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EVALUATION OF ETHICAL VALUES TO DEVELOP GLOBAL HUMAN RESOURCE

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Abstracts:

The prevailing belief among most individuals is that ethical and moral values are acquired rather than innate. This implies that these values are not inherent within us but are assimilated through our experiences and interactions with others. From an early age, we learn essential virtues such as sharing, honesty, and compassion through our upbringing. As we mature, our understanding of ethical values expands through influences from our families, friends, and broader community. Media platforms, including television, books, films, religion, and culture, also contribute to our knowledge of ethical values. On the contrary, there are individuals who contend that ethical values are innate, suggesting that they are ingrained in us and do not necessitate conscious learning. Character development, responsiveness, and resilience are influenced by the larger society, encompassing factors such as income level, education, culture, national ideology, mass media, and more. It is imperative to nurture the physical, intellectual, and moral growth of each individual. These invaluable insights underscore the significance of morals and ethics, highlighting that an individual devoid of these principles resembles a devil disguised as a human being. Morals and ethics serve as the bedrock for a harmonious and peaceful society, fostering prosperity at a national level and ultimately contributing to a better world for all inhabitants. This analytical paper aims to assess ethical values and encourage the application of moral lessons in individuals' daily lives, with the overarching goal of cultivating a global human resource and establishing a peaceful and prosperous global community.

Key Words: Ethics, moral, values, behavior, honesty, integrity, fairness, kindness

Introduction

Morals pertain to human conduct, while morality encompasses the practical application of those morals. On the other hand, ethics entails the theoretical, systematic, and rational contemplation of human behavior.¹ Ethics can be defined as a set of moral principles. It is a branch of philosophy that focuses on the values associated with human behavior, encompassing judgments of right and wrong regarding specific actions, as well as assessments of the moral worth of motives and outcomes.² The term 'value' originates from the Latin word 'Valere,' this signifies something that is deemed valuable. Initially rooted in economics, the term 'value' later extended its reach to the realm of ethics. Values are acquired through various means such as education, intelligence, consciousness, personal encounters, or the process of socialization. These concepts or convictions hold great significance to us, as they shape our understanding of what is morally correct or incorrect. Therefore, values can be described as principles, standards, or qualities that are perceived as desirable. When our values are virtuous, they foster positive thoughts, which ultimately influence our behavior in a constructive manner.³ Human values are the virtues that steer us towards recognizing the human aspect when engaging with others. They serve as the guiding principles that enable individuals to coexist harmoniously with the world around them. These values represent the profound moral yearnings of humanity and form the bedrock of our lives, both as individuals and as societies. Remarkably, human values transcend boundaries, as they are universally embraced by people across different communities, religions, nationalities, and cultural backgrounds. They foster an atmosphere of mutual regard and empathy among individuals.⁴

Ethics and values form the bedrock for fostering sustainability. While they are sometimes used interchangeably, they possess distinct characteristics. Ethics encompass a set of rules that govern individual behavior, established by a group or culture.⁵ On the other hand, values represent enduring preferences and beliefs held by an individual.

Ethics and values play a pivotal role in various aspects of life, especially when faced with decisions that involve weighing options. Ethics determine what is right, while values determine what is significant.⁶ It's important to note that not all values are ethical in nature; some values, such as efficiency, lack an ethical component. Ethical values encompass qualities like⁷ honesty, kindness, fairness, integrity, etc. Examples of ethical values include integrity, accountability, altruism, avoiding harm, benevolence, care, citizenship, collaboration, competence, confidentiality, doing good, fairness, global worldview, greater good, honesty, inclusion, justice, kindness, long-term thinking, moral awareness, mutual benefit, open-mindedness, personal congruence, positive intent, precaution, preventing harm, respect for boundaries, respect for others, respect for human rights and dignity, service, support for the well-being of others, sustainability, taking responsibility, transparency, trustworthiness, valuing differences, belief in a higher power, and more. Establishing a clear connection between an organization's purpose and its ethical values is crucial to embed ethics into the organizational culture and guide decision-making at all levels.⁸ Purpose and values serve as the foundation of an ethics program, guiding the conduct of business and defining acceptable or desirable behaviors beyond mere compliance with laws and regulations.⁹

Ethical or moral values serve as the guiding principles of good and evil, influencing an individual's behavior and choices. They enable us to discern right from wrong and provide the motivation to act in accordance with what is morally upright.¹⁰ The concept of value extends beyond ethics and morals to encompass the significance and usefulness of various qualities, attitudes, or approaches.¹¹ When we assign value to something, we acknowledge its importance or utility. It is crucial to treat all individuals with equality and justice, without displaying favoritism towards anyone. Fairness ensures that everyone is given an equal opportunity to succeed. In our interactions with others, particularly when resolving conflicts, it is vital to maintain impartiality and avoid taking sides. This principle holds significance not only from a secular perspective but also from a religious standpoint.¹² The research paper at hand takes an analytical approach, drawing upon popular literature, religious texts, and primarily secondary sources of information to tell a story of ethical values. Its objective is to foster understanding, empathy, and motivation among individuals to integrate moral lessons into their daily lives, thereby contributing to the development of a global human resource and the establishment of a peaceful society characterized by progress, success, and happiness worldwide.

Core Ethical Values

Ethical values serve as a set of moral principles that govern the operations and conduct of an organization or company. These principles prioritize serving and protecting others, placing their interests above the self-interest of the organization. Going beyond mere compliance with legal obligations, the presence of ethical values in business reflects the strong moral character of leaders and employees.¹³ On the other hand, core values are individual ethics or ideals that guide decision-making, relationship-building, and problem-solving.¹⁴ Ethics pertains to a system of moral principles, while values are associated with an individual's thought processes and their perception of right and wrong. Ethics is typically linked to professional settings, while values are more closely tied to personal aspects of an individual's life.¹⁵ Terminal values represent core, enduring values that often shape an individual's character. They can be either beneficial or harmful, and they are challenging to change. Examples of terminal values include happiness, self-respect, family security, recognition, freedom, inner harmony, a comfortable life, professional excellence, and more. Terminal values are desirable states of being. On the other hand, instrumental values refer to specific modes of behavior that individuals adopt.

Terminal values are not an ultimate end in them, but rather serve as the means to achieve one's life objectives.¹⁶ They represent the ultimate goals an individual seeks to accomplish through their behavior. Terminal Values encompass the methods and approaches an individual wishes to employ in order to attain their life's purpose. On the other hand, intrinsic values hold inherent value and worth in their own right. Examples of intrinsic values include honesty, temperance, courage, happiness, and peace.¹⁷ In contrast, extrinsic values are obtained through the acquisition of other intrinsic values and only hold usefulness in serving as a means to an end. They serve a purpose in achieving desired outcomes.¹⁸ Political, social, economic, and cultural institutions play a role in promoting institutional values. For instance, in a democratic society, liberty becomes an institutional value, while loyalty becomes a value within a social institution like marriage. Individual values encompass both intrinsic and extrinsic values that hold significance to the person who holds them. Examples of individual values¹⁹ include self-esteem and the pursuit of celebrity status.

Values are shaped through the process of socialization, influenced by factors such as parental guidance, religious institutions, friendships, personal experiences, community, and society at large.²⁰ Individual values are molded by religious beliefs, existing social systems, and socioeconomic conditions²¹ to some extent. Terminal values develop and evolve over time, while instrumental values are influenced by situational circumstances. Fundamental inherent values in human beings include truth, honesty, loyalty, love, respect, affection, and peace, among others. These values embody the innate goodness of individuals and society as a whole. Moreover, due to their unifying nature and their ability to transcend individual's social, cultural, religious, and sectarian interests, these values are considered universal, timeless, and eternal, applicable to all people.²² Family values play a crucial role in enabling children to uphold their beliefs and resist external pressures. A child who possesses a strong sense of right and wrong is less likely to succumb to negative influences. It is important to note that ethical behavior cannot be exclusively defined by a fixed set of actions or moral values. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, ethics is the discipline concerned with discerning what is morally good and bad, right and wrong. Ethics involves exploring the nature of normative theories and applying these sets of principles to real-world moral dilemmas.²³

There are commonly agreed-upon ethics or moral principles that encompass actions such as refraining from harming others, returning lost belongings, and avoiding littering. However, in personal and business contexts, we often encounter situations where the distinction between right and wrong is less clear. In the realm of business, ethical behavior can be determined by adhering to fundamental business principles and specific codes of conduct and morals applicable to different industries.²⁴ Fundamental business principles emphasize the creation of quality products and the provision of fair wages to employees. Correspondingly, ethical business practices include refraining from false advertising and ensuring equal pay regardless of race or gender. Company-specific morals may dictate decisions such as avoiding advertising partnerships with networks holding certain political views or disclosing executive salaries to the public. Additionally, different professions²⁵ often adopt specific codes of ethics that guide their professional conduct. Value systems consist of prospective and prescriptive beliefs that influence an individual's ethical behavior and guide their intentional actions. Primary values are typically deeply ingrained, while secondary values may be more flexible and subject to change.²⁶ Core ethical values²⁷ play a crucial role in distinguishing between right and wrong.²⁸ These values, such as integrity, honesty, fairness, kindness, judgment, accountability, and a belief in a higher power, serve as the foundational pillars of ethical decision-making. It can be divide more detail as shown below.

- Integrity²⁹, including
 - Exercising good judgment in professional practice; and
 - Adherence to ethical principles; and
 - Just/equity.
- Honesty³⁰, including
 - Truthfulness;
 - Fairness; and
 - Sincerity.
- Loyalty³¹, including
 - Faithfulness to clients;
 - Allegiance to the public trust;
 - Loyalty to employer, firm or agency;
 - Loyalty to the profession; and
 - For the theist, faithfulness to God.
- Charity³², including
 - Kindness;
 - Caring;
 - Good will;
 - Tolerance;
 - Compassion/mercy; and
 - Adherence to the golden rule.
- Responsibility³³, including
 - Reliability/dependability;
 - Accountability; and
 - Trustworthiness.

- Self-Discipline³⁴, including
- Acting with reasonable restraint; and
- Not indulging in excessive behavior.

Ethical/Moral values and Development of Human Character

Moral and ethical principles define what is right and wrong and serve as the cornerstone of personality since they influence how people think and act. Moral values are typically regarded as universal because they are shared and upheld by individuals all around the world. For instance, everyone agrees that ownership is a moral principle.³⁵ Everywhere in the world, people value and attach importance to their possessions. They safeguard their possessions against injury and theft. We act morally or righteously when we respect the property of others by seeking their permission before touching, using, or borrowing. Theft, robbery, vandalism, and property destruction are immoral or poor decisions. Conflict can result from even passingly exploiting someone else's property without first seeking permission.³⁶ The three fundamental dimensions of morality are: attitude³⁷ and behavior toward all living things,³⁸ Environment-related³⁹ behavior and attitudes as well as behavior and attitudes regarding things and property.

