

THE POWER OF IDEAS

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Abstract

In the past seventy years, encapsulates the life of the author, Muslim societies and others have experienced significant changes. In the South African context where the author was born, political change a worldwide phenomenon. The peaceful transition from Apartheid to a democracy and Nelson Mandela after twenty seven years of castration the world watched on Television the famous "Walk to freedom."

The Political environment in South Africa and major worldwide race for power supremacy between the two superpowers USA and Russia has ramification in the Muslim world. The cold war between the superpowers takes a turn when Russian invasion of Afghanistan turns into a humiliating fiasco and subsequently the world witnesses the disintegration of USSR in 1991 and emergence of independent states around Russia as evident today. Significant to the paper is predominantly Muslim states mushrooming out of the once only communist federation of 15 states, six republics has a Muslim majority.

In 1979, The Islamic Revolution in Iran under the spiritual leadership of the Ayatollah Ruhallah Khomeini for many Muslims across all divide embrace this as a defeat to the yoke of imperialism, westernism and those clients of the super-powers in the Muslim world. With a mixture of religious fervor Muslim were drawn into a nostalgic moods of past Muslim glory and power.

The impact was shaping the lives of many Muslims worldwide with this geo-political happenings amidst the political hegemony of the west. There was a strong undercurrent in the Muslims world and among those who were living in the west. There were whisperings, debates, writings and strong galvanization against critics sparking a new wave in the Power of Ideas for resurgence, revival and more strongly Islah/reform in the Muslim faith and practice.

The Apartheid regime had traumatic impact on the lives of those it separated and classed as non-whites. Muslims in South Africa has made a great contribution in the freedom struggle. From their active participation in the movement, generous financial support, to prison incarceration, deaths in detention and gruesome torture a price paid dearly by a small community of Muslims who arrived here 350 years ago. The author in response to the political rhetoric that Muslims made no substantial contribution to the freedom struggle, overnight responded with a twenty eight page tribute to the contribution and legacy of Muslims in South Africa. An epic journey of toil and struggle that blooded the soil of the land with blood of many of its children martyred in the post 1994 era.

The Growing up in an Apartheid segregated State posed a dilemma whether education can facilitate social change. The year is 1964. Apartheid is well entrenched in the South African society. On 12 June 1964 the infamous Rivonia trial the court sentenced eight of the "convicts" to life imprisonment. Seven were incarcerated on Robben Island Prison. The youth faced a dilemma with no known precedent in history. The freedom struggle took a new momentum and the education imperative, posed the question: freedom first then education or education than freedom. It smack in the face that how can you have normal education in an abnormal society. Bantu and Indian education inferior to the white education. There was no choice in reality, no education and private schooling were the privilege of the few.

Those that were active made own choice. The author's journey began in search of meaning. The scepter of authority brandish fear with force and the voiceless coerced into submission to the draconian laws of Apartheid. This submission also a product of education where the clarion call was for preservation of ones heritage, culture and religion clustered into a nice package labelled separate development. On the other hand education outside the system exposed its inhuman concepts and digressive negative change. Education dispels ignorance, enlightens and shows the true colors of oppressive laws. In the narrative where

the author goes on a never ending journey of self-education. Bringing the best of teachers with the best in knowledge within the reach, disposal and convenience of the seeker. The source the universal book, the textbook, the curricula all within the covers of the book. The seeker is in his teens, daring, unafraid and challenging but not suicidal because the system is inhumane, life is cheap and might has no empathy.

This self-study focuses on the life journey of the author amidst world crisis in his search for Faith. Meaning and Identity. The impact of self-education, the power of reading, reverence to teachers and self-expression as the fruit of learning by recreating and reshaping the seeds. There is will always be our own exploitation in expression of what we perceive and comprehend. The search for faith, meaning and identity is going out of our self to understand and observe the reality of the world and the makings of great people who lose themselves in order to be immortal. This learning by feeling that being free our actions and thoughts are our self-expression. The objective is daring but challenging in search of our own meaning amidst the challenges of faith and identity. The author too found his calling, the search and rationale for teaching, guiding, leading and being true to one calling in the very first verse revealed in the Quran: "Iqra, read in the name of Thy Lord." My journey has come to this point. This paper is my testimonial, resume and plea before God and His creation as a harvester and gather of seeds of knowledge and profound wisdom. May God and you treat me kindly I am no originator, nor creator but only a harvester of other great minds, souls and thought.

Keywords: Nelson Mandela. Walk to freedom, Islamic revolution, revival and reform, Apartheid, between conflict and encounter, education in abnormal society, freedom first education after, wisdom in knowledge,

INTRODUCTION

This paper is an attempt to highlight a 70 year journey by the author in search of faith, meaning and identity. The focus in this conference paper is undoubtedly the gift and revelation from God to humankind the use and importance of Iqra/ read and the Qalam/pen. Education is continuous, **learning, unlearning and relearning**. The explosion of knowledge, democratization of education and the fear of replacing teachers enters the debate in the eve of the 21st Century challenges facing teachers the undeniable makers and shapers of society, its ordinary people and those that become leaders. The explosion of knowledge is gaining momentum as is the fear and uncertainty among teacher about staying current, updated, informed and ignited and creative teaching and critical thinking. Again it's about the rapidity of changes. Many private schools are shifting to the concept of teaching Soft Skills. Islam very basis of life, living, interaction, transacting, worshipping are hinged on "Heart Skills" the affective or affectivity is a shift of focus from cognitive theories to emotions, attitudes, self-esteem, motivations, values, integrity, honesty and basically is focus on what we feel, believe, our emotional drivers and deterrents. Machine education or robotic teaching, instructors replacing the sage on center stage again begs the T.S.Elliot question: "where is wisdom in knowledge". Teachers need a soul who can move away from sameness in learning to differences in learners. The tipping point in this paper is that teacher's humanness that engages learning via number of senses has been the driver and effective tool than what we will encounter when learning that is limited to inputs channeled through a single sensory channel.

