Chapter II

ESSENCE OF ISLAM RELIGION
A) Origin and Meaning of Islam

Islam is one of the major religions of the world, which was founded in Arabia and it is based on the teachings of Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon him). Islam has given social, economical, and spiritual way of life to humankind.

Prophet Mohammad dictated Quran, but according to Quran it did not originate with Mohammad. The Quran itself revealed by God through the angel Gabriel to the prophet Mohammad “This is a revelation from the lord of the universe. The Honest spirit (Gabriel) came down with it, to reveal it into your heart that you may be one of the warners, in a perfect Arabic tongue”. Quran Says “Anyone who opposes Gabriel should know that he has brought down this (The Quran) into your heart, in accordance with God’s will, confirming previous scriptures, and providing guidance and good news for the believers”.

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Prophet Mohammad received same message whatever Allah revealed to all prophets before prophet Mohammad. Quran “Says (O Mohammad) peace be upon him : We believe in Allah in what has been sent down to us, and what was sent down to Ibrahim (Abraham), Ismail (Ishmael) Ishaq (Isaac), Yaqub (Jacob) and Al Asbat (the offspring of the twelve sons of) Yaqub (Jacob) and what was given to Musa (Moses), Isa (Jesus) and the prophets from their lord. We make no distinction between one another among them and to him (Allah) we have submitted”.

Prophet Mohammad received message of God and taught people of Mecca. In the beginning Mohammad has faced many problems; people of Macca accused him as mad. They have been heard very crude and charged the prophet as he is desirous of wealth and power. Inspite of it Mohammad did not leave his work. People of Macca gradually accepted Mohammad and Islam religion. The people who have gradually accepted the revealed text and religion started spreading the message of Islam all over Arab country and other parts of the world.
Later on Islam has expanded to India, Spain, China, Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines. Muslim traders visited different parts of the world and in turn they have also spread Islam all over the world.

The term Islam is derived from the Arabic word Salam which means Peace. Islam as a term and concept has assumed several meanings, they are: Purity, Submission and Obedience.

b) The Essence of Quran

"Alif Laam Raa. A book which we have revealed to you (Mohammad) so that you may lead the people from out of the darknesses into the light by their Lord's leave to the path of the all mighty, the praiseworthy."  

The Quran is a message from Allah to mankind, which is revealed by Gabriel to the prophet Mohammed. Quran is originally in Arabic language, but it has been translated into various languages.

The Quran comprises 6226 verses (ayats) which are spread over in 114 chapters (Surahs). All the chapters
excepting 9th starts with the phrase 'In name of Allah the Beneficent and the Merciful', signifying that they are the words of God. However, not every verse is claimed to be the word of God. For instance, the opening chapter 'Al-Fatihah', verses 164 to 166 of chapter As-saffat etc, are considered to be the words of the revealing angel. While referring to himself, Allah uses the pronoun we. But these are many verses in which the pronouns 'I' or 'me' are also used.

The arrangement of verse in the Quran does not follow the chronological order, the present arrangement was prepared by the second or third Khalifa after some years of Prophet's death. The Prophet himself instituted and authorized this arrangement. In fact, during the Prophet's lifetime the Quran was committed to memory and was recited in the order, in which we find it. Each fresh revelation found its place in that order as indicated by the Prophet.

Quran has given Social, Economical, and moral codes to humankind, some of them are mentioned here.
Economical Teachings of Quran

Charity

"Ye shall never attain to goodness till ye give alms of that which ye Love." 7

“If ye lend God a generous Loan, he will double it to you and will forgive you, for god is all thankful, all clement.” 8

Giving charity is the one of duty of Islam, every Muslim, who have capacity of paying charity (Zakat) to poor, the needy, the orphans, and neighbours.

