

Islam grants right of self-respect and dignity irrespective of colour, creed and race. Explain.

## Q5 Self-Respect and Human Dignity: A Universal Right granted by Islam

In Islamic civilization, humandignity is inherent, God-given honour bestowed upon every individual irrespective of color, creed, race, gender, or socio-economic status.

Islam considers piety as the sole criterion of social honour and superiority.

Allah Almighty says in Glorious Quran

“Indeed, We created you from a male and a female and made your tribes so that you may know one another. Indeed, the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous.”

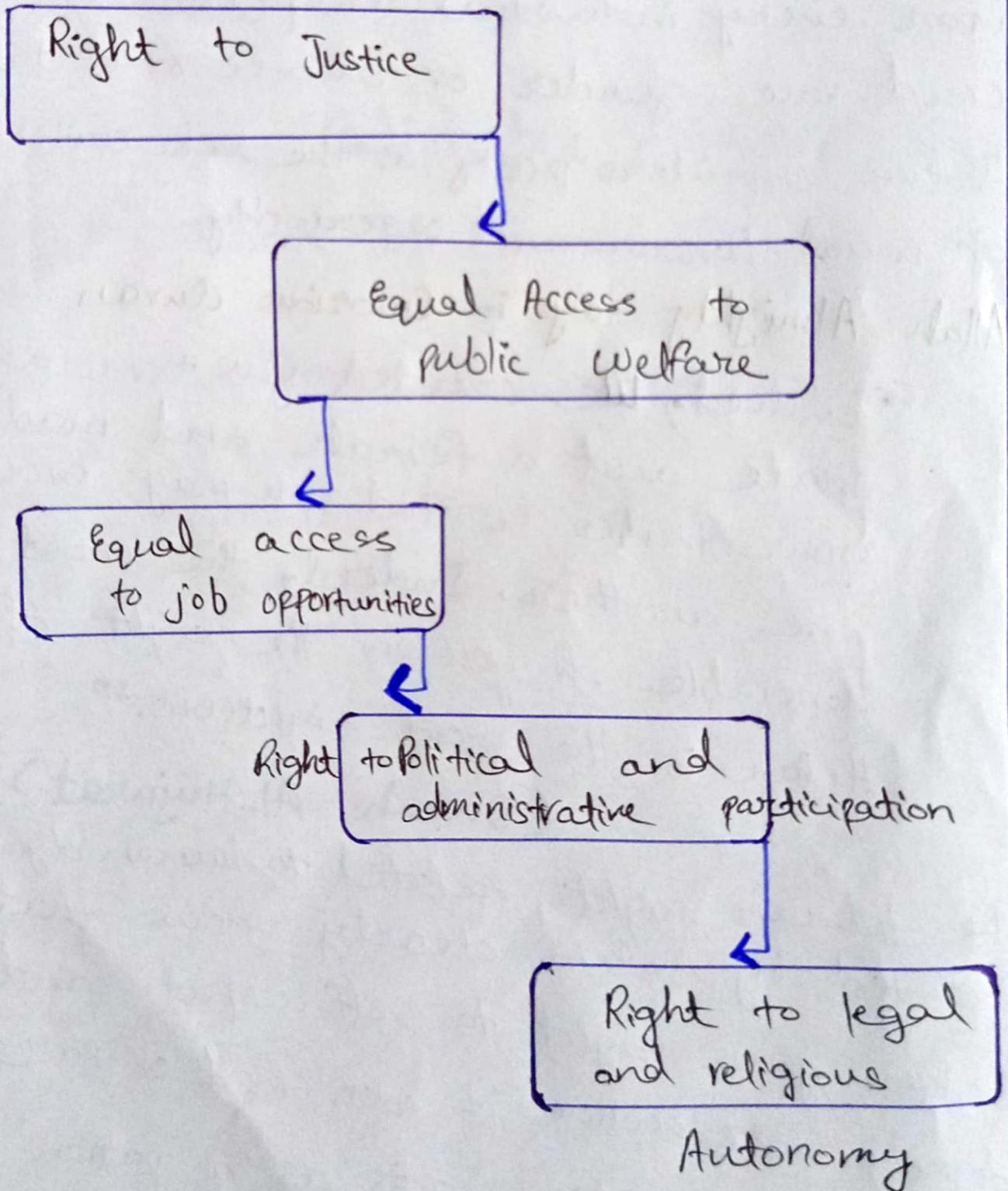
(Surah Al-Hujurat)

The human rights related to human dignity granted by Islam clearly shows that Islam gives right to self-respect and dignity irrespective of color, creed or race.

