Chapter III

ESSENCE OF ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY
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A. Unity of God (Al - Tauhid)

Man is finding solace in religion, but Religions have created funny type of God or Godesses. If God is there he must be everywhere, he must be one and only one otherwise certainly conflict among Gods will take place. God might not be present in human form or in any form, why should he appear in any form? Is he capable of spreading his message since he is almighty, all-Knower, all powerful and all-Pervading?

Islam is such a religion which answers all these questions and provides a concept of God which can be universally allotted. Islam says: Al-Tauhid which means Unity of God.

"Worship God (ALone) and join nopartners with him" 1
"The (alone) we worship and the (alone) we ask for help"2
"Oh men! I am sent unto you all, as the Apostle of God, to whom belong to the dominion of the heavens and the earth;
there is no Being Worthy of Worship but he; it is he that
giveth both life and death. So believe in God and His Apostle,
to the unlettered prophet, who believeth in God and His
words; follow him (so) that ye may be guided"\(^3\) Not an apostle
did we send before thee without this revelation from us to
him that there is no Being worthy of worship Except Me,
therefore, worship and serve Me"\(^4\) We took the children of
Israel (with safety) across the sea. They came upon a people
devoted entirely to some idols they Said "Oh Moses! fashion
for us an object of worship like unto the objects they have"
He said : "Surely ye are people without knowledge"\(^5\) "Now
look at the object of worship of whom thou hast become a
devoted worshipper: We will certainly (Melt) it in a blasting
tire and scatter it broadest in the sea. But the object of
worship of you all is the one God: there is no other object of
worship but He: all things he comprehends in His
knowledge"\(^6\) "Or, have they a Being worthy of worship other
than God? Exalted I God for above the things they associate
with Him"\(^7\) When the prophet of Islam fold the Quraysh "If
you agree with me as regards one article or faith, you will
rule over all Arabs and non Arabs." Abu Jehal's wonder was
stimulated and he said "Let us know that article, we will believe not only in that but many more of that sort" The Apostle of unity said: "No, one is enough! And that is ; La Ilaha Ilallah ' there is no Being Worthy of worship save God; On hearing this Abu Jahl and all others who were with him become angry and said: this is a sorcerer telling lies! Has he made all the objects of worship into one God? Lo! that is an astounding things !" The God created Universe to purpose of his worship, or service, 'Ibadat' which may be rendered in to English by words 'worship' or service By 'Ibadat' is meant 'tohid' or unity as it is pointed out by Hadrat Ib-i Abbas. 'Tauhid' also means that God is only one, no other God, God did not have other Co-Eternal entity, He is complete supremacy, He is unrivalled, He is un opposed, He is unequalled, and He is not to be questioned. The word Allah, is the name of 'God'. 'Lailaha illallah' means 'There in no ilah other than the one Great Being known by the name Allah'. It means that in the whole universe, there is no being worthy to be worshipped other than Allah.

Tauhid is the highest concept of message of which God has sent humankind in all ages through Prophets. This
message with which in the beginning, Adam was sent down to Earth; it was the same message that was given to Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus (bpthem). It was this message which Mohammad brought to human kind. It is message, pure and absolute, without the least shade of ignorance. Man become guilty of *shirk*, idol-worship and *Kufr* only because he turned away from the teachings of the Prophets and depended his own faulty reasoning, false perceptions or biased interpretations. *Taulid* dispels all the clouds of ignorance and illuminates the horizon with the light of reality.  

The concept of Tauhid is not an abstract idea, it is related with practical life of man. The man should believe in God; he is responsible to his good and bad deeds, and reward and punishment, on the bases of his good and bad deeds he will get rewards and punishment after life. Man should believe in Porphet and his message, and path of Prophet and day of Judgement. This concept answer the ridicules of the Universe, and it shows law of nature providing unity in diversity. It presents a unifield view of world and offers the vision of an integrated Universe. It is a might contrast to the
piece meal views of the scientists and the philosophers and unveils the truth before the human eye. After centuries of grouping in the dark, man is now coming to realise the truth of this concept and modern scientific thought is moving in this direction.  

