

Al-Islam

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In the Name of Allah, Ar-Rahman, Ar-Raheem

FOREWORD

Every society or state has some rules or laws to which it calls for submission or conformity for the safety, security and preservation of its individual members as well as the society or the state as a whole. When the rules and laws are those or based upon those given by Allah, then the submission or conformity to these laws and rules is called ***Al-Islam***, and the safety, security and preservation that results thereby, is called ***As-Salaam***.

Since the laws and rules given by the All-Wise and the All-Knowing Allah are free from any subjectivity, bias or limitations of time and space, the submission or conformity to only these can guarantee a perpetual safety, security, preservation and well-being of all human beings living in a society and the world at large. On the other hand, since the laws made by human beings suffer from the eternal drawbacks of subjectivity or bias and temporal or spatial limitations of individual knowledge and wisdom, they can never guarantee an incessant or *everlasting* safety, security, preservation or well-being of *all*.

The word 'Islam' and its meanings

The root of the word Islam is s-l-m (seen-laam-meem), which leads to the following meanings (depending upon the context):

1. to be in sound condition, well, without a blemish; to be safe and sound, unharmed, unimpaired, intact, safe, secure, in peace; to be unobjectionable, blameless, faultless, certain, established, clearly proven (fact); to be free (from defects, fault, imperfection, blemish or vice); to escape (from a danger). [particularly, with the preposition 'min']

The word has a much wider meaning than mere peace or safety and also involves prosperity, good health, wholeness and completeness in every way.

2. to submit or resign (oneself) to [e.g. in 2:112, 4:128, 2:131, 2:133, 2:136, 3:20, 3:83, 3:84, 4:125, 6:71, 22:34, 29:46, 31:22, 39:54, 40:66]; to yield to the opinion, judgement, command or control (of someone); to surrender or give (oneself) up. [particularly with the prepositions 'la/li' or 'ila']

3. to greet someone by wishing him (and assuring him from oneself) peace, safety, security, wholeness, soundness and well-being [particularly, with the preposition 'ala', e.g. as in *salamun alaikum*]

As-Salaam (i.e. Safety, security, immunity, wholeness, soundness, well-being and freedom from imperfections, defects or faults) is the result of *Al-Islam*. As given in the Quran, *As-Salaam* is for those who follow *Al-Huda* [20:47].

فَأْتِيَاهُ فَقُولَا إِنَّا رَسُولَا رَبِّكَ فَأَرْسِلْ مَعَنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَلَا تَعَذِّبْهُمْ قَدْ جِئْنَاكَ بِآيَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكَ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلٰى
مَنْ أَتَّبَعَ الْهُدٰى ﴿٤٧﴾

20:47 So go you both to him and say, "We are two Messengers of your Lord. Let the Children of Israel go with us, and do not persecute them. Indeed we have come to you with a Message from your Lord. And As-Salaam be upon him who follows Al-Huda (the Guidance).

As can be seen from 20:47 given above, *As-Salaam* or Safety, security, immunity, wholeness, soundness, well-being and freedom from imperfections, defects or faults results from following Allah's Guidance i.e. Submission to His Commands.

Al-Muslimeen vs. Al-Mujrimeen

In 68:35 the word *Al-Muslimeen* has been used in contrast to *Al-Mujrimeen*.

أَفَنَجْعَلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ كَالْمُجْرِمِينَ ﴿٣٥﴾

68:35 Shall We, then, treat *Al-Muslimeen* like *Al-Mujrimeen*?

A *Mujrim*, according to dictionary, is the one who commits an act of disobedience or violates the Law or wrongfully exploits a situation or steals the fruit of others' labour. The Qur'an defines *Al-Mujrimeen* in the following verses:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا عَنْهَا لَا تُفَتَّحُ لَهُمْ أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ
وَلَا يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ حَتَّى يَلِجَ الْجَمَلُ فِي سَمِّ الْخِيَاطِ وَكَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي

الْمُجْرِمِينَ ﴿٤٠﴾

7:40 Those who deny or delude Our Messages, and scorn them (or turn away from them haughtily), the gates of Heaven will not be opened for them. And they will not enter the Garden until the camel goes through the eye of a needle. This is how We recompense *Al-Mujrimeen*.

