

## METAPHYSICS OF ISLAM (AN OVERVIEW)

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### ABSTRACT

*Meta literally means beyond or more comprehensive. As Physics describes the world of matter and its motion through space and time, Metaphysics strives to define the subject matter. Metaphysics or 'beyond physics' is the study of philosophy examining the true nature of reality, whether it is visible or not.*

*There are numerous definitions of metaphysics. Philosophers of different times, owing to the differences in their religious, cultural and social beliefs, gave different dimensions to the concept of Metaphysics. However one thing is common among all the philosophers is the discussion on absolute reality thereby trying commonly to investigate the principles of reality and their struggle for search the hidden truth behind physical world and analysis of its substance and explore the reality of the nature around us.*

*Islam is a revealed religion and not a manmade religion. It has its well defined Metaphysics and is called as Metaphysics of Islam. The philosophical perceptions of the Divine Essence and Attributes of God have been explained in a miraculous manner in Islamic literature and Qur'an interpreters are of the view that the only correct way to interpret Quranic verses is through experimental methods based on the secrets of natural phenomenon. Certainly, the experimental and scientific methods to deduce the meaning of the Qur'an with the help of natural phenomenon have been given justified importance, however some of the verses require more understanding of the metaphysical aspect of creation of universe and its creator.*

*In this paper I have tried to focus on the following aspects:*

- 🌟 *Metaphysics of Islam its core beliefs in context to Hadith*
- 🌟 *The detail discussion on the fundamental aspects of this beliefs*
- 🌟 *Problem of Conduct and behaviour of human being*

*Nevertheless my main focus is on Metaphysics of Islam in context to Hadith.*

**Key words:** Metaphysics, Metaphysics of Islam, Core concept, Revelation.

**Metaphysics of Islam in context to Hadith.**

*What is Hadith?*

The Arabic word Hadith means 'statement' or 'talk'. In religious discussions the word Hadith means those things or deeds, which Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said or did. The word 'Sunnah' sometimes is also used for Hadith, but usually 'Sunnah' is used to report a deed, while Hadith is used for talk.

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There are few well know Hadith books, which were compiled by great scholars of Islam.

- 🌟 Sahi Bukhari
- 🌟 Sahi Muslim
- 🌟 Sunnah Tirmidhi
- 🌟 Sunnah Ibn Majah

Many times the Quran gives us the general principal of an order; but to understand the order clearly, we need to refer Hadith.

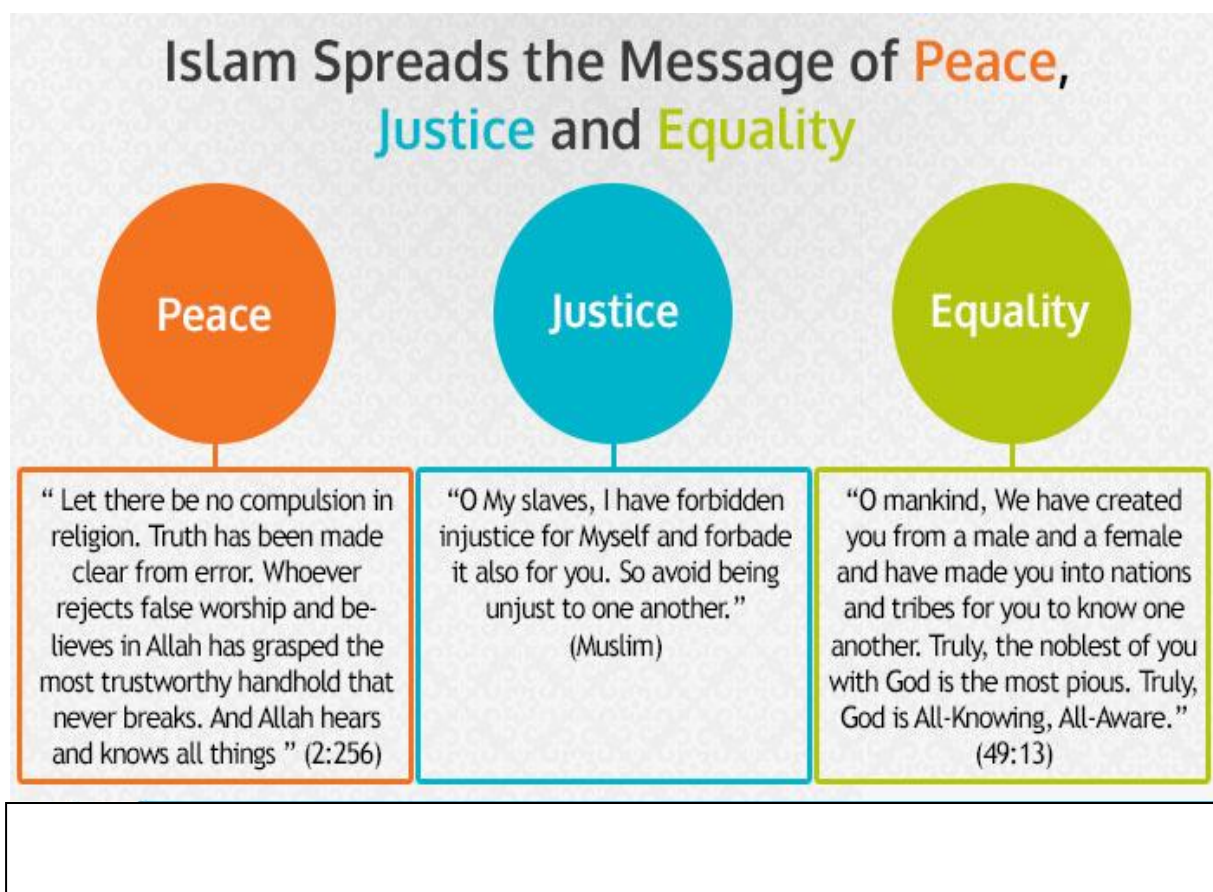
Basically without Hadith we won't have clear understanding on how to practice Islam properly, Islam is a way of life, which was taught to us by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) which we know as the 'Sunnah' we should try and follow all the Sunnah's to gain great rewards in the hereafter.

