

Islam is the only universal religion that the God has chosen for all the humanity to the day of judgment. It is intended to supersede all other religions in addressing the human needs and to achieve the divine goals which the Creator have set for all humans.

What every other religion, except Islam, has in common?

Every other major religion of the world has been named either after its founder or after the community or nation in which it was born. Christianity takes its name from its prophet Jesus Christ; Buddhism from its founder, Gautama Buddha; Zoroastrianism from its founder Zoroaster, and Judaism

from
the
name
of
the
tribe
Judah.
The
same
is
true
of
all
other
religi
o
ns
except
Islam.

Uniqueness and Universality of Islam

Islam enjoys the unique distinction of having no such association with any particular person, p
eople
or
country.
Nor
is
it
the
product
of
any
human
mind.
It
is
a
universal
religion
and
its
objective

is
to
create
and
cultivate
in
m
an
the
perfection of humani
ty
and
lead both man and women to ultimate success and salvation..

Islam demands a very basic belief, based on wisdom and logic, the acceptance of a unique and only Creator and recognition of his assigned prophets specifically prophet, Muhammad (peace be upon him and his family). Anyone who possesses this belief, whatever race, color, community, country or group he belongs to, is a Muslim.

According to the Qur'an (the Holy Book of the Muslims), among every people and in all ages there have

been
good
and
righteous
people
who
possessed
this
belief
-
and
all
of
them
were
and
are
Muslims.

Islam - What Does it Mean?

Islam is an Arabic word and connotes submission, surrender and obedience. As a religion,
Islam stand
s for
complete
submission

and
obedience
to
one unique God.
Another
literal
meaning
of
the
word
Islam
is
'peace'
and
this
signifies
that
one
can
achieve real
peace
of
body
and
mind
only
through
submission
and
obedience
to
Allah.

Such a life of obedience to God brings with it peace of the heart and establishes real peace in society at large.
As a result, all Muslims and non Muslims are safe and protected from all other Muslims.

Everyone can see that we live in an orderly universe, where everything is assigned a place in a grand scheme. The moon, the stars and all the heavenly bodies are knit together in a magnificent system. They follow unalterable laws and make not even the slightest deviation from their ordained courses.

Similarly, everything in the world, from the minute whirling electron to the mighty nebulae, invariably follows its

own
laws.
Matter,
energy
a
n
d
lif
e
-
all
obey
their
laws
and
grow,
change, live
and
die
in
accordance
with
those
laws.
Even
in
the
human
world
the
laws
of
nature
are
paramount.
Man's
birth,
growth
and
life
are
all
regulated
by
a
set

of
biological
laws.

He derives sustenance from nature in accordance with an unalterable law. All the organs of his
body,
from
the
smallest
tissues
to
the
heart
and
the
brain,
are
governed
by
the
laws
prescribed
for
them.
In
short,
ours
is
a
law
-
governed
universe
and

everything
in
it
is
following
the
course
that
has
been
ordained
for
it.

This powerful, all-pervasive law, which governs all that comprises the universe, from the tiniest specks of dust to the magnificent galaxies of the heavens, is the law of God, the Creator and Rule
r
of

the
universe.
As
the
whole
of
creation
obeys
the
law
of
God,
the
whole
universe,
therefore,
literally
follows
the
religion
of
Islam
-
for
Islam signifies
nothing
but
obedience
and
submission
to
Allah,
the
Lord
of
the
Universe.

The sun, the moon, the earth and all other heavenly bodies are thus 'Muslim'. So are the air, water, heat, stones, trees and animals. Everything in the universe is 'Muslim' for it obeys God by submission to His laws. Even a person who refuses to believe in God, or offers worship to someone other than 'God', is essentially a 'Muslim' as far as his physical existence is concerned.

For his entire life, from the embryonic stage to the body's dissolution into dust after death, every tissue of his muscles and every limb of his body follows the course prescribed by

God's
law.
His
very
tongue, which
on
account
of
his
ignorance,
advocates
the
denial
of
God
or
professes
multiple
deities,
is
in
its
very
nature
'Muslim'.

His head which he sometimes bows to others besides Allah is born 'Muslim'. His heart, which, through his lack of true knowledge, cherishes love and reverence

for
others,
is
'Muslim'
by
intuition.
These
are
all
obedient
to
the
Divine
Law,
and
their
functions
and
moveme
n
ts
are
governed
by
the
injunctions
of
that
law
alone.

Two Dimensions of a Man

According to Islam, a man has two unique dimensions of his existence, the body and soul. the t
wo
distinct
spheres
of
his
activity.
One
is
the

sphere
in
which
he
finds
himself
totally
regulated
by
the
Divine
Law.
Like
other
creatures,
he
is
completely
caught
in
the
grip
of
the physical
laws
of
nature
and
is
bound
to
follow
them.
But
there
is
another
sphere
of
his
activity.

He has been endowed with reason and intellect. He has the power to think and form judgment
s, to choose
and to reject,
to approve
and to spurn.
He is free
to adopt
whatever
course
of
life
he
chooses.
He
can
embrace
any
faith,
and
live
by
any
ideology
he
likes.
He
may
prepare
his
own
code
of
conduct

or
accept
one
for
m
ulated
by
others.

Unlike other creatures, he has been given freedom of thought, choice and action. In short, man has been bestowed with free will.

Role of Two Dimensions in Man's Life

In the first he, like all other creatures, is a born Muslim, invariably obeying the injunctions of God, and is bound to remain one.

As far as the second aspect is concerned, he is free to become or not to become a Muslim.

It is the way a person exercises this freedom which divides mankind into two groups: believers and no

n
-
believers.

An individual who chooses to acknowledge his Creator, accepts Him as his real Master, honestly and scrupulously submits to His laws and injunctions and follows the code. He has achieved completeness in his Islam by consciously deciding to obey God in the domain in which he

was
endowed
with
freedom
of
choice.
He
is
a
perfect
Muslim. The
submission
of
his
entire
self
to
the
will
of
Allah
leads him to become a perfect Muslim
.

He has now consciously submitted to Him Whom he had already been unconsciously obeying.
He has now willingly offered obedience to the Master Whom he already owed
obedience
to
involuntarily.
His
knowledge
is
now
real
for
he

has
acknowledged
the
Being
Who
endowed
him
with
th
e
power
to
learn
and
to
know.

Now his reason and judgment are set on an even keel - for he has rightly decided to obey the
Being
Who
bestowed
upon
him
the
faculty
of
thinking
and
judging.
His
tongue
is
also
truthful
for
it
expresses
its
belief
in

the
L
ord
Who
gave
it
the
faculty
of
speech.

Now the whole of his existence is an embodiment of truth for, in all spheres of life, he voluntarily as we
ll a
s
involuntarily
obeys
the
laws
of
One
God
-
the
Lord
of the
Universe.
Now
he
is
at

peace
with
the
who
I
e
universe
for
he
worships
Him
Whom
the
whole
universe
worships.
Such
a
man
is
God's
vice
-
regent
on
earth.
The
whole
world
is
for
him
and
he
is
for
God.

References

The following sources are used to prepare the above article. Some hyperlinks may not be still active.

1. Group of Scholars, *Rationality of Islam* (1978), under the auspices of Ayatullah Sayyid Abu'l Qasim al-Khu'i, Publisher: Islamic, Seminary Publications, Pakistan
2. Mohamad Jawad Chirri, *Inquiries About Islam* (1986), Publisher: The Islamic Center of America, Dearborn Michigan, USA.