USURY (lending of Money at Interest)

“O ye who believe ! devour not usury, doubling it again and again ! But fear God, that ye may prosper.” 9

“Those who swallow usury cannot rise up save as he ariseth whom the devil hath prostrated by (his) touch. That is because they say : Trade is just like usury; where as Allah permitteth trading and forbiddeth
usury - Allah with blighted usury and made alms giving fruitful." 10

"O ye who believe ! observe your duty to Allah and give up what remaineth (due to you) from usury, if ye are in truth belivers - and if ye do not, then be warned of war (against you), from Allah and His messenger. And if ye repent, then ye have your principal (without interest) wrong not, and ye shall not be wronged." 11

Usury is prohibited in Islam, and Quran says that lending a Money without interest, this doctrine of Quran try to make equality between poor and wealthy peoples.

Social Teachings of Quran

Justice

"Verily, God enjoineth justice and the doing of good gifts to kindred; and he forbideth wickedness and oppression. He warneth you that happily ye may mindful."12

"O Believers ! stand up as witnesses for God by righteousness; and let not ill-will at induce any you not to act uprightly. Act uprightly. Next will this be to
the fear of God, and fear ye God: verily, God is apprised of what ye do." 13

"O you who believe, Be you staunch in justice, witnesses for Allah, even though it be against your ownselves or (your) parents or near relatives whether he be rich or poor, Allah has a better right over them both. So follow not (your) Low desires, lest you deviate. And if you distort or turn away from (truth), surely Allah is ever aware of what you do." 14

**Al Hadith**

Verily the just shall be near God on put pits of light, on the right hand of the merciful God: those who are just in the exercise of their authority, and to their people, and to those over whom they are made guardians (Muslim & Nasai)

**Unlawful Food and Alcoholic Drinks**

"Forbidden to you is that only which death of itself, and blood, and swines' flesh and that which hath been stain in the name of any other than God: but if
any be forced and neither lust for it nor willfully transgress, then verily God is forgiving Gracious”. 15

“O ye who believe! surely wine and games of chance, and idols, and the divining arrows, are an abomination of Satan’s work. Avoid them that ye may prosper Satan seeketh only to cast among you hatred and strife by means of wine and games of chance and turn you aside from the remembrance of God, and from prayer, will ye not, therefore, abstain from them.” 16

Al - Hadith

“Drink no intoxicants for, verily, it is at the head of all filthey actions; and beware of sinning; for verity with sin alights the displeasure of God” (Ahmad : Musanad)

“All intoxicants are forbidden” (Bukhri & Muslim)

The mother of all evils is wine. It is more harmful than the most harmful of sins (Tabrani)
The taking in of wine cannot cure a disease for it is by itself a disease (Muslim)

**Moral Teachings of Quran**

**Truth and Good Manners**

"Truly God guideth not him who is a transgressor, a liar." 17

"And distort not thy face at men; nor walk thou loftily on Earth for God loveth no arrogant vainglorious one." 18

**Al-Hadith**

Asked what is Islam, that prophet replied:

sincerity in speech and courtesy (Ahmed : Musnad)

The best of believers in God are those who display in their daily life, the best Manners (AbuDawud and Darimi).

**Kindness to Animals**

"There is not an animal in the Earth, or a flying creature, flying on two wings, but they peoples like unto you. We have neglected nothing in the book (of
our decrees) then unto their Lord will they be gathered." 19

**AL- Hadith**

God is specially kind to those who are kindly in disposition and feel for others. O ye who dwell on Earth; be kind to the creatures of God subsisting on Earth; God will be then kind you (Abu Dawud, Tirmizi)

**Forgiveness**

"Who master their anger and forgive others! God loveth the doers of Good" 20

"And who, so beareth wrongs with patience and forgiveth- this verily is high-minded ness" 21

**AL- Hadith**

"Verily it is better that the leader should Err on the side of forgiveness than an the side of retaliation"

(Tirmizi)
Some other teachings of Quran

Sense of God

"Say: My prayers and my sacrifice and my life and my death are all for God, Lord of the worlds."

Knowledge

"Recite thou! For thy Lord is the Most Beneficent, who hath taught the use of pen: Hath taught man that which he knew not."

"Say: My Lord! Increase me in knowledge."

"Shall they who have knowledge and they who have it not, be treated alike?"