Ethical principles establish bounds that enable a person to behave properly toward others and toward him. When a person strives to discriminate between right and wrong and makes decisions that are considerate of all life and the environment, they are said to have moral principles. As a result, interpersonal relationships become calmer. The moral principles we have been taught are combined with values such as work ethics, education, interests, etc. to form our character. Our encounters with others and their influences, in addition to our values, have contributed to mold and shape our character and make us into the people we are today.⁴⁰ Moral principles are significant because they guide our decision-making in daily life. They also show us how to respect others and act in a way that is appropriate for our community or culture. Moral principles are crucial because they enable us to form a firm sense of right and wrong.⁴¹ They can also aid in our ability to grasp the effects of our actions and grow in our capacity for empathy for others. We begin to learn how to share, be honest, and take care of others while we are young. As we become older, our families, our friends, and the larger community⁴² continue to teach us new moral principles. The media, including books, religious texts, television, literature, culture, and movies, also teaches us about moral principles.⁴³ However, other people think moral principles come naturally. This implies that we do not need to learn them because they are something we are born with. Rather, our biology or DNA determines our ethical values. Most professionals agree that moral principles are mostly learned. This implies that a key factor in the formation of our ethical principles is the impact of our experiences and relationships with others.⁴⁴

Education and Ethical/Moral Values

Throughout history and across societies, education has consistently been recognized as a powerful tool. However, the transmission of ethics and values should not encroach upon the freedom and autonomy of learners. Education possesses the capacity to swiftly convey refined knowledge.⁴⁵ The responsibility for fostering personality development, cultural preservation, and promotion of social justice, equity, scientific inquiry, democracy, secularism, and other ideals lies primarily with educational institutions and teachers.⁴⁶ These institutions play a vital role in nurturing logical reasoning, establishing checks on impulsive behavior, fostering a purpose-driven mindset, and emphasizing the value of human excellence. It is imperative to have an educational curriculum that is firmly rooted in ethical and moral values. Furthermore, a dedicated teacher orientation program and the publication of literature centered on values are crucial. The establishment of a code of conduct⁴⁷ for teachers and students is also essential in order to cultivate and instill values in the coming generations. To ensure the transmission of values, it is necessary to construct a curriculum that draws upon our accumulated cultural heritage.

Children participate in a little community at school that has a big impact on how they develop morally and ethically. In the classroom, teachers act as role models for the pupils and are crucial in teaching ethical behavior in them.⁴⁸ Peers at school⁴⁹ actively promote lying, stealing, sharing, and showing consideration for others. Despite the existence of laws and norms, educational institutions informally teach youngsters about values. They are essential in helping kids develop moral character. Therefore, educational institutions are crucial for helping students develop their character, and teachers have a significant impact on how children's value systems are formed. The character and morals of a teacher have an effect on the minds and hearts of their students. Students⁵⁰ need to be taught discipline, patriotism, and civic responsibility by their teachers.

The university sees its past glory in him and bases its future dignity around him, making the teacher the primary character in higher education. A teacher should be constantly reading, studying, and critiquing in order to impart a balanced viewpoint to students.

Family and Ethical/Moral Values

The family and society play a crucial role in shaping a child's ethical and moral values. The close relationship between parents and children greatly influences the child's personality development. Values are established upon the foundation laid by the family. Ethical and moral values, such as honesty, happiness, fairness, respect, affection, peace, equity, and justice, are ingrained in the thoughts, emotions, and actions of children, serving as guiding principles throughout their lives. When young members of a family are systematically taught these values, they become ingrained and automatic.⁵¹ The family molds a child's attitude towards people and society, contributes to their mental development, and supports their goals and values. Creating a loving, respectful, affectionate, tolerant, just, and generous atmosphere within the family will aid to the development of these qualities. Children learn to behave by observing their environment, and the family plays a vital role in their socialization and overall development. The presence of elders and the joint family system significantly impact the social and moral growth of children, allowing younger generations to imbibe human values and overcome negative inclinations in the company of their elders.

Children identify with their parents and other family elders, seeing them as personal role models to emulate and imitate. Given the significant amount of time spent with parents during adolescence, family involvement becomes essential in addressing behavioral issues. The family is the primary social unit from which children learn behavior due to its close proximity. A child's emotional and physical foundation is shaped by the social standards and customs established by their family. The values instilled by the family serve as the bedrock for their learning, growth, and functioning in the world. These beliefs influence a child's development into an individual within society, guiding their actions at all times. Through the values imparted by their family, children are nurtured to become virtuous individuals.⁵² Family values are passed down from generation to generation, and they contribute to a disciplined and organized way of life, as manifested in the customs and traditions upheld by the family.

Important Ethical Values We Should Learn

Ethical values hold great significance as they guide us in making the right choices in life. They teach us how to treat others with respect and how to conduct ourselves in a manner that is socially acceptable. Moral values are equally important as they help us develop a strong sense of right and wrong.⁵³ It is crucial for us to explore our individual potential and cultivate discipline, both at an individual and group level.⁵⁴ Additionally, we have the responsibility to shape people's opinions, beliefs, norms, morals, and ideals. Instilling values such as hard work, honesty, tolerance, national integration, secularism, justice, kindness, and responsibility is essential, while rejecting negative values like dowry,⁵⁵ biting⁵⁶, cheating⁵⁷, illicit relation⁵⁸, religious grouping/sub-grouping, communalism⁵⁹, alcoholism⁶⁰, and drug addiction⁶¹. By disregarding social tensions, unrest, prejudices, and other divisive factors, we can strive to improve the quality of life and ensure justice and equality for marginalized individuals.⁶² Let's discuss human values and sub-values, including right conduct, peace, truth, manners, patience, truthfulness, awareness, concentration, honesty, responsibility, positivism, fairness, independence, self-acceptance, trust, perseverance, self-discipline, reflection, courage, contentment, determination, love, non-violence, kindness, consideration, forgiveness, stewardship, generosity, justice, compassion, respect, tolerance, cooperation, service, and harmlessness. While some argue that moral values are determined by our genes or biology, most experts believe that they are primarily learned. Our experiences and interactions with others play a significant role in shaping our moral values.⁶³ Regardless, there are certain important moral values that we believe everyone should learn in order to reach their full potential, find happiness, peace, and contribute positively to society. Practicing these moral values in our daily lives is crucial for our personal progress, well-being, and success.

Honesty:

Honesty stands out as a fundamental moral value that holds immense importance. It entails being truthful and just in all our interactions with others. Honesty also involves the willingness to acknowledge our mistakes. Terms like reputability and trustworthiness are associated with possessing an honest character. Being accountable, reliable, dependable, and conscientious⁶⁴ demonstrates honesty regarding our future conduct, loyalties, and commitments.

Failing to take responsibility for a mistake can have significant consequences, particularly for those in subordinate positions at work. If a cashier or waiter unintentionally gives back too much money or forgets to charge for a purchase, it is always advisable to inform them about the error. Taking advantage of someone else's mistake is dishonest and can lead to unfavorable outcomes. Moreover, they may have to bear the consequences later on.⁶⁵

Integrity:

Integrity is the discipline of being truthful and demonstrating a steadfast and unwavering adherence to high moral and ethical standards. Integrity is defined in ethics as being honest, true, or accurate in one's activities. Hypocrisy⁶⁶ can be opposed by integrity. Integrity is the trait of being trustworthy and possessing high moral standards. When we are honest, we act morally even when no one is watching.⁶⁷ Giving credit to someone whose work we may have claimed is a terrific illustration of integrity. Nevertheless, a leader of integrity would willingly recognize and attribute the accomplishments to the individuals who contributed to the work, ensuring they receive the rightful recognition they deserve.⁶⁸

Respect:

Respect, also known as esteem, encompasses a positive sentiment or behavior demonstrated towards someone or something that holds significance or is regarded highly. It reflects an appreciation for commendable or valuable qualities. Moreover, respect involves the act of honoring individuals by demonstrating care, concern, or consideration for their needs and feelings.^{69, 70} Treating others with courtesy and consideration is at the core of respect. It entails respecting their possessions, privacy, as well as their perspectives and beliefs. When we hold respect for someone, we treat them with dignity and thoughtfulness, making sure not to engage in actions that might cause harm or offense. A profound way to exhibit respect is by attentively listening to others, providing them with our undivided attention and refraining from interrupting them. Additionally, respect may extend to displaying reverence towards specific segments of society, such as our elders. In many cultures, it is customary to avoid addressing someone by their first name unless granted permission to do so, as a sign of politeness.⁷¹

Responsibility:

Responsibility means being responsible, being reliable, and being dependable. It encompasses being accountable for our actions and taking ownership of our mistakes. Responsibility, within the realm of the law, may pertain to a legal obligation. It also involves assessing one's mental capacity to determine the level of accountability for a crime.⁷² When we embody responsibility, we can be trusted to fulfill our commitments and follow through on our promises. We exhibit caution and consideration in our interactions with others, ensuring that we do not cause them any harm. A responsible individual adheres to regulations, such as obeying speed limits and refraining from littering. They also take care of their possessions and refrain from borrowing things without obtaining permission.⁷³

Caring:

Caring within intimate relationships entails offering care and support to one's partner. Effective caregiving requires a significant level of responsibility and the allocation of cognitive, emotional, and tangible resources. Caregivers must possess adequate motivation to provide responsive support to their partner.⁷⁴ Caring encompasses acts of kindness and displaying concern for others. It involves being helpful and considerate, with the intention of wanting what is best for the other person. Demonstrating care can take various forms, such as cooking for them, assisting with their tasks, or simply spending quality time together. Caring also entails being empathetic; this means understanding and sharing the feelings of another person. This empathetic ability proves valuable in providing solace and support to someone experiencing challenging circumstances.⁷⁵

Cooperation:

Cooperation is the collaborative process through which the components of a system harmoniously interact to attain overarching properties. It involves individual elements, initially perceived as self-centered and independent, working together to form a complex and integrated system that exceeds the mere sum of its parts.⁷⁶ Cooperation entails the collective effort towards a shared objective. It encompasses the willingness to compromise and prioritize the interests of others over our own. When we cooperate with others, we choose collaboration over opposition, fostering a spirit of teamwork. We are also willing to make personal sacrifices for the benefit of the collective.

For instance, we might opt to collaborate on a project with a colleague instead of socializing with friends. In a cooperative society, conflicts can be resolved without resorting to violence,⁷⁷ as collective problem-solving becomes the norm.

