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QUESTION

How does Islam highlight human dignity and greatness - (CSS 2024)

ANSWER:-

INTRODUCTION:-

One of the main tenets of Islamic teachings has been human dignity - By considering people to be the most noble of all creatures and man to be the God's vicegerent on Earth - Islam has given humanity a unique position - It became clear that the person is honourable by nature - In Islam every person has the same dignity without any discrimination - Robert C Maynasel writes, "Human rights rest on human dignity - The dignity of man is an ideal worth fighting for and worth dying for"

ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN DIGNITY:-

Islam arrived with the message of equality regardless of social class, age, race, religion and gender centuries before contemporary theories of human dignity - In Quran Allah (SWT) said

"O people indeed We created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes so that you may know one another. Indeed the most honourable of you

in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you."

Allah commanded humanity not to be suspicious of anyone even slaves. In addition He commanded to refrain from engaging in backbiting to harm one's reputation. Allah compares these social evils to eating the flesh of one's deceased brother.

HUMAN DIGNITY AND GREATNESS ACCORDING TO QURAN AND HADITH

Islam as a Deen does not invalidate a person's innate emotions. Rather it teaches to deal with or get past them. Humans are social creatures who need to interact with one another constantly.

- Islam gives unique status to humans among other creatures.

Islam strongly emphasizes humanity the thing that unites all people and protect human dignity. In Quran Allah (SWT) mentioned-

"And We have certainly honoured the children of Adam and carried them on land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what we have created with [definite] preference."

After creation of man God commanded angels to bow down to Adam in recognition of giving human special status-

- Islam provides equality for all Human beings.

Islam has given equality to all humans and opposes any sort of discrimination on any basis. It is never acceptable to use differences in race or religion as a reason to treat someone badly. Quran verse explains that why humanity is divided into "nations and tribes" that is to form bonds with one another. This does not mean that one should consider himself superior than the other on basis of race or cast-

- Islam gives freedom of belief to everyone.

According to Islamic philosophy faith or belief is both an internal emotion and a spiritual issue. So Islam grants freedom to everyone to choose between truth and falsehood. Allah (SWT) expressed this concept in following words.

Let there be no compulsion, for the truth stands out clearly from

falsehood - So whoever renounces the false gods and believes in Allah has certainly grasped the firmest, unfailing hand-hold. And Allah is All-Hearing, All-knowing."

- Islam elevates humanity by
positivizing justice

As the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and Quran both emphasize, aiding the weak is a constant theme. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) primary goal was to lesser social and economic injustices that were prevailing in society in order to preserve human dignity - The Indian Nightingale Sarojini Naidu in a speech said: "The sense of justice that Islam encompasses is one of the most wonderful ideals of Islam."

- Islam provides proper right to
inheritance to both Men and Women

The Prophet (PBUH) urged Muslims to follow divine morals and treat others kindly, just as Allah does for his servants. Allah (swt) explained the share of both genders in following words -

"Allah instructs you concerning your children, for male what is equal to share of two females."

HUMAN DIGNITY AND GREATNESS ACCORDING TO SERMON OF HAJJATUL WIDA

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) sermon is notable not only for its eloquence but also for thought provoking message it holds for humanity as a whole - When it comes to human rights and dignity the final sermon delivered by Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a significant and noteworthy piece of writing in human history.

- Emphasizes social equality and justice

The last sermon's ethical and moral precepts remain the best that the world has been able to establish - It's words exhibits spirit of humanity for all without any differences - It also present a social structure free from oppression and injustice - that guarantees the basic human rights - Holy Prophet (PBUH) said

"O people! just as you regard this month, this day and this city as sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners - Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord and that he will indeed reckon your deeds."

~~Promotes right to life and respect~~

- Promotes human dignity by granting legal rights to orphans, slaves.

The Prophet was particularly concerned about sponsoring orphans - The prophet held up his two fingers when he said: "The one who cares for an orphan and myself will be together in paradise like this." So there is no need to give up all wealth to be near to Holy Prophet - This high status can be achieved by sponsoring an orphan -

Holy Prophet said about slaves

And your slaves I see that you feed them with such food as you eat yourselves, and clothe them with same clothes that you yourselves wear."

- Emphasizes women rights and dignity

The rights of women were extended by Holy Prophet to encompass, property, inheritance, marriage of own choice - At the time, women had few, if any rights - This was a revolutionary move -

Holy Prophet said

"O people it is true that you have certain rights with regard to

your women but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah's trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness - Treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers...."

CONCLUSION: It is clear that human rights instruments stem from the inherent dignity of a human which is the basis of all human rights. There are still social, racial and gender disparities - lower class oppression has been brought about by economic and social inequality. From above discussion it is clear that every person has rights for their particular role as spouse, parent, children etc. Islam has addressed all the issues - Indeed there is a great deal of room for social and individual reform in the world if the rights and responsibilities model found in Islam is applied to highlight human dignity and greatness.