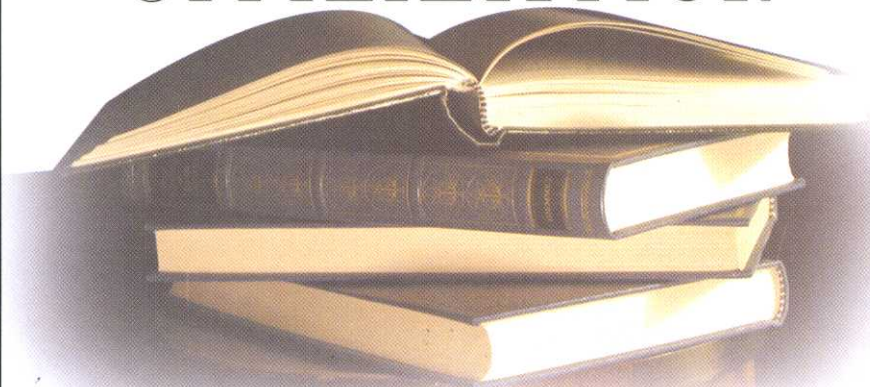




ISLAM  
KNOWLEDGE  
AND  
CIVILIZATION



MUNAWAR HAQUE  
KABUYE UTHMAN SULAIMAN  
BACHIR SOUALHI  
SYAMSUDDIN ARIF



IIUM Press

**ISLAM**  
**KNOWLEDGE AND CIVILIZATION**

**Munawar Haque**  
**Kabuye Uthman Sulaiman**  
**Bachir Soualhi**  
**Syamsuddin Arif**



IIUM Press

Published by:  
IIUM Press  
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2009  
©IIUM Press, IIUM

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without any prior written permission of the publisher.

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Islam : knowledge and civilization / Munawar Haque ... [et al.].

ISBN 978-983-3855-66-7

1. Knowledge, Theory of (Islam). 2. Knowledge, Theory of.  
3. Civilization, Islamic. 4. Civilization. I. Munawar Haque.  
121.0882971

ISBN: 978-983-3855-67-7

# CONTENT

<i>Key to Transliteration</i>	v
<b>Introduction</b> <i>Munawar Haque</i>	1
<b>Chapter One</b> <b>Concept of Knowledge from the Western and Islamic Perspectives</b> <i>Bachir Soualhi</i>	5
<b>Chapter Two</b> <b>Research Methodology from the Western and Islamic Perspectives</b> <i>Munawar Haque</i>	35
<b>Chapter Three</b> <b>Islamic Civilization: Meaning, Origin and Distinctive Characteristics</b> <i>Kabuye Uthman Sulaiman</i>	57
<b>Chapter Four</b> <b>Contribution of Muslim Scholars to the Sciences</b> <i>Munawar Haque</i>	127
<b>Chapter Five</b> <b>Western Civilization: Its Origin, Basis and Features</b> <i>Munawar Haque</i>	179

<b>Chapter Six</b> <b>Ancient Culture and Civilizations of Mesopotamia,</b> <b>Egypt, India and China</b> <i>Syamsuddin Arif</i>	197
<b>Concluding Remarks</b>	221
<b>Bibliography</b>	223
<b>Suggested Readings</b>	231
<b>About the Contributors</b>	233
<b>Index</b>	235

## CHAPTER THREE

# ISLAMIC CIVILISATION: MEANING, ORIGIN AND DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS

*Kabuye Uthman Sulaiman*

### Preamble

It is necessary to commence any study of Islamic civilisation with an overview of Islamic conception of man. This necessity is due to the fact that different civilisations are founded upon different philosophical and religious conceptions of man. Hence, to comprehend a civilisation one needs to first and foremost comprehend the conception of man upon which that particular civilisation is based.

From the point of view of Islam, man is the noblest of all Allah's creatures on the earth because he is the bearer of His *amānah* (Trust) and the only creature chosen by Him to be (His) *khalifah*, (English variant: caliph) on earth. The Holy *Qur'ān* states:

﴿وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ  
الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا﴾ (٧٠)

“We have honoured the sons of Adam; provided them with 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.”<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Sūrah al-Isrā' (17):70. Translation of the *Qur'ānic āyāt* (verses) in this chapter is based on Abdullah Yūsuf 'Alī's *The Meaning of The Holy Qur'ān* (Beltsville, Maryland: Amana Publications, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, 1995).