

Our responsibility of spreading useful knowledge BS Foad, MD 2017

(1) Acquire knowledge and proper understanding of religion and teach it to others

The first verses of the Qur'an were: "Read in the name of your Lord who created" Al-Alaq (The Clot) 96: 1; "And say: "My Lord increase me in knowledge." Ta Ha 20: 114 "So that those endowed with knowledge may know that this Qur'an is the truth from your Lord, and that they may believe in it, and that their hearts may submit to it; and Allah will guide those who believe to a straight path." Al-Hajj (Pilgrimage) 22: 54. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (The best among you is he who learns the Qur'an and teaches it to others) Bokhari & Muslim

(2) Knowledge and proper understanding of the Qur'an influence our character & behavior

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) knew the Qur'an better than anyone, and exhibited this in his character & behavior. His wife Aesha said: His character was that of the Qur'an. He was **patient & tolerant, kind and forgiving** "It is part of the mercy of Allah that you became kind and gentle with them; were you harsh or severe they would have left you; therefore pardon them and seek Allah's forgiveness for them and consult them in your mutual affairs" Al-Imran 3: 159; he was **just** and harmed no one. He was **honest and truthful**; he was **humble and devoted to Allah** and exemplary in his worship, fasting and charity; **he did not care about the material things in life**, but sought to get close to Allah & gain his pleasure. We should **follow the example of Allah's messenger**. Most of the Qur'an deals with ethics and morals, and how we can improve and become better human beings. **Those who know are guided and not arrogant, and their faith is strong**. In contrast, those who are ignorant follow their vain desires: "Is then one who is on clear evidence from his Lord no better than one to whom his evil conduct seems pleasing and such as follow their own lusts?" Muhammad 47: 14'; **those who know are not stubborn**, and when they make a **mistake turn to Allah seeking his forgiveness & correct their wrong-doing**: "And when they do a shameful deed, or wrong their own souls remember Allah, and seek forgiveness for their sins, and who can forgive sins but Allah? And are never obstinate in persisting knowingly in the wrong they have done." Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) 3: 135; **those who know fear Allah and are most mindful of him**: "Indeed the scholar are the ones who fear Allah and are most mindful of Him." Fatir (Originator) 35: 28; Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (By Allah among you I know Allah the best, and I am most mindful of Him) Bokhari & Muslim. "Say: Are those who know equal to those who do not know? Only people of understanding will remember." Az-Zumar (Groups) 39: 9. Those who know understand **that the goal of their fast is to learn patience and Taqwa** and to get close to Allah and gain his pleasure, therefore they do not lie or cheat, or raise their voice or use bad language or engage in fights. If someone curses them or picks up a fight with them, they say: "I am fasting". Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Whoever does not stop lying or giving false witness then there is no need for him to stop eating and drinking) Bokhari.

(3) Great reward for learning and teaching the Qur'an and spreading useful knowledge

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Whenever a group of Muslims gather in one of the houses of Allah, reciting and learning the book of Allah among themselves, till tranquility descends on them, and Allah's mercy engulfs them, and the angels surround them, and Allah mentions them to those in his presence) Ahmad, Muslim & Termidhi.

(The distinction of the scholar over the worshiper is like my distinction over the least one among you. Allah and his angels, and everyone in the heavens and earth even the ant in its hole, even the fish, pray on behalf the person who teaches and guides others to what is good) Termidhi.

(4) Do not hide or conceal useful knowledge

"Those who conceal what We have sent down of the clear signs and the guidance, after We made it clear to mankind in the book, on them shall be the curse of Allah" Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 159

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Whoever conceals a knowledge that he has will be harnessed with a harness of fire on the Day of Judgment) Ibn Hibban & Hakim.