Courage:

Courage entails the ability to take action despite experiencing fear. It encompasses the strength to uphold our beliefs and persevere, even in the face of daunting circumstances. Moral courage specifically refers to acting in accordance with what is right, despite facing opposition from the majority.⁷⁸ Being courageous does not imply the absence of fear, but rather the ability to confront our fears and act in alignment with our values. An exemplar of courage would be intervening in a bullying situation, even when intimidated by the bully. It also encompasses being the first to raise a voice against injustice, even when others are hesitant to do so. Courage has sparked transformative movements throughout history, such as the Civil Rights Era in the USA, protests in Tiananmen Square, the Arab Spring, and the Liberation War in Bangladesh.⁷⁹

Loyalty:

In law and political science, loyalty is defined as an individual's faithfulness to a nation, either their country of origin or their chosen homeland as pledged through an oath. According to Royce, loyalty is not only a virtue but a fundamental virtue, serving as the essence of all virtues and the central obligation among all duties.⁸⁰ Loyalty entails demonstrating unwavering and steadfast support for someone or something. When we are loyal to someone, we stand by them steadfastly, even during challenging times.⁸¹ Marriage vows, for example, include a commitment of loyalty to our spouse, promising to support them through sickness and health. Loyalty can extend to our family, friends, or country. A person who is loyal to their country would never engage in espionage for another nation, regardless of the temptations of financial gain. Loyalty to an organization is often exhibited by sports fans who continue to cheer for their team, regardless of the outcome.⁸²

Self-Control:

Self-control, a facet of inhibitory control, refers to the capacity to manage and regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and actions when faced with temptations and impulses. It is often likened to a muscle that can be developed and strengthened. Research suggests that self-regulation, whether in the realm of emotions or behaviors, is a finite resource that operates akin to energy.⁸³ Self-control encompasses the ability to govern our emotions and urges effectively. This entails resisting temptations and making responsible decisions. When we possess self-control, we possess mastery over our lives and are not governed by our emotions alone. Furthermore, we are capable of resisting temptations and making choices that serve our own well-being and that of those around us.⁸⁴ The acquisition of self-control acts as a preventive measure, discouraging actions ranging from simple indulgences like overeating to more serious transgressions such as sexual assault. It helps foster an understanding and respect for the concept of consent, where 'no' unequivocally means 'no'. The Bible and the Quran contain numerous teachings on the subject of self-control.

Work Ethic:

The concept of work ethic encompasses the belief that work and diligence hold moral significance and possess inherent virtues that contribute to the development of character and individual abilities. It encompasses a set of moral principles that individuals apply to their professional endeavors. Those with a strong work ethic adhere to specific principles that shape their work-related conduct, ultimately leading to the consistent production of high-quality work. The output motivates them to stay on track.⁸⁵ A robust work ethic entails a willingness to exert effort and strive for excellence. It involves traits such as punctuality, responsibility, and reliability. When we possess a strong work ethic, we can be relied upon to perform our duties diligently and effectively. Our work ethic holds significance not only in our professional lives but also in our personal lives. It ranks among the most essential moral values to uphold in the workplace. Neglecting our responsibilities at work can negatively impact our colleagues and result in a decline in overall productivity.⁸⁶

Perseverance:

Perseveration, as understood in the fields of psychology, psychiatry, and speech-language pathology, refers to the repetitive nature of a specific response.

In a broader context, it encompasses various non-functional behaviors that arise from a failure of the brain to inhibit repeated actions or to transition to alternative behaviors as expected. This includes difficulties in shifting focus or switching tasks within social and other contexts.⁸⁷ Perseverance, on the other hand, denotes the ability to persist and continue striving even in the face of adversity. It involves displaying unwavering determination and refusing to give up. When you persevere, you don't let obstacles get in your way.⁸⁸ For instance, an exemplary display of perseverance is evident when someone loses a limb but refuses to surrender to the challenge, instead adapting to live a fulfilling life without it. We can witness examples of perseverance in professional runners who continue to compete and excel, even after the loss of one or both legs, as demonstrated in events like the Paralympics.⁸⁹

Humility:

Humility is the characteristic of possessing a modest and unpretentious attitude. It reflects an appropriate sense of self-awareness and is distinct from the experience of humiliation, which involves an external imposition of shame upon an individual.⁹⁰ Embracing humility can lead to personal growth and achievement. It entails recognizing one's limitations and refraining from considering oneself superior to others. A humble individual is open to both praise and criticism, demonstrating an acceptance of feedback. An illustration of humility can be observed when someone is assigned a task that may be beneath their skill level. A humble person would willingly undertake the task without hesitation and might even express gratitude for the opportunity to contribute. They would refrain from boasting or exhibiting arrogance based on their wealth, educational attainment, or professional status.⁹¹ For instance, possessing a Master's degree would never lead a humble person to look down upon someone who did not complete high school, as they recognize that academic achievements do not define a person's intellect or worth.⁹²

Compassion:

Compassion involves experiencing a genuine concern for others and serves as a foundation for empathy. It drives individuals to make extra efforts to alleviate the physical, mental, or emotional suffering of both themselves and others.⁹³ Compassion entails the capacity to care for others and empathize with their circumstances. It encompasses acts of kindness and understanding. When we possess compassion, we are compelled to assist those who are experiencing hardship. Given the constant flux of the world, which includes numerous tragic events, many compassionate individuals contribute their resources, whether in the form of monetary donations or volunteering their time, to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity or The Red Cross. Others may choose to engage in volunteer work at soup kitchens or homeless shelters. Additionally, some people demonstrate compassion by being a supportive and attentive listener for a friend in need.⁹⁴

Forgiveness:

Forgiveness is the capacity to release anger and resentment. It encompasses the ability to forgive both ourselves and others. When we practice forgiveness, we choose not to harbor grudges. It is natural to experience feelings of anger and resentment when someone has wronged us, but clinging to these negative emotions ultimately harms us.⁹⁵ Learning to forgive is crucial for our personal growth and well-being, as it allows us to move forward in life. Forgiveness does not necessitate forming a close relationship with the person who hurt us, but it does require us to let go of the anger and resentment we hold. Holding onto anger can have detrimental effects on our physical and mental health.⁹⁶

Gratitude:

Gratitude is the quality of expressing appreciation and acknowledging kindness.⁹⁷ When we possess gratitude, we recognize that everything we encounter is either a blessing or an opportunity for growth. Showing gratitude and being appreciative not only demonstrates good moral character towards others, but it also has internal benefits for us. When we are grateful for even the smallest things in life, it can enhance our happiness and cultivate a positive outlook. Surprisingly, gratitude includes being thankful for both the good and the challenging aspects of our lives. There is a well-known saying that 'rejection is God's protection,' suggesting that not getting a particular job or being accepted by a potential partner may be an indication that something better awaits us.⁹⁸

Cleanliness:

There is a widely known saying, "Cleanliness is close to Godliness," and there is truth in this statement. When we maintain cleanliness, it reflects our self-respect and respect for others. It also signifies that we prioritize our health and well-being and do not pose a risk of spreading diseases.

Keeping our surroundings clean is equally important. A clean home or workplace indicates our ability to care for ourselves and create an inviting environment for others.⁹⁹ Conversely, when someone knowingly resides in an unclean or cluttered space, it can indicate a disordered mindset or a lack of concern for their own well-being. While this does not necessarily make them a bad person, it may raise questions about their morals and activities.¹⁰⁰

Patience:

Patience is the ability or willingness to remain calm and composed when faced with delays or challenges.¹⁰¹ When we can patiently wait without getting agitated, we increase the likelihood of achieving positive outcomes. It involves controlling our emotions and avoiding impulsive reactions in moments of anger or confrontation. Practicing patience means we do not act hastily. For example, when standing in a long line at a grocery store and the person ahead of us is taking their time, a patient individual would not become angry or frustrated. They would understand that everyone operates at a different pace and trust that eventually; they will reach the front of the line.¹⁰²

Self-discipline:

Self-discipline refers to the ability to control one's behavior and actions to achieve a goal or maintain a certain standard of conduct. It is the practice of training oneself to do things that should be done and resisting things that should be avoided.¹⁰³ Self-discipline means the ability to control one's own feelings, action and behavior so they can wait with patience for what they want.¹⁰⁴ Usually, blaming others, claiming victimhood, or passing the buck may solve short-term crises, but rejection to take responsibility erodes respect and consistency in the organization. Ethical people take responsibility for their actions. Management must lead by example. Good ethics should be most noticeable and practice at the top.¹⁰⁵ Parents who teach their children self-discipline are more likely to see their children demonstrate honesty, integrity, fairness and respectful behavior. These children are rewarded with increased responsibility and more opportunities to let their strengths and talents shine.¹⁰⁶ So, self-discipline involves us to making ourselves to do something that we should do even if we don't want to do it.¹⁰⁷

Determination:

Ethics are 'ways of doing things' and it implies that the ways that are defined as ethical need to be done in the correct ways. Crime and Punishment are such correlated concepts, both individually defined in terms of ethics and justified in terms of ethical/moral.¹⁰⁸ Determination is never giving up, no matter what! A determined person decides to do something, and then does it! There is an unconscious therapeutic process within the mind which ends up in spite of their distressed *determination* never to forget. The first element of success is the *determination* with patience. Actually, morality refers to personal or cultural values, codes of conduct or social mores from a society that provides these codes of conduct in which it applies and is accepted by an individual. Practical reason and relevant emotional considerations are both considered important for a decision to be moral. **Examples of determination are: having a fighting spirit, persisting through difficulty, being certain in our beliefs, etc.**¹⁰⁹ Moral codes are ultimately founded on emotional instincts and intuitions that were selected for in the past as they aided endurance and reproduction. Morality is sometimes considered to change through personal progress.¹¹⁰ Several psychologists have produced theories on the development of morals, usually going through stages of different morals. Within the wide range of moral traditions, religious value systems co-exist with modern secular frameworks such as consequentialism.¹¹¹ (actually, something is good or bad is usually depends on its outcomes), free-thought, humanism¹¹² (as we know that, progressive philosophy of life is that, without supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives), utilitarianism¹¹³ (that morality which advocates actions and that foster happiness or pleasure and oppose actions), and others.¹¹⁴ Without curiosity, dynamism, or determination and success and progress are not possible. So, listless, halfhearted, apathetic attempt are usually lazy and lethargic; and those never give success and happy end.¹¹⁵

Kindness:

Kindness is demonstrated when we show care and act in ways that bring pleasure or benefit to others. It encompasses being gentle, compassionate, and helpful. There are countless ways to express kindness. We can engage in random acts of kindness, such as paying for the coffee of the person next in line. Volunteering at a local hospital or nursing home is another meaningful way to exhibit kindness. Additionally, being a good listener and offering support to a friend in need are simple yet impactful acts of kindness.