وَلَقَدْ أَهَلَكْنَا الْقُرُونَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَمَّا ظَلَمُوا وَجَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ
وَمَا كَانُوا لِيُؤْمِنُوا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْقَوْمَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ ﴿١٣﴾

10:13 We annihilated many nations before you for their *Zulm* (wrongdoings). Their Messengers had come to them with clear evidence of the Truth, but they refused to believe them. Thus do We reward *Al-Mujrimeen*

فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أَوْ كَذَّبَ بِآيَاتِهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ
الْمُجْرِمُونَ ﴿١٧﴾

10:17 Who does a greater wrong than the one who himself forges a lie, then ascribes it to Allah, or falsifies His Revelations, or denies them? Al-Mujrimoon certainly do not prosper.

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ ذُكِّرَ بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِ ثُمَّ أَعْرَضَ عَنْهَا إِنَّا مِنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ

مُنْتَقِمُونَ ﴿٢٢﴾

32:22 And who does a greater wrong than he who is reminded of his Lord's Messages, then turns away from them? Verily, We shall requite all those who are Al-Mujrimeen

So according to 7:40, 10:13, 10:17 and 32:22 given above, Al-Mujrimeen are those who deny or delude or falsify Allah's Revelations, refuse to believe in them or turn away from them, and do not act according to Allah's Revelations. Al-Muslimeen are those who are quite the opposite of Al-Mujrimeen.

Al-Muslimoon vs. Al-Qasitoon

In 72:14, the word Al-Muslimoon has been used in contrast to Al-Qasitoon.

وَأَنَّا لَمَّا سَمِعْنَا الْهُدَىٰ ءَامَنَّا بِهِ ؕ فَمَنْ يُؤْمِن بِرَبِّهِ فَلَا

يَخَافُ بَخْسًا وَلَا رَهَقًا ﴿١٣﴾

وَأَنَّا مِنَّا الْمُسْلِمُونَ وَمِنَّا الْقَاسِطُونَ ؕ فَمَنْ أَسْلَمَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ تَحَرَّوْا رَشَدًا

﴿١٤﴾

وَأَمَّا الْقَاسِطُونَ فَكَانُوا لِجَهَنَّمَ حَطَبًا ﴿١٥﴾

وَالْوِاسْتَقْمُوا عَلَى الطَّرِيقَةِ لَأَسْقِينَهُمْ مَّاءً غَدَقًا ﴿١٦﴾

72:13-16 “And as soon as we heard Al-Huda (i.e. the Guidance), we believed in it. And whoever chooses to be graced with belief in his Lord, need not fear a diminished return, nor unfairness.” “And some of us are Al-Muslimoon and some of us are Al-

Qasitooon. And whoever submits – such are they who have resolved to get enlightened.” “And those who are **Al-Qasitooon**– they are but fire-wood for the Hell.” Now, **if they take an unwavering stand on At-Tareeqa**, We will shower them with abundant bounties.

As can be seen from the above given verses 70:13-16, *Al-Qasitooon* are those who deviate or decline from the right course (*At-Tareeqah*); who act unjustly, injuriously, wrongfully or tyrannically. But *Al-Muslimoon* are those who take an unwavering stand on *At-Tareeqah*.

In 27:31, the word *Muslimeen* has been used in contrast to those who exalt or magnify themselves and behave proudly, insolently or exorbitantly. In other words, Islam or submission is opposite to exaltation. See 27:31 as follows:

﴿ ٣١ ﴾ أَلَّا تَعْلَمُوا عَلَيَّ وَأَتُونِي مُسْلِمِينَ

27:31 **‘Exalt not yourselves against me, but come to me as those who surrender or submit.’**”

In 22:34, Submission (*aslamoos*) has been explained as a credential of *Al-Mukhbiteen* i.e. those who are humble, submissive and obedient to Allah [11:23, 22:54]. See the verse 22:34 given as follows:

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ جَعَلْنَا مَنْسَكًا لِيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُمْ مِّنْ
بَهِيمَةٍ الْأَنْعَامِ فَالْيَهُكُمُ اللَّهُ وَاحِدٌ فَ لَهُ تَسْلِمُوا وَبَشِّرِ الْمُخْبِتِينَ

﴿ ٣٤ ﴾

22:34 And to every community We have ordained rites that they might extol the Name of Allah over the sustenance He gave them from the livestock. But your God is the One and Only God. Therefore, **submit to Him alone** (22:67). And give glad news to all **those who are humble**.