God Almighty has explained practicing Hadith/ Sunnah in the holy Qur'an.

“Whatever of good reaches you, is from Allah, but whatever evil befalls you, is from yourself. And We have sent you (Muhammad) as a Messenger to humanity, and Allah is sufficient as a witness. He who obeys the Messenger, has indeed obeyed Allah, but he who turns away, then We have not sent you as A watcher over them” Chapter 4- Verse 79-80.

### **Islam Spreads the Message of Peace, Justice and Equality**

Religions are broadly classified as two kinds: Divine religion and manmade religion. Islam is a divine religion. In Arabic it means peace and well-being. Islam is the religion that practice and propagates divine principles descended by Almighty Allah on his last prophet Muhammad (pbuh) for guidance, and betterment of his entire creations.



## **Metaphysics of Islam- its core beliefs**

Islam deals with all sorts of questions. Following are few basic questions which are related with the core beliefs of Islam.

- 🌟 What is the origin of this universe?
- 🌟 Who is the real creator?
- 🌟 What is the absolute reality?
- 🌟 What is the role of a prophet?
- 🌟 Why is there a death for every existent?
- 🌟 Is there a life hereafter?
- 🌟 What is good and what is bad?

The answers of these questions formulate the basic Metaphysics of Islam. In other words these are the fundamentals of Islam.

## **The detail discussion on the fundamentals of these beliefs**

The details of three questions such as the origin of universe, real creator and absolute reality are related with each other and hence dealt with together.

According to Islam the absolute and final authority of all activities is Almighty Allah. In the holy Qur'an there are several verses which describe the answer of these questions. The fundamental attributes of Almighty Allah are well defined in few of the following verses. 2: 163- God is One and only. 6: 102 - Creator of Every- thing. 5:17-Omnipotent.3:2- Live. 67:1-All Power.112:4- None is like Him.

Glory is to Him in the highest; whose glorification cannot be described in words. None can fully understand or explain His Being. Human faculties of conception, perception and learning and attributes of intuition cannot perceive Him or fathom the extent of His Might and Glory.

### **What is the role of Prophet?**

The answer to this question explaining the prophesy is the most important doctrine of Metaphysics of Islam. As explained earlier Islam is a revealed religion and as such it is a continuity of the divine guidance commenced from the first day of creation of human being in the form of creation of Adam. Prophets are the blessed persons selected and appointed by Allah to lead the mankind in all ages and for every nation.

Prophets are the bearers of revelations. They convey the message of Allah to mankind. The holy prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is chief of all prophets and seal of prophecy. Angel Gabriel revealed Holy Qur'an on Prophet Muhammad. Entire Metaphysics of Islam revolves around the holy prophet. Almighty Allah has described the importance of Prophet Muhammad in the following verse.

And I recall, O People of the Scripture, when Allah took the covenant of the prophets, [saying], "Whatever I give you of the Scripture and wisdom and then there comes to you a messenger confirming what is with you, you [must] believe in him and support him." [Allah] said, "Have you acknowledged and taken upon that My commitment?" They said, "We have acknowledged it." He said, "Then bear witness, and I am with you among the witnesses." 3:81.

### **Goal of creation**

According to Holy Qur'an this world is as an examination centre. It is a mortal place. The universe would come to an end one day. There would be resurrection and a day of judgement. People would be rewarded and punished on the day of judgement according to their deeds in the universe.

### **Death**

Death is an absolute, plain and explicit reality. One may differ from other on any spiritual issue but no one can differ from this reality. Qur'an has declared it a state of absolute certainty. For a true believer it is a call of happiness, reward and merry. It provides the opportunity to meet with Lord. A believer does hard work in this world to fulfil his duties and waits for death anxiously.

## **Life Hereafter**

According to Allah's scheme every existence of his universe has a goal and nothing is aimless. Allah made human distinctly different from all other creatures. Rationality necessitates to free thinking therefore every human being has a freedom of choice.

Almighty Allah has sent his prophets from time to time to lead mankind to its ultimate goal i.e. obedience of Almighty Allah and welfare of human beings. The major subject of Qur'an is human being. The main purpose of Qur'an is the guidance and betterment of mankind. Islam does not compel to anybody in adoption of faith.

'You shall have your religion and I shall have my religion"-109-6

Everybody has the right to choose his way. So everyone is accountable individually. This limited span of life and the injustice existing in this world necessitates that there must be a world in which every being would be rewarded or punished for such deeds. Therefore the Metaphysics of Islam has given importance to the life hereafter.

## **Summary**

I conclude the presentation with following words:

- The fundamental of Metaphysics of Islam are eternal
- Islam allows its followers to resolve issues on the basis of their fundamentals.
- The origin of this universe is divine.
- Absolute reality is above all human understanding
- Basic concept of Metaphysics of Islam is to obey Lord and revolutionize society by discovering nature and be kind to mankind.
- Metaphysics of Islam depends upon revelation and not on reason.
- Islam never permits to abstract rationalism but rather emphasizes to use sense perception in guidance of revelation
- In Islam deed is as necessary as an Idea. Therefore Islamic Metaphysics is more practical and not theoretical.

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