Editorial

Amongst the very first verses revealed to the holy Prophet were these verses,

اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ

عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

"Read! Your Lord is the Most Generous,

who taught by the pen,

Taught the human what he did not know." (96:3-5)

These verses show that God knows one of the most significant ways of respecting human beings is "*teaching him*", a teaching by pens. This verse had been sent to prophet when the environment around him was stranger to science. When they talked about their ancestors or previous tribal wars, they were not to solve individual or social problems but they were seeking priority over other tribes or taking pride.

In this atmosphere, talking about science, especially the part of science related to pedagogy, the teaching which is by pen which gives eternity to cultural works and puts them in the heart of history, was a different message which showed the depth of messenger's mission and showed that messenger was not influenced by the current culture of the people of the time. All fair elites unite that the source of this message mentioned at the beginning of our discussion should be God's revelation.

The impact of this divine message among Muslims was so huge that Prophet, according to authentic traditions, ordered his words be written so as not to be forgotten after him. In addition, Muslims value the precious

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cultural heritage of scholars in other fields like medical studies – which were the result of their long experiences-. The exception in this domain was cruelty of some Muslim military forces who entered countries like Egypt and Iran and faced the scientific heritage of human beings thoughtlessly. These exceptions which are rooted in tendencies of ignorant time should not be accounted as all Muslims' fault in general or an order of Islam. Islam regardless of race or political tendencies has been always supporting the scientific and cultural works. Unfortunately, in recent years, by appearance of some groups who claim to be Muslim, the behavior of some of their ancestors is being repeated by the claimers. And the highest sorrow is when some media show appearance of Islam and Muslims to be this.

Let's return to our words. Muslims, to put Qurānic teachings and the words of Prophet in practice, did their best to spread knowledge and founded libraries. Donated small and big lands to found libraries, and established ***Darul-Ilms*** (each one a type of academy – as we say today-). When we look at the responsibilities of each of these places, we find, in fifth and sixth century, a kind of advanced "*knowledge management*" in that time which are even unique these days.

The present time is the time when Muslims, from one hand, should revive these academic and scientific glories of the past and value ***ilm*** (knowledge) more than any time and from the other hand, non-Muslims should try to know real Islam, not the extremists' version of Islam which is advertised and to reach this, they should notice the main trend of majority of Muslims during history.

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