In the light of 6:14, ***Al-Islam* is the absence of *Shirk*** (i.e. taking partners of Allah) also. Note the use of the word ‘*Islam*’ in contrast to ‘*Shirk*’ in the following verse (6:14):

قُلْ أَغَيَّرَ اللَّهُ أَنْتَ خِذُ وَلِيًّا فَاطِرِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ يُطْعِمُ وَلَا يُطْعَمُ
 قُلْ إِنِّي أُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ أَوَّلَ مَنْ أَسْلَمَ وَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ﴿١٤﴾

6:14 Say, “Shall I take for my master other than Allah Who is the Initiator of the heavens and the earth? And He provides all without return. Feeds but is not fed.” Say, “ I have been commanded to be the foremost among those who submit to Him and not be of those who are *Mushrikeen* (who ascribe partners to Him).”

In the light of 3:19, 3:80, 9:74 and 15:2, ***Al-Islam*** is the absence ***Kufr*** (i.e. rejecting commands of Allah or falling short in abiding by them) also. Note the use of the word ‘*Islam*’ in contrast to ‘*Kufr*’, in the following verses:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْأَسْلَامُ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ
 بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِنَائِتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ
 سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ ﴿١٩﴾

3:19 Indeed **Ad-Deen** (i.e the Way or System of Life) approved by Allah is **Al-Islam** (Submission to His Laws and Commands). The people of the Scripture differed for nothing but selfish envy among themselves, after the Knowledge has come to them. One **who rejects Allah's Revelations** will find that His Law of Requital is swift in reckoning.

وَلَا يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تَتَّخِذُوا الْمَلَائِكَةَ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ أَرْبَابًا أَيَأْمُرُكُمْ
 بِالْكَفْرِ بَعْدَ إِذْ أَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿٨٠﴾

3:80 Nor would he instruct you to take the angels and the Prophets for lords and patrons. Would he command you **to disbelieve after you have submitted to Allah?**

يَحْلِفُونَ بِاللَّهِ مَا قَالُوا وَلَقَدْ قَالُوا كَلِمَةَ الْكُفْرِ وَكَفَرُوا بَعْدَ إِسْلَامِهِمْ
 وَهُمْ يَوْمًا لَمَّا يَنَالُوا وَمَا نَقَمُوا إِلَّا أَنْ أَغْنَاهُمُ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ
 فَإِنْ يَتُوبُوا يَكُ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ وَإِنْ يَتَوَلَّوْا يُعَذِّبْهُمُ اللَّهُ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا فِي الدُّنْيَا
 وَالْآخِرَةِ وَمَا لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ ﴿٧٤﴾

9:74 (The hypocrites) swear by Allah that they have said nothing wrong. Yet they most certainly have uttered a word of disbelief. And have denied the Truth after professing their surrender to Allah. They were aiming at something beyond their reach (attaining inner peace without sincerity to the Divine Guidance). And they could find no fault in the Divine System except that Allah has enriched them and caused His Messenger to enrich them out of His Bounty. Hence, it will be good for them if they repent and correct themselves. But if they still turn away, Allah will cause them to suffer grievous retribution in this world and in the life to come. And they will have no protector or helper in the earth.

رُبَّمَا يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْ كَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٢﴾

15:2 The time is coming when the rejecters of the Truth will ardently wish that they were Muslims.

The word 'Islam' in the Qur'an

The word 'Islam' appears in the Quran at 8 places.

Word form 'Al-Islam'

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ ۗ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ
 بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَعِيًّا ۗ بَيْنَهُمْ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرُ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ
 سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ ﴿١٩﴾

3:19 Indeed *Ad-Deen* (i.e the System of Life) approved by Allah is Al-Islam (Submission to His Laws and Commands). The people of the Scripture differed for nothing but

selfish envy among themselves, after the Knowledge has come to them. One who rejects Allah's Revelations will find that His Law of Requitul is swift in reckoning.

وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ

الْخَسِرِينَ ﴿٨٥﴾

3:85 Whoever seeks as *Deen* (i.e. a System of Life) (anything) other than *Al-Islam*, it will not be taken from him with approbation, and he will be a loser (in the long run in this world as well as) in the Hereafter.

حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمْ أَلْمَيْتَةُ وَالْدَّمُ وَلَحْمُ الْخِنزِيرِ وَمَا أُهْلَ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ

وَالْمُنْخَنِقَةُ وَالْمَوْفُوذَةُ وَالْمُتَرَدِّيَةُ وَالنَّطِيحَةُ وَمَا أَكَلَ السَّبُعُ إِلَّا مَا

ذَكَيْتُمْ وَمَا ذُبِحَ عَلَى النُّصُبِ وَأَنْ تَسْتَقْسِمُوا بِالْأَزْلَمِ ذَٰلِكُمْ فِسْقٌ

الْيَوْمَ يَئِسَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ دِينِكُمْ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ وَاخْشَوْنِ الْيَوْمَ

أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

فَمَنْ اضْطُرَّ فِي مَخْمَصَةٍ غَيْرِ مُتَجَانِفٍ لِإِثْمٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٣﴾

5:3 Forbidden for you (for dietary consumption) are: Any Animal that dies of itself; Blood; The flesh of swine; And anything (not just meat) that has been dedicated to any other than Allah (such as an idol, grave or saint); Any Animal that has been strangled to death, Beaten to death, Dies by falling from height, Gored to death by horns; Animal eaten by a wild animal unless you are able to slaughter it while it is still alive; That which is sacrificed on altars (devotional stones or blocks in shrines considered sacred). Also forbidden is dividing the meat through raffling and games of chance. This Day, the rejecting opponents have given up the hope of eradicating your DEEN, System of Life. Clear distinction in matters of the Lawful and the Unlawful draws a tangible line between their ways and your way. Fear them not but fear Me. *This Day, I have perfected your Law /DEEN for you, completed My favor upon you, and chosen for you Al-Islam as the System of Life.*

In the above verse (5:3), after giving some rules and laws about dietary consumption, Allah says that He has perfected the Islamic Law [the word *Deen* seems here to have been used to mean Law, as it has been used to mean law in 12:6, since it comes after mentioning some laws about dietary consumption. The second occurrence of the word *Deen* in 5:3 seems to have been used to mean 'the System of Life', as the context shows.

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ وَهُوَ يُدْعَىٰ إِلَى الْإِسْلَامِ وَاللَّهُ لَا
يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٧﴾

61:6 And who does greater wrong than he who invents a lie against Allah when he is invited to Al-Islam? But Allah does not guide the people who are *Zalimeen* (, who do not put things in their right perspective).

Word form 'Iil-Islam'

فَمَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَهْدِيَهُ يَشْرَحْ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ وَمَنْ يُرِدْ
أَنْ يُضِلَّهُ يَجْعَلْ صَدْرَهُ ضَيِّقًا حَرَجًا كَأَنَّمَا يَصْعَدُ فِي السَّمَاءِ
كَذَلِكَ يَجْعَلُ اللَّهُ الرِّجْسَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١٢٥﴾

6:125 Therefore (for) whomsoever Allah intends that He would guide him aright [according to His Laws such as given in 2:2, 3:101, 7:52, 13:27, 27:2, 27:77, 31:3, 41:44] He expands his breast for Al-Islam, and (for) whomsoever He intends that He should cause him to err [according to His Laws such as given in 2:26, 9:115, 14:27, 40:34, 40:69-74, 45:23], He makes his breast strait and narrow as though he were ascending upwards; thus does Allah lay malediction/uncleanness on those who do not believe.

أَفَمَنْ شَرَحَ اللَّهُ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ فَهُوَ عَلَىٰ نُورٍ مِّن رَّبِّهِ ۗ فَوَيْلٌ لِلْقَاسِيَةِ
قُلُوبُهُمْ مِّن ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ ﴿٢٢﴾

39:22 If Allah renders one's breast open to Al-Islam he will be following a Light from his Sustainer. Hence, those whose hearts are hardened against Allah's Reminder only harm themselves. They are most obviously lost in error.

