

# God and the Universe

Discovering the Creator  
through His Creation

MAULANA  
WAHIDUDDIN KHAN

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and the  
Universe



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through His Creation

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WAHIDUDDIN KHAN

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## CONTENTS

PUBLISHER’S NOTE	9	CHAPTER TWO	
INTRODUCTION	14	UNIVERSAL EVIDENCE OF GOD AND THE HEREAFTER	53
CHAPTER ONE		The Universe is	
DISCOVERY OF GOD	21	Inexplicable Without God	54
Search for the Supreme Reality	22	An Intellectual Exchange	55
Faith in the Unseen	30	God’s Existence	60
Explanation of the Universe	33	Science Confirms Religious Truths	74
The Supreme Creator, the All-Knowing	35	From Science to the Realization of God	76
Big Bang, Little Bang	38	Scientific Reasoning and Evidence For God’s Existence	85
Six Bangs	39	Evidence of God and the Hereafter	86
Big Bang—A Planned Event	40	God, the Hereafter, and Human Nature	93
A Comparison	45	Divine Revelation and Inspiration	95
Flawless Universe	46	The Journey of	
Zero-Defect Universe	48	Knowledge	101

CONTENTS

Power and Powerlessness	103	Who Should Control?	154
The Physical Testifies to the Metaphysical	104	A Rational Stand	155
Knowledge Testifies to the Existence of God	112	The Intelligent Universe	157
God: The Greatest Reality	113	Man's Existence is Proof of God's Existence	162
		From Denial To Belief	166
		CHAPTER FOUR	
CHAPTER THREE		THE UNIVERSE	
FROM DENIAL TO BELIEF IN GOD	115	TESTIFIES TO GOD'S EXISTENCE	169
Limitless Universe, Human Limitation	116	Science and Belief in God	170
Belief in God	117	Creation Testifies to the Creator	174
Arguments of Opponents of Religion	118	Evidence of God in the Universe	175
The Universe 'Speaks' About God	127	Intelligent Universe	186
Predictable Universe	135	Meaningful Exception	187
Science and Theology	138	Signs in the Universe	189
God and Science	145	Quasars: Brighter than a Billion Stars	190
The 'Theory of Everything'	147	This Beautifully-Arranged System	192
From Unseen World to Unseen God	149	Earth's Protective Shield	193
Universe With God	151	The Universe: A Mirror	198
		Evidence From Science	206

## CONTENTS

The Fallacy of Mechanical Interpretation	208	Gratitude to the Creator	238
Lesson from a Train Journey	211	Vision of God	239
Flawless System of God's Universe	213	Man's Relationship with God	240
CHAPTER FIVE			
GOD AND MAN			
Remote Control: A Spiritual Insight	214	CHAPTER SIX	
Universal Oneness	215	GOD: VOICE OF HUMAN NATURE	243
CHAPTER FIVE			
GOD AND MAN			
The Innate Emotion to Find the Creator	218	The Concept of A Supreme Being	244
God and Man	219	Voice of Nature	245
Signs in the Universe	221	History's Intellectual Fallacies	251
Lesson for Man	223	Darwin's Acknowledgment	258
God's Greatness	224	Monism: The Philosophical Concept of God	259
Man's Powerlessness	226	God's Signs	260
The Human Mind	227	Search for Reality	261
Importance of Discovery	228	Return to Religion	264
The Delight of Discovery	229	The Desire for a Deity	269
Faith in God	230	Experiencing the Presence of God	270
The Earth: An Amazing Blessing from God	237	Search for Extraterrestrial Life	272
		In the Meaningful Universe	276



## CONTENTS

From Denial to Acknowledgment	278	The Life We were Searching for	287
The Soul's Quest for Eternal Truth	282	The Oneness of God	294
Search for the Supreme Being	284	Man and Monotheism	304
		The Problem of Evil	305
		The Reality of Paradise	309
		Wisdom in the Creation	310
		The Issue of Suffering	311
CHAPTER SEVEN		God's Creation Plan	314
THE LIFE WE WERE SEARCHING FOR	285	Living Proof of God	319
The Greatest Tragedy	286	LAST WORD	322

## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The present book is the English rendering of an Urdu book by Maulana Wahiduddin Khan (d. 2021) titled *Khuda ki Daryافت: Scienci Haqa'iq ki Roshni Mein* (The Discovery of God in the Light of Scientific Facts), which was published in 2020, not long before Maulana's demise the following year. *Khuda ki Daryافت* consists of a collection of essays of varying length written by the Maulana over almost half a century, the first perhaps written sometime in the 1970s. These essays reflect on diverse topics, but a common thread runs throughout the book—that scientific evidence points to the existence of the One Creator, God Almighty.

Numerous books have been written on God, Religion, and Science. Unfortunately, most of them are technical, abstruse, and dense and do not make for easy reading for the general reader. This book is markedly different, however. It is a treasure trove of inspiration and wisdom for anyone interested in exploring issues related to the interface between Science, Religion, and Spirituality. Besides presenting proof of the existence of God from a rational point of view, it seeks to provide answers to perplexing existential questions such as the purpose of human life, the creation of the universe, and what happens after death. Written in an easy-to-understand style, it can be helpful to and inspiring for people from various backgrounds, irrespective of religion and academic inclinations and training.

