

دینی تعلیم کی ضرورت و افادیت

THE BENEFITS OF SEEKING  
**ISLAMIC**  
**KNOWLEDGE**

SHAYKH ZUBAIR MARJALVI



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# INTRODUCTION

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All praise is due to Allah. We praise Him and seek His forgiveness. Whoever Allah guides, none can misguide him. And whoever He misguides, none can guide him. I testify that none has the right to be worshipped in truth except Allah, who has no partners. And I testify that Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is His servant and Messenger.

To proceed:

I seek refuge in Allah from the accursed Shaytan. In the name of Allah, the Most-Merciful, Ever-Merciful:

﴿إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ﴾

“Only the people of knowledge among His servants’ fear Allah.”  
[Surah Al-Fatir 35:28]

My respected brethren in Islam!

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

إِنَّ مِنْ أَشْرَاطِ السَّاعَةِ أَنْ يُرْفَعَ الْعِلْمُ، وَيَثْبُتَ الْجَهْلُ

“It is from the conditions of the Last Hour that knowledge would be taken away and ignorance would prevail (upon the world).” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 80]

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

يَدْرُسُ الْإِسْلَامَ كَمَا يَدْرُسُ وَثْنِي الْقُوبِ حَتَّى لَا يُدْرَى مَا صِيَامٌ وَلَا صَلَاةٌ وَلَا نُسُكٌ وَلَا صَدَقَةٌ  
وَلَيْسَرَى عَلَى كِتَابِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ فِي لَيْلَةٍ فَلَا يَبْقَى فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنْهُ آيَةٌ وَتَبْقَى طَوَائِفٌ مِنَ  
النَّاسِ الشَّيْخِ الْكَبِيرِ وَالْعَجُوزِ يَقُولُونَ أَدْرَكْنَا آبَاءَنَا عَلَى هَذِهِ الْكَلِمَةِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ فَنَحْنُ  
نَقُولُهَا.

“Islam will wear out as embroidery on a garment wears out, until no one will know what fasting, prayer, (pilgrimage) rites and charity are. The Book of Allah will be taken away at night, and not one Ayah of it will be left on earth. And there will be some people left, old men and old women, who will say: “We saw our fathers saying these words: ‘La ilaha illallah’ so we say it too.””  
[Sunan Ibn Majah 4049]

If we pay attention to the state of the Muslims today, this fact shines as bright as the sun; that most of them have sound knowledge of the affairs pertaining to the world. How can internet, mobiles or computers be used efficiently? What is the latest fashion trend? What are the prices of foods and drinks? What are the current political affairs and situations? What is happening around the world? They have an answer for all of these questions.

But if you ask them: What does it mean to say that Allah is “Al-Samad?” How should the prostration of forgetfulness be performed? What does Islam say about marriage and divorce? What does Islam teach us in matters of transactions? What are the issues Islam addresses in matters of worship? They can’t

answer a single one.

This is the state of that portion of Muslims who are ignorant. On the other hand, you have the self-proclaimed “Allama”, “Mufti”, “Aalim”, “Shaykh”, “Ustadh” and Allah knows best how many titles he comes up with. Such people, despite also being miles away from having knowledge of Islam, still present themselves as people who should be returned to for Islamic issues. They issue verdicts based on their desires, and become from the major sources of making ignorance prevail among laymen.

So, upon us is to stand up against these people and serve people our Deen according to the way of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).

After Eid ul-Fitr, many new students get admitted into the Islamic schools throughout Pakistan, and they are in the thousands! These students make themselves an endowment for the path of Tawhid.

With this befitting subject in mind, we will mention some points on the benefits of seeking Islamic Knowledge, so that our hearts recognize its value and station, and we can make our lives an endowment for the Deen of Allah.

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# THE BENEFITS OF SEEKING ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE

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## 1. Seeking knowledge is a means to recognize Allah:

What greater benefit of seeking Islamic knowledge can there be than being able to recognize Allah? We will never recognize Allah until we seek Islamic knowledge. The reality is that Islamic knowledge helps a person to recognize Allah and get closer to Him.

This is why Allah said:

﴿فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ﴾

“So know that none has the right to be worshipped in truth except Allah.” [Surah Muhammad 47:19]

## 2. Seeking knowledge precedes worship:

Allah created the humans and Jinns to worship Him alone, so it is important that we worship Him in a manner He commanded, and that is known after seeking Islamic knowledge.

Allah said:

﴿فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَمَا عَلَّمَكُم مَّا لَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾﴾

“Remember Allah as He taught you what you did not know.”  
[Surah Al-Baqarah 2:239]

Without knowledge, Allah never accepts any acts of worship of His servant. Imam Bukhari (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) mentioned a chapter in his “Al-Sahih”:

“Chapter: Knowledge precedes Speech and Action.”

