

In a single sentence I give you my whole exhortation (to the Mussulmans of India): acquire knowledge—you hear me, acquire knowledge. I say it a third time, acquire knowledge. Oh, my brothers, remain not ignorant, or what is worse, remain not ignorant of your ignorance. There are those who utter solemn warnings in your ears, who urge that Mohammedans have naught to do with modern philosophy, and who declaim against the Western sciences as against evil. I am not among them. . . . I say, pursue knowledge wherever it is to be found. But this also I declare with all the emphasis at my command: science is the superstructure, don't mistake it for the foundation. The foundation must always be religion. . . . Start with the heart, and when that is secure go on to the head. Some would like to finish with the heart; they are afraid of the head, but they are wrong.

—*Ameer of Afghanistan*