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**Assignment # 2**

**Islamiyat**

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**Q. The Holy Quran set forth the path for believers in the quest of knowledge. Discuss with the help of examples.**

**Importance of Holy Quran:**

For Muslims, the Holy Quran is of utmost significance, as it is considered the authentic word of Allah. It provides enduring counsel, insight, and spiritual sustenance, giving direction to all facets of existence.

**The Importance of Knowledge in Islam:**

Seeking knowledge is very important. Those who were enslaved were encouraged to teach Muslims if they lacked the means to pay their ransom. **As Allah stated in the Quran** "Read in the name of your Lord who created - Created man from a clinging substance. Read, and your Lord is the most Generous - Who taught by the pen - Taught man that which he knew not." **Surah Al-Alaq (96:1-5)**

**Knowledge of Things:**

* We must have knowledge about the things Allah created. As stated in Quran: "And it is He who sends down rain from the sky, and We produce thereby the growth of all things. We produce from it greenery from which We produce grains arranged in layers. And from the palm trees - of its emerging fruit are clusters hanging low. And [We produce] gardens of grapevines and olives and pomegranates, similar yet varied. Look at [each of] its fruit when it yields and [at] its ripening. Indeed in that are signs for a people who believe." ( Surah Al-An'am 6:99)
* We must have knowledge of our society, our moral development. As Allah says in Quran: "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted." (Surah Al-Hujurat 49:13).
* Knowledge about religious laws, principles, and guidance for believers. Quran Says "He gives wisdom to whom He wills, and whoever has been given wisdom has certainly been given much good. And none will remember except those of understanding." (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:269)

**Examples of Quranic Figures in the Pursuit of Knowledge:**

1. **Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) Seeking Knowledge :** The Quran tells the account of Prophet Ibrahim's quest for the truth in Surah Al-An'am, verses 75–79. He looked at the sun, moon, and stars among other celestial bodies, considering their meaning. He concluded that these heavenly things could not be gods via observation and reflection because they would set and disappear. Prophet Ibrahim states in verse 79 that the only source of wisdom and knowledge he believes in is the One who made the earth and the sky. The significance of observation and introspection in the search for knowledge and the truth is demonstrated by this tale.
2. "And thus did We show Ibrahim the realm of the heavens and the earth that he would be among the certain [in faith]. So when the night covered him [with darkness], he saw a star. He said, 'This is my lord.' But when it set, he said, 'I like not those that disappear.' And when he saw the moon rising, he said, 'This is my lord.' But when it set, he said, 'Unless my Lord guides me, I will surely be among the people gone astray.' And when he saw the sun rising, he said, 'This is my lord; this is greater.' But when it set, he said, 'O my people, indeed I am free from what you associate with Allah. Indeed, I have turned my face toward He who created the heavens and the earth, inclining toward truth, and I am not of those who associate others with Allah." (Surah Al-An'am 6:75-79).
3. **Prophet Solomon's (Sulaiman) Wisdom:** Prophet Solomon's capacity to comprehend the languages of birds and other creatures is described in Surah Al-Naml. Verses 16–19 tell the story of Prophet Solomon thanking Allah for his knowledge and wisdom after hearing an ant warn its colony about an impending army. This story illustrates Prophet Solomon's extraordinary perception and comprehension of nature, which allowed him to rule with wisdom and justice. It emphasizes the concept of the Quran, which is to acknowledge Allah's blessings and use knowledge for good.
4. "And Solomon inherited David. He said, 'O people, we have been taught the language of birds, and we have been given from all things. Indeed, this is evident bounty.' And gathered for Solomon were his soldiers of the jinn and men and birds, and they were [marching] in rows. Until, when they came upon the valley of the ants, an ant said, 'O ants, enter your dwellings that you not be crushed by Solomon and his soldiers while they perceive not.' So [Solomon] smiled, amused at her speech, and said, 'My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to do righteousness of which You approve. And admit me by Your mercy into [the ranks of] Your righteous servants."(Surah Al-Naml 27:16-19)
5. **Knowledge Granted to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him):** The knowledge and insight that the Prophet Muhammad was given to lead his community are highlighted in Surah Al-Qalam. Allah confirms the Prophet Muhammad's lofty nature in verse 4, characterising him as having "noble moral virtues." This verse highlights the Prophet's function as a teacher and role model who is tasked with sharing divine revelation and giving humanity direction. It emphasises how crucial prophetic knowledge is for guiding believers towards righteousness and providing them with inspiration.
6. "And indeed, you (O Muhammad) are of a great moral character."(Surah Al-Qalam 68:4)