

Fundamentals Of Faith 1 - The Religion of Islam

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Islam is the religion that Allaah sent to Muhammad [May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] and made it the final and most complete religion for His slaves. Allaah perfected, in this religion, the bounties that He bestowed on His slaves, and accepts only Islam from them. He said, what translated means:

[“**Muhammad** [May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] **is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allaah, and the Last (end) of the Prophets.**”] [33:40],

[“**This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen Islam for you as your religion.**”] [5:3],

[“**Truly, the religion with Allaah is Islam.**”] [3:19]

and,

[“**And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers**”] [3:85]

Allaah obligated all mankind to follow Islam:

[“**Say (O Muhammad** [May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him]: “**O mankind! Verily, I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allaah, to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. There is none who has the right to be worshipped but He; It is He Who gives life and causes death. So believe in Allaah and His Messenger (Muhammad** [May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him], **the Prophet who can neither read nor write, who believes in Allaah and His Words (this Qur’aan, the Torah and the Gospel), and follow him so that you may be guided**” [7:158].

Abu Hurayrah [May Allaah be pleased with him] reported that the Messenger of Allaah [May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] said, what translated means, “**By Whom the soul of Muhammad is in His Hand! No member of this nation, no Jew or Christian, hears of me and does not believe in what I was sent with, but he will be of the people of the Fire.**”¹

¹ Saheeh Muslim

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Believing in the Messenger means believing in what was revealed to him, coupled with acceptance and submission; without them the belief is not sufficient. This is why Abu Taalib, the Prophet's [May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] uncle, was not a believer in the Messenger, although he believed in what he was sent with and confirmed that Islam was the best religion, (but without acceptance or adherence to Islam).

Islam contains all of what brings benefit, which was also contained, in previous religions. Islam, however, is suitable for implementation anytime, anywhere and by any nation. Allaah said to His Messenger [May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him], what translated means,

["And We have sent down to you (O Muhammad [May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him]) the Book (this Qur'aan) in truth, confirming the Scripture that came before it and dominant over it" [5:48].

The meaning of "suitable for implementation at anytime, anywhere and by any nation," is that Islam brings only benefit to mankind, whenever and wherever it is implemented. Islam is not under the control, and thus is not to be altered by, any nation living at any given time at any given place, as some people would want it to be.

Islam is the religion of truth. It is the religion that Allaah guaranteed aid and dominance for whoever firmly adheres by it. He said, what translated means,

["It is He who has sent His Messenger (Muhammad [May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him]) with guidance and the Religion of Truth (Islam), to make it superior over all religions even though the disbelievers hate it." [9:33]

and,

["Allaah has promised those among you who believe, and do righteous, good deeds, that He will certainly grant them succession to (the present rulers) in the earth, as He granted it to those before them, and that He will grant them the authority to practice their religion, which He has chosen for them (Islam). And He will surely give them in exchange a safe security after their fear (provided) they (the believers) worship Me and do not associate anything (in worship) with Me. But whoever disbelieved after this, they are the rebellious (disobedient to Allaah)."] [24:55].

Islam contains belief and Law: It is a complete religion, both in its belief and in its Law. It demands from its followers the following:

- 1 Believing in Tawheed (Oneness) of Allaah and disbelieving in Shirk (polytheism).
2. Being truthful and not lying.
3. Being just, that is to deal comparable things with equality, and abandoning injustice.
4. Being honest and abandoning treachery.

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5. Preserving one's promises and contracts and not breaking them.
6. Being dutifully good to one's parents and not cutting ties of kinship.
7. Keeping relations with relatives and not cutting them.
8. Being good with neighbours and not harming them.

In general, Islam orders Muslims to have the best possible conduct and forbids all bad behaviour. It requires Muslims to enjoin every righteous deed and avoid every evil deed. Allaah said, what translated means,

[“Verily, Allaah enjoins justice, Al-I’hsan (excellence in religion), giving (help) to kith and kin, and forbids all evil (deeds), Al-Munkar (all that is prohibited) and injustice. He admonishes you, that you may take heed”] [16:90]