

Q: How does the Islam highlight human dignity and greatness? Discuss.

Introduction:-

Human dignity is the core principle of Islam. Therefore, Allah sent around one hundred twenty thousand Prophets for the guidance of humans. In the end through Prophet Muhammad Allah introduced Quran. The book that emphasize the human dignity. In the revealed text in "Surah Bani-Israel" (verse 70), Allah identified humans as superior creature. Human dignity in Islam is based upon the harmony among humans, equal rights, better treatment, upholding rule of law and balanced life style under the central authority of Allah. All the stated aspects form a society based on the principle of care.

Concept of human dignity in Islam:

Islam views the humans as the noblest creature of God. The main reason behind this status is the distinctive feature of humans, which is the ability of thinking. By analyzing the situations humans can distinguish between right and wrong, truth and false, love and hate. This feature helped humans to build a civilized society where they can live together and

ent for their survival because it is the common interest. However, one of the other feature of human is greed. Interest of commanding others. This phenomenon led them use force against others based particularly against other tribes, nations and regions. This oppressing nature also effects their individual life like treating women as property. Therefore to stop this destruction Allah revealed the sacred of Quran. Allah stated in the Quran:

ذَٰلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

This is the book of Allah there is no doubt in it, a guidance for those who are mindful of God".

Harmony among humans :-

Harmony is a state of mutual agreement between different individuals where they live together peacefully without any conflicts. The concept can be understand through individual and collective matters of society. An individual level the home is the best example of harmony, where every person of family play

their role to enjoy peaceful life. The harmony and peace distracts one when one member likes to live upon their interests. The same happens in the diverse societies where groups of people belonging to one tribe, sect or religion try to influence others for their interests. In the Islamic world this the most common phenomenon and people go for wars for many years. This concept was broken when Prophet Muhammad migrated to Medina. The companions migrated to Medina are from different clans and the city also have few population. Due to the diversity Prophet constituted the "constitution of Medina". The document unifies the people of different clans under the banner of "one ummah". The rights of citizens was protected. Moreover, every person can practice their religion freely. This creates a society based on harmony that upholds the human dignity.

Human rights the foundation of human dignity :

Before the advent of Islam the weak faction of society is treated as animals. They are used for the work and pleasure of strong and wealthy people of society.

However, the Islam preached that every human is equal to other. Therefore, for the first time in history "charter of human rights" was introduced. In the last sermon of Hajj, the prophet stated that "no one is superior to others, neither Arabs are superior on Ajami (non-Arabs) nor Ajami's are superior than Arabs. No white is superior on black and no black is superior on white. All are equal in front of Allah except those who are best in their deed." Further he said that "I am warning you in the matters of women and poor. Uphold the equity among these issues and take guidance from Quran". This important sermon shows that human dignity is the key concept of Islamic belief. Moreover, the following are the key basic human rights in Islam.

Right of equality :-

Every person in Islam is equal based upon humanity. In Surah Surah Hijrat, verse 13 Allah stated that "Mankind! We have created you from a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know each other. Verily the noblest among you in the sight of Allah is the most God-fearing of you. Surely,

Allah is "all knowing, all aware". This verse shows that every person is equal except the one who is civilized according to the guidance of Allah. The verse demolished the concept of weak and strong. The equality creates the society where everyone can live with dignity.

Right of life and living peacefully :-
As the above statement shows that everyone is equal. Therefore, the life of every human is important because in the world every human represents the God. Everyone is playing their part. As stated in the Quran Surah Maeda, verse 32 "That's why we laid it down for the children of Israel that whoever killed a human (unless it be in punishment) shall be regarded as having killed all mankind, and that whoever saved a human life shall be regarded as having saved all mankind." This verse shows that how important is human dignity. The creators of chaos are killers of humanity, not only specific nations.

Women rights :-

In pre-Islamic world in most parts women are treated as slave or animal. People trade women as currency. In Arabia people take girls so they drowned them while their birth. In India women do "sati" means throwing themselves in fire after demise of husband. In Europe women are killed on the name of witch craft. However, Islam demoted women as blessing of Allah as daughter, the key of paradise and care as mother, the friend and loyal partner as wife. In every stage Islam consider women as parallel to men. The right to own property, right to marry according to her desire, protection after marriage as "mehar" and shareholder in husband's property and right to get divorce. All of these rights are given to women by Islam to make them equal to men and uphold their status in society.

Right of minorities :

In Islam the right of minorities are protected as equal to muslim. However, they cannot politically influence muslims in the majority areas. In Quran Surah Kahaf Ayat 29, Allah said that "This is truth from your lord," them whoever wills let

on believe, and whoever wills let him dis-
believe". This shows that muslims are not
allowed to forcefully convert others. Because
they are free humans, they have ability to
distinguish right or wrong. Therefore, they
are allowed to practice their religion as
well as they can practice their religions
in law. Only they are politically prohibited
influence on counter Islamic ideology.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, the religion of Islam
identified the human dignity as fundamental
aspect of life on earth. The proper
implementation of the above mentioned teaching
in the life of muslims can create
a world, where everyone wants to live,
because every individual of loves dignity
and Islam's foundation is based upon
the guidance that how human dignity can be
truly achieved.