

3.0 DIVINE ORIGIN of DEEN ISLAM

Other religions are named after their Prophets or founders such as Christianity is named after Christ (Jesus or Isa), Buddhism after Buddha, Judaism after Judas. Allah has especially chosen for the followers of Muhammad (saws) Islam as their Deen (Religion), which means religion of peace and submission to the command of Allah.

- Allah (SWT) Himself selected “Islam” as the Deen or religion of the followers of Prophet Muhammad (SAWS): “This day I have perfected your religion (Deen) for you and completed my favour to you. I have chosen Islam to be your faith” (5:3).
- In another verse, the Qur’an categorically states that “Islam is the only true faith in the sight of Allah”. (3:19)
- The Qur’an reiterates that whoever “chooses a religion other than Islam, it will not be accepted from him/her, and in the world to come he will be one of the lost.” (3:85)
- **In fact Islam was the religion of all the Prophets and the Qur’an testifies to it.(for further details see MEDNET Monograph No.9)**
 - a) When the people of Nuh refused to listen to his advice he told them “my reward is only due from Allah, and I have been commanded to be of those who are Muslims submit to Allah’s will” (10:72).
 - b) Again we observe that Prophet Ibrahim and his son Ismail, while constructing Kabah prayed to Allah: “O our Lord! Make of us both Muslim, bowing to your (will) and make our descendants bowing to your (will);” (2:128).
 - c) In response to this supplication of Prophet Ibrahim, Allah called the followers of Muhammad “Muslims.” This is reiterated, “He has chosen you and laid on you no burdens in the observance of your faith, the faith of Ibrahim your father. He has given you the name of Muslims before and in this.” (22:78).
 - d) Yaqoob (Jacob), a grandson of Abraham, advised his children as his death approached “O my children Allah has chosen for you the true faith, die not except in the State of submission to Allah, “Antum Muslimun” (2:132). In

response to this advice Yaqoob's sons promised that "We shall worship the same one God who is your Rabb (God) and the Rabb of your forefathers Ibrahim, Ismail, Ishaq (Isaac), and to Him we will submit as Muslims" (2: 133)

e) Prophet Ibrahim was an epitome of submission to Allah. When Allah asked him to submit, he promptly "submitted to the Lord of the worlds" (2:131).

- And it is to this faith of total submission to Allah that Prophet Muhammad was repeatedly asked to follow: "Follow the faith of Ibrahim (Abraham), true in faith, he was no polytheist" (16:123); and "My Allah has guided me to straight path, to an upright religion, to the faith of Ibrahim who certainly joined not gods with Allah." (6:161)
- Prophet Sulaiman (Solomon), in his letter to Queen of Sheba (Bilqis) (Saba) said "Be you not arrogant against me, but come to me in submission (to the true religion)". (27:31)

Islam is also a Religion of Peace and Compassion

- Islam also means a religion of peace and compassion.
- Islam was born in Makkah when the first five verses were revealed to Prophet Muhammad in cave Hira on Jabal Noor 13 years prior to his Hijrat (migration) to Madina
- It was in Madina when the first Islamic state was founded by the Prophet (SAWS) that peaceful, compassionate, just, honest and truthful character of Islam was demonstrated prominently.
- It is in Madina that all the Qura'nic verses which define Islamic values governing the conduct of life of Muslims in their family and community affairs, in their conduct of war and peace, their behaviour and attitude towards non-Muslims were categorically and unambiguously outlined.
- It was in Madina that the Prophet issued a Charter of Madina also called by some scholars the Constitution of Madina in which the Jews were given equal rights with Muslims as citizens of the State of Madina. It was in Madina that the Islamic

principles of Statecraft as enshrined in the Qur'an, were rigorously applied by the Prophet (saws) and later by Khulafa Rashidin, the four rightly guided Caliphs).

- Islam emerged as the most progressive of all the then existing religions and can even, in the contemporary period of the 21st century, claim to be among the most progressive religions of the world. This is substantiated by the fact that: Islam introduced one of the most radical reforms in executing religious rituals, which till today remains unmatched. It did away with priestocracy and discarded the practice of rituals being performed by clergies, which is still prevalent in most other religions. The obligatory and canonical services in Islam can be performed without a priest such as the duties of Imam or Leader in Salaat (prayer). Any male adult individual, who is conversant with the rules for performing Salaat, five time daily prayers, Friday congregational prayers, congregational prayers in the two Eids (Eidain), funeral prayers. Similarly any person can act as guide for the Hajj pilgrimage if he his thoroughly familiar with the essentials to perform the rituals. Even the Nikah ceremony in a Muslim wedding can be performed by one who is thoroughly acquainted with the rules.

No other religion grants this liberty to ordinary individuals. They must have priests to perform these religious rituals unless a marriage is solemnized in a court (civil marriage).