Fulfilling obligation

"O you who believe, fulfill obligation."

Thankfulness

"O ye who believe! Eat of the good things with which we have supplied you, and give God thanks if Him it is that ye serve."

Of old we bestowed wisdom upon Luqman and thought him thus Be thankful to God,
for whoever is thankful, is thankful for the good of his own soul; and if any shall be ungrateful - God truly is self-sufficient, worthy of all praise." 28

Devotion to Parents

"Thy Lord hath ordeined that ye worship none but Him; and to show kindness to your parents, whether one or both of them attains to old age with thee; and say not to them; Fie! neither reproach them; but speak to them both with respectful speech; and defer humbly to them out of tenderness; and say "Lord have compassion on them both, even as they reared me when I was little" 29

Gentility

"Our Lord; thou embracest all things in mercy and knowledge" 30

Self Denial

" who though Longing for it themselves, bestow their food on the poor and the orphan and the captive (and
say) We feed you for the sake of God: We seek from you neither recompense nor thanks" 31

Patience

"O ye who believe! seek help with patience and with prayer, for God is with the patient" 32

Repentance

"But whoever shall turn to God after his wickedness and amend, God truly will be turned to him, for God is aft-Forgiving, Merciful" 33 "Those who shall repent and believe and do good deeds for them God will change their evil deeds into good deeds for God is Gracious Merciful." 34 "O my servants, who have transgressed to your own hurt, despair not of God's Mercy, for all sins doth God forgive. Gracious, Merciful is He." 35

Tongue

"O you who believe! let not any people laugh at another people, perchance they may be better than they, nor let any women (laugh) at (other) women,
perchance they may be better than they, and do not find fault with your people, nor call one another by nicknames. Evil is a bad name after faith, and whoever does not turn, these it is that are the unjust."  

Truly God guideth not him who is a transgressor, a liar."  

"Woe every, backbiter, defamer "  

Neither let the one of you traduce another in his absence. Would any one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother. Surely ye would loathe it." 

**Anger**

"Those who restrain their anger and pardon men. And Allah Loves the doers of good (to others) " 

**Pride**

" And walk not proudly on the earth, for thou canst not cleave the Earth, neither shall thou reach to the mountains in height. All this is evil, Odious to thy Lord."
Jealousy

"O Believers! Avoid frequent suspicions, for some suspicions are a crime; and pry not, neither let the one of you traduce another in his absence. Would any one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? Surely ye would loathe it. And fear ye God; for God is ready to turn, Merciful" 42

Hypocrisy

"And plead not with us for those who are self-deceivers for God loveth not him who is deceitful, criminal." 43 "Announce to the hypocrites that they shall have a painful chastisement." 44

Miserliness And Greed

"And let not those who are niggardly of what God hath vouchsafed them in his bounty think that this will be good for them, - Nay, it will be bad for them-that of which they have been niggardly shall be their collar on the day of Resurrection" 45
Virtue

"And serve God; ascribe nothing as partners unto Him; (Show) kindness unto, parents, and unto near kindred, and orphans, and the needy, and unto the neighbour who is of kin (unto you) and the neighbour who is not of Kin, and the fellow - traveller and the wayfarer, and (the slaves) whom your right hands possess: lo! God loveth, not such as are, proud and boastful, who heard their wealth and enjoin avarice on others, and hide that which God hath bestowed upon them of His bounty; for disbelievers, We prepare a shameful doom. And (also) for those who spend their wealth in order to be seen of men, and believe not in God nor the Last Day, who so taketh Satan for a comrade, a bad comrade hath he" 46

These quotations of Quran, and its Explanations of Hadith shows Quran deals with all aspects of Human life.

C: Prophet Mohammad's life and Mission

Prophet Mohammad was born on Monday the 12th of Rabbiul Awwal (20 Aug 570 AD) at Macca. His father was
Abdullah, he was a member of the Hashim clan of the Qurush tribe, and mother Amina was a distinguished woman in every respect.