Word form 'Islamakum'

يَمُنُّونَ عَلَيْكَ أَنْ أَسْلَمُوا قُلْ لَا تَمُنُّوا عَلَيَّ إِسْلَامَكُم بَلِ اللَّهُ يَمُنُّ عَلَيْكُمْ
أَنْ هَدَاكُمْ لِلْإِيمَانِ إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿١٧﴾

49:17 Some people act as if they are doing you a favor by embracing Islam (or submission to Allah's Commands). Say, "Deem not that your Islam (or your submission to Allah's Commands) is a favor upon me. Nay, it is Allah Who bestows a favor upon you as He has led you to the Faith, if you be true and sincere."

Word form 'Islamihim'

يَحْلِفُونَ بِاللَّهِ مَا قَالُوا وَلَقَدْ قَالُوا كَلِمَةَ الْكُفْرِ وَكَفَرُوا بَعْدَ إِسْلَامِهِمْ
وَهُمُومًا لِمَا يَنَالُوا وَمَا نَقَمُوا إِلَّا أَنْ أَغْنَاهُمُ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ
فَإِنْ يَتُوبُوا يَكُ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ وَإِنْ يَتَوَلَّوْا يُعَذِّبْهُمُ اللَّهُ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا فِي الدُّنْيَا
وَالْآخِرَةِ وَمَا لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ ﴿٧٤﴾

9:74 (The hypocrites) swear by Allah that they have said nothing wrong. Yet they most certainly have uttered a word of disbelief (9:61-62). And have denied the Truth after their Islam (or professing their surrender to Allah). They were aiming at something beyond their reach (attaining inner peace without sincerity to the Divine Guidance). And they could find no fault in the Divine System except that Allah has enriched them and caused His Messenger to enrich them out of His Bounty. Hence, it will be good for them if they repent and correct themselves. But if they still turn away, Allah will cause them to suffer grievous retribution in this world and in the life to come. And they will have no protector or helper in the earth.

'Islam' or 'submission' as explained in the Qur'an

Allah has Himself explained 'Islam' or 'Submission' in the Qur'an, which can be learned through *Tasreef*. *Tasreef* is the Qur'anic process where words and verses in one part of the Qur'an explain or provide deeper understanding of the words and verses in other parts of the Book. Please see the following verse:

أَفَغَيْرَ دِينِ اللَّهِ يَبْغُونَ وَلَهُ أَسْلَمَ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضِ طَوْعًا وَكَرْهًا وَإِلَيْهِ يُرْجَعُونَ ﴿٨٣﴾

3:83 Do they seek other than the DEEN of Allah, when all things in the heavens and the earth, willingly and unwillingly submit (aslama) to Him, and to Him they will be returned.

According to the above verse (3:83), everything in the heavens and the earth submit to Allah (*aslama*). In other words, everything is Muslim. Note the word '*aslama*' and '*Deen*'.

وَلِلَّهِ يَسْجُدُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ طَوْعًا وَكَرْهًا
وَظَلَّلَهُمْ بِالْغُدُوقِ وَالْأَصَالِ ﴿١٥﴾

13:15 And all things in the heavens and the earth, willingly and unwillingly bow to Him (in obedience) (*yasjudu*)

In 13:15, the word '*yasjudu*' has been used instead of '*aslama*'. *Islam* means submission. *Sajda* means bowing or prostrating in submissiveness or submission or obedience. Obviously, everything in the heavens and the earth do not prostrate as humans do physically by putting their foreheads on the ground but this means the submissiveness and obedience of these things to Allah's *Amr* or Command or Law. It is a fact that every object and every phenomenon in the universe is governed by certain laws. It may be the case that science has not so far discovered all the laws that govern everything but there is nothing that does not follow a law. What they call 'natural laws', Allah clarifies to them that these are His Laws.

Allah has further explained in the Quran the nature of Islam or submission of everything to Allah. Please see the following verses:

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَسْجُدُ لَهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَالشَّمْسُ
وَالْقَمَرُ وَالنُّجُومُ وَالْجِبَالُ وَالشَّجَرُ وَالدَّوَابُّ وَكَثِيرٌ مِّنَ النَّاسِ وَكَثِيرٌ
حَقٌّ عَلَيْهِ الْعَذَابُ وَمَنْ يُهِنِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ مُّكْرِمٍ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَفْعَلُ مَا
يَشَاءُ ﴿١٨﴾

22:18 Don't you see that all things and beings in the heavens and in the earth, the sun and the moon, and the stars and the mountains, and the trees, and the animals, and a great many human beings bow themselves to Allah (in submissiveness and obedience) (*yasjudu*)?

