

# 'Patience in the Pursuit of Knowledge' by Shaykh Yahya Ibrahim

- Qu'ran provides guidance from unexpected places.
- Allah SWT taught us the Qur'an, and from His creation, He chooses a group of people to be the bearers of Qur'an
  - In other words, People of the Qur'an are chosen by Allah SWT Himself!
- Imam Al-Ghazali famously quotes "*knowledge is comprehensive and multidisciplinary*"
  - A scholar, aka a person of knowledge should be multi-dimensional with a specialisation in a particular field.
  - Same applies to somebody who is pursuing a path of knowledge.
- Develop a good relationship with people of knowledge
- For anyone who is serious about seeking knowledge, find a teacher who can provide you with a structure and method that works for you
- Information and knowledge are different, yet quite often they are intertwined.
  - Information is something that is readily available. Nowadays, this is done through a simple Google search.
  - Knowledge however requires application of lots of information in a way that can be understood and actualised.
  - This can only be done by someone who is well read in their chosen field.
  - Hence, we can deduce that the wisdom of information is *ilm* (knowledge).
- All beneficial knowledge is sacred.
  - Any knowledge that you are pursuing for **the sake of Allah** and that **it's halal** (permissible) then it's considered sacred knowledge.
  - This is the view of many scholars.
  - Anyone who is serious about pursuing knowledge must put in good effort, and most importantly be sincere to Allah SWT.
- Resilience can be best defined as "the unending desire to go forward in life".
  - Develop stronger resilience because that will help you keep going during difficult moments
- *Shukr* (thankfulness) and *sabr* (tenacity) are two branches that uplift our *eman* (faith).
  - *Sabr* is **not** passive, it requires an active input.

- Sabr is an internal/personal process that has external influence.
- It's an act of the heart that is demonstrated by the body.
  - **Meaning, when you know you are going through a difficult time in life, after acknowledging that it is from Allah SWT, you don't utter or do anything that displeases Allah SWT.**
- Allah SWT used 'patient' in the context of prayer.
  - *"seek help through patience and prayer" (Quran 2:153)*
- Being patient when striving for piety can be much harder than being patient in abstaining from haram (forbidden) things
- *Question: How can we best balance our desire to acquire Islamic knowledge with our pursuit of "secular" knowledge?*
  - The prophet SAW received the Qur'an over the course of 23 years!
  - We put too much emphasis on a quick completion, why?
  - Let us be consistent with our learning – take baby steps every day.
  - Make an intention that you will memorise the Qur'an before you die, that way, you will be rewarded for your intentions even if you didn't manage to complete in your lifetime.
  - You don't have to give up your pursuit of Islamic knowledge in order to excel in your non-Islamic specialisation.
- Jibreel AS (the angel) used to come down on earth and revise the Qur'an with the Prophet SAW every Ramadan.
- Unfortunately, many sisters feel that the field of Islamic knowledge is male-dominated and is not for them
  - Let us change our perspectives
  - Let us make things accessible for our sisters
- Be persistent in pursuing a right course of action regardless of how difficult it may seem.

*"O you who have believed, persevere and endure and remain stationed and fear Allah that you may be successful" (Surah Ale Imran: 200)*

May Allah SWT grant us the ability to act upon what has been understood. Ameen

Notes taken by a member of Bristol Islamic Society from FOSIS Annual Conference

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