According to Aurb's Common practice, Mohammad was handed over to wet nurse of the desert Halima. Prophet Mohammad grew up under the care and love of Halima, then she returned Mohammad to Amina. His mother Amina and grandfather took good care of him and showed affection to Prophet Mohammad.

Prophet lost his father before his birth and he lost his mother at the age of six. His grandfather, Abdul Muttalib, took care of Mohammad. Once again, Mohammad felt shock, he lost his grandfather, Abu - Talib, uncle of Prophet Mohammad, taken care of Prophet Mohammad. Abu Talib taught Mohammad qualities of truth, trust, and nobility. Mohammad's personality impressed everyone in childhood.

Abu Talib took trade caravan to Syria, he took Mohammad along with him, this journey given Prophet Mohammad an opportunity to visit various Aurbean states, he observed their culture, life and beliefs. In Macca and Taif
(Madina) believed in local deities of al-lat (The sun), AL-Uzza (venus), Manat (Fortune) and others. These were considered as daughters of Allah. The Maccan and others also believed in angel and genii (Jinn).\(^{49}\)

Prophet Mohammad got experience of trade caravans from his journey with his uncle Abu Talib, later he employed as a trade agent by Khadija, she is wealthy widow of Macca. Khadija impressed on Mohammad's characters and behaviours, and she offered Mohammad to marry, Mohammad accept and Married Khadija. Mohammad's marriage life with Khadija was happy and beautiful, Khadija bore Mohammad Several children; but sons died in childhood, and daughters grew womanhood and in due course married. Fatima daughter of Mohammad, she was married to Prophet's cousin Ali, Hasan and Husain are two sons of Ali and Fatima. Khadija become a pillar of strength to Prophet, she encouraged prophet and given support to prophet's faith and she become a the first convert.
Prophet hood And Mission

Prophet Mohammad used to retire into a cave by the name Hira, near Macca, for meditation in solitude. Prophet spends long days and nights in this cave. Mohammad received revelation in Hira, when he was about forty years old, Gabriel the heavenly messenger first ordered Mohammad to speak— the phrasing is reminiscent of Mohammad refused; and the second command he asked what he should recite, and at the third he spoke the verse which appear in Quran:

"Recite (iqra) ! in the name of thy Lord who created,  
who created man from congealed blood.  
Recite for thy Lord is the most noble,  
who taught by the pen  
Taught man what he did not know"  

The revelation began and did not cease until Prophet’s death. Khadija sustained him from the first with faith and encouragement for three years he made known the tidings revealed to him to his intimate circle alone. Then Prophet Mohammad declared to proclaim his Prophet hood and
warned that God has chosen him as the media for His message to humankind. This message is to be conveyed to humankind in the name of God, God is the creator of the world. Prophet described the message, "Revelation comes to me in different ways. Sometime the words strike directly at my heart, like the ringing of a bell, and this is physically heard on me sometime, I hear the words as if spoken from behind a veil. Sometimes I see presence that speaks the words to me." 

Prophet attempts to convey God's message to people of Macca, but people of Macca in beginning laugh on him Prophet's wife Khadija; and his cousin Ali, and Prophet's freedman Zaid and his friend Abu Bakr, these four peoples believed in Prophet.

Prophet starts his preaching of message privately to his friends for three years before he has begun to preach openly. In beginning Prophet had some success, but gradually opposition developed, Prophet's monotheism was likely to destroy the holiness of Kaba at Macca, attack at Macca, attacks upon Maccan God at length drew down prosecution
upon his followers,55 Prophet advised some of his followers to take refuge in the Christian country of Abssinia.

Abu-Talib dead in year 619, and was succeeded by another uncle Abu-Lahab. Abu-Lahab, as the honour of an Arub chief demanded, under to continue the protection of Mohammad, although he was now in close business relations with some of the great merchants, and had sided with them against his own clan in the boycott.56 Abu Lahab's business friends advised him to disown Mohammad. Conflict between Prophet's follower and opponents developed and his own uncle Abu Lahab opposed his faith and Prophet's opponents making plot for his murder, Prophet's wife Khadija died in year 619 AD, finally Prophet decided to emigrate to Madina, he hope received honourly.

