

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ، عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ،
أَحْمَدُهُ سُبْحَانَهُ حَمْدًا يَلِيْقُ بِجَلَالِ وَجْهِهِ وَعَظِيمِ سُلْطَانِهِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ، وَأَشْهَدُ
أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، وَصَفِيَّهُ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ وَحَبِيبَهُ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ
وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praises are for Allah the Lord of the worlds, who taught by benevolence and the pen, taught man that which he knew not. I extol Him as is befitting His Great Sovereignty and Glorious Status. I bear witness that there is no deity but Him, having no associates. To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and whatever is within them. And He is over all things competent. I also testify that our Master and Prophet Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family, his companions, and all those who will follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment, Amin

Seeking Knowledge

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

Recite in the name of your Lord who created - Created man from a clot. Read, and your Lord only is the Most Beneficent, The One Who taught to write with the pen. The One Who taught man all what he did not know. (96:1-5)

Bertrand Russell, a 19th century English philosopher in his book 'Theory of Knowledge'
(1) Knowledge and its acquisition can either transform a person or destroy him"

The very first command given to us by Allah ﷻ is **READ**, but in HIS Name. Acquisition of beneficial knowledge which transforms the individual, and society for the better

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ لَا يَنْفَعُ

“O Allah, I seek refuge in You from knowledge that is of no benefit” (Muslim)

- Knowledge that transforms for the better and not destroys
- What is the value of accolades, appellations and titles that do not prevent you from fraud and destruction? Which only fuels further greed and hedonism?
- Knowledge is light, a guidance, a trust from Allah ﷻ bestowed by Allah to dignify man and raise his rank in both worlds. Those who do not seek knowledge for their Lord are undoubtedly destroyed in this world

Seeking Knowledge

(2) and he who holds knowledge, holds the world at ransom

Recall when the Vikings were busy plundering Europe, Khwarizmi was busy producing calculus of resolution and juxtaposition/hisab al-jabr wal-muqabala. Ibn Sina produced medical as well as philosophical knowledge. Then we stopped producing knowledge a thousand years ago and started consuming it and now are held at ransom

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ

“You are the best nation produced for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah.” (3:110)

(3) If knowledge is power, then education cannot be anything other than highly political, education is therefore the means to exercise power of the masses.”

There are two theories of knowledge: **(1) The Idealistic Notion**; like Plato believe that the material world does not exist at all - only the world of Ideas, Forms or consciousness exists. **(2) The Materialistic Notion**: believe in five senses. They consider sense perception as the source or means of knowledge. John Stuart Mill, David Hume and Berkeley were the advocates of the doctrine of sense perception

However both theories are deficient; the Islamic notion believes in the existence of matter as well as of soul. **“He gave you hearing, sight and intelligence and affections in the hope that you will be grateful.” (16:78).** The material universe is a reality **“Allah is the one who created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them .”**

وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا