

AL-QURAAN AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

WITH THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL.

In Sura Iqraa (ch. 96): verses 1 – 5 we read:-

“Read! With the name of your Rabb who created -- created man, out of a (mere) germ-cell: Read! And your Rabb is Most Bountiful, -
- He who taught (the use of) the pen, -- taught man that which he knew not.”

These were the very first verses revealed to our Nabie (S.A.W.) when the mantle of prophethood was conferred upon him on Mount Hira, near Mecca.

According to the Holy Quraan, the acquisition of knowledge must be coupled with a strong sense of faith.

The Holy Quraan recognises the validity of all scientific knowledge and does not in any way seek to minimise their effect or relationship to the articles of faith.

Indeed, Islam considers that scientific facts of all kinds are valuable proof of the existence of Allah (S.W.T.).

Islam is not concerned with empty abstractions but with the eternal truths and the universe around us.

It is reported that our Nabie (S.A.W.) said:-

“One hour’s study and contemplation of Allah (S.W.T.)’s creation is better than a year’s adoration.”

The early Muslims most certainly dived into the various branches of knowledge. In point of fact, they were the forerunners of modern science.

During the great Islamic era, the following inscription was to be found above the entrances of the universities of Spain :-

The world is held up by four pillars:

“The wisdom of the learned.
The justice of the great.
The prayers of the righteous.
The valour of the brave.”

We read in Sura al-Fatir (ch. 35): verses 27 & 28:-

“Do you not observe that Allah sends down rain from the sky? With it We then bring out produce of various colours. And in the mountains are tracts white and red, of various shades of colour, and black intense in hue. And so amongst mankind and crawling creatures and cattle, are they of various colours. Those truly fear Allah, among his servants, who have knowledge (the ulama): for Allah is exalted in might, oft-forgiving.”

There are many passages like this in the Holy Quraan. The 'knowledge' referred to here, deals with the physical and other phenomena; --- i.e., scientific knowledge.

However, the Holy Quraan is not a scientific encyclopaedia. The essential principles of scientific truths are contained therein. The most important elements, the basis and general idea of scientific truth, is to be found in the Holy Quraan, but the details are to be worked out by us.

Human beings are endowed with the faculty of forming concepts of things. Since our knowledge is conceptual, it is with this weapon that we must approach the observable aspects of reality!

Listen to Sura Al-Baqara (ch. 2): verse 33:-

“He (Allah (S.W.T.)) said: 'O Adam ! Tell them their natures'. When he had told them, Allah said : 'did I not tell you that I know the secrets of heaven and earth, and I know what you reveal and what you conceal ?' ”

Worksheet

- 1) Quote a verse from Al-Quraan that draws our attention to the phenomena of nature. Do not quote the ones given in the lesson.