B) Prayer (Salat)

Prayer is the second duty of Islam, it is most important duty of every Muslim referred in Quran "Glorify God when it is evening and to him be praise in the heavens and earth and at afternoon and at noontide" Prophet Mohammad used to call prayer "The pillar of Religion" and "The key of paradise"... "and that which caused man to be a true believer"

"Praise be to God, Lord of the Universe! The compassionate, the Merciful, king of the Day of Judgement, You alone we worship, and to you alone we turn for help. Guide us to the straight path. The path of those whom You have favoured. Not of those who have incurred your wrath, Nor of those who have gone astray"
"To every people have We appointed ways of worship which they observe. Therefore let them not dispute this matter with thee, but bid them to thy Lord for thou art on the right way: but if they debate with thee, then say: God best knoweth what ye do! He will judge between you on the Day of Resurrection, to the matters herein ye differ" 15

"There is no piety in turning your faces towards the East or the West, but he is pious who believeth in God, and the Last Day, and the angel, and the scriptures, and the prophets; who for the love of God disburseth his wealth to his kindred and to the orphans, and the needy, and the wayfarer, and those who ask, and for ransoming; who observeth prayer, and payeth the legal alms, and who is of those who are faithful to their engagement when they have engaged in them; and patient under ills and hard ships, in time or trouble; those are they who are just, and those are they who fear the Lord" 16

The Islamic prayer can be divided into two categories. Obligatory prayer and individual prayer. The five time obligatory prayer becomes duty of every muslims life. The
first prayer is offered before sunrise, the second in the very early afternoon, the third in late afternoon, the fourth immediately after sunset, and the fifth before retiring and midnight. During the prayers, Muslims face the Kaba, the great Mosque of Macca. The prayer consists of standing posture and sitting postures. In each posture prescribed prayers and portion of Quran are recited. The prayer, which is performed at the end of night is called Taajjud. It is not an obligatory, but it is a very highly emphasised optional prayer.

There is one leader (Imam) who leads the obligatory in all such prayers. That leader is not an ordained priest, any one whom the people consider worthy of this task is chosen as the 'Imam'. Muslims may not waive the obligation to pray five times daily even if they are sick or on a journey, the sick are to pray in bed and, if necessary lying down, travelers are enjoined to pray at dawn, to combine noon with mid-afternoon prayer, and evening prayer with prayers that follow nightfall, thus praying three daily.

Some special early afternoon prayers are offered on Friday in Mosques, and two annual religious festival
Ramadhan, and Id-UL-Juha (Bakar Id) apart from there are so many prayers, performing Muslims, on particular occasions.

In the Mosque no one permitted to reserve any special place behind the Imam. In this regard the rich and poor are treated with absolutely equal, so old and young, who reaches the mosque he has right to sit wherever he gets place. No one has the right to remove others from the place they occupy. Thus the Islamic system of prayer is rich not only in spiritual, but also communal and organisational instruction.

Prayer and attributes of God helps man in refining his spirit, bring him harmony with nature of God. Man created by the creator's image, and he must needs near to him - who gain goodness improve their relations to all humankind even other way of life.

C) Charity (Zakat)

"Ye shall never attain to goodness till ye give alms of that which ye love."17
"If ye lend God a generous loan, He will double it to you and will forgive you, for God is All-thankful, all clement."\textsuperscript{18}

Zakat is the third fundamental duty of Muslims. Zakat was originally levied by prophet Mohammad on the wealthy members of community, to help poor people of society. It was also used for the relief of people in chronic debt, and development of health and Education: and for facilitating travel and communications. Paying of Zakat purifies property of Muslims. Zakat not only purifies the property of the payer but it also purifies his heart from selfishness and greed. It is also purifies the heart of recipient from envy and jealousy, from hatred and uneasiness and it fosters instead good will and warm wishes for the payers.

Zakat is occurred on Gold, Bank balances, property and also on commercial animals, but the animals used for the home purpose are exempted. The limitation is also fixed for the, Gold, Silver, cash and commercial animals, who have these particular position they must pay 2.5\% of that total amount of asset.
Islam does not oppose capitalism and individual wealth, but every human being enjoys equality for this purpose, who have possession to give something to someone who was needy. Islamic concept of Zakat is to strive to make equality between poor and rich and also individual and society, and also developing social and economic justice in the world.

D. Fasting (Siyam)

"O you who believe! Fasting is ordained for you as it was ordained for those before you, so that you may learn self-restraint." 19

Fasting is the fourth fundamental duty of Islam, which teaches man the sense of patience, moderation, love of God, wise saving, willpower, unselfishness, Economy, healthy life, discipline, Unity and brotherhood. Fasting is also considered to be a training in controlling one's needs and desires, in restraining oneself from self-indulgence, and in depending on one's spiritual life. "So that you may remain conscious of God." 20
There are various kinds of Fasts

"The month of Ramdhan, in which was revealed the Quran, a guide to mankind, with Explanations for direction and discernment. Whoever of you is in a position to do so let him fast the month, and whoever is ill of an a Journey the number of other days. Allah desires ease for you. He does not desire hardship for you; and that you should complete the time appointed and that you should glorify Allah for giving you this guidance that you may be thankful... And it My worshippers ask thee concerning Me, then surely I am very near. I hear the cry of the suppliant when he calls upon Me. So let them hear my call and believe in Me, that they may walk aright; 21 9

Ramdhan Fast (Obligatory) In the month of Ramdhan fasting is obligatory for every adult Muslim, Ramdhan is the ninth month of Islamic calendar. In this month Quran is believed to have sent down by Allah. Fastes begins with new moon is witness to starting of Ramdhan.

