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The Quran and the Architecture of Guidance: The Role of the Quran in Daily Life

From Scattered Knowledge to Consistent Guidance: The Quran in Daily Life

In contemporary life, the human being constantly faces situations where there is a glaring gap between the "accumulation of information" and "finding a criterion for guidance." Imagine an individual in an educational or professional environment, confronted daily with diverse data, theories, and analyses. Yet, at the very moment of making a decision about the right direction, they still struggle with the question of foundational principles and criteria. In such a case, the issue is not merely about knowing; it is about discerning the relationship between knowledge, guidance, and the ultimate purpose of life. This very point reveals one of the most fundamental issues about religious thought: Can we find a reference point for modern life that serves as a guide for the human being and can determine the ultimate horizon of human understanding?

The answer to this question becomes far more profound when the Quran is understood not merely as a text for rituals, but as a book of guidance. If the Quran is truly the human being's guide, human interaction with it should not remain confined to a specific domain or just points of Islamic rulings. The main question then is: Why, despite such immense potential that the Quran has, our engagement with it is so limited in so many fields? Why does its role in regulating the theoretical and practical life of modern humans seem smaller than its claimed potential? This is not solely a religious concern; it is a profound question about the foundations of human understanding, epistemic order, and the direction of human progress.

The Role of the Quran in Daily Life and the Source of Guidance

The first crucial point is that the Quran is not merely one text among many. When referred to as a book of guidance for the human being, we are speaking of a source that clarifies the human being's relationship with truth, the path of life, and their ultimate destination. Guidance, in this sense, is not a secondary or marginal matter; rather, it determines the horizon of life. Therefore, if the Quran is not properly known as a source of guidance, referring to it will naturally become limited.

This limitation manifests in two distinct ways. First, scholars of different fields of knowledge have not yet come to believe that the Quran can serve as a comprehensive source of guidance. Second, even among religious specialists, engagement with the Quran sometimes remains superficial, primarily reduced to extracting rulings from the Quran. The problem is not just that the Quran is recited less; it is that it is applied just in limited parts of life to answer the human being's epistemological needs.

Consequently, the root of the problem lies in how we perceive the Quran. If it is viewed solely as a source for deducing some rulings, then its potential as comprehensive guidance for life will naturally be ignored. However, if the Quran is genuinely accepted as the book of guidance, then the human being's interaction with it must transcend superficial usage. In this case, the human being must try to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the Quran.

The Comprehensiveness of the Quran and the Horizon of Knowledge

The Quran holds profound insights into all fields of knowledge. At first glance, this statement might seem overly broad if left unanalyzed. However, it can be understood as follows: The Quran provides the human being with a horizon where different kinds of knowledge step out of their fragmented, purely instrumental state and align with the truth of guidance. Therefore, speaking of

the Quran's comprehensiveness does not necessarily mean replacing fields of knowledge with it; rather, it means that no fundamental aspect of human life and understanding remains outside the sphere of Quranic guidance.

From this perspective, knowledge without guidance is fundamentally incomplete. Knowledge is like a tool, but tools alone do not determine the destination. What illuminates the destination and direction is the source of knowledge. Thus, when we say the Quran holds insights into all fields of knowledge, this must be understood at the level of foundations, directions, criteria, and the formulation of ultimate goals. The comprehensiveness of the Quran is about constructing a macro-horizon of understanding, not merely adding scattered religious statements to existing knowledge frameworks.

To date, aside from a few isolated instances, different fields of knowledge have not been extracted from the Quran; therefore, this concept may seem foreign. However, whenever a potential remains unrealized, the human mind grows accustomed to the status quo, perceiving alternatives as unrealistic. Consequently, unfamiliarity with the possibility of extracting other fields of knowledge from the Quran has caused the comprehensiveness of the Quran to be viewed not as an epistemological possibility, but as a difficult-to-accept claim.

The Role of the Quran in Modern Life

In contemporary life, individuals specialize in different fields. However, specialization without a connection to guidance is like isolated islands of knowledge. Each field creates its own language, defines its own problems, and proposes its own solutions, while the questions of ultimate purpose, the human being's relationship with the truth, and the final criteria for judgment remain unanswered or marginalized. The Quran, in this context, is the unifying force that prevents this

fragmentation, elevating human thought from parts to the whole, and from mere tools to ultimate purposes.