He used as evidence for this title the statement of Allah:

﴿فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ﴾

“So know that none has the right to be worshipped in truth except Allah.” [Surah Muhammad 47:19]

Imam Bukhari is trying to clarify here that the validity of performing acts of worship is dependent upon having knowledge of these acts of worship beforehand.

So remember my brothers!

We can keep on performing good deeds till the end of our lives, but if we do not have knowledge of it, Allah will not accept it.

Allah said:

﴿وَقَالُوا لَوْ كُنَّا نَسْمَعُ أَوْ نَعْقِلُ مَا كُنَّا فِي أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ﴾

“And they will say, “If only we had listened or understood, we would not be among the dwellers of the Blazing Fire.” [Surah Al-Mulk 67:10]

### **3. Allah specifically intends good for those who are from the people of knowledge:**

All kinds of people live on earth. Allah has honored every single one of them above others in some way or form. But the true distinguishment and honor of Allah is upon His servant who He chose to seek knowledge of His Deen.

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ يُرِدِ اللهُ بِهِ خَيْرًا يُفَقِّهْهُ فِي الدِّينِ.

“When Allah wills good for a person, He causes him to understand the Deen.” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 71]

### **4. The people of knowledge and people of ignorance can never be equal:**

A scholar and an ignorant can never be equal. On one hand, you have a person who Allah granted understanding of this Deen. This person knows what is Haram and what is Halal, and how to differentiate between the good and the bad. On the other hand, you have a person who does not possess anything the former had, and he himself is dependent upon the scholars to gain basic knowledge of his Deen. Are these two the same? No! Allah said:

﴿قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

“Say, “Are those who know equal to those who do not know?””  
[Surah Al-Zumur 39:9]

This Ayah is a question of negating the question present in it, and teaches us the importance of knowledge, that the people who have no Islamic knowledge will never be equal to those who have no Islamic knowledge.

### **5. The scholars are the ones who truly fear Allah:**

All kinds of people are given birth to on earth. How many think of themselves as being righteous? How many think of themselves as firm Muslims? How many think of themselves as true Believers? How many think of themselves as fearful of Allah? But Allah has told us that the ones who fear Allah truly are only those who are from the people of knowledge.

Allah said:

﴿إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ﴾

“Only the people of knowledge among His servants’ fear Allah.”  
[Surah Al-Fatir 35:28]

It’s obvious that when knowledge of Allah’s Deen enters one’s heart, it becomes a driving factor for one being fearful of Allah.

### **6. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) made Du’aa for the people of knowledge:**

What can be said about the honor and greatness of the scholars!

Even the Imam of the Prophets made Du'aa for them.

Our Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

نَضَّرَ اللَّهُ امْرَأً سَمِعَ مِنَّا حَدِيثًا فَحَفِظَهُ حَتَّى يُبَلِّغَهُ غَيْرَهُ.

“May Allah gladden a man who hears a Hadith from us, so he memorizes it until he conveys it to someone else.” [Sunan Al-Tirmidhi 2656; Al-Albani said: Sahih]

## 7. The scholars are the inheritors of the Prophets (عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ):

Being someone's heir or successor is seen as a matter to be proud of in our societies. But my brothers! The greatest matter one should be proud of is to become an inheritor of the Prophets (عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ)! And the scholars are the true inheritors of the Prophets.

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

وَإِنَّ الْعُلَمَاءَ وَرَثَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَإِنَّ الْأَنْبِيَاءَ لَمْ يُورَثُوا دِينَارًا وَلَا دِرْهَمًا وَرَثُوا الْعِلْمَ  
فَمَنْ أَخَذَهُ أَخَذَ بِحِطِّ وَافِرٍ.

“The scholars are the heirs of the Prophets, for the Prophets did not leave behind a Dinar or Dirham, rather they left behind knowledge, so whoever takes it has taken a great share.” [Sunan Abu Dawud 3641; Al-Albani said: Sahih]

The Prophets didn't leave behind any Dirham or Dinar, but left

behind knowledge, so whoever acquired this knowledge, he has inherited an abundant share of this inheritance.

## **8. The scholars testimony is mentioned alongside the Angels testimony:**

To prove his Uluhiyyah, Allah first mentioned his testimony, then His Angels, and then mentioned the testimony of the scholars, clarifying their virtue.

Allah said:

﴿شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُو الْعِلْمِ قَائِمًا بِالْقِسْطِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

“Allah testifies that none has the right to be worshipped except Him, as do the Angels and people of knowledge; He is the Upholder of justice. None has the right to be worshipped in truth except Him, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.” [Surah Aal-Imraan 3:18]

Allah did not mention the wealthy here; He mentioned the people of knowledge, that alongside Allah, the people of knowledge testify to His Uluhiyyah in truth and with justice.

