

DIGNITY OF MAN IN ISLAM

Pof. Dr. Bashir Ahmad Siddiqi*

The great nations of the world have now realised the importance of the dignity of man. U.N.O. is the most important world organization meant to diffuse feelings of universal brotherhood and to promote and protect human rights. One of the ideals of this organisation is:

" to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small". (1)

The Holy Qur'an, which is a complete code of life (2) and which contains the best and the highest ideals for all nations in all ages,(3)introduced the concept of the 'dignity of man' fourteen hundred years ago, in an age when civilization had hardly made any progress towards this ideal:

"And surely We have honoured the children of Adam and We carry them in the land and the sea, and We have given them of good things, and We have made them to excel most of those whom We have created".(4)

Man according to the above verse is not an ordinary creature but he is regarded as an excellent master-piece of the Creator. The Holy Qur'an dignifies the personality of man when it says:

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EDITORIAL

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

﴿ وَاعِدُوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ وَمِنْ رِبَاطِ الْخَيْلِ تُرْهِبُونَ بِهِ عَدُوَّ اللَّهِ وَعَدُوَّكُمْ وَآخَرِينَ مِنْ دُونِهِمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَهُمُ اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُهُمْ ﴾ (الأنفال: ٦٠)

" Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts of) the enemies and others besides, whom ye may not know, but whom Allah doth know...."

The word power used in the verse has broad meaning and significance. Muslim Ummah is ordained to be always ready and put all resources to encounter the lurking enemies whom man may not know, but Allah the Almighty knows.

In contemporary global scenario, Muslim Ummah can enhance its strength to meet economic and political threats by resorting to the field of research. In this regard, Pakistan, being a leader of Muslim Ummah, has shown an example in nuclear field. The nuclear capability has not only transformed the defence of the country indomitable but also restored a sense of security to the whole muslim world.

To meet the challenges of the twenty first century, Pakistan needs dedicated and patriotic individuals, who keep themselves abreast with new developments in their respective fields.

In this regard, Universities and other Institutions can play a pivotal role in preparing the young generation to meet and face the new challenges. The bi-annual publication of Al-Adwa is an effort to promote research activities in Islamic Learning.

CHIEF EDITOR

In the name of Allah
the most gracious,
the most merciful.

" It is He Who made the sun to be shining glory, and the moon to be a light, and measured out stages for her; That ye might know the number of years and the count (of time). Nowise did Allah create this, but in truth and righteousness.

*(Thus) doth He explains his signs
in detail, for those who
understand."*

(Yunus/5)

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