Role of Self-Education in an Abnormal Society.

Focus learning strategy meant eradicating ignorance and getting into the head and heart of the perpetrators. Understanding what it takes to be a leader with survival skills plagued every second by the dangers of being caught, incarcerated, possibly thrown down from a 12th story building or falling down a flight of stairs 'death on impact'. Education are a protective covering against indoctrination and diseducation. The tools and understanding to counter the false and misrepresentation of values and beliefs of self-development in an "apart- ness" an Apartheid society.

In 1964 a copy of Dr Martin Luther King's famous speech "I had a dream" was circulated in the school. The author wrote a letter to the editor of the Daily Mail Newspapers, Mr. Lawrence Gandar on the use of the derogatory label Non-Whites in the paper. Surprising the letter was acknowledge. The first ever school protest march was organized in 1966 where over three thousand Students march out of school and congregated in the Stadium in protest of the Education system heavy handedness and this was a forerunner to subsequent school boycotts and the famous June 16 freedom march in Soweto. The teachers day of utter grieve. Hundreds of learners from tender age to aspiring youth were mowed down, bodies thrown into army trucks. The unsung heroes, every learner in the world must pay homage, everyday whether in the streets of Gaza, Kashmir, Uighurs or downtown Harlem or the Cape flats the seeds of the earth are buried drenched in

blood. We educate, we train and we open hearts and mind for a better future, but the daily obituary not read tell a grave story about the death of teachers not his/ her product.

Role of education in an abnormal society. The curricula is paved in the streets dirty and dusty spotted by blood blemish of yesterday's victim. Yes another child. Cause of death heavy handedness and brute force, shot in gun wars, drug overdose, indecent assault and force raped. Walking the street, seeking temporary refuge under cardboard boxes piercing eyes of young children anesthetize by inhalants from shoe glue, polish, and spray paint, cleaning fluid, thinners etc. The effect slowing down body function, then drowsiness, light-headedness and this steady progressing glue sniffing, gas sniffing, magic mushrooms until heavy drugs. "It begin, because I was hungry, I was cold, much afraid of the street, I was abuse and the pain and memory need to be shut out. Many walk the halls of our schools crying for help. In India and Karachi over 80% of street children are sniffing. European schools with better home and school facilities that youth 12 to 16 age group have inhaled. Africa's street children from Nairobi, Harare to Johannesburg under the city hall steps is the battle ground a war wage by society upon its own children.

Who is the shepherd of the loss flock? The politician don't care because it's happening everywhere.

The home that gave birth to us and where we gave birth to our children is either dysfunctional or nonexistent. The children from affluent homes are paid off; cause parents living their own space. Single parents cannot cope, Abuse children want escape. The stock reason is any of these: "I want out. To fit in, to escape and relax, bored, the world is screwed I am rebelling, you all tried it, and I am experimenting." This is stark naked reality we see daily.

What does all this mean? With a political backdrop that has strong ramification of who you are, what you can become and contrary what you don't want to be. Being subdued by the Regime and its policies impacted on those who either became the lackeys or its opponents. Living as a social outsider had its dear price and seeking the truth meant doing your own journey in search of meaning. The title is in search of faith, meaning and identity. Which comes first will draw the other two.

In Search of meaning....

The structure required to ensure meaning in existence is a strong base rooted in faith upon it pillars of identity and Meaning are build. A challenge in repressive political environment. The choices at the initial state of naivety, fear and uncertainty limited to **rebellious, conformist or passing through a state of uncomplaining acceptance. The state curtails** individual aspiration and intellectual growth by limiting free expressions with its secret apparatus and gestapo tactic of repression. A crime to display or exercise freedom to think, speak or write much needed in a healthy and free society. Disallowing opinions that will differ and enrich critical thinking and intellectual growth. The Apartheid classroom the fearsome teachers, the traditional home are stifling. The book, the library, no Goggle, the draconian publication act and limitation of inciting literature, ban even my aunt's cookery book.

The journey without doubt is an experiential engagement with the people of seniority aged with wisdom and ready to tell tale in the most prolific teaching style from Adam; story telling. The story tellers were in the home. This available art so powerful in teaching, inspiring and securing the tradition and legacy that has being coming down long before we wrote and recorded. The lesson each story often portrays binds the listener to the teller and the teller to his gone generation. The art of storytelling weaves the inclusion, connection, and teaching of heart skills of love, compassion, empathy, tolerance and respect. The joy amidst the noise of today's world is found in the silence whilst the story teller tells his tale.