Sometimes, kindness can be as effortless as sharing a smile or offering a warm greeting like ‘hello, ‘thank you, or welcome.’ Personally, I demonstrate kindness through my demeanor, polite behavior,¹¹⁶ and a genuine willingness to help others.

Faithfulness:

Faithfulness encompasses qualities such as reliability, trustworthiness, and unwavering allegiance to someone, something, or an ideal we declare our belief in. We can exhibit faithfulness in our relationships by remaining faithful to our partners, both emotionally and sexually. While faithfulness is often associated with religious faith, it extends beyond mere words. Demonstrating faith in our higher power involves actions like attending religious services, studying sacred texts, and actively participating in religious communities.¹¹⁷ However, the true manifestation of our faith lies in how we treat others and how we live our lives. It is important for believers to embody benevolence and refrain from causing harm to society.

Open-mindedness:

Open-mindedness is the capacity to consider different perspectives without hastily passing judgment. It entails a willingness to listen to others, empathize with them, and be receptive to learning new things, even if they challenge our comfort zones. When we possess an open mind, we not only hear others but also make an effort to understand their viewpoints, avoiding assumptions. Embracing new knowledge, even if it contradicts our existing beliefs, promotes personal and societal progress.¹¹⁸ For example, we may embrace the opportunity to try unfamiliar cuisine or immerse ourselves in the customs of a different culture. In the realm of politics, we may hold certain convictions but remain open enough to consider alternative viewpoints.¹¹⁹

Fairness:

Fairness entails impartial and equitable treatment, devoid of favoritism or bias.¹²⁰ It represents the principle of treating individuals equally and in a manner that is just and reasonable. Fairness encompasses notions of righteousness, social justice, equality, and solidarity within a society.¹²¹ If a person demonstrates that their actions align with their responsibilities, fairness dictates that we refrain from casting blame.¹²² Fairness is a concept rooted in natural justice. When fairness is established and trusted in a person, job, or system, it fosters honest exchanges, where giving is reciprocated.¹²³ Treating everyone with respect and fairness not only benefits us in the long run but also encourages others to treat us in a similar manner.¹²⁴ These moral values hold particular significance in professions such as judges, lawyers, and police officers.

Justice:

Justice is an ethical and philosophical concept emphasizing the impartial, fair, proper, and reasonable treatment of individuals under the law and by its arbiters. It asserts that laws must ensure the prevention of harm to others, and where harm is alleged, appropriate remedial action must be taken, with both the accuser and the accused receiving consequences commensurate with their actions. Both morality and justice seek to regulate behavior within a community to enable peaceful coexistence, rooted in the belief that individuals should exercise their autonomy and show respect for one another.¹²⁵ While justice is prioritized over moral values, morality should never be compromised in the pursuit of justice. Teaching children to abide by the law is morally correct as it upholds justice. Justice is among the most important ethical and moral values in the realms of law and politics. Legal and political systems that maintain law and order are desirable, but they can only succeed if justice is also achieved.¹²⁶ So, justice is essential for synthesize our personal and social life. It uplifts the social life and it is necessary for attaining the prime objective of life.¹²⁷ Justice not only conserves the peace and happiness but it also creates the peace, happiness and tranquility in our personal and social life.

Equity:

Equity should not be confused with equality, as equality implies treating everyone the same, while equity ensures that everyone receives fair treatment and equal opportunities. The decisions made by employers or public relations teams leading projects often reflect equality, but equity is concerned with the impact those decisions have on staff or audiences. Lack of equity is evident in various aspects of our communities and highlights the need for these values. Equity is more than just a trend; it is a fundamental ethical principle that should be embraced. It is an essential moral value for creating a harmonious society.¹²⁸ Every society and community aspires to establish morally driven, ethically sound standards that level the playing field and provide equal opportunities for individuals to work, prosper, and thrive personally, socially, and economically. Ensuring equity is vital for the development of a peaceful and prosperous society and for nurturing human resources.¹²⁹

Righteousness.

Righteousness is the quality or state of being morally correct and justifiable.¹³⁰ It can be seen as synonymous with uprightness and rightness. The concept of righteousness is present in various religious traditions, including Islam, Indian religions, and the traditions associated with Prophet Abraham,¹³¹ as well as in perspectives within Christianity,¹³² Islam,¹³³ Hinduism¹³⁴, Buddhism, and Judaism. It implies that a person's actions are justified and can suggest that the person is deemed to lead a life that is pleasing to God. In the New Testament, righteousness is translated from the Greek word and can mean 'being righteous before others' or 'being righteous before God'. The Quran¹³⁵ mentions righteousness multiple times, emphasizing that a righteous life is the path to Heaven. According to the Quran, Allah states, 'I will give the home of the Hereafter to those who do not want arrogance or mischief on earth; and the end is best for the righteous.' (Quran 28:83). The Quran defines righteousness as follows: 'Righteousness is not that you turn your faces to the east and the west (in prayer). But righteous is the one who believes in God, the Last Day, the Angels, the Scripture, and the Prophets; who gives his wealth in spite of love for it to kinsfolk, orphans, the poor, the traveler, to those who ask, and to set slaves free. And (righteous are) those who pray, pay alms, honor their agreements, and are patient in times of poverty, ailment, and during conflict. Such are the people of truth. And they are the God-Fearing.' (Quran 2:177).

Belief in the Almighty and Religious Mindfulness: Our beliefs are shaped by our observations, experiences, readings, and thoughts. From these sources, we form opinions that we consider true and unchanging at a given time. Changing our belief system requires a shift in our thoughts. Values stem from our beliefs and represent what we consider important in terms of how things should be or how people should behave.¹³⁶ Values guide our behavior, communication, and interactions with others. Our attitudes and opinions are shaped by our beliefs and values. Morals tend to carry more social value and acceptance than values, as a person's moral character is often judged more critically than their values. Attitudes are reflected in our behavior.¹³⁷ Belief in the Almighty is central to major religions,¹³⁸ and a person's moral values are often guided by their belief in a higher power. Spirituality and morality play significant roles in religious theories as they involve feelings, emotions, and a sense of spiritual and moral awareness.¹³⁹ The intersection of morality and religion involves the relationship between religious beliefs and moral principles. Many religions have frameworks of values regarding personal conduct that provide guidance to adherents in distinguishing between right and wrong.¹⁴⁰ Our thoughts, words, feelings, and actions connect to the intelligent force of faith, initiating a creative process that can manifest physically unless interrupted by divine intervention or counteracted by new thoughts, words, feelings, and actions. Faith, encompassing envisioning, hoping, declaring, emotionalizing, taking appropriate action, and loving, gives us the confidence to work through the power of the intelligent force. As we do so, we gain increasing power to tackle more challenging obstacles and achieve greater goals.¹⁴¹ For followers of major religions, morality and religion are inseparable or seen as one and the same. They view morality as an integral part of their religious beliefs or consider their religion to be their moral compass.¹⁴² Therefore, it is important for us to respect each other, recognizing that we share a belief in the same God and that it is a fundamental aspect of our religious beliefs and obligations.

Planning and Implementing Moral Values in Our Life

The broader society significantly influences the development of character, responsiveness, and resilience. Factors such as income level, education level, culture, national ideology, and mass media all contribute to shaping an individual's system¹⁴³ of values. Introducing rewards can be an effective way for individuals to enhance their attitude and productivity in the workplace. For instance, instead of bringing our own lunch, we can treat ourselves to a meal at a nearby restaurant on Mondays if we successfully accomplish a specific number of tasks throughout the week. Similarly, for achieving monthly goals, we can consider more substantial rewards, such as taking a day off to engage in activities we enjoy. Setting professional and personal goals enables us to strive towards achieving meaningful objectives, navigate setbacks more efficiently, and ultimately reduce negative emotions. It can be helpful to jot down daily, weekly, and monthly goals, as well as our long-term aspirations, and refer to them during periods of low productivity to uplift our mood and motivation.¹⁴⁴ Incorporating breaks into our daily routine aids in reducing potential stress and negativity while fostering a positive mindset. Engaging in activities such as taking short walks or doing light stretches during available time slots can promote a sense of well-being. To optimize this approach, we may prioritize completing more time-consuming tasks earlier in the day, reserving smaller or easier tasks for after lunch, allowing for more flexibility and a bit of extra time at the end of the day.¹⁴⁵

If feelings of stress persist, it may also be beneficial for our mental health to take a day off from work to focus on self-care and well-being.

Dedicating time each day to acquiring new knowledge can have profound effects on our mindset. By expanding our understanding, we become more forward-thinking and cultivate a more positive attitude. Learning something new also enhances self-awareness and promotes mindfulness towards others. Whether we are a young student or an executive, there are various avenues to explore, such as taking online courses, watching documentaries, reading books, or engaging in discussion groups. By proactively contemplating future events, we can increase productivity, efficiency, and foster a relaxed mood to avoid stress and improve our overall attitude.¹⁴⁶ For instance, if we are aware of a major project with a three-month deadline, we can initiate early planning by outlining the tasks to be completed by our team. As the deadline approaches, we will be better prepared to assign those tasks and ensure their accurate completion. Engaging in self-reflection involves contemplating our emotions and behaviors and understanding their underlying causes. When negative emotions arise, self-reflection helps us enhance our thought processes and respond more positively. During busy workdays, finding a quiet space and practicing deep breathing exercises can reduce stress and enable a calmer consideration of our circumstances.

Similarly, the company we keep can influence our attitudes and behaviors. We can actively surround ourselves with positive influences by listening to motivational lectures, documentaries, interesting books, or uplifting music through headphones. We can also listen to inspiring audiobooks during our commute, read encouraging books, and watch videos or listen to podcasts that promote positivity or skill improvement. Just as "we are what we eat" applies to our physical well-being, it holds true for our mental well-being as well. While having a routine at work might seem constricting or inflexible, routines actually provide a reliable structure to fall back on. A morning routine, in particular, is beneficial as it capitalizes on our alertness and wakefulness during that time, even if we sometimes struggle to get started.¹⁴⁷ Designing a routine that facilitates the completion of important tasks, allows timely breaks, and reserves the last hour of the workday for lighter work and preparation for the next day can optimize our workflow. Since most of us experience fatigue by the end of the day, it is advisable not to leave demanding work for that hour. It is important to conclude each day by preparing for the next.

