

CONCEPT OF WORSHIP IN ISLAM IBADAT

1. Worship is an all-inclusive term for all that God loves of external and internal sayings and actions of a person. In other words, worship is everything one says or does for the pleasure of Allah.
2. This, of course, includes rituals as well as beliefs, social activities, and personal contributions to the welfare of one's fellow human beings.
3. Islam looks at the individual as a whole. He is required to submit himself completely to Allah as

Q (6:162) says; *“Say! Truly, my prayer and my service of sacrifice, my life and my death are all for Allah, the Cherisher of the worlds.”*

4. It should also be noted that the sole purpose for the creation of mankind and jinn is to worship Allah as He says in **Q (51:56);**

“I did not create Jinn and mankind except to worship me”

5. There are two kinds of worship in Islam; horizontal worship and vertical worship. Horizontal worship refers to all acts of worship that keep man in good harmony with his fellow man e.g generosity, kindness, trustworthy, truthfulness and others.
6. Vertical worship refers to acts that man does and bring him nearer to his God. Such acts include prayer, fasting, pilgrimage and others. If one omits such acts, it is between him and Allah.
7. The Concept of worship in Islam is comprehensive. It includes all positive activities of the individual which are done in conformity to Allah's guidance.
8. In Islam, worship implies many things such as trying to understand Allah, keeping Him in remembrance, praising Him and obeying His laws.

Q (1:2) says; *“All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds”*

9. True worship requires faith and practical help of those in need, accompanied by sincerity rather than show in devotion and charity.
10. A man who loves Allah and shows true longing for Him should express his love and longing by outward acts but with sincerity of the heart.
11. Islam requires that not only the tongue and the body should involve in worship but also the heart.

Q (107:4-7) says; *“Woe! To those who pray but are unmindful of their prayers, who make a show of piety and give no alms to the destitute.”*

12. According to **Q (2:264)**, a person who gives charity to be seen of man and without sincerity of the heart is like a smooth rock covered with earth on which heavy rain falls leaving it bear and hard. Instead of being rewarded, he only disappoints Allah for lack of sincerity.

13. Referring to sincerity in worship, Allah says in **Q (2:177)**;

“Righteousness does not consist in whether you face towards East or West but true righteousness is to believe in Allah, and the last day, and the angels, and the books and the messengers, who for the love of Allah gives his wealth to his kinsfolk, to the orphans, the needy, to the wayfarers and to the beggars and for the redemption of captives, who attends to his prayer and pays the alms, who is true to his promises and steadfast in trial and adversity and times of war. Such are the true believers; such are the God-fearing.”

14. From the above verse, the following are some of the acts of worship;

a) Belief in Allah

- This is the foundation of the religion of Islam and is central to the teachings of the holy Qur’an.
- Belief in day of judgement
- Belief in angels
- Belief in books
- Belief in messengers
- Love for Allah
- Spending on kinsfolk
- Helping the needy, wayfarers, orphans, beggars, war captives
- Prayer; this is the immediate act of worship and according to the Prophet PBUH it is the key to paradise.

Q (24:56) states; *“So establish regular prayer and give regular charity and obey the messenger that you may receive mercy.”*

- Alms-giving; this is the third pillar of Islam which every Muslim with defined qualifications must observe.

Q (2:43) says; *“And be steadfast in prayer; practise regular charity; and bow down your heads with those who bow down.”*

- Keeping promises; when a Muslim keeps his promises whether with a fellow Muslim or non-believer, it is rewardable and therefore, a form of worship.

Q (61:2) says; *“O you who believe! Why do you say what you never do?”*

- Endurance: This is the ability of one’s persistence during hardship and have faith in Allah.
- Patience: This is the ability of a believer to continue pursuing his faith or physically suffer for the sake of Allah.

- Neighbours; Islam commands us to treat neighbours as we treat ourselves and therefore, a form of worship.

Q (4:36) says; *“Worship Allah and join none with Him in worship, and do good to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, the poor, the neighbor who is near of kin, the neighbor who is a stranger, the companion by your side, the wayfarer...”*

- Loving others; being tolerant and loving others is an act of worship as Allah says in **Q (2:195)**; *“Be good. Verily, Allah loves those who are good.”*

The Prophet PBUH said; *“None of you has faith until he loves for his brother or his neighbours what he loves for himself.”*

- Obedience to Parents; obeying and treating parents in a good way is a form of worship.

Allah says in **Q (17:23)**; *“Your Lord has enjoined you to worship none but Him, and to show kindness to your parents.”*

- Praising Allah
- Remembering Allah
- Generosity. This is the characteristic of being willing to donate both wealth and time in the way of Allah.
- Peacefulness. This is the act of being at peace with others whether Muslims or non-Muslims, believers or non-believers.
- Modesty. This is the quality of a believer being humble without bragging or boasting about oneself or one’s achievements.
- Forgiveness. This is the feature of a believer characterised by pardoning others who wrong him just like Allah pardons wrongdoers.
- Justice. This is the fair judgement of others whether a friend or foe, a relative or absolute.
- Honesty. This is the act of a believer telling the truth and without being known for swindling.
- Truthfulness. This is the quality of a believer being faithful first to Allah, to himself and to others. That is to conform to Allah’s laws.
- Kindness. This is an inherent nature of a person being kind to Allah’s creatures such as man, insects, animals, birds and the like.
- Good leadership. Leadership is the capacity of someone to lead others. Being faithful and just in administration. Leadership is a form of worship.
- Obedience. It is the quality of a believer doing as ordered by Islam. Obedience to Allah’s laws and prophet’s Sunna is a form of worship.

Q (3:32) says; *“Say ‘Obey Allah and His messenger, but if they turn back, Allah does not love those who reject faith”*

Q (26:126) states; *“So fear Allah and obey me.”*