

Seeking Knowledge

It is in my nature to seek knowledge; to understand how the world works, what makes it tick, and how to fix it. I have travelled all over the world in search of enlightenment, read various books, listened to so many “experts”, yet in my long and often fruitful search, I always seem to forget that there is a wealth of knowledge sitting on the couch right next to me. Of course, I am speaking of my Father.

It was another normal day, the usual conversation about the tired state of the Arab World. I went on one of my famous rants complaining about the various things that are impeding progress. It is then that my dad looked at me and said:

Dad: “I agree the problem is with the people. It is very simple, they do not know the value of things”.

Me: “Um”

Dad: “They don’t know the value of things they possess”

Me: “Yes Dad you are right but I don’t see how this is our core problem”

Dad: “My great great great grandfather was a talented poet. He wrote a marvelous book containing hundreds of poems. A hundred years later, one of his descendants sold the book to a street vendor for a meal. The street vendor proceeded to cut the pages out of the book and use them to wrap the food items he was selling. A treasure was lost, destroyed by someone who didn’t know the value of what he had”

Me: “That’s terrible! But I still don’t see where this is going”

Dad: “Baba, Allah isn’t unjust. He has given everyone something so valuable yet most people don’t appreciate the value of what they have; like the man who sold the book. Allah gave everyone a Aql (A Mind) that can do amazing things.

Dad: Habibi, if someone puts his mind to use, he can do anything... Anything! The problem with our society is most people don’t realize this. They don’t know what they are capable of nor how to use this incredible gift.

Their minds are like firewood. You can pile as much firewood on top of each other as you want but if you don’t give it a spark, it will never light up. The human mind is the same. You can have a massive brain, yet if you don’t spark it... if you don’t light it up, it is of no use or value.”

I couldn’t have said it better; if you want to accomplish anything in this life, If you want to unlock your true potential, remember that the key for a better life lies within your mind.

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