MUSLIM RESPECT FOR LEARNING

“God will raise up in rank those of you who…have been given knowledge.”

*Quote from the Koran*

“Seek knowledge, even if it be in China”

“The Quest for learning is a duty for every Muslim.”

*Both quotes attributed to the Prophet Mohammed*

“Many scholars followed the advice to investigate and build on “foreign knowledge” – the centuries of learning of non-Muslim cultures, the common heritage of all humanity. It was here that Islam would make some of its greatest contributions to the improvement of the human condition. In the hands of the open-minded and curious, Islam became a vehicle for unprecedented intellectual discovery. Although Islam began as an Arab religion, Islamic civilization evolved into a heterogeneous (mixed) society that drew its strength and energy from the interaction of many cultures, ethnicities, and faiths…. Early Muslims knew they had a lot of catching up to do to equal or surpass the great civilizations that preceded and surrounded them. To meet the practical needs of a growing intercontinental empire, Muslims borrowed and mixed what they needed from their many subjects and neighbors. Adoption and adaptation became the main goal of Islamic civilization.”


Based on this excerpt, what were two reasons why Muslims valued learned so deeply?