Q&A
ON ISLAM

Concoction By:
Hafed Al-Kindi

For more information
about Islam you can call:
Saud Al-Hashmi
00968 99335034

For order:
Al-Sahwa for Production and Distribution
Oman - Barka
Tel.: (00968 92870220+00968 99341231)

Introduction

Islam is a major religion which spans throughout the five continents. There are over 1.2 Billion Muslims in the world today. Unfortunately Islam is one of the most misunderstood religions because of the misinformation and misrepresentation of this religion., This pamphlet aims at eliminating this misunderstanding. It presents ten frequently asked questions and their answers which we hope will add to your knowledge about this religion.

Question 1

Muslims refer to God as Allah, is He different from God who other religions such as Christianity or Judaism believe?

Answer

Allah is not a different God - God is one and Allah is His proper name. it is a unique Arabic word which has no gender and no plural. Allah stands for the One and Only God, who is indivisible, Self-Subsisting and Eternal. He has no partners and He is the only One deserving of worship, worthy of all praise. The name Allah encompasses all these attributes of God.

Question 2

There is a significantly large group of people in this world who do not believe in the existence of God at all. How can one prove His existence?

Answer:

The proof of the existence of God is present all around us and within us, if only one cares to sit and contemplate on the marvel of creation. Let us begin with the birth of the Universe. A recent scientific study has shown that the gaseous explosion which occurred to form the Universe took place at a well determined and very precise moment in time, that is, the explosion could not

have occurred a fraction of a second earlier or later.

This was most certainly not a coincidence. It points to a mighty power of creation, the power of God.

Again, the numerous galaxies and the billions of stars and other heavenly bodies follow precise physical laws that regulate their relative motions, all pointing to a cordinating and harmonizing power , the power of God.

Allah the Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an (Chapter 29, Verse 44):

Allah created the heavens and the earth in true (proportions) Verily in that is a sign for those who believe.

In all the scriptures which were revealed to these messengers, fifthly the belief in

the angels who are the spiritual beings created by Allah to serve Him, and finally the belief in predestination, i.e. all events in Allah's creation are predetermined by Allah.



Question 3

If Islam claims to be one universal religion and claims to establish one standard legislation for the whole of humanity, why are there divisions and sects in Islam?

Answer

Islam is a religion based strictly on the Holy Qur'an and the traditions of the Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him. These two form the foundation of this religion and the entire body of Muslims exists and lives on this foundation. True there are divisions, but these divisions in all cases are schools of thoughts born out of differing interpretations of prophets

traditions and, indeed in some cases, the differences are of political origins and have nothing to do with religion itself.

All Muslims believe in Allah and His prophet and submit to the Holy Qur'an and the authentic traditions of the Prophet.
Their differences are not differences in religion although enemies of Islam would like to equate these differences to the sort of differences in other religions where the source of their beliefs and even the fundamentals of the religion differ. Islam is far from this sort of division.



Question 4

Briefly, what is the belief of Muslims concerning the fate of the human being after death?

Answer :

The soul doesn't die but in death it moves to another state of existence. This new state of existence, which is also transient, ushers in the beginning of torture for the perpetual sinners of the beginning of happiness for the righteous.

On the Day of Resurrection and Judgment, people will be assembled from their graves and will be called strictly to account for their actions.

Those who attain salvation will enjoy eternal comfort in paradise and those who are condemned to damnation will face the eternal torture in hell. There is no death after that.



Question 5

Why didn't God create all people to see His light and obey Him, something He is capable of ?

Answer:

Unlike Angels, man has been given a limited freedom of choice, and this freedom is a test, to obey God or to disobey Him. Allah the Almighty has explained this very explicitly in the Holy Qur'an. (Chapter5, Verse 51).

To each among you have We prescribed a Law and an open Way. If God has so willed He would have made you a single people, but (His plan is) to test you in what He has given you so strive as in a race in all virtues.

And again in Chapter 67, Verse 2 Allah says:

He who created Death and Life that He may try which of you is best in deed. And He is the Exalted in Might, oft-forgiving.

So God created man for a purpose; to test him. He honored him with intelligence and power of reasoning. He provided him with the means whereby he can obey Him and use his talents to worship Him. He also explained to him his fate and the consequences of his actions. Man therefore has to shoulder his responsibilities and be accountable for his choices and their consequences.

Question 6

Islam is often accused of being unfair to women and ranking them lower than men. What is the status of women in Islam?

Answer:

Islam came to establish and protect the equality of man and women. Islam has defined the rights of women in the family and in the society, many centuries before even these rights were recognized in other societies or nations. For example, the right to property for women was recognized and established in Islam more than 12 centuries before it was granted in the West.

But Islam also recognizes the physical, biological and emotional differences between the genders and sets laws to protect the exploitation of those differences by man.

In the West, women have had to wage a battle against the exploitation of their bodies. We have seen this particularly in the world of advertising where women's bodies and particularly those areas which Islam teaches should be covered, are used to sell products which have nothing to do with gender at all. From East to West the situation of sexual exploitation of women and children appears to grow worse despite campaigns mounted by human rights activists and feminists.

