

How did Islam highlight the human dignity and greatness.

Explain.

1) Introduction:-

Islam lays great stress on the dignity and greatness of human. It stresses the elevated status of humans above all other creations. At several instances in Quran we find mentions of superiority of man and his noble purpose on Earth. The teachings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) elaborate the greatness of man. He started his preaching in Arab when the people were living their lives like animals and gradually taught them about their real status and goal in the world.

2) Meaning of Human Dignity:-

The word 'dignity' has been derived from 'dignitas' (latin), which means 'a quality of being worthy and honorable'. In Islamic lexicon, human dignity refers to the distinctive status conferred upon man by Allah (SWT) over other creatures. It is both an honour and a responsibility (amanat).

3) How Islam Highlights Dignity and Greatness of Humans:-

Islam highlights the human dignity and greatness through Quran and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

a) Calls Man a Crown jewel of All Creatures

Islam names man as the crown jewel amongst all creatures on earth.

(Bani Israel: 70) ... وَلَقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْ أَدْمَنْ بْنِ يَحْيَى

Verily! We have honoured the children

of Adam. We carry them on land and the sea.

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b) Calls Man A Creature With Best Form

Quran explains how man has been created in the best form both to highlight his status and responsibilities

(Al-Quran) لقد خلقنا انساناً في احسن تقويم

c) Man has been conferred with Knowledge.

Allah clearly mentions in the Quran that Humans are the only creatures blessed with Knowledge

(Al-Bagara) وَمَا أَدْرَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ إِلَّا مَا كِتَبَ

And He taught Adam the names, All of them.

d) Man as the Viceroy of God on Earth

A clear sign of honourable status of man is the fact that he has been appointed as the deputy of Allah on Earth. This has been mentioned in Surah Al-Bagara in a conversation between Allah and angles.

(Al-Bagara: 31) انِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً

"I am placing a Deputy on Earth."

e) Prostration of Angels for Man

Yet another evidence of the honorable status of humans is the fact that they are the only creatures that was prostrated by angels on the command of Allah (SWT).

This event is mentioned in Surah Al Bagara. leave a line space between headings for neatness.

f) Equality of All Humans

This honour or greatness is not an attribute of specific class of humans, it is universally applicable. Quran says: "He created you from a single being, then of the same kind made its mate."

g) Islam Sets Clear Criteria for Greatness

While setting the status of man, Allah also commands man to stick to the greatness that has been conferred upon him. — *فَلَئِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُّحْسِنُونَ*

The noblest among you in the sight of Allah is the one best in conduct (49:13)

4) How Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Taught Human Dignity :-

The era of Pre-Islamic era was immersed in barbarism. It was Prophet Muhammad who reinstated their dignity.

a) Ended Wars and Created Harmony

To teach men about human dignity,

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) forged alliances and concluded treaties. Sir William Muir

accepts that this is way Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) solved issues of dignity in Arab.

b) Highlighted Importance of Education

Knowledge is one of the most distinctive feature of mankind. He highlighted the importance of education in following words, "Knowledge is the lost property of believer, he should get it wherever available."

c) Highlighted Individual Responsibility

The status of high dignity comes

with equally high responsibilities. Islam focuses on this aspect too. In the words of Holy Prophet (PBUH): **كلم راع و كلهم مسؤول عن رعيته** "All of you are shepherds and each of you is responsible for his flock."

d) Highlighted Collective Responsibility

Human dignity also demands them to spend their energies in the establishment of a just social order that implements divine laws of equality, harmony and justice for all.

e) Dignified Status of Women

The status of dignity is not restricted to male gender, it is equally applicable to the females. One hadee-e-Nabri mentions:— "O people! fear Allah concerning women. You have taken them on the security of Allah...."

5) What Human Dignity Demands:-

The endowment of dignity and greatness is a responsibility

and demands men of certain duties.

a) Obedience to God

This is the foremost requirement for maintenance of human dignity.

(Al-Qur'an) عَزَّوَجَلَّ وَلَمْ يَرَ

I have created Jins and Humans; they should worship me.

b) Administration of Justice

on Earth

Creation of a just social is yet another requirement for sustained human dignity. Qur'an says: "Let not the hatred of a people prevent you from dispensing justice."

6) Conclusion:-

A clear theme of

good attempt!!!

Islam is highlighting the dignified status of man amongst all other

creatures. Several injunctions of

Qur'an and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) highlight this

dignity while also laying clear

rules for the maintenance of

this status. ~~No state~~