

The Rise of a Civilization

Academy for Learning Islam
March 5th and 6th

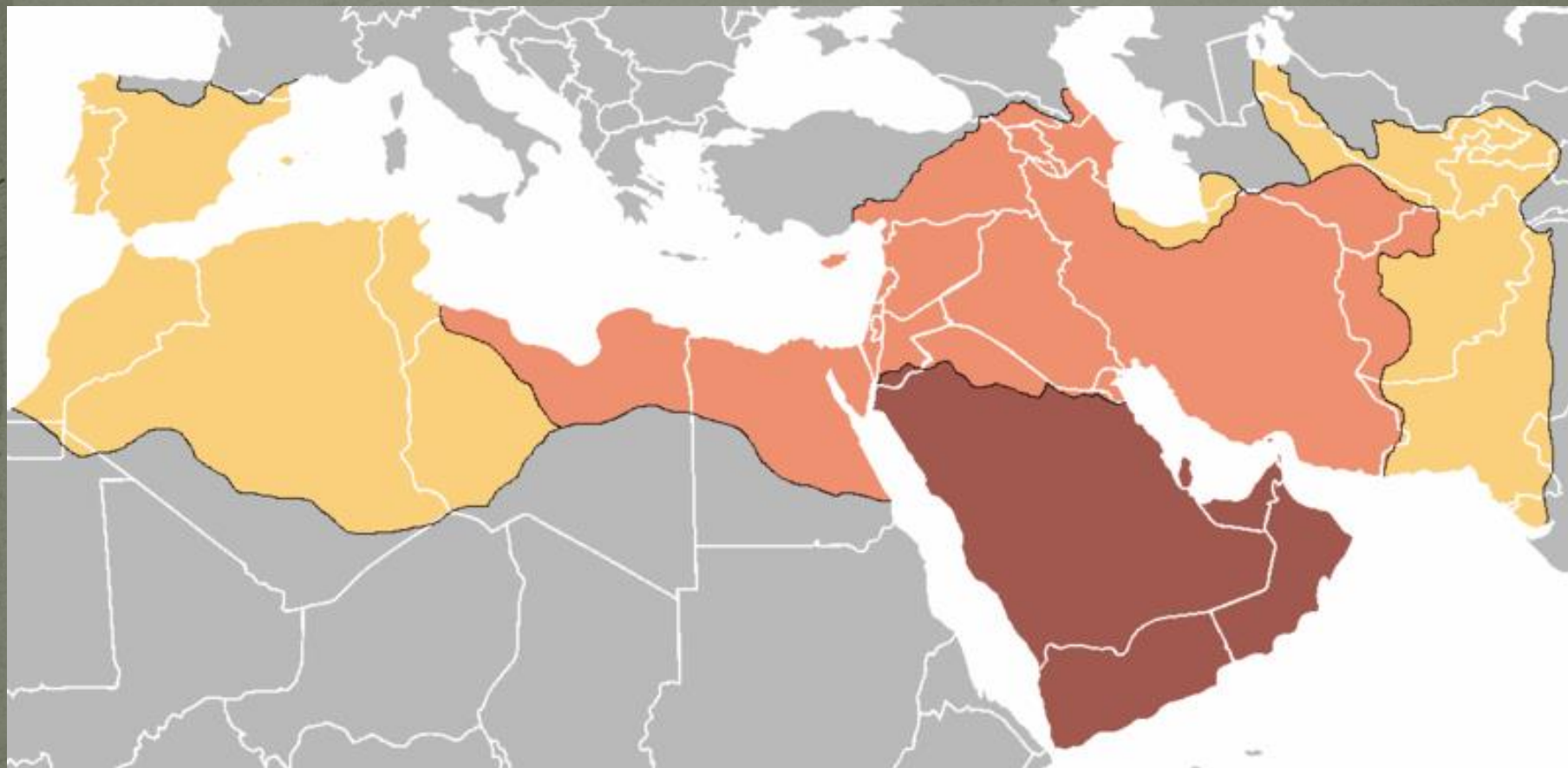
Summary

- The purpose of miracles is to indicate that the miracle performer has a special relationship with the Divine.
- Miracles were chosen according to the proficiency of the time.
- The miracle of the Prophet of Allah is the Qur'an: its form and its contents.
- To demonstrate the miraculous nature of its contents we will compare pre-Islamic Arabia to post Islamic Arabia.

Pre-Islamic Arabia

- Geography of Arabia was not suited for the rise of a civilization.
- People of Arabia did not benefit from their neighboring cultures and civilization.
- Education and knowledge was replaced by superstition.
- There was no central government. Instead there were numerous tribes.
- Their practices lacked ethical principles.

Post Islamic Arabia: the Expansion



Explosion of Knowledge

- The Prophet of Allah dismantles superstition:

And the sun runs on to a term, appointed for it That is the ordinance of the Mighty, the Knowing.

And (as for) the moon, We have ordained for it stages till it becomes again as an old dry palm branch.

- Centers of Academic discourse develop in Madina, Basrah, Kufa, Baghdad, Cairo, Cordoba, Nayshapour...
- Beginning of 2nd century: Imam al-Baqir and Imam al-Sadiq teach the empirical and metaphysical sciences in Madina.

Explosion of Academia & Learning

- Middle of the 2nd century AH, the Abbasid caliphate establishes *Bayt al-Hikmah* in Baghdad.
- This marks the beginning of the translation movement.
- People from various lands come to Muslim centers of learning.
- In 751 CE, the first paper mill is established in the Muslim lands.

Advances in Science and Technology

- Advances in technology:
 - a. First clock was built by Muslims
 - b. use of cannons in military warfare
- Advances in science:
 - a. In depth understand of human physiology.
 - b. Understanding the movement of celestial bodies:
 - Khwaja Nasir al-Din al-Tusi and the observatory at Maragah.
 - Proposal for a heliocentric model.
 - Scientific approach in the East and the West.

Causes for Academic Progress

- The main catalyst for academic progress within Muslim lands was the teaching of the Qur'an and Prophetic sunnah:

Those who remember Allah standing and sitting and lying on their sides and reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth: Our Lord! Thou hast not created this in vain! Glory be to Thee (3:191)

- *Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave*
- *Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every believer*
- *Seek knowledge even if you have to go to China:*
What does this hadith mean to you? Application today?

Value of Man is Redefined

- Islam encouraged struggle and entrepreneurship.
- The value of man was based on his efforts:

O mankind! Indeed We created you from a male and a female, and made you nations and tribes that you may identify yourselves with one another. Indeed the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most Godwary among you. Indeed Allah is all-knowing, all-aware. (31)

End to Discrimination of Women

- Women have the same human value as man:

And whoever does righteous deeds, whether male or female, should he be faithful such shall enter paradise and they will not be wronged [so much as] the speck on a date-stone. (4:124)

- The rights of women be afforded to them based on “justice”:

- a. Women cannot be inherited.

- b. Women can own land and will inherit.

- c. Women have an independent political status.