The marginalization of the Quran is not merely an educational flaw; it is a symptom of a deep misunderstanding regarding its true status. As long as the Quran is reduced to a limited area of intellectual life, our lives will remain deprived of its full potential. The issue is not just about reciting the Quran; it is about the importance of the Quran within the structure of our understanding and action. If it is downgraded, its impact will be downgraded proportionally.

On the individual level, this is easy to grasp. Modern humans may rely on multiple sources of information to make their big decisions in life, but without a criterion to synthesize and direct them, they fall under plurality. The same logic applies collectively: A society that sidelines its foundational guidance may see its production of knowledge increase, but it will suffer from deep disorientation regarding how that knowledge relates to human truth. Therefore, engagement with the Quran is not merely a ritualistic or traditional exercise, but an ontological and epistemological imperative.

The Quran as a "Textbook in the Classroom of Life"

We believe the Quran is the "textbook for the human being." This means the human being must be able to learn from it and practically apply the Quran in daily life. Being a textbook implies it must be taught and used. In this view, the Quran is not just for reciting in ceremonies and special occasions; it must actively shape human upbringing, construct practical rationality, and influence everyday choices.

This insight yields a practical conclusion: The Quran plays a real role in modern life only when our relationship with it transforms into "active learning." Individuals and societies must be able to

interact with the Quran, seek solutions for their modern dilemmas in it, and receive these solutions in the form of criteria, direction, and vision—rather than just reciting it without applying it in our daily life.

The Timelessness of the Quran and Continuous Guidance

One of the most vital characteristics of the Quran is that it never becomes obsolete. This is not merely a statement of praise; it declares that the Quran possesses the inherent capacity to accompany the human being throughout history. Even after millennia, it remains the human being's textbook. Since human creation aligns with the truths outlined in the Quran, it is familiar with all the intricacies of human existence.

Consequently, the role of the Quran in daily life differs from its role in the past or future in only one way: As human knowledge expands, the hidden capacities of the Quran become more apparent. If our current reality is not what it seems, it signals our deviation from the true criteria of life. Therefore, if modern life feels disconnected from the Quran, the cause must be sought in our approach and frequency of engagement, not in any functional or temporal limitation of the text itself.

Social Horizons: Quranic Education and Human Rights

When Quranic education is introduced as a pivotal action for the future, closely linked to the realization of human rights, it conveys a powerful message: The Quran has immense potential to affect social life. Human rights inherently deal with the regulation of human relationship, dignity, justice, and social structures. The intersection of Quranic education and human rights demonstrates that the Quran is beyond the role it plays in transferring information; it can fundamentally

reconstruct the human being regarding understanding the rights, duties, relationships with others, and criteria for justice.

Therefore, the Quran's role in contemporary life is far from merely individualistic. It possesses the capability to nurture humans who are conscious of their rights and responsibilities, gradually serving as the foundation for reforming social relations and reducing systemic injustice. From this perspective, the Quran has the capability to influence the arena of macro-level global issues—not as a slogan, but as a source for educating and a tool for reshaping the human being's understanding of life.

The Quran and the Concept of Progress

Modern humans live in a world where the capacities to know have vastly expanded, yet the problem of guidance remains as foundational as ever. In such a case, returning to the Quran does not mean regressing to an isolated historical text; rather, it signifies reclaiming a source that can weave the fragmentation of knowledge, action, and destiny into one meaningful horizon. Wherever this source is ignored, life falls prey to epistemological fragmentation. Conversely, wherever it is taken seriously, a genuine synthesis of knowledge, truth, guidance, and progress becomes possible. Ultimately, within this intellectual framework, the Quran is a book that must return from the margins to the very center of life. This requires a precise, profound understanding of its role in guiding the human being, rather than superficial slogans. The limited engagement with the Quran—whether among scholars of different fields of knowledge or through reductive religious interpretations—has obscured its comprehensive capacity. However, if the Quran is the source of guidance for the human being, its relationship with knowledge, human rights, education, and progress is fundamental and structural. In this horizon, modern life will only find true coherence

and direction when it moves past the mere accumulation of data and reconnects with the ultimate criterion for guidance—the very purpose for which the Quran was revealed.

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