

Course SE 223

Systems of religion value and belief

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WHAT IS ISLAM ?

Islam is the religion which is wrongly called Mohammedanism.

1. Islam means: (1) Peace; (2) Surrender.

The significance of the name Islam is the attainment of a life of perfect peace, and eternal happiness through complete surrender to the Will of God.

2. Absolute and uncompromising belief in one God is the central doctrine of Islam. "There is none worthy of worship but one and the only God (Allah) who possesses all excellences and Muhammad is His prophet." This is the most important doctrine of Islam. Furthermore, Islam helps us to establish a permanent relationship with God and to realize Him during our earthly life as our Helper and Guide in all our affairs and undertakings.

3. Islam requires belief in all the prophets and spiritual guides including Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Krishna, Buddha, Confucius, and Zoroaster. Islam represents the completion of the mission of all the prophets from the earliest dawn of history. It teaches in fact all the prophets of God came with one and the same mission. Thus Islam establishes peace between all religions.

4. Quran, the Muslim Scripture - the Word of God, was revealed to the Master-prophet Muhammad over thirteen hundred years ago and has been preserved intact without the slightest change. There are millions and millions of Muslims who know the whole Book by heart. It is an inexhaustible mine of spiritual truths which satisfy the

needs of all people in all countries and all stations of life.

5. The establishment of true democracy and universal brotherhood without any discrimination of caste, creed, colour, or country is the unique and unrivalled distinction of Islam. Islam has not only propounded but fulfilled and realized the splendid principles of democracy in the actual life and action of human society.

6. Following are a few of the distinctive features of Islam:

- (a) Liberation of women by establishing the equality of both sexes, safe-guarding their rights and liberties and raising their status.
- (b) Absolute veto on all intoxicants.
- (c) Solution of economic problems.
- (d) Furnishing of humanity with the noblest practical ethics.
- (e) Promotion of science and education.

7. Following are some of the obligatory duties laid down by Islam:

- (a) Daily prayers.
- (b) Fasting in the month of Ramadhan.
- (c) Relief of poverty.
- (d) Pilgrimage once in one's lifetime, provided circumstances allow.

8. According to Islam life after death is a continuation of life on earth. Heaven and Hell begin **right** from here. Heaven is eternal and everlasting, while Hell is temporary. Hell is a hospital treatment for the human soul which, as soon as it is cured, goes to Heaven. Heaven is the attainment of a life of everlasting progress and complete joy and happiness through union with God and by the development of the fine spiritual qualities and the unlimited capacities that have been implanted in man.