Taking responsibility for our actions and responses is crucial for maintaining a positive attitude. Refusing to acknowledge our role in a situation or failing to control our reactions immediately dampens positivity. If we find ourselves developing a negative attitude, finding a private space and engaging in deep breathing exercises can not only reduce stress but also help clear our minds and provide a fresh perspective on the situation. Crafting a personal mission statement aids in defining our purpose at work, clarifying the essence of our lives, and identifying our motivations. It serves as a valuable anchor when work becomes chaotic and we feel uncertain about our direction. Having a sense of purpose allows us to cultivate a positive attitude, while goals, on the other hand, are specific achievements that give us something to look forward to.¹⁴⁸ Goals serve as guides that lead us to progress and achievement, proving that we are working towards something meaningful. They serve as evidence of our forward, positive momentum.

Cultivating a habit of refraining from complaining is essential. Complaints rarely yield any positive outcomes. If we find ourselves surrounded by people who frequently complain, it is advisable to distance ourselves from them. Instead, let's strive to perceive situations in a positive or alternative light. Complaints tend to view everything through a negative lens, disregarding other perspectives and explanations. This approach leads to a path of discontentment that intensifies as we continue down it. On the other hand, laughter has numerous benefits for our physical well-being and naturally uplifts our mood. Who doesn't enjoy a good laugh? Humor becomes especially valuable when things are going awry. We appreciate individuals who can inject a joke into the midst of a chaotic project, instantly transforming the mess into something entertaining. Therefore, let's aim to be that person¹⁴⁹, seeking humor wherever possible. However, it is crucial to differentiate between laughing with people and laughing at them. Never resort to making jokes at the expense of others for the sake of amusement.

Let us embrace a mindset of continuous learning and curiosity. By remaining open and eager to explore various subjects, we cultivate a positive attitude. Instead of closing ourselves off, we become forward-looking and strive to comprehend the world around us. Curiosity about new situations and events enhances our mindfulness and present awareness, effectively displacing negative attitudes. Feeling less than thrilled about a presentation?

Sometime fake enthusiasm is necessary, as more often than not, the genuine emotion will eventually emerge. It's important to acknowledge that we won't always feel super excited and positive every day, but that shouldn't hinder us from exhibiting the corresponding behaviors.

Now, let's discuss a few moral lessons that are worth practicing in our daily lives.

- **We should tell the truth and real fact.** Lying to others is disrespectful and goes against their dignity. Even though telling the truth may sometimes cause us pain, it is crucial to remain honest in order to stay true to our best selves. It is important to recognize that truth holds its own beauty.¹⁵⁰ While truth may initially taste bitter like a tree's fruit, its long-term outcomes are much sweeter.¹⁵¹ Allah SWT stated in the Quran, 'This is the Day of Judgment when the truthful will benefit from their honesty. They will have gardens beneath which rivers flow, where they will dwell forever, and Allah is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him. That is the ultimate success.' (Quran 5: 119)
- **Let's not hurt/upset others' feelings.** We are aware that the truth can sometimes cause pain to others. In such situations, it is important for us to find ways to be truthful without causing harm to their feelings. This embodies the beauty of interacting with others in a manner that avoids distressing them.¹⁵² The essence of this principle is reflected in the golden rule, which encapsulates the message of various religious traditions: to love God and love our neighbors, or in other words, to love all of God's creation.¹⁵³ Islam strongly discourages actions that cause harm to others, as Allah has clearly defined such behavior as a grave sin. Allah SWT stated in the Quran, 'Indeed, those who abuse believing men and believing women unjustly will bear the guilt of slander and manifest sin' (Quran 33: 58)
- **We should practice fair play.** Fair play entails ensuring that we do not seek an unfair advantage over others in a direct competition. For instance, in an online video game, it is important to prevent the use of cheat codes¹⁵⁴ by anyone. Fair play exemplifies a virtuous human attitude that reflects a profound respect manifested through one's conduct and behavior towards oneself and others in various contexts, including society, the environment, and all aspects of life.¹⁵⁵
- **Let's make hard work as our hobby.** When we accept a job, it is up to us to put up the effort and work diligently for our employer. It's referred to as work ethic. To spend the entire day doing nothing but sitting around and collecting a paycheck would be wrong. Without effort and hard labor, man cannot advance; there is no question about that. One who studies assiduously, for instance, becomes a scholar. Similar to this, a farmer who tills the soil, plants seeds there, and tends to them would soon reap the benefits of harvests. On the other side, those who are idle and indifferent and put in no effort are burdened with problems.¹⁵⁶ The Holy Prophet urged on working hard at all times.
- **Let's pay a fair price.** For every transaction, we should pay the other party fairly. Most people would view underpaying an employee as morally wrong. Even if someone in need of work may be forced to accept a low-paying position, it is the employer's duty to offer that individual a decent wage so they may buy food and pay their rent.¹⁵⁷ According to the Quran (2:276), Allah SWT will deny usury all blessings while increasing charitable activities. They were not given any instructions other than to establish prayer and give alms (charity/Zakah) and to adore Allah while being sincere to Him in their religious commitment. And that is the right faith. (Quran 98:5).
- **We should respect others.** There are many distinct aspects to respecting others. It can entail asking their permission, apologizing, respecting their personal space, or making sure our communication with them is respectful.¹⁵⁸ Adab (Good Manners) and respect have a significant meaning in Islam. In this regard, the Prophet (PBUH) is a great source of inspiration for us. He treated everyone with consideration and kindness. This should therefore be applied to ourselves as well. We must find out more about his way of living and his public persona.¹⁵⁹
- **We should do unto others as we would have done to ourselves.** This principle, commonly known as the golden rule, is present in numerous religious traditions: "do unto others as you would have done unto yourself."¹⁶⁰ Essentially, it entails empathizing with those around you and considering how you would feel if someone treated you in the same way you are treating them. It is a reminder to never impose upon others what you would not choose for yourself, as emphasized by Confucius around 500 BC. Similarly, it is essential to refrain from doing harm to others that you would find injurious to yourself, as stated by Brihaspati in the Mahabharata.¹⁶¹ In the Quran, Allah affirms that goodness and evil are not equal. The guidance provided is to repel evil with what is better. By responding with kindness and goodness, even to those who harbor hatred towards you, it is possible for the relationship to transform, and the person who was once an adversary can become a friend and confidant (Quran 41:34).

- **Let's forgive others.** Forgiveness holds significant moral importance in various religions. For instance, Christianity emphasizes following the example of Jesus, who is believed to have forgiven people's sins. Similarly, it is essential for us to forgive others when they genuinely express remorse for their mistakes.¹⁶² Allah (SWT) sets an example of forgiveness, and as His followers, we should strive to forgive others to the best of our ability. In the Holy Quran, Allah SWT state, 'And whoever is patient and forgives – indeed, that is of the matters [worthy] of determination' (Quran 42:43). 'We have not created the heavens and the earth and everything between them except with truth and for a specified term. But the Hour is coming, so forgive with gracious forgiveness.' (Quran 15:85). And the recompense of an evil deed is an evil one like it, but whoever pardons and makes reconciliation - his reward is [due] from Allah. Indeed, He does not like wrongdoers.' (Quran 42:40).
- **Let's admit fault.** Many individuals opt to lie and evade responsibility rather than confessing their wrongdoing, which is clearly unethical. The proper course of action is to apologize and make an effort to rectify our mistakes.¹⁶³ In the Holy Quran, Allah SWT states, 'O you who have believed, repent to Allah with sincere repentance' (66:8).¹⁶⁴ When we examine these requirements closely, we can infer that repentance should commence with acknowledging our sins. By admitting that we are wrong, we can express remorse, abandon the wrongdoing, and make a firm commitment not to repeat it. However, if a person refuses to admit their mistakes, they will vehemently defend their wrongful actions. They may gather false evidence and make vows in an attempt to distort the truth and correct their mistake in the eyes of others.¹⁶⁵
- **We should use manners.** Manners encompass more than just using polite phrases such as 'please,' 'thank you,' and 'you're welcome'. It also involves being mindful of the various taboos and customs we should adhere to, such as refraining from tailgating while driving or allowing people to exit the train before boarding. Allah (SWT) demonstrates patience with us, and thus, we should also exercise patience with others.¹⁶⁶ The words 'manners, etiquette, and honor' can be used to describe self-respect. Someone who possesses self-respect strives to avoid any words or actions that may compromise their own sense of dignity. They refuse to let their honor and self-respect be tarnished, even in challenging circumstances, let alone in times of ease.¹⁶⁷
- **We should be kind always.** Kindness encompasses the actions and attitude of ensuring others feel welcomed, avoiding rudeness or judgment, and being ready to offer assistance when needed. Kind-hearted individuals actively strive to spread positive emotions to those in their vicinity.¹⁶⁸ In the Qur'an, Allah (SWT) describes Himself as 'kind' in four verses, emphasizing His boundless mercy as a manifestation of His kindness. As Allah (SWT) exemplifies kindness, it is incumbent upon us to follow His example and demonstrate kindness in our interactions as well.¹⁶⁹
- **We should wait for our Turn.** The majority of cultures prioritize first come, first served when it comes to standing in line for a service. This could involve waiting for the bus, for the bank teller to serve you, in a gas station, or for an air traffic passenger.¹⁷⁰ We ought to be patient, respectful, and tolerant. It is a well-known reality that smart and sophisticated people frequently suffer from envious criticism and impolite behavior. They are supposed to be prepared for any potential issues brought on by troublemakers. Accordingly, mature believers must be prepared for suffering caused by the impolite and uneducated; practicing fortitude in the face of human cruelty is a highly developed and powerful level of religious faith.¹⁷¹
- **We should express gratitude.** [There is a particular festival called Thanksgiving in the United States, where everyone gathers to remember to be thankful for what they have. But this is something we don't have to do just once a year. Expressing thanks to those you are grateful for is typically seen as excellent etiquette and an indication of moral character.¹⁷² According to Allah SWT, death is only [possible] with God's permission at a predetermined decree. And whoever wants a prize from this world, I will give it to him; likewise, whoever wants a reward from the afterlife, I will give it to him. And I will give thanks-givers rewards. (Quran 3:145).
- **We should respect ourselves.** Having self-respect entails establishing high standards for oneself across all aspects of life. It means refraining from belittling oneself or subjecting oneself to situations where mistreatment is likely. Self-respect holds great significance for one's mental health, confidence, and overall well-being.¹⁷³ Esteem, in its essence, refers to honor and respect. When it comes to self-esteem, it involves valuing oneself for who they are, irrespective of their imperfections and limitations. Recognizing and appreciating the way Allah has created us is essential, as He has endowed us with the best possible form (Quran 95:4). It is important to acknowledge our shared humanity, understanding that we experience both good and bad days, and recognizing that we possess both strengths and weaknesses.¹⁷⁴