My brothers! It is sufficient to know about the virtues of the scholars by knowing that they are placed among those great creations of Allah (the Angels) who say while dedicating themselves to testifying to Allah’s Uluhiyyah: “O Allah! None

has the right to be worshipped in truth except you.”

## **9. The scholar is honored in this life and the Hereafter:**

It is from Allah’s honor upon the scholars that they are the most honored people on earth due to being the inheritors of the Prophets. No one can humiliate the scholars and lower their honor, because if the One who is the sole Possessor of Honor gives honor to His servant, none can tarnish his honor despite his attempts.

Allah said:

﴿يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ﴾

“Allah will raise in ranks those who believed from among you and those who are given knowledge.” [Surah Al-Mujadilah 58:11]

In this world and on the Day of Judgment, Allah will raise the ranks of the people of knowledge due to their good deeds.

## **10. The circles of the people of knowledge are covered by mercy and the Angels:**

Allah’s Mercy and peace starts to descend in the gatherings in which the scholars are seated. The Angels cover such gatherings and Allah makes mention of this gathering with His noble Angels.

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

وَمَا اجْتَمَعَ قَوْمٌ فِي بَيْتٍ مِنْ بُيُوتِ اللَّهِ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَيَتَدَارِسُونَهُ بَيْنَهُمْ إِلَّا نَزَلَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّكِينَةُ وَغَشِيَتْهُمُ الرَّحْمَةُ وَحَفَّتْهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَذَكَرَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِيمَنْ عِنْدَهُ.

“No people gather together in one of the Houses of Allah, reciting the Book of Allah and studying it among themselves, except that tranquility descends upon them, and mercy envelops them, and the angels surround them, and Allah mentions them amongst those who are with Him.” [Sahih Muslim 2699]

Allah loves that gathering in which the Qur’an and Hadith are mentioned and teaching and learning takes place so much so that he assigns a duty to one of His close Angels to go to the gathering of so-and-so where Allah is being remembered, and cover them, and the Angel obeys Allah and covers the scholars and the students in that gathering.

### 11. People have been commanded to accept the scholars speech:

Allah commanded people to obey Him, His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and then the people of knowledge.

Allah said:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ ط﴾

“O you who believe, obey Allah and obey the Messenger, and those of you who are in authority.” [Surah Al-Nisa 4:59]

In this Ayah, some scholars said that “in authority” refers to the ruler and his ministers, whereas some scholars said that it refers to the scholars and people of knowledge.

Anyhow, Allah is commanded the Believers to obey Him, His Messenger and the people of knowledge as well! So one can picture the importance of knowledge from this Ayah; that Allah has commanded people to obey the scholars as well.

## **12. If someone treads the right path due to a scholar’s Da’wah...:**

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

قَوْلَ اللَّهِ لِأَنْ يَهْدِيَ اللَّهُ بِكَ رَجُلًا وَاحِدًا خَيْرٌ لَكَ مِنْ أَنْ يَكُونَ لَكَ حُمْرُ النَّعَمِ.

“By Allah, if one man is guided on the right path through you, it would be better for you than (a great number of) red camels.” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 3701]

Wow! What can be said about the fate of a scholar! If a person is guided on the right path through a scholar, this is better for him than sacrificing red camels in Allah’s path. Congratulations are to be given to those scholars of this Deen who make their entire lives an endowment for this mission, those who spend their youth in this blessed path and spend their entire lives in in this Da’wah, receiving the honor of bringing the light of faith

to countless hearts which were shackled to the depths of darkness.

### **13. The scholars are like in rank to the Mujahid in Allah's path:**

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ جَاءَ مَسْجِدِي هَذَا لَمْ يَأْتِهِ إِلَّا لِحَيْرٍ يَتَعَلَّمُهُ أَوْ يُعَلِّمُهُ فَهُوَ بِمَنْزِلَةِ الْمُجَاهِدِ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ.

“Whoever comes to this mosque of mine, and only comes for a good purpose, such as to learn or to teach, his status is like that of one who fights in Jihad in the cause of Allah.” [Sunan Ibn Majah 227. Al-Albani said: Sahih]

### **14. Allah permitted people to envy the people of knowledge:**

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

لَا حَسَدَ إِلَّا فِي اثْنَتَيْنِ رَجُلٌ آتَاهُ اللَّهُ مَالًا فَسَلَّطَ عَلَىٰ هَلَكَتِهِ فِي الْحَقِّ، وَرَجُلٌ آتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْحِكْمَةَ، فَهُوَ يَقْضِي بِهَا وَيُعَلِّمُهَا.