Recommended Fastes (Voluntary) These fasts are voluntary, which may perform any day in a year. It is
recommended to Muslims may fast three days in a month or twice weekly, preferably on Monday and Thursday.

**Supergatary Fasting** : Muslim are perform fasts six days in *shawwal*, (Islamic Month) the month following Ramadhans, after celebrating *Ed-ul-Fitr*. Fasting in *Moharram*, Muslims perform a fast the tenth day of the month of *Moharram*. Fasting in *Zul Hijjah*, Muslims perform a fast the ninth day of *Zul Hijjah* (The Islamic twelfth Month) if not in pilgrimage. This day precedes the fast of sacrifice.

**Fasting for Atonement** : During the Hajj (Pilgrimage) season, Muslims may perform first minor pilgrimage (*Umrah*) before performing Hajj in order to enjoy the relief during the interval period from the prohibited acts during pilgrimage Muslims must sacrifice an animal on the first day of fast sacrifice. If the pilgrims did not perform this, they must fast three days while still in the near of Macca and another seven day on returning home.

**Period of Fasting** : The period of fasting starts at the breaking of dawn and with setting of Sun. In between that is during daylight hours, the fast starts with to have a pre-
fastmeal (Suhoor) before dawn and fast complete with a post fastmeal (Iftar) after Sunset.

Fasting is abstaining completely from, eating, drinking, sexual intercourse, smoking, vomiting and injections. Fasting is exempted to Illness, women during menstruation, Woman in the final stage of pregnancy and nursing Mothers, Travelers and old people whom fasting is difficult.

E) The Pilgrimage (The Hajj)

The pilgrimage is the fifth duty of every Muslim (Who have a capacity) to perform a pilgrimage (Hajj) to the holy Mosque Kaba in Macca. Where Muslims from all over the world are spend about ten days to dedicate in the memory of God. The pilgrims (Hajji) from all countries, all nations, all ages and all races. Men, women and children, they all gather once in a year for performing Hajj.

The Hajj started at the time Abraham But Quran describing it as, starts with first House (Mosque) of God built in Macca.
The Hajj is an obligation to be fulfilled at least once in a lifetime by every adult who is mentally and physically good, financial capacity of fulfil his family's needs during his absence, and able to pay his all expenses during the Hajj.

The Pilgrimage (Hajj) held during the first ten days of the last month of the Islamic calendar, the pilgrims enter into a state of purity in which they wear only a white garment, refrain from wearing a shirt, drawers, shoes, turban and cutting either hair or nails, and shedding blood. The main rite are seven circuit of Kaba walking fast between two mounds near the sanctuary seven times, marching three miles to Mina, then preceding six miles to Arafat, staying the afternoon and hearing to a sermon there, then return to Macca, offering in a memory of Abraham and his Son Ismail, who are the first pilgrims to the Kaba, and once again circuit the Kaba. Muslims go to Macca in glory of Allah, not a worship to man. The visit to the Prophet Mohammad's tomb in Madina is highly recommended but not essential in making the Hajj valid and complete.
References:

1) *The Quran* (4:36)

2) *The Quran* (1:5)

3) *The Quran* (7:158)

4) *The Quran* (11:25)

5) *The Quran* (7:138)

6) *The Quran* 20:97-98)

7) *The Quran* (52:43)

8) *The Quran* (38:4,5)

9) Dr Mirvaliuddin, *Islamic Monotheism*, (Mohammad Ahamad for Idarah Adabiyat, Delhi, 1978) P. 1

10) Abdul A'la Mawadudi, *Towards Understanding Islam*, P. 71


13) *Ghazali* (1:93-94)

14) *The Quran* (1.10)
15) *The Quran* (22:66-9)

16) *The Quran* (2:172)

17) *The Quran* (3:91)

18) *The Quran* (64:16)

19) *The Quran* (2:183)

20) *The Quran* (2:183)

21) *The Quran* (2:185, 186)