وَلِلَّهِ يَسْجُدُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنْ
دَابَّةٍ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَهُمْ لَا يُسْتَكْبِرُونَ ﴿٤٩﴾

يَخَافُونَ رَبَّهُمْ مِّنْ فَوْقِهِمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٥٠﴾

16:49-50 And, before Allah, bows in submission (*yasjudu*) all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth, whether living beings or the angels, and none are arrogant. They all fear their Lord, High above them, and they do all that they are commanded.

From the above, it can be seen that the submission or bowing or prostrating of all things to Allah in submissiveness means that 'they do what Allah commands them'. This is what the Islam is, i.e. doing what Allah commands.

Allah created everything and then gave it guidance of the way that it should follow.

قَالَ رَبُّنَا الَّذِي أَعْطَى كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَلْقَهُ ثُمَّ هَدَىٰ ﴿٥٠﴾

20:50 He said, "Our Lord is He who creates and shapes everything, grants it its constitution and guides it aright."

For example, Allah sent *wahi* or command to Heavens to assign them their function.

فَقَضَيْنَهُنَّ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ فِي يَوْمَيْنِ وَأَوْحَىٰ فِي كُلِّ سَمَاءٍ أَمْرَهَا وَزَيَّنَّا
السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا بِمَصَابِيحَ وَحِفْظًا ذَٰلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ ﴿١٣﴾

41:12 So He ordained that they become seven Heavens in two stages and assigned to each heaven its function....

Similarly, *wahi* and command to the Earth:

بِأَنَّ رَبَّكَ أَوْحَىٰ لَهَا ﴿٥٠﴾

99:5 For your Lord would send His Command to her (the earth)

Everything in the heaven and the earth is striving to carry out the tasks assigned by Allah. Everything knows its *SALAT* and *TASBEEH*.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَن فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالطَّيْرُ صَافَّاتٍ
 كُلٌّ قَدْ عَلِمَ صَلَاتَهُ وَتَسْبِيحَهُ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا يَفْعَلُونَ ﴿٤١﴾

24:41 Do you not realize that Allah, It is He Whose assigned tasks all beings in the heavens and the earth carry out, and the birds, with their wings outspread, as they fly in columns. All of them know their *SALAT* and *TASBEEH* (mission and strife). Allah is Aware of what they do.

According to 24:41, everything is doing *TASBEEH*. The verse 24:41 ends with the words, 'Allah is aware of what they do', clarifying that *TASBEEH* is not something to be said or recited but something to be done.

وَقَالُوا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ وَلَدًا سُبْحٰنَهُ ۗ بَل لَّهُ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ
 وَالْأَرْضِ كُلُّ لَّهُ قٰنِیْنٌ ﴿١١٦﴾

2:116 Nay, unto Him belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. Everything is wholeheartedly subservient/obedient to Him.

As can be seen from the above given verses, Allah created everything and gave it guidance to the way it should follow. Everything knows its *SALAAT* and *TASBEEH*, its function and role. Everything is obedient/subservient to Allah and does exactly what Allah commanded to them.

The difference between their submission and man's submission is that these things are bound to follow Allah's laws [3:83, 13:15]. They do not have any choice. The Sun does not have any choice to change its course. The stars do not have any choice to move to any position other than the ordained, and so on. All are whole-heartedly obedient to Allah's commands [2:116]. But man has been commanded to be so by choice. Whoever among them submits his whole self entirely to Allah, will have his reward with his Lord [2:112].

بَلَىٰ مَن أَسْلَمَ وَجْهَهُ لِلَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحْسِنٌ فَلَهُ أَجْرُهُ عِندَ رَبِّهِ
 وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ ﴿١١٢﴾

2:112 ...whoever submits his whole self entirely to Allah (i.e. Whoever is Muslim) and is a doer of good,- He will get his reward with his Lord; there shall neither come any fear upon them from without nor shall any grief touch them from within.