- **We should respect our parents.** Respecting our parents is a fundamental moral principle that transcends cultural boundaries. It entails acknowledging the wisdom and life experience they possess, as well as recognizing that they genuinely care about our well-being. While disagreements with our parents may arise, especially during our childhood, it is important to maintain respect for their decisions until we reach an age where we can make independent choices. 175 Allah SWT emphasizes the significance of honoring parents in the Holy Quran, stating that we should worship only Him and show utmost respect to our parents. When our parents reach old age and rely on our care, we are instructed not to express annoyance or raise our voices towards them, but rather address them with utmost respect (Quran 17:23). Additionally, Allah highlights the hardships mothers endure in giving birth and raising their children, emphasizing the importance of expressing gratitude to both parents and to Him (Quran31:14).
- **We should return favors.** It is typically thought to be right to return favors when someone performs us a favor. For instance, if a buddy drives us to a test as a favor, it is likely expected of us that we will do the same for them the next time they need a ride. We should try to help as many people¹⁷⁶ as we can because Allah (SWT) is The Helper. Allah SWT states in the Quran, Help one another in deeds of righteousness. And do not aid one another in deviant or wicked behavior. And remember Allah. Allah does indeed punish severely (Quran 5:2).
- **We should ask for permission.** It is important to teach our children the value of saying ‘please, welcome, regards and thank you’ as a culturally appropriate way of showing recognition and respect. When we desire something that does not belong to us, it is necessary to seek permission before taking it. In English-speaking countries, it is customary to use the word ‘please’ when requesting permission. In our daily lives, we encounter various spaces and it is essential to adhere to proper etiquette when entering them. The Holy Quran addresses this matter, stating, ‘O you who believe! Do not enter houses other than your own until you have asked permission and greeted its inhabitants. That is better for you, so that you may be mindful.’ (Quran 24:27). In Islamic tradition, the violation of privacy extends beyond entering a house without permission to include the unlawful act of peering into it. Therefore, when seeking permission to enter a place, it is advised to position oneself on the right or left side of the door, following the customs of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).¹⁷⁷
- **We should keep promises.** People who fail to fulfill their promises often find themselves lacking in friends. This is because their unreliability and lack of trustworthiness become evident. When we are unable to keep a promise, it is expected that we communicate with the person involved, offer our apologies, and even provide an explanation for why we are unable to honor our commitment. In Islam, the importance of keeping one's word is equally emphasized. In fact, breaking a promise is considered one of the gravest sins a person can commit. ¹⁷⁸ Allah SWT states in the Quran, ‘O you who have believed, why do you say what you do not do? It is most hateful in the sight of God that you say what you do not do.’ (61:2-3).
- **We should be humble.** Humility is a highly esteemed quality, and it should not be mistaken for passivity or submissiveness. Rather, it entails expressing gratitude for what one has and recognizing that personal achievements do not make a person superior to others. ¹⁷⁹ A practical approach to cultivating humility is to contemplate the multitude of individuals who have supported and assisted you throughout your life, enabling you to reach your present position. This reflection will foster a sense of gratitude and guard against developing arrogance.
- **We should not gossip.** A gossip is an individual who engages in discussing others behind their backs. This includes sharing information about someone without their consent, even if it may be unwelcome. When you engage in gossip, those around you subconsciously perceive you as untrustworthy when it comes to handling sensitive information. Backbiting and slander are regarded as disgraceful and dishonorable acts. The perpetrators of such actions are detested, and they will not meet a noble end. ¹⁸⁰ Allah explicitly prohibits these behaviors in the Holy Quran, describing backbiting and gossiping as among the most repugnant and widespread vices in human society, affecting nearly everyone except for a few individuals.
- **Let's respect difference.** In our diverse world, we coexist in shared public spaces with individuals of various backgrounds, cultures, and viewpoints. Consequently, intolerance is increasingly recognized as a moral shortcoming. Embracing and respecting differences entails acknowledging and accepting the presence of people in our society who lead different lives, possess diverse cultures, and follow distinct practices. ¹⁸¹ The inherent human dignity bestowed upon each individual by God should be respected, irrespective of their faith, race, ethnic origin, gender, or social status (as referenced in the Qur'an, 17:70).

Since all humans are created by the Almighty, the Creator of everything, it is incumbent upon us to treat one another with utmost honor, respect, and compassion.¹⁸²

- **We should not be jealous of others.** Jealousy is an innate human emotion that can arise when we compare ourselves to others who may have more wealth or appear to be luckier in life. However, a wise individual acknowledges the presence of jealousy within them and consciously strives to overcome this emotion. One effective approach is to reflect upon the blessings and support we have received throughout our own journey. This reflection serves as a reminder of the gratitude we should express for what we have, rather than harboring jealousy towards others.¹⁸³ Allah SWT provides guidance in the form of a prayer, stating, 'Say, 'I seek refuge in the Lord of daybreak. And from the evil of an envier when he envies' (Quran 113:1, 5). In Islam, envy or jealousy is considered a spiritual ailment, a disease of the heart. It is crucial for us to comprehend this, particularly in the context of today's social media influence, encompassing platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, and others.¹⁸⁴
- **We should not swear.** There are words that I think are improper to use in polite speech in most languages. By using those words, you'll give the other participants in the conversation the impression that you lack the moral integrity required by society.¹⁸⁵ If one of the Pagans asks thee for sanctuary, give it to him, according to Allah SWT (Qur'an, 9:6).¹⁸⁶ If Allah wills,¹⁸⁷ no one should swear an oath that includes the safety clause.
- **We should respect the rules in others' houses.** Each individual's personal space may be governed by slightly different rules. For instance, one person may have a rule of not wearing shoes inside their home, while another person may have no objection to wearing shoes in their own house. This is just one example among many. It is important to bear in mind the significance of respecting the rules set within other people's private spaces, just as we would anticipate them to honor the rules within our own private spaces.¹⁸⁸
- **We should turn the other cheek.** The concept of "turning the other cheek" originates from the Bible and signifies that we don't have to seek revenge against those who wrong us. In a secular context, we might refer to it as taking the higher ground, which means upholding our own moral standards and refraining from engaging in immoral actions, even when others around us may behave immorally.¹⁸⁹ On a similar note, the Quran states, 'Good and evil are not equal. Repel evil with what is better, and behold, the one whom you perceived as your enemy may become your dearest friend.' (Quran 41:34)¹⁹⁰
- **We should not take bribes.** Bribery occurs when someone offers us money to engage in immoral or illegal actions. Individuals in positions of authority, such as influential officials and politicians, may often face situations where they are tempted with bribes. Nevertheless, bribery is widely regarded as an unethical practice.¹⁹¹ In Islam, bribery is condemned as a grave sin.¹⁹²
- **We should be non-violent and our attitude should be friendly/brotherly.** It's always best to utilize nonviolence as much as possible when we need to take action to defend or protect others. In democracies, there should be streets where people can peacefully seek justice. Protesting, running for office, or bringing a case before the courts¹⁹³ are a few examples. The Quran advises us that loving your brothers and a friend is a great and admirable quality that is a component of the etiquette of maintaining decent company. By expressing your affection for someone, you deepen your relationship with them and the links within your community.¹⁹⁴

Ethical Values and Positive Thinking

Embracing positive thinking contributes to the development of our ethical values and enhances our acceptance in the workplace, community, and society at large. It is crucial to cultivate a positive mindset both in our thoughts and actions. Since our conscious mind can hold only one thought at a time, either positive or negative, intentionally choosing positive thoughts helps maintain an optimistic mindset and fosters positive emotions. As our thoughts and emotions influence our actions, adopting a constructive outlook enables us to progress more effectively toward our chosen goals. A problem is merely a matter we must address. The event itself remains unchanged. It is our interpretation of the event that alters its perception.

Whenever we encounter difficulties, it is essential to reframe them and view them as challenges, motivating us to move forward. Instead of saying, "I have a problem," we can say, "I have an interesting challenge before me." The word "challenge" inherently carries a positive connotation, representing an opportunity for personal growth and improvement. Although the situation remains the same, the word we choose to describe it makes a significant difference. The word "opportunity"¹⁹⁵ holds tremendous power in maintaining a positive attitude and managing stress effectively. When faced with any difficulty, rather than saying, "I have a problem," we can declare, "I am presented with an unexpected opportunity."¹⁹⁶

By directing our focus toward uncovering the inherent lessons or opportunities within challenging circumstances, we are bound to discover valuable insights.

To move forward in life, it is essential to keep our thoughts centered on our goals, aspirations, and the person we strive to become. When temporary setbacks occur, we can respond by affirming, "I believe in the perfect outcome of every situation in my life." Resolving to maintain a positive attitude, remaining cheerful, and resisting the temptation of negativity and disappointment are vital components of this process. Developing a positive attitude in the workplace begins with how we interact with our colleagues, irrespective of their position in the hierarchy. By celebrating small victories and offering encouragement, we can inject optimism into the work environment, benefiting everyone involved.¹⁹⁷ Cultivating a positive attitude offers numerous advantages in both our personal and professional lives, such as positively influencing others and boosting our confidence in decision-making. The primary benefits of practicing positivity¹⁹⁸ in the workplace include creating a positive work environment, inspiring colleagues and team members to follow suit, and fostering trust among those we closely collaborate with.

By shifting our response to work-related stressors and cultivating a positive mindset, we can enhance our productivity and accomplish tasks more effectively. This shift can alleviate work-related concerns and reduce overall stress levels, ultimately contributing to improved well-being. With a positive outlook, we can approach our work with greater clarity and logical thinking. Emphasizing the positive aspects of our tasks helps us embrace new projects with enthusiasm and eliminate distractions, leading to increased energy and efficiency.¹⁹⁹ In customer service, a positive attitude forms the foundation for providing excellent service. By interacting with customers positively, we create a comfortable environment that encourages their engagement and boosts the likelihood of them making a purchase.

Notably, positive individuals often attract the attention of leaders in various fields such as politics, business, industry, services, and bureaucracy. These leaders prefer to promote employees who can positively influence others. By maintaining a positive attitude, we capture our manager's attention more easily,²⁰⁰ leading to favorable performance reviews and potential opportunities for promotion or advancement.

