ISLAM

KNOWLEDGE AND CIVILIZATION

MUNAWAR HAQUE
KABUYE UTHMAN SULAIMAN
BACHIR SOUALHI
SYAMSUDDIN ARIF

IIUM Press
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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) khulūfah, (English variant: caliph) on earth. The Holy Qur'ān states:

٧٧

"We have honoured the sons of Adam; provided them with transport on land and sea; given them sustenance things good and pure; and conferred on them special favours, above a great part of Our creation."