

Questions:

How does Islam highlight human dignity and greatness? Discuss.

Answer:

Islam, as a comprehensive way of life, underscores the intrinsic worth and nobility of every human being. It encapsulates a philosophy that elevates human dignity and promotes greatness through its teachings. This exaltation is deeply rooted in the Quran and Hadith, where the principles of human dignity are meticulously articulated.

### ① The Divine Breath: Origin of Human Dignity

Islam posits that human dignity stems from the divine breath bestowed upon Adam. This is articulated in the Quran:

"And when I have proportioned him and breathed into him a spirit of My Own (creation), then fall down to him in prostration".

(Quran, Surah Al-Hijr, 29)

This divine endowment ~~expresses~~ signifies the sanctity and inherent

## nature of human dignity.

### ② Elevated status as Vicer<sup>o</sup>g<sup>e</sup>n<sup>t</sup>s on Earth:

Islam designates humans as viceregents (Khalifah) on Earth, highlighting their elevated status and responsibility. As Allah in Quran says,

"And (mention, O Muhammad), when your Lord said to angels, 'I am going to place a vicegerent on the earth.'"

(Surah Al-Baqarah, 30)

This role underscores the trust and honor bestowed upon humans, obligating them to uphold justice, compassion and ethical stewardship.

### ③ Equality of Mankind:

Islam vehemently rejects all forms racial, ethnic and social discrimination, promoting equality of all humans.

The ~~Quran~~ ~~states~~ Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) in his last sermon said:

"All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has

This acknowledgement of diversity reinforces the notion of respect and honor of all individuals, irrespective of their differences.

"And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colors"  
(Ar-Rum, 22)

### ⑥ Rights and Responsibilities of each individual regarding other individuals.

Islam delineates a comprehensive framework of rights and responsibilities that safeguard human dignity.

Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) said:

"The best among you are those who have the best manners and character"

(Sahih Bukhari)

This hadith signals toward the responsibility of individuals to treat others with kindness and integrity, thereby fostering a society that honors and protects the dignity of all its members.

### ⑦ Economic justice as a means of ensuring dignity:

Economic justice is a pivotal aspect of human dignity in Islam. The Quran encourages fair distribution of wealth and condemns exploitation:

"And give the relative his right, and (also) the poor and the traveler, and do not spend wastefully."

(Al-Isra, 26)

This principle of economic justice ensures that every individual has the means to live a dignified life.

### ⑧ Respect for Privacy

Respect for privacy is fundamental in Islam for preserving human dignity by safeguarding personal integrity and fostering trust within the community. The Quran emphasizes this in Surah Al-Hujurat:

"O you who have believed, avoid much (negative) assumption. And indeed, some assumption is a sin. And do not spy or backbite each other."

(Al-Hujurat, 12)

Similarly, Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) said:

"whoever conceals (the faults of) a Muslim, Allah will conceal his faults on the Day of Resurrection"

(Sahih Muslim)

### ⑨ Protection from defamation:

Islam condemns any form of humiliation or defamation that undermines human dignity. The Quran instructs:

"O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule another person; perhaps he may be better than them. Nor let women ridicule (other) women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by offensive names"

(Al-Hujurat, 11)

This guidance promotes respect and upholds the dignity of every individual by discouraging harmful behavior and speech.

## (10) Dignity in Labor

Ex: Islam recognizes the dignity of labor and the value of hard work. The Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) said:

"no one has ever eaten anything better than what he has earned with his own hands"

(Sahih-Bukhari)

This hadith highlights the honor in self-sufficiency and industriousness, underscoring that all forms of honest labor are noble and every individual's work is respected.

## Conclusion:

Islam's emphasis on human dignity and greatness is profound and multifaceted. ~~Through its~~ In Islam, human dignity is a fundamental principle derived from divine creation, vicegerency, and inherent worth of every individual. This dignity is safeguarded through principles of equality and respect for

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all. By adhering to these teachings, Muslims uphold the honor and respect that every human being deserves.

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