The wealth, the wisdom and legacy written in the hearts of the forgotten teachers of yesterday. The reality of daily happening slips away. Hard pain leaves scars of others sufferings. In the coffee shop alone bent back and wrinkled face sipping his time on brewed coffee hoping to engage in conversation. Sitting on a box and polishing shoes as crowds rush by in their synthetic shoes and holed soles. Occasional there comes and another don from the old school with a well-cared pair of hand sewn Italian leather shoes. A smile welcomes. The shoe gets its facelift with polish, spit, rub and brush and a finish shine with a smile. The pretext of engagement is the shoes. They talk, the nostalgia go back to time of peaceful coexistence. I am sitting close by having breakfast. Sarkis is a Christian and fluent Arabic speaker and if he did not mention his creed no one could be wiser. Everything, his habits, his response with Insha'Allah, Masha 'Allah, greetings and so forth, all the constraints imposed by us loses the commonality that we are all from Banu Adam children of Adam. Coming back to the shoe polisher and his customer their interaction warm and refreshing and appeared to an onlooker that they may be brothers or some close connection. Here indeed is a great lesson. Their conversation very intimate and jumped time back and forth. I could not resist inclusion and moved towards them. I probed them about the words they were exchanging about commonality of faith. The

gentleman immaculate in his dress, hair comb and off course shoes, he answered. "Muslim or rather Islam has no exclusivity, it's universal in the fact that the previous scripture are inclusive with its prophets and being a Muslim requires a testimony that one believe in the Unity and Unicity of One God, accept all the prophets and the revealed scripture. Thus Islam is not restricted to a nation but profuse to all of humankind. I am a retired teacher." He professed that for him Islam has made his journey comprehensible, adaptable, and indeed purposeful. The first revelation to Muhammed Pbu was Iqra, read and supported in the same verse by the Pen. That his entire teaching career hedge and hinged on this declaration. Islam is unique in its compatibility with learning as God says that we must fear Him and He will teach you. This goes further where every person must increase in knowledge and God rewards him for his effort.

The shoemaker responded that as learning deepens we become more useful to others and we continues to grow spiritually and intellectually. The personality and the deeds should reflect the humanistic traits of his religion and left inedible mark in my soul with the words: "No one shall enjoy complete faith until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." Lesson in the street that actualizes the humanism in its most sublime form but more apparent, in its truest form. We parted company, with deep respect. Here indeed a lesson for the politicians both sides of the divide. The shoemaker Syrian Muslim Arab and the Gentleman, a Jew last of the few that remained in Syria. We need to comprehend and question what love has transpired over years through conflicts, separation, death of near and dear ones, inner conflicts of nationalism Jew or Arab yet there binds such love that embraces two people across the Golan Heights. The closest epithet: its brotherliness that enjoins unremitting liberality and self-abnegation. Hatred is not wiped out by hatred but removed by love. The entire ten page endeavor can be manna and salwa from heaven for Palestine and Kashmir when man-god stop playing with the affairs of fellow being and do what is right.

In Search of Faith...

The world between conflict that the hate and pain is deep and the germ of destruction that Imperial Britain implanted in the Zionist cabal that will have devastating consequences within its own home. Young educated Jews embracing the global village and commonality of fellow humans are questioning the validity of the ongoing oppression of Palestine by their leaders perpetuating a war of extinction that they had no say. To die for a cause that was the driver of Nazi Germany in its gruesome genocide of millions of fellow humans is now a reality that is surfacing among the incoming generation. The Afrikaner Volk in South Africa had the same issues but their leadership made choices.

Much is still to be done in the heart skills to advance empathy and create a bond from our humanness and Education must be **rescued from power and profit.**

The Power of Ideas is like a floating platform. Upon which begins many journeys. Having lived under the coercive power and supremacy of Apartheid South Africa conflicting with ones search of **faith, meaning and identity.** **The Power of Ideas** somehow resolved that the individual alone is epitome of value. Why? Because he thinks he acts and he suffers and the State is the backdrop against which meaning and significance are being challenged. The point of this abstract is normal education cannot be realized in an abnormal society. The Apartheid dehumanization, coercion and restraint forces you out to self-education and harvesting. **The United Nations on world literacy must focus on the people in power who create abnormal societies where we desire to impart normal education- is but a fallacy and crime of note.**

The sustenance in times of hunger, shelter and hearth in desperation and never failing companion in need and loneliness have been the inner voices of books. Reading for nourishment, a covering in cold nights and a companion before embracing sleep. Reading is neither a drug nor a refuge to forget deprivation, pain or suffering. Read to uplift the soul's gratitude. Ignorance is the very worst of oppression and the most helpless of all. The slogan for freedom in South Africa: **freedom first education second.** In 1966 being part of the youth struggle. Apartheid represented everything Shaytaanic. The exploitation and unfair brutal advantage over our helplessness. Our human bondage shackled by the raw iron of exploitation of labor by capital, of one class by another. Slavery still exists today while the trumpet heralds in the 21st Century of luxury, leisure and license.

The greatest legacy learned along the long journey is **reverence** due to our great teachers, great story tellers and never failing and forgetting the greatest of all our mothers.

This is to payback a great debt to all those teachers who we had private conversation and special tutoring, where we have gathered seeds of wisdom, knowledge, had our private and personal audience in late nights or early hours of the morning. We all owe a debt to those whose words and pen shaped our lives. **That is a very simplistic realization, for our being in the Now; we think, we collect and grade the seeds of knowledge, plant and cultivate for the now. Do we honestly believe makes us relative? Reflect.** Allow

the moment to be truthful and give what we have gathered. There is no greater tribute or a lesson in life than paying tribute to those who enrich our lives and living. That is understanding of Reverence. To parents, on their laps was and will remain the first class. All here today with those out there; whose lives you touched, as teachers, mentors, writers and an untainted smile loaded with empathy. The parents and teachers by their sound teaching and wisdom; honor must be paid with deep and liberating gratitude. God Bless them and us all. Ameen. The wise of yesterday left behind a legacy: the paying of the Zakaat; a tax at the moral and intellectual Baitul Mal so that it will enrich the lives of others. The currency is hard action, deeds and mentoring. Being yourself being teacher per se.

