

Faith In An Age Of Doubt

The 'Why's And 'How's To The Basics Of Islamic Faith

HOW THE ISLAMIC TRADITION VERIFIES TRUTH

Reading:

- See page 26 of *God, Islam and the Sceptic Mind*
- *The Greatest Universal Certainties* p 19-30

**THERE MAY BE SOME DIFFICULT WORDS IN THIS
PRESENTATION,**

**DON'T FORGET TO ASK IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND
SOMETHING**

YOUR VOCABULARY WILL CERTAINLY IMPROVE

WHY IS THIS KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY?

There are some things that Muslims today must learn as absolute essentials that the earliest generations of Muslims took for granted.

We have to rely on knowledge and learning to bridge the gap. Three things are pertinent to us here:

1. Proximity to the Prophet (peace be upon him). There was no question of historicity.
2. Political and cultural dominance of Islam. Very few external obstacles.
3. Linguistic advantage as Arabs and as people who had access to a dominant language. The meanings of revelation were immediately known.

So early Muslims, during and after the madinan period, would have very little issues in terms of confidence and resilience in their faith.

WHY IS THIS KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY?

Now consider Muslims today for whom the situation has reversed:

1. They are no longer part of the dominant religion.
2. The dominant Western **paradigm** is directly responsible for defeating the political power of Islam.
3. Due to advancements in science and technology, and the progress of modern education, many Muslims see it as intellectually superior even if they may not see it as morally and spiritually so. Indeed many Muslims also question Islam's moral superiority.
4. There are constant attacks from the dominant **Western paradigm** that weaken the confidence of Muslims in their faith.

In this **context**, it becomes compulsory for Muslims to study their faith in a manner that takes all of this into account and gives them confidence in their faith by highlighting the **intellectual** basis of Islam but also by **critiquing** the dominant paradigm.