldly needs and spiritual values to create a fair and just society.

Person 5 / Ali Jawad

Status of Non-Muslims in Islam:

Islam as a religion of peace and equality always refers to the best of policies that have always affected mankind to betterment and ease. In the case of religion and coexistence, Islam supports peace and tranquility. Islam says that there are no differences whether a white lives in Arab or an Arab lives in some other country nor are there differences between a person speaking any of languages, only the main thing is religion but in this aspect, the main issues are of hereafter. In this world, Islam supports coexistence as there is no need for discrimination based upon what kind of person, a human is in daily life irrespective of the religion as if a non-Muslim is just, peaceful, cooperative, and has such other traits that make them a beneficial citizen and member of the society, it is obviously of great significance for the society.

For such examples,

we have many moments in our history that signify the status of non-Muslims in Islam. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) always protected and gave equal rights of conscience to non-Muslims whether they were Jews, Christians, or whatever religion they preached, all of them had equal opportunities after the advent of Islam. He always made decisions based upon divine texts as Allah being the master of the universe, will never do unjust with his servants. There were a lot of occasions where non-Muslims were considered higher as compared to Muslims for several posts due to the requirements they fulfilled, whether the job was of treasurer of the state or any other higher post, the decisions in Islam were and are always taken on teachings of Islam and merit.

The main difference between a Muslim and a non-Muslim is that a Muslim will go to paradise hereafter and the non-Muslim will go to hell hereafter. Other than that in this world non-Muslims will enjoy equal rights, The Prophet (P.B.U.H), in his time of spreading the message of Islam, always prioritizes the honor of the people of other religions whether the issue is of land, right to everything all were given equal rights even in every tenure of Caliphs as well.

In times of military emergency, Muslims were dominant and mainly played the roles in war, The Prophet(P.B.U.H) made a choice for non-Muslims that they can pay some amount, known as 'jizyah' which compensates their mis presence in war. Such relaxation provided by him was of great significance as the non-Muslims were not ready to sacrifice their lives in war.

Lastly in this aspect, there is total permission and relaxation for non-Muslims to change and purify their beliefs because as a human it is never too late to change for betterment. Islam always supports these acts and respects a person's beliefs.

Contributions of Muslims to the Sciences and Arts:

The First Revelation:

I will start with the first revelation that was sent to the Prophet(PBUH):

"Read with the name of thy lord, Who created,
Created man from a clot
Read and thy Lord is the most Bounteous,
Who taught by the pen
Taught a man which he knew not." (Q.96: 1-5)

According to the first revelation, it is clearly seen that the importance of the pen is quite significant. Pen, a tool used for learning, is of much significance as it is used in the divine text which also encompasses the massive importance and significance of learning. Learning includes aspects of daily life , research in different aspects which can be simplified to science and arts.

Role in Sciences:

First of all , there is religious science which is based upon the elaboration of the word of God. The translations are also a part of this field and to name a few of them , Salman-al-Farsi was the one who translated parts of the word of God in Persian.

Coming towards philosophical sciences, Muslims did not lack here as there were renowned researchers like *Ibn-e-Sina*, *Ibn-Rushd*, and *Al-Farabi* which proved to be highly exceptional in the field and hence made a name for Muslims.

Coming towards fields like natural science which include subjects like Botany etc and Also Optics, Muslims were not behind in this domain as well , they were pioneers of the development in this domain. Works of *Razi* and *Ibn-Sina* in medicine are of great significance as they made foundations of it quite clear.

As Allah,in his divine text said to us that mediate over the creation of universe, the contributions in the domains of Physics and Chemistry is also of great importance and scientists like *Jabir ibn Hayyan*,the pupil of Great *Jafa'ar-as-Sadiq* worked and derived several important conclusions from the experiments in this domain.

Summing up all, Mathematics known as "the mother of sciences" , has a lot of regard for Muslim Scientists like **Al-Khuwarzimi** (who Invented Algebra), **Umar Al Khayyam**, **Al-Biruni**, these are a few scientists to be named in this field that worked tirelessly to make great outcomes for the field.

Role in Arts:

History, sociology, and Law are the main 3 fields of arts to which Muslims contributed mainly.

In Law; *Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Malik, and Imam Al-Shafi'i* laid the foundations of Islamic jurisprudence through reasoned principles.

Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal emphasized **Hadith** as the basis of law, preserving authenticity and tradition.

In History; *Ibn Khaldun's Muqaddimah* explored the cycles of civilizations, marking a turning point in **historiography**.

Al-Tabari, Al-Masudi, and Ibn Battuta documented **Islamic and global history** with detailed narratives and insights.

In **Sociology**; *Ibn Khaldun*, the father of sociology, analyzed societal structures and social solidarity in *Muqaddimah*.

Al-Farabi and Al-Biruni contributed to understanding **governance** and **comparative cultures** in their works.

Central Idea:

Islam is a complete code of life and it ensures that every aspect of life is covered and managed with utmost regard and security , so as the case of non-Muslims in muslim world and Islam. Keeping together all aspects, Islam wants us to be a hustler in knowledge gaining as well whether it is research , practice law , learning and exploring philosophy or doing complex problems of maths and physics, in short , Islam wants us to be well maintained in every domain and aspect of life.

Person 6 / Muzammil Ali

General History of Islam

Islam began in the 7th century with the teachings of Prophet Muhammad in Arabia. He taught people to worship one God (Allah) and to live with kindness, fairness, and justice. Through divine revelation, the Quran was sent to him over 23 years, providing guidance for a fulfilling and righteous life. The Quran is considered the literal word of Allah, teaching about faith, justice, kindness, and caring for others. It was preserved by both memorization and writing, ensuring its accuracy and authenticity for future generations.