The great teacher and erudite scholar Imam Ghazzali Ra stated that the journey of life is hazardous, challenging and perilous without a guide. The guides on this road for this journey are indeed the learned teachers who are heirs of the Prophet P.b.u.h {Bukhari}. In The Holy Quran heaven proclaims: "God will raise in rank those who believe as well as those who are given knowledge." Scholars have an esteemed high rank in Islam. The Prophet Saas said that whom God doth love, he giveth knowledge of religion and guideth him into the straight path.

I must mention that the **first word revealed in the Quran to the Prophet Saas was 'Iqra' read** and in that verse also mentions the Pen. The tools of teachers; will germinate this seed. **Word and the pen** of teachers enable them to scatter seeds of knowledge and wisdom.

For the conference the message keep recurring to plead the case that ignites and rekindles the desire to gain admission to the libraries of truth and learning. Thus reignite the hearts of learners with truth and learning. Make them the custodian and guardian of this wealth of learning stored in books, hearts and oral traditions. Our commitment will guarantee that the continued transmission of our intellectual, cultural and religious heritage is passed on from generation to generation.

The wealth of knowledge is stored in books. The less privileged, can outgrow the economic and other limitations and release the inner yearning to read to learn and grow. Thus every book we embrace must motivate our growth in spirit and feed our souls in order to enrich the lives of those we teach.

Teacher who embrace without discrimination or distinction that judicious reading illuminates the hearts and establishes a spiritual affinity to people of letters. The legacy by which we are remembered is our uncompromised and sincere offerings and friendship to our learners.

I believe it was with man's soul the beginning of creation.

In Search of Meaning, Faith and Identity

The journey of meaning added faith in the soul of the seeker and the transformation added an identity of dignity. The search has reached a new starting point of meaning and faith realized what meaning can do in the final realization of Faith, Meaning and Identity. In the wise words of Jalaluddin Rumi Ra that "***Almighty Allah guides the one who directs himself towards Him.***"

Education is limitless and beyond boundaries. The formative, social and personal has an influence which shapes, ignites and modifies the ideas and behavior of individuals and communities. For education is the sum total of the cultural influences that shape an individual and a community.

The greatness in teachers is when they creative, dynamic and inspiring. Their lessons are enriching with life experiences. They create a learning culture that is infused with enthusiasm, impacts on the educative force that drives cohesion and unifies the cultural heritage and securing continuity of the community. When last did we experience our classroom engagement as a spontaneous expression of ourselves? The Prophet Esa Jesus Son of Mary P.b.u.h has left an indelible mark when he said; "He that saveth his life shall lose it, and he that loseth his life shall keep it unto life eternal." ***He could not have given a more appropriate definition for immortality.***

Down the lonely garden path of seed collecting occasionally meet those self-absorb teachers. They were blocking their teachings and outpourings of self, withdrawing from the reality of the classroom; the microcosm of the world outside the walls. They were allowing their actions to be subjectively determined by their instincts, inclinations and habits, not expressing themselves and surrendering their freedom and suffocating all the creative spontaneity. The question is do we act by impulse, better still by the compulsion of rules? Great teachers act by the nature of reality which all teachers apprehend, and the result; unshackled and free and their actions became a self-expression. Hell with power and profit.

An insightful philosopher, a mystic, an erudite scholar, an Aalim born 450 AD/1085 AH made great contributions in the fields of religion, education and philosophy; namely Abu Hamid Muhammed Al-Ghazzali

Ra. Read Ghazzali Ra. He will ignite, he will reinvent, he will rejuvenate, and he will bring us to life by illuminating our hearts.

The first revelations in the cave of Hira were a few verses and that Muhammed Saas was instructed to: "Read in the name of your Sustainer who is the Creator of all. He created man from a clot of blood. Read and your Sustainer is the most bountiful. Who taught by the Pen. He taught man what he did not know."**Quran 96 verse1-5**

There has been a concerted effort by Governments, social media, mass movements, political, industrial and scientific somewhat tented to suppress individuality in various ways. We must as educators recognize and preserve the reality of the self. The soul, the spirit is immortal and continues. This is neither an illusion of the mind for the soul possesses its own reality. This reality is the vital component of Imam Ghazzali Ra concept in the Alchemy of Happiness. We engaging with the great Ghazzali Ra and collecting seeds to arrive at the cultivation of great hearts/souls to insulate our learners from the tyranny of materialism and consumerism.

Thus education is the strengthening of the individuality of the learners for the realization of their limitless possibilities. The Quran emphatically states: "trustee of a free personality which he accepted at his peril" and challenges us that the realization of this is accepting the troubles and turmoil, with joys and sorrow of this world. What stuff is man made of? The soul into which breathe God His own has so much potential and reservoir of powers and possibilities. Indeed this world has been shaped with all kinds of challenges and strife. The purpose is to mold and galvanize untapped powers in the bold and fearless challenges in order to cultivate and harvest the individuality through educational efforts.

To bring the reality to the fearless challenges, stop looking at the mirror and feeling sorrow. Cross over to the window and there, out there is the real life, with its cosmopolitan faces, wearing their problems yet smiling, deprived yet hopeful and thankful for another day. Know you make life and not the other way. Find own bumper sticker: **You Change**; these were famous lines from the Quran: "Verily God will not change the condition of men, till they change what is in themselves." Development is but a creative force and being the active player and knowing that with a strong will and determination for success; you in the driver's seat. No matter what happens to you on the life journey, the capacity to respond and react is within you.

