

Read!

It was no accident that the first word of the Qur'an to be revealed was: *Read*. Education, study and research are all held in high esteem in Islam.

If anyone travels on a road in search of knowledge, God will cause him to travel on one of the roads of Paradise. The angels will lower their wings in their great pleasure with one who seeks knowledge, the inhabitants of the heavens and the Earth and the fish in the deep waters will ask forgiveness for the learned man. The superiority of the learned man over the devout is like that of the moon, on the night when it is full, over the rest of the stars. The learned are the heirs of the Prophets, and the Prophets leave behind no monetary wealth, leaving only knowledge, and he who takes it takes an abundant portion.

source: abu Dawud Hadith Collection



'Read' ('*Iqra*') was the first word of the Qur'an to be revealed.



For more information please contact:

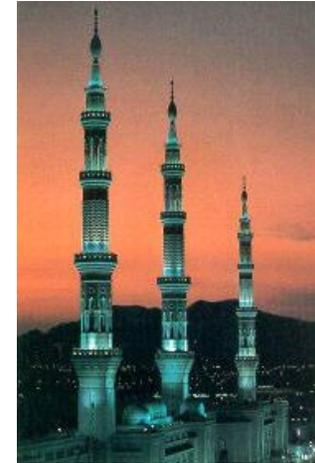
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What did Muhammad teach about Education?

Understanding Muhammad

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Knowledge in Islam

Islam is a religion based upon knowledge; for faith in Islam is not blind, rather it is rooted in reasoning and recognising the Signs of God's existence.



Science flourished in medieval Islam, where work in chemistry, surgery, mathematics and astronomy was pioneered. Algebra and the number zero were invented in this period, as was the astrolabe (above). The renowned scholar and physician, Avicenna authored *The Canon of Medicine*, in 920 CE, which would be used in Europe for the next 600 years.

The text of the Quran is replete with verses inviting man to use his intellect, to ponder, to think and to know; in order to reflect on the meaning of life. Prophetic sayings are also full of references to the importance of knowledge. Sayings such as “*Seek knowledge even as far as China*” and “*Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave*” have echoed throughout the history of Islam and incited Muslims to seek knowledge

wherever it might be found.

The possessor of knowledge or wisdom has been given a very precious and powerful gift. The acquisition of knowledge and understanding, is something that should be done actively by everyone. This is why the scholar and the teacher have always been held in the highest esteem in Islamic society.

Referencing Sources

Muslim scholars went to great lengths to distill and classify the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him (p). These scholars were the first to develop

the concept of academic referencing. They only took information from well-known and reliable sources, to ensure its authenticity. What has become a required practice in modern research endeavors, was developed over a thousand years ago to study the teachings of the Prophet of Islam. It has always been an Islamic tradition to only take knowledge from legitimate sources. Information is worthless, unless it comes from a verifiable and accountable source.

This pamphlet contains a few examples of the sayings of the Prophet (p) about the importance of education and knowledge.

Whoever follows a path to seek knowledge therein, God will make easy for him a path to paradise.

source: Muslim Hadith Collection

Education

Education is not only the right, but the duty of every Muslim, male or female.

The best gift from a father to his child is education and upbringing.

source: At-Tirmidhi Hadith Collection

Knowledge cannot be acquired with sloth.

source: Muslim Hadith Collection

If anyone acquires knowledge of things which are pleasing to God, but acquires it only to get some worldly advantage,



The pursuit of religious and secular studies have always been emphasized in Islam, and are in fact a requirement of faith. The world's oldest university, Al-Azhar (above) was built by Muslims in Cairo, Egypt. It was first opened on the 7th of Ramadan 361 A.H/June 22, 972 CE.

he will not experience the scent of Paradise.

source: Abu Dawud Hadith Collection

Teaching

When a man dies, nothing lives on after him, except three things: a continuing charity, knowledge he imparted that can benefit others, or a pious child, who prays for him.

source: Muslim Hadith Collection

Do not wish to be like anyone except in two cases. A person, upon whom God has bestowed wealth and he spends it righteously; the one whom God has given wisdom and he acts according to it and teaches it to others.

Source: Bukhari Hadith Collection

Knowledge of Guidance

The example of guidance and knowledge with which God has sent me is that of abundant rain falling on the earth. Some of which was fertile soil that absorbed the rainwater and brought forth vegetation and grass in abundance. Another portion of it was hard and held the rainwater and God benefited the people with it, and they utilized it for drinking, letting their animals drink from it and for irrigation of the land for cultivation. A portion of it was barren, which, could neither hold the water nor bring forth vegetation. The example is of the person who comprehends God's religion and becomes a source of benefit to him, the one who acquires the knowledge of religion and imparts it to others and the one who pays no attention to guidance.

source: Muslim Hadith Collection

The best among you are those who learn the Quran and teach it.

source: Bukhari Hadith Collection

Near the [final] Hour there will be days during which religious ignorance will spread, knowledge will be taken away and there will be much bloodshed.

Source: Bukhari Hadith Collection