There are innumerable examples of this, whether we are speaking about the popularity of the so-called Miss World and Miss Universe competitions where women display themselves as products to be judged or the sexual tourism which is a plague in many parts of the world.

Islam, however, preserves the dignity and purity of women and has enacted provisions to protect the virtue and sanctity of women. The honor and dignity enjoyed by women who adhere to Islam is eloquent proof of this. Women are not toys or playthings in the hands of men. She is not a servant, enslaved and stripped of her dignity as so many misguided souls imagine.

Question 7:

Suppose a person believes in God and lives a good an honest life, does it matter to which particular religion he belongs?

Answer:

Yes it does matter. Many argue that all religions lead to a godly life and therefore, will satisfy God. This argument is not sound because there are major doctrinal as well as practical contradictions in the existing religions and God never contradicts Himself. For example, it is an unforgivable sin in Islam to attribute partners to God, as we are told in Chapter 4, Verse 116 of the Holy Qur'an. Yet according to other

religions God has many Partners and helpers.

This is a major doctrinal contradiction. In another example, Islam permits polygamy and other religions don't. this is a major practical contradiction because marriage is central in the social fabric. Therefore, with these major contradictions and since God can not contradict Himself, there can only be one true religion. Allah the Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an (Chapter 3, Verse 19):

The Religion acceptable to Allah is Islam. (That is surrender to His Will).

Question 8:

How can we be sure that the Qur'an, which is the king pin of Islam, is from God?

Answer:

The testimony to the divine origin of Qur'an is contained in the Qur'an itself. In answer to this question, the Qur'an presents three criteria for divine truth.

First: God is perfect, His revelation must be perfect, free from contradictions or mistakes. God says in the Holy Qur'an Chapter 4, Verse 82:
Do they not consider the Qur'an (with care)? Had it been from other than God

they would surely have found therein much discrepancy.

So, this is the first acid test, if you want to know whether a scripture is from god, simply look for discrepancies. If you find discrepancies it's not from god.

Second: Revelation from god is supernatural. It can not be imitated by men or jinns. In a challenge to the skeptics god says in the Holy Qur'an Chapter 17, Verse 88:

Say, if the whole of mankind and Jinns were to gather to gather to produce the like of this Qur'an they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed up each other with help and support.

This challenge still stands 14 centuries from its revelation. The Holy Qur'an is miraculous in it's subject matter, its style and eloquence. No scripture is like unto it.

Third: god is the creator of all knowledge and therefore His revelation must withstand the challenges of science and human knowledge at all times. The Qur'an contains numerous reflections on various natural phenomena and scientific facts; astronomy, human reproduction, botany and so on. None of the facts mentioned in the Qur'an has been disproved by modern advances in human knowledge. For example, we read in Chapter 21, verse 30:

Do not the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of Creation), before We clove them asunder? We made from water every living thing will they not then believe?

Far from being disproved, modern knowledge has confirmed that the universe was one unit of creation then it exploded. Also modern knowledge has confirmed that living matter originates from water. This is an undisputed proof that the facts mentioned in the Qur'an, revealed more than 14 centuries ago, came from no one but Allah.

So the proof of the divine origin of the Qur'an is contained in the Qur'an itself.



Question 9:

How can we be sure that the Holy Qur'an has not been corrupted over the ages?

Answer :

There are three facts which confirm to us that the Holy Qur'an as we have it today is the original text revealed to the prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him.

First: the verses of the Holy Qur'an were memorized by the prophet and many of the disciples as they were being reveled and put in writing.

So at the end of the revelation the verses of the Holy Qur'an were in the hearts of the Muslims as well as in

written form. This tradition of memorizing the Qur'an continued throughout the generations to this day.

Today there are millions of Muslims who have memorized the Qur'an and the tradition continues. So the Holy Qur'an was transmitted through the generations not only in written form but also in the hearts of the Muslims, from generation to generation throughout the world and this tradition continues. This continuing tradition eliminates any chance for corruption in the text.

Secondly: coming to the written form, few copies of the original text dating back to the time of the disciples of the

prophet are still extant to this day. All copies of the Holy Qur'an in the whole world are consistent with these ancient manuscripts. Furthermore, you will not find a single copy of the Holy Qur'an in the whole world which is different from others, even in a dot. This is a true manifest that the Holy Qur'an is whole and intact, because if there were corruptions we would see different versions. The Arabic Qur'an has no versions.

Thirdly, if the Holy Qur'an was being corrupted through the ages we would surely find errors and contradictions in the book. As we have mentioned in the earlier question, one of the proofs of the divine origins of the Holy Qur'an Is

that there are no errors or contradictions in the Holy Qur'an.

So with these three facts we can be sure that the Holy Qur'an has not been corrupted over the ages. It is today as it was when it was revealed.



Conclusion:

Islam is the natural religion for mankind. It is the solution to our life's problems and the only way to salvation and eternal bliss. Islam is innocent of the accusations leveled against it: terrorism, suppression of people's freedom and women's rights and so on. In fact, Islam is a perfect antidote to these problems.

We hope this pamphlet will help all to set aside prejudices and take Islam for its true values and morals. Everyone must ensure that one is in the right path, the path to happiness in this life and the hereafter, before it is too late, for life on this earth is short, but our souls live on to eternity.