Teachers your role is a miniature to that of the God. You take the hand of the tutee away from the pitiful mirror across to the limitless possibilities that lie outside the window and witness as much of those who are less off than ourselves. Teachers are not facilitators, nor mere instructors, they are the sages and coworkers. Teaching as they know, and know as they teach. The future and the destiny of learners is not a fixed order of events but pre-exist as an open possibility.

The relevance of the past is not left behind. It has been moving along and complimenting the present. The focus is locked into your own GPS directing you to where you choose to go. The first part of your becoming [in search of Faith, Meaning and Identity] that is **faith** in the Almighty, your Guardian and undeniable your Creator, will assist you, protecting from evil and useless thoughts and positive response to life's challenges. The **meaning** teaches us that there is no negative experiences but only opportunities to grow, learn and self-discipline, gratitude, perseverance that is summed up beautifully in the teaching of Muhammed Saas: "the struggle is the meaning of life." Here **Identity** compliments who you becoming. From the struggle comes your strength, the pangs of pain becomes ones inner teacher, through the experience of pain when remain unconquerable like the Abyssinian slave Bilal Ra, or the Prophet Job As, strength of the soul to master courage and fortitude, that in essence is true manliness, mastery over the self, give oneself up into the trust and reliance of God.

"Let the people think they govern and they will be governed" William Penn

The politician, governments, and world leaders are afraid to look at the people in power making world decision in board rooms. By the stroke of the pen governments toppled and regimes replaced. The menu of destruction of the world reads like this: create chemical warfare and research biological warfare targeted on overpopulated areas. Created scarcity and nations with plenty will pay to distribute expired dumped food and GMO. Unheard diseases will create havoc and greed will cause environmental pollution. Are these seeds that are cloned and genetically modified real or another conspiracy theory?

The Honest politicians are few if none. The people in power, the affluent and major consumers know what sustains life, the Big three elements of air, water and food. Yet they are prolific in rallying other nations to contain their carbon footprint whilst they continue polluting life sustaining supply of the Big 3. This is happening in our years into adulthood, in my thirties- a good forty years ago. What has change? Lakes, dams and rivers worldwide have been polluted and the filth goes down into the seas and choking marine life.

Today we are in a sick world. How else should it have been other? Gases, smoke, smog and nuclear fallout and residues from all the weapons and bombs allies used in the war on terror. Ladies please forgive me this metaphor. The earth our mother has been gruesomely and unashamedly been gang raped! Out of her womb extracted life-sustaining vitamins and minerals and implanted in her womb artificial fertilizers, poisonous sprays and genetic modified seeds which are self-destructive after one season. The greed for dollars goes further. The food factories have extracted the God given life sustaining and maintaining vital vitamins, salts and minerals out of our wheat, rice, sugar and God knows what other supplements that have been substituted is causing more problems in health, diet and mass epidemics.

God created this earth and then populated it according to His plan. Food, water, air and control of population was in His administration; Period. Then He called us and said. .You have been appointed as the Steward of this earth. Boy did we mess things up! Ladies and gentleman are we living in challenging times? We wished we had taken help of our right hand, for knowledge is a prey, and writing/pen is a security. Safeguard knowledge and fasten it to writing. The Quran is about the Word/Iqra and Writing/Pen/Qalam. What a bounty that without the Pen God's true teaching would have been interpolated with our meandering. The Qalam is God's bounty shedding light in the crevice of darkness and ignorance. In our own realm the scepter of the pen is the most valuable. Muslim teachers have appraised the scholars that when writing something that is false, libelous, harmful will be classified as sinful and it will aggregate and aggravate as it continues to be read and the writer will continue to be responsible and accountable for the spread of the harmful writing. Saving one from harming fellow beings is a warning to heed before penning. Today religious doctors are warning about the lies, misinformation and scandalous tweeting across the internet that goes viral and the magnitude of pain and harm it causes.

Teachers in teaching, the warning is stern so are the consequences regarding false accusation, fabricating a lie, fake news, and whatever constitutes an invasion of the dignity, life and property of fellow being. These are the diseases of the heart, not the mind, but the soul. The warning that an indication of the beauty of a person's Islam is his abstaining from matters which are of no benefit. Take it that ignoring and burying heads when the world is in a mess measure our indifference and relegates our role of teachers. We need introspection.

Today the world is mesmerized by the possibilities of the 4th & 5th Revolution as its dangles before our eyes. The voice stimulation will command and the touch technologies transform the world into fairy dreamland of all kind of possibilities. The glittering and the glamour of reality in perpetual life in Disneyland. This paradox from the woes and cries of no hope and doom to the **bumper sticker** boldly enticing **the brave new world of: Leisure- Luxury-License**.: there is only one corner of the universe you can be sure of improving, and that's your own self.

Is the ushering of the 4th Industrial Revolution a diversion from the stark reality of our present plight of the Hunger games and the sorrowful plight of this earth? Why cry for bread when you will have cake from the 3D printer. The glittering Utopia has time travelled and coming sooner than anticipated. We Humans are ignoring the ominous warnings of our vainglory seeking amidst the famine, pestilence and raging wars.

Getting lost in the expectation and anticipation of tinsel town, temporary pleasures the 3L luxury leisure and license. In hind side teachers take note that the creators of the Brave New World; were sitting in your classroom. Did you lose focus? Everything that man is achieving out there shaped from the tools you shaped, forged, and help create. But than a little learning and knowing is dangerous because of its half-truths which is worse than lies.

Today many have lost the true spirit and are mere corpses of our education, science, technology, humanities, industry and commerce, the government, and most dearly the custodian of religion. The democratization of knowledge has its deep crevices. The world as it is - is what leaders have conspired and work towards. Sadly the leaders from the top down governments to captain of industry, scientists, large businesses, the high technocrats, **are products of our Education system**. More focused the tyranny of **Secularism**, a godless and pagan enterprise. Subversion so profound that is, was **not anti-religion but a religion** in making that rationalism propounding human reason as the chief source and test of knowledge.

Islam parts company. Naql is revelation that supersedes Aql human intellect; the Perennial over the Acquired. The Shaytaan rationalism that he is superior and his reliance upon his intellect challenges man that he will defeat him through materialism and collectivism. The fear of man's sustenance that God has vouchsafed will be the lair that Shaytaan will entrap. While engaged with the key board this Friday 29th November- branded as Black Friday- Its short of greed of consumerism: meaning destruction, waste, consumption, ruin, perdition and prodigality. "Live in the moment" hell with the past suffering, don't worry

about the fears and hopes of tomorrow,

The basis of teaching and the source of knowledge is Revelation. And God's own pronouncement is Read and safeguard via the pen. Revelation is ignored by the doyens of modern education. Consumerism is a trophy of secularism that focuses in teaching the learners **how to earn** their living in the various fields of activity. Islam focus on becoming a human being- **how to live. Those who have enriched** the enforced curriculum **with their wisdom** have outside the distorted history, perverted arts and sciences and putting man in the epicenter **rescued the soul of man from half-truths, fake and manufactured undisciplined studies.** We salute you.

The ocean of knowledge and wisdom regarding the Word and the Pen is vast. Seeking knowledge is an imposition for male and females. There are no borders or frontiers restricting from crossing in search of Ilm. Acquiring knowledge means being useful to creation, to know what benefits and what is harmful. Human speech is another blessing to express and espouse our learning. The Pen extends the means of knowledge thus leaving behind a rich legacy. Thus as a reminder that the bounties of ILM/knowledge, the power of speech and the pen are a gift with a purpose

The challenge is being pollinated by the wisdom of great teachers. The authors journeys over the 70 years is deeply indebted and as disclaimed in the beginning that ours is to revere the great and the significant teachings, wisdom and intellectual contribution of all those who made it possible for being hereat this point of the **journey in search of faith, meaning and Identity**, taking only the credit of a harvester. Whose copy right is God Himself.

This Qudrat/Divine Will and Power is purposive, determining towards an ordered and productive end. Guided by Your manifestation of justice, mercy, order, love, compassion and simplybeinghuman. The spirit of Islam is essentially Empirical.

The focus to read and comprehend things in their proper historical context. But often have problems within our own self and bias to have an intellectually honest reading of the Quran. Teachers yours is focus directed; go up together or go down together. The Prophet Muhammed Saas is described by God as a mercy unto "not Muslims" but Humankind. The theological challenge is not in the satchel of seeds but it is about dignity and it is time for all the children of Abraham As to live in dignity. Go back teachers, do your honest reading. The children from Ebrahim did not always lived at odds with each other in tension. The amnesia of hundred years in Muslim Spain between 5th and 7th century betrays a poverty of intellectualism, scholastic discipline and harmony in sharing knowledge. They not destined to live in a state of conflict, their leaders and politician have anagenda. The question is will they enact a clash of civilization? The other rhetorical question is Francis Fukuyama on the end of history.

The 21st Century challenges in the classroom- The Host, Replicants, and Robot Clones are in the class.

The tools are chosen from the highest chair of wisdom, in God's selection by His own perfection. The greatest challenge is not what we teach but to whom we teaching. The generation in the class is challenging and well informed and connected with the issues confronting the world. They are in the selected few know that information gathering, knowledge acquisition and intelligence may not feature as the most important components than the ability to respond to change.

We picking up the messages in our conversation with the youth and their expression in graffiti. The escapism into substance abuse and the trigger to a bigger expression of disillusion is the worry factor that teachers are not committed to change. Teachersare labeled as driven by fear and favor, bowing down to the pressure sources of benefit and worshipping those who may cause loss and injury. Teachers cannot shy away from the reality, nor can they court with those who have a great stake in the outcomes of leaner. The far cry is; go back to the seeds of wisdom, understanding God's curriculum and face head- on the cult of faddism, sensationalism, vulgarism and those whom the wisdom of the world is foolishness with God. As a harvester begin to recognize that the tree is known by the fruits it bears. The fruit of modern education is in short the mixed-up, crazy unhappy, chaotic, malfunction of homes, society and the world. A SERIOUS INDICTMENT!

The human defiance and rebellion is on the increase, Blinded by the ever increasing arrogance and vainglory bolstered by fruits of modern science. That opens the doors to the frontiers of human achievements and excellence. It is a contention that is sermonized and evident by state of society's ethical and moral compass that humans failed miserably in crossing over into defiance, challenge, stripping the ethical boundaries deregulating society. The misguidances marinated in greed, competition; dog eat dog, dishonesty, misrepresentation and driven by personal power. Shaytaan has driven humanity to a purely

consumer society. Celebrating the day "BLACK FRIDAY." What a disillusion of education; failing life's purpose in realizing why God created the temporary abode of this world.

Teachers are more relevant in the 21st Century. The challenges of cultural diversity makes us responsive and effective to teach in schools from diverse religious, racial, ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity. Question is are there positive cues to turn the diversity into an asset for learning? Too often we treat these issues very simplistically in teacher training. Today teachers are crossing boundaries and the issue is of global importance. Serving the educational needs of the new majority with limited teachers require the training of new teachers and hiring of multicultural teachers. With excellence and equity. Teachers must shape up or shape out. The public school teachers lack knowledge of current educational research. These are challenges in education. It devolves down to teacher nightmares.

