

Islamia

إسلامية

EVERY FRIDAY

Islam and Knowledge But What Knowledge?

It could be argued that education is not unique to Islam; however, the great emphasis on education is unique about Islam as a religion, which emphasis on the attainment of knowledge and perusal of education cannot be overstated.

But knowledge doesn't exist as an absolute value. One can obtain knowledge of that is wicked and depraved and use it for such purposes as well.

Knowledge in Islam (and of Islam) is meant to educate, inform and strengthens one's faith, for the sake of oneself, true, but most importantly his community and his Ummah. Muslims should seek and obtain knowledge and use it for good or to preclude vice.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) called on Muslims to obtain and then share the knowledge they have obtained: "Acquire knowledge, for he who acquires it in the way of Allah performs an act of piety; he who speaks of it, praises the Lord; he who seeks it, adores Allah; he who dispenses instruction in it, bestows alms; and he who imparts it to others, performs an act of devotion to Allah." (Sahih Bukhari and Muslim).

So while the emphasis remains on knowledge and education, it's essential that we note that knowledge has been acquired in the way of Allah and is to be imparted for good and noble causes. It's not about 'knowing' per se,

but what ought to be known, and now such information should be disseminated and applied.

Equally important is that a Muslim should not be seeking knowledge for vanity, but to further the cause of Islam, which is ultimately the cause of humanity: that of everything good, virtuous and noble. Knowledge, after all, is a gift that Allah (SWT) has bestowed on humanity. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah (SWT) says: "And he taught Adam all the names, then presented them to the angels; then He said: Tell me the names of those if you are right. They said: Glory be to thee! We have no knowledge but that which Thou hast taught us; surely Thou art the knowing, the wise. He said: O Adam! Inform them of their names. Then when he had informed them of their names, He said: Did I not say to you that I surely know what is ghaib (invisible) in the heavens and the earth and (that) I know what you manifest and what you hide? And when We said to the angels: Make obeisance to Adam they did obeisance but Iblis (did it not). He refused and he was proud and he was one of the unbelievers." (Q.S. Al-Baqarah/2: 31-34)

In a titah delivered during his a recent working visit to Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (Kupu SB), His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam greets students during the monarch's visit to Al-Falah School at Taman Manggis, Jalan Muara, on January 26. **Picture: Infofoto**

clear distinction between hyped progress and true knowledge, as he emphasized the need to make religious education compulsory.

"This has been called an era of progress, but at the same time it is also referred to as a time of decay and ruin," His Majesty said. "What has decayed and suffered ruin? The answer is human morale and behaviour."

His Majesty added, "The damage is no longer confined to a certain level of age, though the gravest (to suffer) are among the youth. In this situation, we still have one remedy that we can turn to: religious education. We are

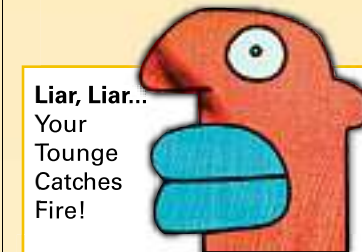
still capable of curing today's rampant societal ills with this remedy."

By the repeated emphasis on religious education, His Majesty is once again underscoring the very essence behind the obtainment of knowledge in Islam, one that should not be affected by time, place or even age.

Allah (SWT) said: "Are they equal those who know and those who do not know? But only men of understanding will pay heed." (Q.S. Al-Zumar/39:9)

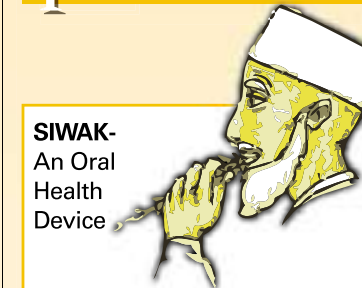
May Allah (SWT) guide us to always heed the call and follow the path of the righteous.

Islamia



Liar, Liar...
Your
Tounge
Catches
Fire!

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SIWAK-
An Oral
Health
Device

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**'1001
Inventions
by Muslims'
Awarded**

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**French
Muslim's
Paradox in
2009**

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**Instilling
Love
of
Rasulullah**

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