

"Islam teaches the lesson of human respect and dignity irrespective of colour, race and creed." Discuss

Ans:

Islam the Champion of Human respect and dignity

I. Introduction:

Islamic morality is based on the principle of human respect and dignity and guarantees the equality of human irrespective of his caste, colour, race and creed. Dignity is the individual standing in the social structure upon his responsibilities and holds honour in response to his social duties. Society confers dignity on the individual. It involves the individual's ability to participate in social arrangement of some sort and to hold some kind of rank therein. Human dignity is the foundation of justice, freedom and peace in the world. The Quran states the Law of Nature that so long as people maintain their life systems on the basis of justice, freedom, and goodness and allow all people to enjoy their rights in a normal

and practice their lives freely without interference, they prosper and make progress in life. But when they start spreading corruption in the land and usurping other people's rights, their civilization begins to disintegrate and finally fades away from the pages of history. The Quran condemns in very strong words those people who spread corruption and injustice in the land and deny other people's right.

ii. Meanings of Human Dignity:

The term Dignity is derived from the Latin word "dignitas" which denotes a quality of being worthy, or honorable which signifies his highest and noble position in a community. Dignity means honor, authority or reputation. The Human Dignity consist in man's ability to experience self-awareness and to think rationally. A person deserves dignity and honor as a human being and has been endowed with the best physical, mental and intellectual form.

and given capacities and faculties which no other being has been given. Human being's dignity depends on eight interdependent values such as respect, power, enlightenment, well-being, health.

III. Islamic Concept of Dignity of Men and women:

One of the greatest contributions of Islam is the concept of individual and his dignity, status and potential. The entire philosophy of Islam is based on human dignity for each individual irrespective of creed, color, ethnicity etc.

A. Mankind as crown of creatures and central figure in Universe:

The Quran proclaims dignity of every man irrespective of caste, creed, colour etc.

"And surely We have honoured the children of Adam and We have made them excel by an appropriate excellence over most of those whom we have created" (Israa 17:70)

B. Man Created in Best Form:

لقد خلقنا الانسان في احسن تقويم
"Certainly he created man in
the best form"

(al-Tin 95:4)

C. Endowment of Knowledge as a
special Divine favour:

وعلم ادم الاسماء
"And he taught Adam
all the names." (البقره 2:31)

D. Human Beings are God's vicegerents
on Earth:

واذ قال ربك للملائكة اني جاعل
في الارض خليفة
"And when your Lord
said to the angels. I am going
to place in the earth a 'Khalifa'"

E. Prophet (PBUH) as Best Model of
Being vicegerent of God:

The contribution of prophet Mahamm-
ad (PBUH) to the enhancement of human
dignity is diversified. He was himself a
perfect example of graceful, pleasing

He was himself a perfect example of graceful, pleasing and beautiful conduct and he encouraged others to adopt the same conduct in their social life.

F. Equality of Mankind:

Islam upholds the inherent equality of mankind in general and of both genders in particular. Every individual as a human entity is entitled to equal esteem and respect and no distinction should be allowed to the incidence of birth, family, tribe, race or community, nationality, religion or gender.

G. Criterion of high position in society:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ
شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

O you men! Surely We have created you of a male and a female and made you tribes and families that you may know each other; surely the most honorable of you with Allah is the one among you

(الحجرات 49:13)

most careful (of his duty); surely Allah is Knowing, Aware."

H. Dignity of Man is conditioned with His being slave to God:

The very purpose of man's creation is to worship his Lord.

Ⓐ. Certainly We have created Jinns and Human beings for Hell, because they possess hearts but do not ponder with them, they have ears but do not hear with them, they have eyes but do not see what is fact. They are like animals rather worse than that"
(Al-Aaraaf 7:179)

IV. Responsibilities of Man as vicegerent of Allah:

The vicegerent of Allah puts great many responsibilities on man. These responsibilities are mentioned below.

A. Obedience to God:

Being the vicegerent of God man is only subordinate to Allah alone.

B. Purpose of Man's Life on Earth is Worship of God:

Man's creation is not useless and absurd. He is created with a definite objective. The Holy Quran says,

وما خلقت الجن والانس الا ليعبدون

And I have not created the Jinn and the men except that they should serve me.

C. Authority as Trust of God:

Authority is trust of God which man has to exercise as per His desires and commandments. Amanah establishes man's responsibility toward his kin, other human beings and socio-political institutions.

D. Administration of Justice of Earth:

And in the administration of justice between people in multifarious worldly affairs,

O you who believe! be maintainers of justice.

V. Conclusion:

Thus, Islam has preserved the human's dignity and respect irrespective of caste, colour and creed and endowed equal

responsibility as vicegerent of Allah.