

Good News

And give good news to those who do good (to others) – Holy Quran 22:37

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Is Our Faith in a Superior Intelligence *Realistic* or *Idealistic*?

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For six centuries before the advent of Islam in 7th Century AD, the world was plunged in what historians refer to as the Dark Age, an Age where faith in God, due to ignorance, deteriorated into a mere dogma which sceptics denounced as nothing more than a figment of the imagination.

Islam came to change all of that by revealing to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Almighty God be upon him) the nature and attributes of the Divine Being in plausible and factual terms that even the most hardened sceptic has ever since been unable to controvert.

For many years some scientists took the view that the universe, as we know it to exist, was the result of a *freak of nature* with no order or system. But, today the existence of a well-designed system, controlled by a smart set of laws operating in nature, is universally admitted. There is no gainsaying anymore that everything that exists in the world is linked to a universal law that controls it. The Holy Quran drew attention to the phenomenon that the creation of the universe started with a *tremendous force*, scientists now refer to as the *Big Bang Theory*; and that all life originated from *water*, 1400 years ago:

‘Do not those who disbelieve see that the heavens and the earth were closed up, so We *rent them (apart)*. And We

made from *water everything living.*' -21:30

Science came to verify these truths revealed to Muhammad in the 7th Century AD, many generations later.

For example we find George Lemaitre, a Belgian professor in physics, first noted in 1927 that an expanding universe could be traced back in time to an originating single point, calling his theory that of the 'primeval atom'. For much of the rest of the 20th century the scientific community was divided between supporters of the Big Bang and the rival 'steady state model' but a wide range of empirical evidence has strongly favoured the Big Bang which is now universally accepted.¹

And in 2017 Kat Mc Gowan wrote in *Popular Science*: 'Biologists tend to prefer the "sea theory", which posits that life began at deep-sea hydrothermal vents where super-heated, mineral-charged

water seeps up from inside the earth to nourish and sustain organisms.'²

We also find that regularity is the order of the day according to the Holy Quran:

'Thou seest *no incongruity in the creation* of the Beneficent. Then look again: Canst thou see any disorder?'
– 67:3

Today scientists testify to the fact that nature discloses regularity, precision, punctuality, knowledge, power, command, intellect, pre-ordination, pre-arrangement, precaution, and several other features that are the possession of a highly, sophisticated 'Intelligence'. With the presence of these obvious, verifiable characteristics in the universe, the argument that all these came about by sheer accident looks more and more outdated and stale like yesterday's doughnut on a dusty shelf. The 'freak accident' theory it is admitted on all hands, nowadays,

¹ Wikipedia

² McGowan, Kat *September 8, 2017*- 'A new finding raises an old question: Where and when did life begin?'

is the result of sheer ignorance or a lack of absolute certainty of how the laws in the universe operate; and NOT the other way round. The maxim that ‘if there is *intelligence* in the creation then there must be an intelligent Creator’ or ‘if there is intelligence in the Effect, then there must be intelligence in the Cause,’ that set it in motion, now has the overwhelming support of the ‘thinking’ fraternity as being an undisputed universal law that pervades all aspects of life,.

Let’s look at it from an allegorical perspective; say somebody presents to you a highly sophisticated automobile and argues that it came about by some freak accident, it would be regarded as the biggest joke and summarily dismissed as absolute nonsense. Yet we still find that when the likes of renowned scientists such as Dawkins and the now deceased Hawkins argued that an entity such as the ‘human body’ that is ‘unmatched’ in sophistication in its form and make-

up evolved by sheer accident without the agency of a Superior Intelligence, they were applauded as scientific giants by their delusional followers. That this unfortunate paradox still persists among some ‘so called’ 21st century intelligentsia is mind-boggling to say the least. This merely goes to show how *laboured* academia, severed from the fountain of Divine Intelligence that came down to us through Divine revelation, stifles our common sense and God-given reasoning faculties.

The Holy Quran came to revitalize and stimulate these basic human faculties to avoid man from degenerating into what it so eloquently describes, in metaphor, as ‘the ass carrying books.’ – 62:5.

It is to such indisputable universal truths that a respected physicist such as Albert Einstein known for his brilliance and wisdom is on record as having said³:

‘Science without religion is lame, religion without science

³ The quotations page

is blind.’

‘My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable Superior Spirit Who reveals Himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble mind.’