Islamic civilization acts as a patron of equality of all humans in terms of dignity.

# 1- Human Rights Related to Human

Dignity granted by Islam that clearly shows Islam gives a <sup>right to self-</sup>respect and dignity irrespective of color, creed or race



2. Examples from Islamic Civilization: An Eidolon that validates the stance 'Islam gives right to Self-Respect and Dignity irrespective of Color, Creed and Race'

1- Rashidun Caliphate: A Golden Standard for Protection of Human Dignity

i- Protection from Discrimination

During the reign of Caliph Abu Bakr (R.A.), Usama ibn Zayd (the son of formerly enslaved man of African descent) remained commander of Muslim force. This shows Caliph Abu Bakr (R.A.) preferred meritocracy to lineage or tribal aristocracy. This validates that in Islamic civilization equal access to job opportunities was given to everyone for protecting self-respect of all irrespective of color, creed or race.

## ii- Equality before the law

During the reign of Caliph A'Umar (R.A.), the son of Amr ibn al Aas (governor of Egypt) struck a Coptic Christian Egyptian as he got furious on being horse race against Christian. Caliph Umar (R.A.) gave a whip to Coptic Christian and told him to strike governor's son in front of public. In this way, this equality before the law preserves dignity of everyone irrespective of color, creed or race.

## iii- Equal Access to Public Welfare

During the reign of Caliph Uman (R.A.), public feasts were organized in which everyone irrespective of color, creed or race such as non-Muslim laborers ate same high quality food as that of leaders of that time. This protects the self-respect and dignity of all irrespective of color, creed or race.

## iv- Kind Treatment with Minorities

when Caliph Ali (R.A.) appointed Malik

Al Ashtar as governor of Egypt, he wrote following words:

“Infuse your hearts with kindness for subjects as they are of two types: they are either your brothers in faith or equals in humanity.”

Examples from

## ii- Abbasid Caliphate

Equal Access to Job Opportunities: The appointment of Zary (African) in state institutions clearly shows that Islam gives right to dignity to everyone irrespective of color, creed or race by providing right to equal job opportunities for everyone.

## iii- Examples from Umayyad Caliphate (Andalusia)

Equal Political and Administrative Participation

In Andalusia, Saqaliba (slaves of European origin) were appointed to top military and administrative positions. Moreover, Muwallads (non-Arab converts to Islam) formed the backbone of Andalusian economic and intellectual elite. In addition to this,

Sephardic (Jewish) elite formed the backbone of Andalusia. This shows Islam gives give to dignity to everyone irrespective of color, creed or race.

#### iv. Examples from Ottoman Empire

Millet system: Reflection of Right to legal and Religious Autonomy

This system allowed non-Muslims to govern their own religious and social affairs.

#### v. Examples from Mughal Empire

Right to Justice for all: Jahangir's "Golden Chain of Justice" allowed everyone irrespective of color, creed or race to pull the chain to seek personal redress <sup>in Emperor's court</sup> for injustice.

### 3. Farewell Sermon of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.): Greatest Advocate for equal right to Self-respect and Dignity

"An Arab is not superior to a non-Arab; neither a non-Arab is superior to an Arab. Moreover,

neither a White is superior to Black,  
nor a Black is superior to White,  
except for piety."

## Concluding Thoughts

Islam contends that all humans have equal right to self-respect and dignity irrespective of color, creed or race. Islam contends that human dignity is inherent, God-given honour bestowed upon everyone irrespective of color, creed or race. Islamic civilization presents the incredible examples that show Islam gives right to self-respect and dignity irrespective of color, creed or race.

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