A positive attitude fosters critical thinking and a focus on finding solutions rather than dwelling on challenges, contributing to the development of ethical values. It enables us to envision favorable outcomes and weigh the benefits of our decisions, fostering a proactive approach. Moreover, our positive attitude can inspire and influence our colleagues to adopt a similar mindset.²⁰¹ Through our personal example, they can recognize the benefits of positivity and work towards cultivating it themselves. This creates a culture of continuous improvement, where the team learns from their mistakes more swiftly and implements processes to enhance efficiency.²⁰²

To develop and maintain a positive attitude at work and enhance our ethical values, it is essential to engage in certain practices. Regardless of the industry or company, here are a few ways we can begin adopting and sustaining a positive attitude in the workplace:

- Utilize positive language instead of negative language to improve our overall attitude at work. Replace negative words with positive ones in conversations.
- Practice empathy by considering the feelings of others at work. Show care for their ideas during meetings and engage in active listening by speaking only when necessary and asking clarifying questions.
- Focus on potential solutions rather than making complaints. Offer support and assistance to underperforming colleagues to help them improve. Increase awareness of when and why we complain.
- Smile more often to improve our mood and create a comfortable environment for interaction. A smile, whether genuine or not, can positively impact our own well-being and influence the attitudes of those around us.²⁰³
- Perform acts of kindness without expecting anything in return, both at work and in our personal lives.²⁰⁴ Show our colleagues that we care about their well-being.
- Seek interactions with positive-minded individuals who enjoy their work and have valuable ideas to share, avoiding colleagues who engage in gossip or frequent complaints.²⁰⁵
- Practice gratitude by focusing on the things we are thankful for in both our work and personal spheres. This helps us react more patiently and positively to stressful situations. Consider keeping a daily or weekly gratitude journal.²⁰⁶
- Establish small habits to remain fresh and stress-free throughout the day, such as morning exercise, staying hydrated, setting daily priorities, deep breathing, active listening, regular stretching, spending time outdoors,

expressing appreciation to others, questioning assumptions, limiting phone usage, and keeping smart devices out of the bedroom.²⁰⁷

- Reward ourselves for achieving goals at work, including both small and larger rewards that contribute to a positive attitude and increased productivity.²⁰⁸
- Set professional and personal goals to work towards, enabling personal growth, skill development, and the ability to overcome setbacks more effectively.²⁰⁹
- Prioritize sufficient sleep each night to maintain a good mood and logical thinking..²¹⁰ Aim for seven to nine hours of sleep and engage in activities that promote cognitive sharpness, such as drawing from memory.
- Take breaks during the day to reduce stress, negativity, and improve mindset. Engage in short walks or light stretches to rejuvenate and tackle tasks with renewed energy.²¹¹
- Use visual reminders, such as small notes or apps, to stay positive and maintain a better attitude even during stressful events at work.²¹²
- We may take some time each day to learn something new. This can help us to become more forward-thinking and develop a more positive attitude since we're increasing our understanding. Learning something new can also help us to improve our self-awareness and become more mindful to others. Reading is one of the most effective ways to learn. We may make a point to read every day. It can be for an hour before bed, or just for 10 minutes on our lunch break.²¹³
- We can often work more productively, avoid stress and improve our attitude by thinking about things before they occur. If we know we have a big project with a deadline that's three months away, we can begin planning for the project early by outlining the various tasks for our team to complete. Foresight is the ability to predict, or the action of predicting, what will happen or what is needed in the future. Studies suggest that much of human daily thought is directed towards potential future events.²¹⁴
- Self-reflection involves thinking about our own feelings and behaviors and the reasons for them. Self-reflection is the ability to witness and evaluate our own cognitive, emotional, and behavioral processes. Actually self-reflection is a process of communicating internally with oneself.²¹⁵ When we begin feeling negative emotions, self-reflection can help us improve our thought processes and react more positively.²¹⁶

Religion and Ethical Values

Religious moral principles are ethical guidelines that are enshrined in religious texts or codes. Virtually all major religions provide their followers with moral frameworks to follow. Among these moral frameworks, the golden rule—‘do unto others as you would have done unto yourself’—is one of the most prevalent and appears in nearly all religions. It urges us to empathize with others and treat them in a manner we would desire if we were in their position. 217 The Abraham religions, 218 namely Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, each have their own moral codes, with the Ten Commandments being a significant component. These commandments, given by the Prophet Moses, 219 were inscribed on stone tablets and hold great significance in the ethics and morals of these religions. The Ten Commandments are:

- I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have any gods before Me.
- Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
- Honor thy father and mother.
- Thou shalt not kill.
- Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- Thou shalt not steal.
- Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.
- Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

In Islam, morality refers to practical guidelines and specific norms or codes of behavior that promote goodness. These moral principles are primarily based on the Quran and guidance from Hadith. The majority of religions worldwide agree on certain moral values, such as kindness towards others and creation, acts of charity, forgiveness, honesty, patience, justice, respect for parents and elders, keeping promises, controlling anger, love for God and those loved by God, and love for the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and fellow believers. The objective of Islamic morality and ethics is to seek the pleasure of God and strive for His approval.

Allah has stated that He may punish hypocrites, both men and women, as well as those who associate partners with Him, but He is also forgiving and merciful, accepting repentance from believing men and women (Quran 33:73). Muslims are encouraged to learn what is right, forbidden, and wrong. The Quran, believed by Muslims to be God's revelation to humanity, defines the concept of righteousness. It emphasizes that righteousness does not merely involve turning one's face towards a particular direction but rather entails believing in God, the Last Day, the angels, the Quran, and the prophets. It also involves giving wealth to relatives, orphans, the needy, travelers, and those who ask for help, as well as freeing slaves. Righteousness includes establishing prayer, giving zakah (charity), fulfilling promises, and demonstrating patience in times of poverty, hardship, and during battles. Those who uphold these principles are considered to be true and righteous (Quran 2:177). In the Quran, Allah order humanity as:

- Worship only God, (Quran17:22);
- Be kind, honorable and humble to one's parents, (Quran17:23-24) ;
- Be neither miserly nor wasteful, (Quran17:26-29);
- Do not engage in 'mercy killings' for fear of starvation, (Quran17:31);
- Do not commit adultery, (Quran17:32);
- Do not kill unjustly, (Quran17:33);
- Care for orphaned children, (Quran17:34);
- Keep one's promises, (Quran17:34);
- Be honest and fair in one's interactions, (Quran17:35);
- Do not be arrogant in one's claims or beliefs, (Quran17:36-37).

The Quran serves as a comprehensive guidebook that appeals to both the intellect and emotions, providing a unified ethical system based on timeless and enriching moral principles. One notable aspect of the Quran is the harmonious integration of law and morality, exemplified in its teachings on divorce: "When you divorce women and they have reached their term, do not prevent them from remarrying their (former) husbands if they agree among themselves on an acceptable basis. That is instructed to whoever of you believes in God and the Last Day. That is better for you and purer, and God knows and you know not." (Quran 2:231). Islam acknowledges the individual's freedom, but it also recognizes certain limitations on this freedom, such as the prohibition of suicide and abortion. (Quran 33:73). The Quran urges believers not to take the signs of God lightly and reminds them of God's blessings upon them. The Quran's ethical teachings encompass various aspects of life, including personal conduct, family matters, and societal interactions. It provides moral guidance that promotes fairness, justice, compassion, and the preservation of human dignity. Through its teachings, the Quran encourages individuals to navigate their lives with a sense of responsibility and adherence to moral principles.

A worldview encompasses a comprehensive philosophical understanding of the world we inhabit, encompassing both physical and metaphysical aspects of reality. It represents our fundamental beliefs and assumptions about the universe, shaping our perspective and interpretation of life. It provides us with meaning and purpose, addressing existential questions such as our identity and origins. In the context of Islam, the Islamic worldview is a philosophical framework deeply rooted in the Islamic vision of life and reality. It offers a comprehensive set of concepts and perspectives, including the Oneness of God (tawḥīd) and His relationship with the world, the role of humans as vicegerents on earth (khalifah), the notions of free will and responsibility, divine destiny, and the ultimate destination in the hereafter.²²⁰ Within the Islamic worldview, the ethical dimension is of significant importance. The Quran serves as a book of guidance (huda) for humanity, providing a criterion (furqan) to distinguish between righteous and immoral actions. It emphasizes the necessity of seeking proper guidance to submit to the will of God rather than following human whims (Quran 2:2, 2:185, 25:1). This ethical worldview derived from the Quran shapes the understanding of moral principles and ethical conduct within the Islamic framework.

Ethics involves the rational examination of principles and rules that provide guidance for appropriate moral behavior. In Arabic, the term for morality is akhlaq, which translates to 'good character.' The etymology of this word is connected to al-Khaliq, meaning 'the Creator,' and makhluq, meaning 'the created.' This implies a positive relationship between human beings and God, as well as harmonious interactions among humans. The purpose of human existence can be understood through three dimensions. Firstly, humans are meant to cultivate the earth, as stated in the verse: 'He brought you out from the earth and made you inhabit it' (Quran 11:61). This indicates that humans should work to earn their livelihoods, both for their own well-being and for the betterment of others.

Secondly, humans are created to worship God, as expressed in the verse: ‘I have not created jinn and mankind except to worship Me’ (Quran 51:56). This entails obeying God’s commandments and avoiding prohibitions. Lastly, humans have the responsibility of acting as vicegerents of God, as mentioned in the verse: ‘He will make you successors in the land and then observe what you will do’ (Quran 7:129), among other verses. This signifies that humans are entrusted with the task of stewardship and should act accordingly. Overall, these three purposes of human existence—cultivation, worship, and vicegerency—provide a framework for understanding human obligations and responsibilities in the Islamic perspective.

Vicegerency refers to the imitation of God by embodying noble virtues and ruling with wisdom, justice, forbearance, beneficence, and graciousness, according to one’s capacity. These virtues serve as a means for humans to draw closer to God and attain Paradise. By fulfilling these three duties, individuals can find happiness in both this world and the hereafter. Islam, being a world-affirming faith, emphasizes the active participation of individuals in the cultivation of the earth and the advancement of society. When undertaking any moral action, it is crucial to bear in mind these three duties, as they provide a higher purpose and bring humans closer to God. Being good is not an end in itself but serves a greater objective in this world, ultimately strengthening the connection between individuals and the Divine. As highlighted in the quoted passage, worship and submission to God form the foundational basis of ethics in Islam. Without worship, ethical conduct and the internalization of virtues would lack a higher purpose. Similarly, without embodying virtues, believers would remain in a state of servitude to God and would not attain the elevated status of vicegerency. Therefore, there exists a hierarchy of duties for humans, where lower duties act as prerequisites for higher functions in life. It is important to note that virtues of the soul, such as temperance, courage, wisdom, and justice, are considered supererogatory practices and are only acceptable after fulfilling obligatory acts of worship. It is through these virtues that humans can fulfill their role as vicegerents of God. Vicegerency is defined as the imitation of God by applying the noble qualities of the revealed law, in accordance with one’s ability to rule.