In Islam, belief in the unity of God Almighty, the Creator of all the worlds, is based on the universal experience of humanity. This makes it realistic and not idealistic as it serves as a source of much knowledge to man of his surroundings and life in general.

The primary fundamental pillar of a Muslim ‘*La illaha Illallaa*’ – There is no god besides Allah, is not a mere ineffectual utterance, but a reminder to man to consistently strive to gain *certain* knowledge of God and His creation. The Holy Quran provides the means to gain such knowledge. It uses rational and logical arguments that appeal to man’s reasoning faculties by frequently drawing his attention

to the undisputed laws operating in the universe to substantiate His existence. These are presented as evidence that cannot be denied. Therefore the Holy Quran says:

‘Allah bears witness that there is no god but He, and (so do) the angels and those possessed of knowledge’ - 3:18.

In order to ‘bear witness’, one needs evidence. So by ‘Allah bearing witness that there is no god but He’, here, means that He provides the evidence and rational arguments of His existence. In this way He inspires scientific research so that man might obtain certainty of His existence. This is a palpable way for ordinary creatures like us to get a better understanding of Almighty God. Thus the Holy Quran declares:

‘In the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the day and the night, *there are surely signs for men of understanding.*’ – 3:190

And:

‘Those who remember Allah standing and sitting and (lying) on their sides, and *reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth.*’ – 3:191

Man’s intellect or reasoning faculties are pointed to in these verses as a means of gaining understanding of Divine subtleties approximately 49 times in the Holy Quran. In addition, the Holy Quran calls on man to ‘reflect and ponder’ on the universe about 18 times.

The Holy Quran thus repeatedly encourages man to gather data of the universe through a process of observation and process it in order to reach empirical conclusions of the existence of a Super Intelligence that Einstein referred to as the Superior Spirit that we call Almighty God.

The Holy Quran thus describes various functions of a Divine nature operating in the universe that are observed even in

the creation of an atom. The description of these observable Divine attributes supplied the Muslims with such sure data that opened the way for scientific research. As a result many pioneering scientists emerged from amongst the early Muslims.

As we look at some of these attributive characteristics of Almighty God as described in the Holy Quran, we immediately see how beneficial these must have been to those early Muslim pioneers of science (and indeed still are today but neglected by contemporary Muslims) in their quest for knowledge of the universe and its laws. To illustrate, here are some examples:

Al Badi – He Who creates out of nothing that which never existed before.

Al Bari – He Who originates things and endows them with various faculties.

Rabb – He Who nourishes, fosters and sustains that which He has

created through various evolutionary stages to perfection.

Al Batin – He Who knows hidden properties of things.

Al Zahir – He Who manifests hidden things

Al Wajid- He Who knows the whereabouts of required things.

Al Jami' – He Who gathers things in the place where it is needed.

Al Jabbaar, Al Qahar – He Who subjects others to His will and makes them work according to His wishes for their own well-being.

Al Khaliq - He Who combines things in a given proportion in order to create new things.

Ar Rashid – He Who puts things in a right state or people on the right path.

Al Hadi - He Who guides on right lines to further progress.

Ar Razaq – He Who Sustains and Nourishes everything.

Ar Rahman – He Who makes provision for and pre-arranges

everything that is needed by His creation.

Al Muhsi – He Who comprehends every necessity.

Al Basit – He Who expands his creation.

Al Qabidz – He Who contracts the creation.

Al Mani – He Who guards His creation against harmful or destructive elements.

Al Muqit – He Who controls the entire creation.

Ar Raqib – He Who watches and is cognizant of every movement in His creation.

Al Akhir – He Who brings whatever He has created to their final stages of development or to fruition.

The Muslim scientists put these attributes of Almighty God on their charts as a reference guide for them to use to gain insights and understanding of the laws of nature. From this data they were able to establish scientific principles, rules and laws to support their studies and

future research. It was such empirical knowledge of Almighty God, the All Knower, and His laws operating in the universe that produced many of the world's leading scientists and inventors from among the early Muslims.

One such example is **that of the great mathematician and physicist: Muhammad ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi** (780 – 850 AD). His works introduced Arabic numerals and the concepts of *algebra* into European mathematics. He is also known as Algoritmi or Algaurizin, for his pioneering work in the development of the science related to the *algorithm* which, as we all, young and old, know today, forms the basis of the modern computer.

We strongly condemn all forms of human rights and environmental abuse. We especially condemn the ruthless killings of all innocent parties in the name of Religion or State!

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