“There is no envy except in two: a person whom Allah has given wealth and he spends it in the right way, and a person whom Allah has given wisdom (i.e. Islamic knowledge) and he gives his decisions accordingly and teaches it to the others.” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 73]

Envyng someone is prohibited in Islam, but Allah made the honor of the people of knowledge so great that he permitted people to envy them.

### **15. Islam will remain till the scholars are alive:**

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَقْبِضُ الْعِلْمَ انْتِزَاعًا، يَنْزِعُهُ مِنَ الْعِبَادِ، وَلَكِنْ يَقْبِضُ الْعِلْمَ بِقَبْضِ الْعُلَمَاءِ، حَتَّىٰ إِذَا لَمْ يُبْقِ عَالِمًا، اتَّخَذَ النَّاسُ رُءُوسًا جُهَالًا فَسُئِلُوا، فَأَفْتَوْا بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ، فَضَلُّوا وَأَضَلُّوا.

“Indeed Allah does not take away knowledge by removing it from the people, but He takes away knowledge by taking the scholars, until there remains no scholar and the people begin to ask the ignorant leaders, so they give their verdict without knowledge. They will go astray and lead the people astray.”

[Sahih Al-Bukhari 100]

As long as the scholars remain in this world, Islam will remain among its inhabitants. And when the souls of the scholars depart, people will appoint ignorants as their Muftis, so they will be misguided and misguide others. The result of this is that corruption will spread throughout the world.

### **16. Seeking knowledge helps one recognize Fitnah and how to protect themselves from it:**

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said in his lifetime that when the

Day of Judgment comes close, Fitnah will become prevalent, so much so that many people will fall prey to them and stray as a result of this. Alongside this, he also informed us of the ways to protect ourselves from these Fitnahs.

The only way to protect ourselves from a Fitnah when it emerges is to have knowledge of it, because that will not only help us recognize that Fitnah, we can repel it in a good manner as well. This is why Huzaifah (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) said:

كَانَ النَّاسُ يَسْأَلُونَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَنِ الْخَيْرِ، وَكُنْتُ أَسْأَلُهُ عَنِ الشَّرِّ خَافَةً أَنْ يُدْرِكَنِي.

“The people used to ask Allah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) about the good but I used to ask him about the evil lest I should be overtaken by them..” [Sahih Al-Bukhari 7084]

## **17. The scholars are rewarded even after they die:**

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

إِذَا مَاتَ الْإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلَّا مِنْ ثَلَاثَةٍ إِلَّا مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ.

“When a man dies all his good deeds come to an end except three: Ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge and a righteous son who prays for him.” [Sahih Muslim 1631]

A scholar will be rewarded in this world no doubt; his rewards

will keep on increasing after his death as well.

The meaning of “beneficial knowledge” is: Knowledge that is benefitted from i.e. teaching others about Islam, or giving Da’wah by writing or authoring works. When his teachings and works become preserved and people benefit from them, the reward for their good deeds will also go towards the people of knowledge who wrote or taught that good deed.

## **18. Seeking knowledge is a path to attain Paradise:**

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ.

“Whoever follows a path to seek (Islamic) knowledge therein, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise.” [Sahih Muslim 2699]

Where there are numerous ways to reach Paradise, seeking Islamic knowledge is one of them as well. The one who treads a path towards seeking knowledge of this Deen, learning the Halal, Haram, good, bad and many other rulings in it, and then acts upon it, he has no resting place in the Hereafter except Paradise.



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“If we pay attention to the state of the Muslims today, this fact shines as bright as the sun; that most of them have sound knowledge of the affairs pertaining to the world. How can internet, mobiles or computers be used efficiently? What is the latest fashion trend? What are the prices of foods and drinks? What are the current political affairs and situations? What is happening around the world? They have an answer for all of these questions.

But if you ask them: What does it mean to say that Allah is “Al-Samad?” How should the prostration of forgetfulness be performed? What does Islam say about marriage and divorce? What does Islam teach us in matters of transactions? What are the issues Islam addresses in matters of worship? They can’t answer a single one.

This is the state of that portion of Muslims who are ignorant. On the other hand, you have the self-proclaimed “Allama”, “Mufti”, “Aalim”, “Shaykh”, “Ustadh” and Allah knows best how many titles he comes up with. Such people, despite also being miles away from having knowledge of Islam, still present themselves as people who should be returned to for Islamic issues. They issue verdicts based on their desires, and become from the major sources of making ignorance prevail among laymen.

So, upon us is to stand up against these people and serve people our Deen according to the way of the Prophet (ﷺ)..

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