Islam places significant emphasis on social welfare and encourages helping others regardless of their religion or faith. The conceptual framework of Quranic ethics should serve as the foundation for integrating new knowledge. The interpretation of the Quran is an ongoing process that takes into account the emerging challenges of our time. These challenges encompass various areas such as bioethics, environmental concerns, human rights, and consumerism. The Quran has the potential to offer valuable insights and contribute positively to addressing these social issues. It holds a central position in the rich intellectual heritage of Islam and effectively communicates moral truths through stories and metaphors. Morality refers to the extent to which a society adheres to moral principles. Good manners and ethical conduct are essential in cultivating a noble character. Actions driven by human desires that contradict Islamic morality and human nature, particularly the sense of shame (*ḥaya*), which prevents one from wrongdoing, are considered sinful. Islamic education plays a vital role in nurturing this sense of shame. The ethical aspects of the Quran are deeply intertwined with the social context of the pre-Islamic Arab society and the early companions of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Among the various social virtues, the Quran frequently emphasizes benevolence towards the poor, the needy, the stranger, the enslaved, and the imprisoned. This benevolence is seen as a true expression of piety, as highlighted in the above-quoted verse from Surah 2. These acts of benevolence are primarily expressed in the form of compulsory alms-giving (*zakat*); but, more importantly, in the form of voluntary charity (*ṣadaqah*).²²¹ These social and moral responsibilities are not only societal obligations but also religious duties, as they are encompassed within God’s divine will. People obey God not only because of His divine authority but also because their inherent nature (*fiṭrah*) inclines them towards doing well.

The term ‘goodness’ (*khayr*) is used in a comprehensive sense, and that is encompassing both material and spiritual aspects. It also implies wealth, as stated in the verse: ‘Whatever bounty you give is for parents, the near of kin, the orphans, the needy, and the wayfarer. And whatever good you do, Allah is fully aware of it’ (Quran 2:211). Additionally, it refers to righteous deeds, as exemplified in the command: ‘Perform the prayer and give the alms-tax. Whatever good you do for your own sake, you will find it with Allah, surely Allah is aware of what you do’ (Quran 2:104). The Quran acknowledges the innate goodness within human nature. Despite our flaws, we naturally appreciate the virtues of others and abhor their vices. The Quran contains over forty-five references that appeal to the universal moral conscience and innate sense of good and evil in humankind, such as Quran 7:157, 16:90, 7:28, and 7:33. A person with *taqwa*, or God-consciousness, bears moral responsibility out of fear of divine displeasure and divine justice. Such an individual is worthy of the status of *khalifah* (vicegerent of Allah).

The vicegerent possesses the capacity to fulfill the responsibility of stewardship over the world, which has been entrusted to humankind due to their reason and free will. The proper use of this free will and reason is to fulfill the trust (amanah) bestowed upon us by God. As potential fulfillers of this trust, God has appointed us as vicegerents (Quran 2:30) and has taught us 'all the names' (Quran 2:31) to comprehend the world around us. We are responsible for safeguarding human life and preserving the natural resources of the Earth. However, in order to effectively manage the world and its inhabitants, it is crucial to begin with oneself. This means cultivating within oneself the virtues emphasized by the Quran, including righteousness, justice, truthfulness, piety, patience, and compassion.

A person with taqwa has moral responsibility as he fears divine displeasure and divine justice. Such a person is deserving of the status of khalfah (vicegerent of God).²²² The vicegerent is capable of the responsibility of stewardship of the world granted to man because of his reason and free will.²²³ The purpose of our free will and reason is to fulfill the entrusted responsibility bestowed upon us by God. Recognizing our potential to fulfill this responsibility, God has designated us as vicegerents (Quran 2:30) and has provided us with knowledge of 'all the names' (Quran 2:31) to comprehend the world around us. It is our duty to safeguard human life and preserve the Earth's natural resources. However, effective management of the world and its inhabitants begins with personal transformation. This means cultivating within ourselves the virtues emphasized in the Quran: righteousness, justice, truthfulness, faithfulness, patience, and compassion. Responsibility entails voluntary action. When a person acts voluntarily, they exercise their free will and possess the choice to act virtuously or inhumanely. It is through this voluntary action that individuals bear responsibility for their actions.

Human beings bear responsibility for their actions because they will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment, where they will receive rewards or punishments based on what they have earned in this world. God affirms this by stating that He created the heavens and the earth with truth, so that each individual can be justly rewarded for their deeds. Furthermore, the purpose of this creation is to test humanity and determine who among them exhibits the best conduct. Divine justice ensures that no one is exempt from being questioned for their actions on the Day of Judgment. The Quran emphasizes the importance of moral responsibility and establishes the tribunal of conscience, where individuals will be held accountable for their choices and actions. Human conscience will testify before God for what it has done.²²⁴ Human conscience in this context is not the Freudian superego, which, according to Freud, is the product of parental indoctrination. It is the self-reproaching psyche, which is not merely socially determined, but inspired by fitrah, or the innate inclination towards God and all that is virtuous.²²⁵ The Quran affirms that every individual will be held accountable for their actions, as stated in passages such as 'Today, your own self is reckoner enough against you,' 'That each soul will know what it has done,' and 'On this day, every soul will be repaid for what it has earned.' Therefore, it is clear that humans bear responsibility for their own deeds. While external and internal forces may affect our circumstances, they cannot undermine the inner workings of human will. Nature can limit the material conditions necessary for executing our decisions, but we possess the freedom to either succumb to or resist these external constraints. However, it is often wiser to accept the inevitable constraints imposed by nature, such as death, terminal illness, or old age. Though we cannot alter these conditions, we have the choice to either embrace them inwardly, acknowledging the unavoidable consequences of our fate, or to fight against them.

The implementation of justice is crucial for maintaining law and order within society. Quranic verses such as 'But if you judge, judge between them justly' (Quran 5:42) and 'God commands you to deliver trusts to their owners and, if you judge between people, to judge justly' (Quran 4:58) emphasize the importance of fair and equitable judgment. God's Benevolence, Grace, and Mercy extend to all of creation, including even the most sinful individuals (Quran 7:156; 30:33; 30:36; 30:46; 40:7; 42:28). The Quran highlights that God sends down rain and spreads His mercy, demonstrating His role as the Protector and the Praiseworthy (Quran 42:28). Divine Grace serves as the source of all goodness, including our ultimate destiny in the hereafter. While faith and good deeds are significant for salvation, we remain dependent on Divine Grace. God, being Just, forgives those who sincerely seek His Mercy and repent for their actions. It is essential for both the sinful and the righteous to express gratitude towards God. The pious individual should not be proud of their righteousness but rather maintain humility before God, acknowledging that He is the true force behind all actions. The good deeds accomplished are also attributed to God's Grace, thus inspiring repentance and fostering hope for attaining paradise.

Justice in the Quran is closely tied to the principles of balance and fair measure, applicable to both God and humanity. Allah SWT emphasizes the importance of acting justly and impartially, even in the face of personal biases or animosity towards others. In Surah Al-Maidah (Quran 5:8), believers are urged to bear witness to equity, as acting justly is closely aligned with piety. Just as God is benevolent and compassionate towards His servants, His servants are required to be benevolent and compassionate amongst them. Allah declared in the Quran, 'They are compassionate towards each other.' (Quran 14:48). In the same way that God is Just, so should His servants be just towards people.²²⁶ Justice is the basic requirement of the law and is important for order in society. Justice means to give a person his due. When a wrong is done to a person, justice also involves punishing the wrongdoer. Greater than justice is benevolence. That is, to be kind and charitable and to give a person more than his due is better than being just. It also means forgoing one's right to justice and forgiving the person who caused the harm. Benevolence transcends justice.²²⁷ Dividing an apple equally is justice, dividing it unequally is injustice, and voluntarily forgoing one's share are benevolence.

Conclusion

We should foster essential principles such as tolerance, love, empathy, nonviolence, and companionship within our families. It is crucial to discourage negative actions while promoting positive behaviors. To foster peace and harmony, we must strive to eliminate dominance within the family. By maintaining cleanliness, a positive home environment, hygiene, and good health, we can enhance social life and equality. Sharing meals together and exhibiting gentleness, good manners, cooperation, and respect for women and elders are important aspects. Regularly offering prayers to our respective deities and respecting the beliefs of others is also significant. Engaging in spontaneous family gatherings and enjoying them is valuable. We should demonstrate commitment to society, our professions, excellence, and fundamental human values such as impartiality, objectivity, and intellectual integrity. A world without moral values would be a daunting place. Imagine a scenario where everyone is solely concerned with their own interests and no one cares about the well-being of others. It is essential to have empathy and compassion for others, as well as to be honest and uphold integrity. While some argue that moral values are innate, it is still important to learn and cultivate them. Not everyone is born with a strong sense of morality, and even those who are need guidance on how to put their values into practice. By establishing a personal moral code through critical thinking, learning from others, and listening to respected individuals, we can ensure that we lead ethical and virtuous lives. The Quran encompasses major ethical concepts such as belief in a single God, righteousness, honesty, integrity, responsibility, sincere intention, kindness, fairness, and the concept of sin and repentance. Following the ethical worldview of the Quran can guide Muslims toward becoming a balanced community characterized by justice for oneself and for society. It is important to strike a healthy balance between individual justice and social justice, where the pursuit of one supports the other and vice versa. The absence of ethics and values in international relations has often led to wars and genocides throughout history, as seen in the first and second world wars. Ethics and values play a crucial role in enhancing human capital, which is vital for both businesses and societies. Ethics provide practical guidance to individuals, incorporating values such as honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, kindness, fairness, and responsibility. These values help individuals navigate ethical dilemmas more effectively.

Ethics and values are principles or codes of conduct that govern behaviors. They encompass ethics, moral values, religion, culture, and law. The preservation of human life is the ultimate value, serving as a pillar of ethics and the foundation of all morality. Society, institutions, nations, and countries are all governed by rules, principles, moral concepts, customs, and values. Ethics and values make individuals aware that their choices have consequences, impacting both themselves and others. They build credibility, leadership skills, improve decision-making, and provide long-term gains. Ethics and values satisfy basic human needs, such as being fair, honest, and ethical. Pursuing one's interests is not inherently wrong, but a person who is dishonest and disloyal to themselves or society cannot be honest and loyal to their country. The consequences of such behaviors, including inequity, injustice, violence, anarchy, disorder, lawlessness, communalism, and terrorism, are evident in our society. However, an ethical person must be willing, at times, to prioritize the interests of others over self-interest due to their responsibility to society. Ethical cooperation in addressing issues like law and order problems, terrorism, hostility, and environmental concerns contributes to a country's soft power. Ethics and values also help avoid ego clashes and ideological clashes between nations. Therefore, ethics aim for a 'peaceful and successful world,' 'respect for all,' 'justice', and 'equality' when establishing international organizations, declarations, and forums.

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