

Seeking knowledge is the core of Islam & Muslim identity. It is the very 1st command of our Lord teaching us its obligation. **READ!** Indeed, reading is an essential part of seeking knowledge. To expand our understanding, analyse God's creation, to think and reflect on the universe and existence.

Allah ﷻ introduced Himself as Rabb - **"THE EDUCATOR"** - Only through knowledge can we worship, know good, bad, progress. Adam عليه السلام distinction over the angels and animals is due to his knowledge.

1. BEGIN WITH THE RIGHT INTENTION

"Indeed, an action starts with the intention. A person will be rewarded only for what he intended." (Bukhari)

Thus seek knowledge for the sake of Allah ﷻ, in pleasing Him, getting closer to Him, becoming a better person, benefiting mankind. Do not seek knowledge purely for the success & pleasures of the Dunya, to oppress and harm others, or to seek superiority over others.

"If anyone acquires knowledge that should be sought for the sake of Allah, but instead he acquires it merely to get some worldly advantage, he will not experience the fragrance of Paradise." (Abu Dawud)

Look carefully at the knowledge and where it will lead you?

2. BE EQUIPPED WITH BOTH KNOWLEDGES

As Muslims, it is important for us to master the foundations of our religious sciences first. We must transform ourselves before transforming others. **“The best of you are those who learn the Quran and teach it.”**

Ulum al-Diniyyah through revelation & **Ulum al-Dunyawiyyah**, acquired through human reasons, thoughts, experiments, analysis and discoveries. **BOTH** of these are important for a Muslim to lead a successful life in this physical world and in the eternal abode of the afterlife.

Allah ﷻ revealed two types of revelations to mankind:

- 1. Qur'an as a Textual Revelation (Ayaat Qur'aniyah) Wahy**
- 2. Intellectual Revelation (Ayaat Kawniyah)** acquired through observation, critical analysis, scientific inquiry and methodological learning.

The pinnacle of Islamic civilization in the past had witnessed the tremendous efforts of scientific inquiry undertaken by our scholars such as **Ibn Sina, Al-Haytam and Al-Biruni**. They were guided by the Qur'anic Revelation and their thirst for scientific discoveries.

Reclaim our rich tradition of knowledge pursuits. With the right intention, we can ensure we utilise this knowledge that benefits everyone.

3. EXERCISE INTELLECTUAL HUMILITY

Intellectual humility is the attitude that seekers of knowledge should internalise and demonstrate in their lives. As we acquire more knowledge, there is a risk we may become intellectually arrogant and think we are better than others.

We may become obsessed with the knowledge we have acquired such that we shut our doors from listening and learning from others. The illusion that we know everything is erroneous thinking and may lead us to the path of destruction. We must remain humble with knowledge.

Allah ﷻ is the Master of all Knowledge. The knowledge that we attain is a gift and blessing from Him to be used - not abused.

We must prepare not just ourselves, but our children and equip them with the knowledge of the Deen & Dunya.

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