These are issues that teachers need some answers; Integrating curricula with 21st century learning skills, ICT information communication, Technology, peer collaboration, curriculum overload, fewer resources and more learners. A stock concerns same everywhere. Realistically, passionate, engaging, caring, these bumper sticker labels are about a very special breed of people. We cannot with confidence rate what makes great teachers. The metaphor of being a harvester and here after all the ticks rating about subject knowledge, curriculum, standards and enthusiasm we see the separation; **teaching with a caring attitude**, the underlining connection making a difference in the lives of young people.

Teachers are not automated and incapable to handle: apprehension about integration and shift to new styles of teaching and learning. In the same time many state schools are burdened with an overloaded curriculum now measuring and developing critical thinking, problem solving skills, curiosity, entrepreneurship and digital analysis. Whether teaching digital natives and feeling small before these giants. Teachers are constantly reminded about the wealth of ideas on the internet but learners are lost in this maze of information and ideas. Teachers are walking on a tight rope with a curriculum load beating them down. There is the time factor **never enough** and prone to burn out. The growing generations of society need critical evaluation. The teacher's response with effective transmission of cultural heritage, knowledge, ideals and legacy to continue collective life and protecting, sustaining and reconstructing. They have a common cause and course that is an undivided commonness. Teachers are strong on fundamental principles of learning and education. The seeds will germinate to the sound educational principles. These principles are not in conflict with modernity. The equation is simple: where is wisdom in knowledge, where is knowledge in information. The teacher relegated to the side of the class and the instructor wearing of his shoes whilst simplifying the use of modern tech removes the innate wisdom of teachers. The flood gates of information are bursting open without the sieve of the teacher. It sums up the teacher is irreplaceable.

The preservation of the individual; echoing the fears and concern all great thinkers. It well known how governments, dictators, and educational theories engineered to stifle individuality. Many learners before have tried to work out his/her destiny in a vast and complex global village struggling to preserve the God given gift of individuality. This brings to the core and epicenter of life. The struggle has been constant with same problems and issues of faith, meaning and identity.

There is some unanimity that *institutions, religions and philosophical thought*; must not fall into the denial trap as did many schools of thought. The individual and the reality of the Self; must not allow the drop to slip into the ocean of nothingness. The challenge which has been since our entry into this world was and is to retain, strengthen and develop the Individual. The maintaining of eternal self which is in the originality and uniqueness gifted by God. This sarcastically challenges the 21st century quest for perfection that humans not created by God's 3D printer or on mass conveyor systems. Humans shaped by the Supreme Power. The employment of the creative impulse has opened doors of unlimited growth and freedom. The question is are humans conscious of their own reality? Are we are not gods of mass education and human robots.

The challenge as Educators is to make them resilient to the ever changing and challenging environment, as a result of 'our own creativity'. The demand being intellectually brave and unafraid of the challenges, failures, pitfalls and fearless in making new and valuable contributions to enriching knowledge and life. Open up their intellectual initiative and ingenuity. Learn by doing. **The fear** that high tech way of imparting information makes us teachers not teach able and the learner not learner able.

- The moth and the bookworm were crossing Dubai highway. Stopped for a moment and an instructive conversation begin. The moth burning in action and the other buried in the study of books. When reaching the embankment on the other side they agreed **about balance** giving due weight to all elements of experience. Goodness is not matter of compulsion, it is the self's free surrender to the moral ideal. Freedom is a condition of goodness.

Today there is a change in heart focus indirecting towards soft/heart skills. There is a preference using the noun heart over soft. Hoping that by teaching a set of readymade moral maxims- mechanically learned without questions. Morality is about choice and free will. When we are free and through personal experience we **can** work out with love and labor a code of effective personal morality. Again it's about experience, in a give and take everyday life working out our conduct. Not in isolation can morality be taught. This comes back to the school providing opportunities for interaction, social life and social experience. Again the teacher the sage cannot be side lined by an instructor. Develop human capital and potential and end teaching as a delivery. Teaching and learning is uniquely personal and social activity. Challenges tomorrow are compounding while still battling with literacy; read and write. The challenges are now about, those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn. The teacher has so much to offer. Again we cannot deny the teacher his innate gift of wisdom. That has been ingrained in him from the trust empowered by the profession and the faith that parents leave at the door of the classroom. Teachers look outside the window and see their **learners pursuing the challenges with the light the classroom had lit. Mere deliverance of information** will not broaden his outlook.

In the experience as a harvester, we learn and relearn and unlearn. Learners came out strongly that teachers don't listen and if they do they don't validate and are bereft of reasonable response. It's sometimes a mine field across the whole ethos of the school. Learners take here is about the school culture. The Relationship with all the stake holders is compromised. The school culture is a bond embraced right across the school family: Leaders, teachers, BOG, Learners and their family and all staff.

Parents enroll on trust and choose a value system that resonates with their family culture. The school Board of Governors BOG rely on the staff to embody the school's values in daily teaching practice. Teachers need to be trained and informed in the value system that the school is selling itself. Ironically many schools BOG's have no idea. Students trust teachers who operate within the value system maintaining a productive learning environment. In harmony with all role players the school's culture will result in supportive relationship that is informed, positive and binding on all.

