



## Why Did the West Supersede Us?

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**Question:** What is the reason behind the pre-eminence of the West over us, the Muslims, in all fields, without exception, in spite of the fact that we have the Noble Qur’ān and the innumerable treasures it contains. Have we failed to understand the Qur’ān? Why do we content ourselves with (just) sweet talk? We can analyze, infer and oppose with argument but can we keep pace with the West and its evolution in all domains?

**Answer:**

All praise belongs to Our Lord and may the peace and blessings of God be upon His Messenger. Allah – Glorious and Exalted is He – has established rules in this universe. He – Glorious and Exalted is He – says: « **If any do wish for the transitory things (of this life), We readily grant them such things as We will, to such person as We will** » (17:18) and He says – Glorious and Exalted is He – : « **To any that desires the tilth of the Hereafter, We give increase in his tilth, and to any that desires the tilth of this world, We grant somewhat thereof** » (42:20). Western countries have abided by these rules: of perseverance, labour, persistent work and rational means. They employed the rules of the universe which are related to

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digging the earth. It is like what He – Glorious and Exalted is He – has said « **They dug the earth and built upon it more than these (i.e. those who were before them) have built** » (30: 9). Digging the earth is fulfilled by construction and by searching for metals and water. The civilisations which preceded them drew out the treasures of the Earth – and all of this is Allah’s way and whoever establishes these methods will find success. Hence, the question is not about having in possession the Qur’ān or not understanding it. It is about failing to follow its teachings. We are not abiding by the Qur’ān which ordered us to act; « **And say (O! Muḥammad) (unto them): Act** » (9: 105). It ordered us to renounce our idleness and to prepare our strength; « **Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power** » (8: 60). Yet, we failed to obey the Qur’ānic injunctions and to put them into execution.

This matter, which is obvious, is about failure and neglect. He who does not sow will not reap. It is not possible to wait for results without establishing these rules of Allah (Most High). To go against these rules is not possible – rather, it is impossible – because these are the commandment and the way of the Creator, and the rules for the creation.

It is true that the West is neglectful and negligent when it comes to the Creator [i.e. they do not respond to Allah’s call – Glorious and Exalted is He] in its dealings and relations with Him though it has abided by the rules of creation pertaining to civilisation. Rightful leadership is established twofold: the fold of universe construction which is based on digging the Earth and the fold of moral construction which is established upon [the verse]: « **Messengers of their own came unto them with clear proofs (of Allah's sovereignty)** » (30:9). Everything about this matter can be found in the āyah of Al-Rūm: « **And they dug the earth and built upon it more than these [i.e. those who were before them] have built. Messengers of their own came unto them with clear proofs (of Allah's sovereignty)** » (30:9). They did not believe [in the proofs] that the Messengers – Allah bless them and give them peace – came with, but instead they dug the earth and built upon it.

The reason is then, very obvious; there must be a kind of perseverance, order, regularity, persistent work, a creative movement - but not heretic, in dealing with this Universe. Without this, we cannot build the Earth entirely or rightfully.

And God knows best.