In addition to the Quran, Muslims follow the **Hadith**, which are the sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad. These serve as practical examples of how to live according to the Quran. Together, the Quran and Hadith are the foundation of Islamic teachings and guide Muslims in all aspects of life.

Islam quickly spread beyond Arabia, reaching Africa, Asia, and Europe within a few centuries. It shared a message of peace, fairness, and equality, attracting people from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Muslim scholars and leaders worked to spread knowledge, contributing significantly to science, art, and governance in the regions they influenced.

Daily Life of a Muslim and Prayer Practices

The daily life of a Muslim revolves around worship, community, and good deeds. Five daily prayers, called Salah, are a central part of their routine. Muslims pray at dawn, midday, afternoon, sunset, and night, always facing the Kaaba in Mecca. Before praying, they perform a purification ritual called

Wudu, where they wash their hands, face, and feet to ensure cleanliness and readiness to stand before Allah.

During prayer, Muslims engage in specific movements such as standing, bowing, kneeling, and sitting, while reciting verses from the Quran and special prayers. These acts remind them of their connection to Allah and their responsibilities as His servants.

Fasting during the holy month of **Ramadan** is another important practice. Muslims abstain from eating, drinking, and other physical needs from dawn to sunset. This

teaches self-control, patience, and empathy for the poor and hungry. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate **Eid al-Fitr**, a joyous holiday where families gather, share meals, and give to those in need.

Charity, called **Zakat**, is also a key aspect of Muslim life. It involves giving a portion of one's wealth to help the poor and less fortunate, fostering a sense of social responsibility.

For those who are physically and financially able, **Hajj**, the pilgrimage to Mecca, is a once-in-a-lifetime obligation. It brings together Muslims from all over the world, creating a sense of unity and equality.

Islam also emphasizes good character and moral behavior in daily interactions. Muslims are encouraged to be kind, honest, fair, and helpful to others. Acts of charity, community service, and peaceful living are all part of practicing the faith.

Appendices: Tools to Help Muslims

To help Muslims follow their faith, additional resources provide practical guidance:

1. **Maps:** Show how Islam spread to different regions and help Muslims determine the Qibla (direction of prayer) no matter where they are.
2. **Prayer Timetables:** Indicate the correct times for daily prayers, even in places with very long days or nights, ensuring Muslims can maintain their worship schedule.
3. **Pictures of Prayers:** Visual guides demonstrate the correct movements and postures during Salah, making it easier to learn and practice.
4. **Holiday Calendars:** Explain important Muslim celebrations like **Eid al-Fitr**, marking the end of Ramadan, and **Eid al-Adha**, which honors Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice for Allah.

5. **Guides for Special Situations:** Help Muslims navigate religious practices, such as praying and fasting in places where the sun doesn't rise or set normally, ensuring inclusivity and practicality.

Islam's Practical Wisdom

Islam provides a complete framework for leading a balanced and meaningful life. It teaches individuals how to be kind, fair, and compassionate while fostering a strong connection with Allah. By emphasizing daily worship, good character, and community service, Islam helps its followers grow spiritually and contribute positively to society.

The teachings are practical and adaptable, allowing Muslims to maintain their faith no matter where they live or what challenges they face. The additional tools and resources make it easier for Muslims to practice their religion in diverse environments, ensuring that their spiritual journey remains consistent and fulfilling.

This blend of spirituality and practicality ensures that Islam remains a universal and timeless guide for people seeking a harmonious life connected to both God and humanity.

Central Idea:

In summary, Islam provides a balanced way of life that combines spiritual devotion and good moral character. It teaches Muslims to connect with God through daily practices like prayer, fasting, charity, and pilgrimage, helping them grow spiritually. At the same time, it emphasizes fairness, kindness, honesty, and respect in everyday interactions, guiding them to treat others with compassion and dignity. By following the Quran and the example of Prophet Muhammad, Muslims can lead meaningful lives, support their communities, and build a just and peaceful society.

Central Idea of the Book:

Muhammad Hamidullah's *Introduction to Islam* offers a clear and comprehensive understanding of Islam as a complete way of life, shaping every aspect of human existence, spiritual, moral, social, legal, and intellectual. The book explains Islam's core beliefs, including faith in Allah, the completion of Prophet Muhammad's mission, and the guidance of the Quran and Hadith, showing how these are expressed through acts of worship like prayer, fasting, pilgrimage, charity and zakat. These practices are not only rituals but pathways to spiritual growth, encouraging connection with Allah and strengthening community bonds. The book emphasizes how Islam cultivates good character, encouraging values like honesty, kindness, and humility while discouraging harmful behaviours like greed and dishonesty. Through concepts like Ihsan, living with constant awareness of Allah, everyday actions are elevated into meaningful acts of devotion. For those seeking deeper spirituality, Sufism offers a path of self-purification and divine love, guiding believers toward inner peace and closeness to Allah. Islam's focus on justice is reflected in its social and economic principles, with Zakat ensuring wealth redistribution to help the poor and promote fairness, while financial ethics discourage exploitation and foster transparency. Islamic law (Shariah) is presented as a framework for personal and societal order, emphasizing justice and accountability in governance, inspired by the leadership of the Prophet Muhammad and the early caliphs. The book also highlights the importance of knowledge, with education seen as a moral duty that empowers individuals and drives progress, as demonstrated by centuries of Islamic contributions to science and culture. It underscores Islam's commitment to interfaith harmony, mutual respect, and universal values of justice and compassion, transcending religious and cultural boundaries. Ultimately, the book portrays Islam as a holistic system that addresses personal needs and global challenges, inspiring individuals to live with purpose, care for others, and contribute to a just and compassionate society.