Recently witnessed a very devastating consequence as a result when there was a breach of trust between a parent and the school. This would not have happened if the school's culture pillared upon the family value system had been respected and the conflict between values and freedom of expression not contested. Again the social media had a field day. Lesson is how to react and behave when trust breaks down. A sheer battle between intellect versus emotion. When values become mismatched; trust breaks down. Ego centered and we resist confronting the cause.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion not forgetting it's been a long seventy two years. 21st century needs responsible teaching. Teachers are shackled to the curriculum but enrich every lesson engaging with the learners. Teach 25 minutes and engage with the learner rest of the period. Let's help win the race for all yes all learners- don't **DUMP= Don't Undermine Pupils.**

Telling modern man to be good, honest, caring and it appears that most are skeptical and we no longer believe that God is the source of Moral Laws. We have parted company with our traditional and ancestral order in faith, believing only when comfortable with evidence. How to teach in a climate of skepticism. Revealed religion crucified at the altar of secularism. For these sacrificial lambs rationalization and acquired knowledge is realized later in life when space is identified as here and there, when there is no running away from life. When decay, destruction and finally death are realities, the need to reconcile and there is no fleeing. The rationality may recommend some temporary escapism and relief, in substance abuse, extra marital affairs, gambling and gaming. Whatever, but can we escape from ourselves? The deliverance and reliance upon knowledge that connects to a higher order and power will extend the hand, guide man to reach his destination. We cannot deny the learner to reach the ultimate end. Guided by wise education and the ethical imperative we can formulate and apply to the various stages of his life. 21st century is challenging knowledge and wisdom. The parting words are reminding human with more a heart than a mind. Rest the harvesting and all that has remained are GMO seeds with an expiry date and one use only-seeds are self-destructive.

The last words, inspired by a saying: A fig tree, looking at a fig tree, becomes fruitful. Teachers make no claim about the ideas that have flowed into the class space and as penned are original. This teacher claims to be a harvester no more no less, and very impulsive reacting to good speech, deep profound words, wise sayings and wisdom. Some have been altered due to age and memory. But did best to honor the originator of the ideas. We remain sincere throughout as the thoughts flows or as they gathered from faded pages of

great speeches, insights, or discussion. The greatest joy in this and other harvesting is the inner wakening and joy whilst transfixed at the feet of great teachers. There is undoubtedly, some color added with our own makeup. Sometimes feeling a strong bond of relation between the seed, its originator and the harvester. The seed is personal, the tree is from the seed and so is the fruit. Cannot be otherwise. As a harvester invades the privacy and the life of the many great scholars and teachers. His self-defense is awakening the hearts of the living dead, reigniting teachers, and in littleness desires but to ripen the inward soul. God has stated that no new Prophet or Shari'ah/ Devine laws and riles will come. The harvester in his own green patch continues to plant seeds that will germinate an inner light. This is wholly depended upon the Nushrat/help, Rahma and Mercy of the Divine Light. Allah gives whom He desires His Light.

Finding comfort and serenity that pervades the soul, referred to in Quran: "The Qalbun Saleem" [peace in the heart]. The Harvester when sharing fruit of a good season with learners and the response that unlocks the secrets of the heart. The light that brightens the passage of darkness in the chambers of soul. Darkness dispel, secret exposed, the awakening into the reality of the higher world. My ever growing vines of gloom. Strangling in the night of utter darkness. My journeys, my awakening:

"God is the light of the heavens and earth. His light may be compared to a niche containing a lamp... God guides His light upon whom He wills... Q24; 35

The challenges of the 21st Century. The Journey of Islam's 1441 since Migration/Hijrat and the years has been most challenging for humanity and their beliefs. The secularization of education is the product of well-engineered and structured that defiantly removed God from the curricula and having God ignored, Revelation rejected and half-truths, misinformation, faddism, distorted history and perversion unashamedly took over the teachers platform and relegated true teachings, wisdom in knowledge to unrelated and undisciplined studies. Today's world leaders are the product of this mass godless education that has spawned captains of our industry and economy, the politicians and leaders raping the wealth of the nations, those who unashamedly lead the modern social order and blessed by theologian ordained with fear and favor.

In the challenges that faith based religion suffered and succumbed to the lot of its followers and custodians, God finally put His seal and close the chapter on Prophets and revelation. Islam finally establishes God's last word and Muhammed Saas teaching and lifestyle is indeed a mercy unto all mankind. Wise teachers let us avoid the fixating on created tensions between the Abrahamic faith and go back to adopt an Adamite historical perspective. If we all and especially Muslims remain true to the teachings of Muhammed Saas which I confess having fallen short, we must live in and react out the qualities of Muhammed Saas's mercy and justice. The beautiful and loving example not to be historically revered but to live inspire by his "perfect, lovely and honest" way of life. Muslims honor by participating, living up to, and continuing with Muhammed Saas's ministry here and now. Muslim's Islam of the Prophet's way is not, we know it, the way we have been projected by sellouts within and buyers outside. The Prophet Jesus bother to his fellow Prophet Muhammed Pbut message to the poor, healing the broken hearted, those in bondage free and offering sight to the blind and liberation to the oppressed. Luke 4:18. Muhammed Saas was an embodiment of all to the poor, brokenhearted, those in bondage and the blind and oppressed; summed up as Rahmatun li'l 'Alamin. A mercy to all the universe. In the final audit these are seeds of a harvester seeking forgiveness in the final analysis by declaring "Allahu Alam God You know best..."

Teacher's one half of the tree is the trunk, it grow and pushes itself into a glory of verdant fresh and fruitful issues whilst beneath you hidden spread like veins into the earth. Buried roots in a matrix of the essence, soil of the earth. The fruit pushes upwards and the root pulled downwards. The gardener, the harvester yet always the teacher- buried under the fruit of his labor. Society cares and its interest is centered in the gathering or the fruit but oblivious of the labor and cultivation of the root. The base of ourselves- the forgotten teacher. Harvester

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