

Selected Readings
in Educational
Psychology

Nor Azian Md. Noor

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SELECTED READINGS IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

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CHAPTER 5

HUMAN NATURE IN ISLAM

Mohd Abbas Abd Razak
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The Islamic concept of human nature is a comprehensive and all encompassing one. According to the Islamic concept, among all creations in the heaven and earth, only man stands on the highest pinnacle to be called as the best creation of Allah the Almighty. It has been mentioned in the Qur'an that God has created man in the most beautiful and excellent manner: "*We have indeed created man in the best of moulds*" (*Al-Qur'ān, al-Tīn:4*; Ali, 1989). This exalted position and stature makes man superior to angels and other luminous creations like the sun, moon, stars, etc. The greatness of man has been further explained in the following verse:

We have honoured the sons of Adam; provided them transport on land and sea; given them for sustenance things good and pure; and conferred on them special favours above a great part of our creation (Al-Qur'ān, Al-Isrā':70; Ali, 1989).

Having achieved a noble position in the sight of Allah does not guarantee man to be in that position forever. As explained in *Sūrah al-Tīn*, verse: 5, man will fall from the honoured position given by Allah when he transgresses the limits set by Allah. As such, achieving the honour or disgrace in the sight of Allah, is a choice left to man to decide.

Apart from being the best creation, man in the Holy Qur'an has been addressed as the *Khalāfatullah fī al-ard* (Allah's vicegerent on earth). This esteemed position was conferred to man in spite of the protest and remonstrance that came from the angels on the eve of his creation. The exact dialogue that took place between Allah