

Reflection & Creative Thinking

Khutbah Selection: Hafiz Sajjad

Almighty Allah said:

Have they ever reflected on the wonders of the heavens and the earth, and everything Allah has created... (7:185)

Indeed, Allah has gifted to people an intellect and consciousness, possessing full understanding, gifting them the faculty of hearing through ears and seeing through eyes. In this manner they have been gifted the faculty of being able to engage in self-reflection, contemplation and creative thinking wherein they can engage in trying to understand things as they truly are through their reflective insight.

Contemplation and **reflection** establish certainty in the faith, such that the person is able to repeat with his tongue and his heart:

Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly
(Qur'an: 3:191)

To engage the contemplative faculty is a key to bringing light to our hearts and faith, as many companion are reported to have said that:

“The Light of Faith is contemplation”
(Tafsir Ibn Kathir)

Poet Iqbal says:

O, Muslim Youth: Have you ever made reflection?

Allah has encouraged us to contemplate upon the various things he has facilitated for us in the Earth from His blessings, such that we can benefit from its produce and thank its immense Creator.

Indeed, the way of deep contemplation is the way of creativity and the path of inventions, through which constant discoveries are made. Allah in the Noble Qur'an has urged us to take this path, when He says:

Indeed, in that are signs for a people who contemplate.

[Qur'an: 13:03]

Allah swt says:

We will show them Our signs in the Universe and within themselves....

We see nowadays from the means by which we see scientific advancement, inventions and technological development, is from the gifted success of Allah. All of this is a result of the contemplative mind of thinkers and their discoveries. This is what has enabled them to discover and embark on technologies in space, medical sciences, engineering etc. This is a way of advancement in human civilization.

Parents and teachers should develop the spirit of reflection and creative thinking in the children. This can be encouraged by promoting modes of research with children and students, wherein their progress can be monitored, continued and developed in a sustainable way. This is what characterizes civilizations that have truly developed minds and intellects, who are able to continue to develop in innovative ways.

The contemplative insight should be used in reflecting on the meanings of the Qur'an.

As Allah says:

And We revealed to you the message that you may make clear to the people what was sent down to them and that they might do reflection. [Qur'an: 16:44]

Allah swt also says:

And it is He who spread the earth and placed therein firmly set mountains and rivers; and from all of the fruits He made therein two mates; He causes the night to cover the day. Indeed, in that are signs for people who make contemplation. (Qur'an: 13:03)

Allah says:

And Allah has extracted you from the wombs of your mothers while you knew nothing and He made for you hearing and vision and intellect.

Qur'an: 16:78

As Allah says:

And (Signs) in yourselves. Then will you not, see?

Qur'an: 51:21

Allah swt also says to make research on his creation:

Then do they not look at the camels - how they are created? (Qur'an: 88:17)

Likewise, Allah says:

Do they not observe the birds above them with wings outspread and (sometimes) folded in?

(Qur'an: 67:18)

Dua (Prayer):

O, Allah, indeed You are the One who has gifted to us our intellects, so give us true understanding and contemplation, such that we can return to you with goodness and ascension in our spirituality.

And with this, let us send our prayers and blessings upon our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon him, and upon his family and his companions.

I say this and I ask Allah's forgiveness for me and you, so seek His forgiveness for He is the most Forgiving, the most Merciful.