 Pillars of Islam

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“Glory to You! We have no knowledge except what You taught us. You, only are All-Knowing, All-Wise” ([*Quran, 2:32*](https://www.islamicity.org/quransearch/?q=2:32)).

The relationship between knowledge and our daily actions is a key topic in psychology. According to Joachim Funke, professor of Experimental and Theoretical Psychology at the University of Heidelberg, it is not possible to act without knowledge. However, every newborn baby has the instinct to latch on and suck milk rhythmically from the breast of his or her mother, and that instinctive action needs knowledge. Who gave them this knowledge to be able to live? Indeed Allah

Another example in Quran:

“Is he who was dead by ignorance and We gave him knowledge and set for him Light of Belief whereby he can walk amongst men; like he who is in the darkness?” ([*Quran; 6:122*](https://www.islamicity.org/quransearch/?q=6:122))

To be able to fully transmit his message, **Prophet Muhammad ﷺ first addressed the hearts to become the beloved one in order to inspire his followers to listen to his message**. Secondly, in order to maximize the effects of his message that could permanently transform the behavior of people, **he used a type of speech that made his followers think during his educational methods, mainly based on active learning and analogies**4-5.

**Here are some of the strategies of his teaching methods:**

(1) The Prophet ﷺ would often repeat his lesson three times to the same people.

(2) **He utilized analogies to enhance the imagination and curiosity of the listeners**. For example, the Prophet ﷺ asked his companions, “What would be the situation of someone who has a river at his door and every day, five times a day, he comes out, and he takes a bath in that river? At the end of the day, would he have any dirt on himself?” They responded, “There would be no dirt on him, O Rasulullah.” Then the Prophet said, "Similarly, there are the five prayers cleansing the person in this way."

(3) As the Prophet ﷺ used an analogy to explain a topic verbally, **he also used illustration to make a point graphically**. In this context, the Prophet drew a straight line through the sand and then drew lines to the right and lines to the left of the first line. Then while the people were looking attentively at the drawing, he recited the Quranic verse, “And verily, this (Allah’s commandments) is My Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path” ([*Quran; 6:153*](https://www.islamicity.org/quransearch/?q=6:153))

(4) On other occasions,  he illustrated his point using his hand as once he said, "I and the one who takes care of the orphans are in paradise, like this (as he was speaking, he interlaced his fingers)."

(5) **His teachings were also based on living experiences as opportunities to instruct**. For example, The Prophet ﷺ once was with some companions to prepare food. He asked them to slaughter a sheep. One companion said he would do that, another said he would skin it, and a third said he would cook it. Then the Messenger of Allah ﷻ replied, “I will collect wood for the fire.” They said, “No, we will do that work for you.” The Prophet ﷺ answered, “I know that you can do it for me, but Allah ﷻ hates to see a servant of his privileged above others.” And the Prophet went and collected firewood.