With the arrival of The Prophet in Madina (In 622 AD) Islam began to spread rapidly among the two Arab's tribes of the town.57 Abdullah bin Ubayy king of Madina. The Maccan Muslims had found a place in Madina and openly perform their worship with their brothers of Madina, without any fear. The Maccans knew that Prophet's arrival and Prophet
making progress of Islam in Madina, Maccans warned Abdulla bin Ubayy, to expel Prophet from Madina, otherwise they announce war against Madina, this news reached to the Prophet and he meet Abdullah and assured Abdullah, he is with him.

Saad bin Muaz, Chief of the Aus, brave Muslim, visited to Macca to perform a worship in Kaba, but the Maccans did not allowed him to perform worship in Kaba, because of people of Madina sheltered to Mohammad, and the trade caravans of Maccans playing between Macca - syria would passes through cost of Madina, their were faced enmity of Madinians. This condition was rise a conflict between the Maccans and Muslims in Madina, now Prophet organised religious groups who believe in values of Islam and to ready to make any type of sacrifice for protection of Islam and Muslims.

Prophet got a news of Maccans are preparing a strong force against Madina, the Prophet was taking stock of his own position. Permissim to take up arms in defense had been accorded, in Divine revelation.58 The Prophet organised
three hundred of Muslims and marched with them. Prophet Mohammad fought many wars some of them Muslims got victory, and some of them does not given certain results.

Maccan influence had been waning, and some leading Maccans had already joined Mohammad in Madina. A great expedition was now got together to overwhelm town. Negotiations meanwhile took place, and Macca was entered almost without fighting. The Kaba was cleansed from idols, most of the townspeople accepted Islam and were kindly dealt with. Prophet spent last year in Macca, He organised the provinces of tribal communities which had adopted Islam, and delegations were sent to the various tribes for the purpose of teaching Islam. On returning to Madina after performing Hajj in Macca Prophet fell ill and died after few days on 8th June 632 AD.

Prophet spent his whole life for struggle against Maccans, apart from he taught whatever he received message from God, whatever God directed him, he practiced himself and urged peoples to follow his faith, from the good qualities of Prophet and the Nobel teachings of Quran, Islam developed various parts of world.
Reference

1. The Quran (26:192-195)

2. The Quran (2:97)

3. The Quran (3-84)

4. The Quran (14:1)

5. See, Islam: India's transition to Modernity, P-4

6. See, Mohammad Zafrullakhan (Ed), Islam its Meaning for modern man

7. The Quran (3:91)

8. The Quran (64:16)

9. The Quran (3:136)

10. The Quran (2: 275, 276)

11. The Quran (2:278, 279)

12. The Quran (6:92)

13. The Quran (5: 11)

14. The Quran (4:135)
15. *The Quran* (16:16)

16. *The Quran* (5: 92,93)

17. *The Quran* (40:29)

18. *The Quran* (25:63)

19. *The Quran* (6:38)

20. *The Quran* (3: 133)


23. *The Quran* (96:3-5)

24. *The Quran* (20:114)

25. *The Quran* (39:9)

26. *The Quran* (5:1)

27. *The Quran* (2:166)

28. *The Quran* (31:11)


30. *The Quran* (40:7)
31. The Quran (76:8-9)
32. The Quran (2:148)
33. The Quran (5:43)
34. The Quran (25:70)
35. The Quran (39:54)
36. The Quran (49:11)
37. The Quran (40:29)
38. The Quran (104:1)
39. The Quran (49:12)
40. The Quran (3:133)
41. The Quran (17:39:40)
42. The Quran (49:12)
43. The Quran (4:107)
44. The Quran (4:138)
45. The Quran (3:175-76)
46. The Quran (4:36-38)


51. *Isaiah* (40,6)

52. *The Quran* (96)


54. *The Quran* (42:52-53)

55. Introduction to the Quran Richard Bell Edinburgh University Press 1958 (Net Collection)

56. W. Montgomery what, *What is Islam ?*

58. *The Quran* (22:40-42)