The book clearly shows that far from negating the existence of God, the Creator and Master of the universe, modern scientific findings provide convincing evidence of God's existence. Authentic science and authentic versions of divine guidance thus conform rather than confront each other. Put differently, God's Word (as expressed in Divine Revelation) and God's Work (as expressed in the universe) are in perfect harmony. The discovery that the universe had a definite beginning clearly points to a pre-existent Cause that brought it into being—and, this book shows, this Cause cannot be anything but the One God, who is eternal.

Likewise, the fine-tuning, intricate design, and perfect balance of the universe, among other features of the universe that scientific discoveries have highlighted, cannot be satisfactorily accounted for other than by attributing them to the One Creator, God Almighty.

Perhaps, under the influence of fallacious ideologies, some people who have a shallow understanding of science and religion think that modern science has convincingly disproved the existence of God. This book effectively shows this belief to be a complete fallacy. Far from being an enemy of the authentic version of Divine Religion, science can be said to be a close ally of it. In light of the findings and arguments highlighted in this book, one can very well say that one cannot be authentically scientific without being authentically religious, and *vice versa*.

Reflecting on the marvels of creation uncovered by modern science, the present book can be an essential means for spiritual advancement. It can enable us to understand the

Creator and devotion to Him. The Creator has created all the things that exist, so they are all signs of the Creator, pointing as they do to the One who brought them into being. The subject matter of modern science is Nature or, in other words, God's creation. The research findings of modern science provide a vast field of information about God's creation, pondering how we can increase our understanding of the Creator. Developing our insights about God's creation by contemplating scientific findings can help deepen our spiritual personality by making us more conscious of the presence of the Creator and more aware of His attributes reflected in His creation.

It can be said that turning one's back to God is the root of all evil. In our times, the widespread phenomenon of heedlessness of God's creation plan has led to all sorts of evils. For many people, such heedlessness results from an erroneous belief that modern science has proved God to be an illusion or a myth. However, as this book brilliantly shows, the findings of contemporary science point precisely in the opposite direction, clearly testifying to the One God, Creator, Master, and Sustainer of the universe, as described in the Quran. This being the case, science can significantly help promote God-consciousness rather than undermine it.

As the title of this book suggests, far from necessarily leading to atheism, modern science, through its findings on Nature or creation, can lead us to discover the Creator and to know more about Him. These findings are a means to discover God's existence and His attributes reflected in the universe He has created. However, scientific discoveries

can take us only thus far. They can make us aware that there is a Creator of the universe and that, as the nature of His creation indicates, He possesses attributes such as creativity, power, wisdom, beauty, and so forth, all of which are reflected in His creation. However, science cannot answer such questions as ‘Why did God create man?’ ‘What is the relationship between God and man?’, ‘What is the way for man to live that is pleasing to God?’ and ‘What happens to us when we die?’. The only reliable source of answers to these questions is the Creator Himself. This points to the necessity and significance of Divine Revelation—a revelation from the Creator—as the only authentic means for man to obtain these answers.

From the very advent of humankind on the Earth, God has sent a series of Messengers into the world to inform people about such issues—or, in other words, to tell them about what can be called God’s Creation Plan. God has sent at least one Messenger to every nation. The essential message of all these Messengers was the same. All these Messengers exhorted people to lead a God-oriented life based on awareness of, and the willing self-surrender to, the One God—or, in brief, a life characterized by ethical monotheism. This way of life is the only way to true success in this temporary world and the eternal world that comes after death—the world of the Hereafter.

Following in their footsteps, inviting humanity to turn to God and lead a God-oriented life can be said to have been the major mission of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan. This concern is also profoundly reflected in this book. Reflecting

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

on various aspects of the universe and man's life, this book clearly shows that the proper understanding of scientific findings is entirely in conformity with the concept of God and the Message sent by Him through all the Prophets, which has been preserved in the form of the Quran, which was revealed to the last Messenger, Prophet Muhammad.

The book underscores how modern scientific knowledge about the universe can deepen our awareness of God and His creation plan.

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## INTRODUCTION

The journey to discover God stems from a deep-seated urge innate to man's nature. It is so easy and simple for every person to undertake this journey wherever they are. One does not need to travel anywhere physically for this purpose. According to a story, someone once asked a desert dweller what evidence there was for God's existence. The Bedouin replied that the camel's dung was evidence of the presence of a camel, footprints on the sand were evidence of the existence of a person who had walked there, and so were not the vast skies, the wide Earth and the enormous seas filled with waves sufficient evidence for the existence of a Creator of them all? (*Tafsir Ibn Kathir*, Vol. 1, p. 106)

This story is about a humble and wise man. From it, one can understand that realizing the Creator's existence is so easy that every human being, at the level of their very nature, can conclude that God does exist by reflecting on their immediate surroundings. There is no need to visit a library, read many books, or embark on a journey to discover God. You can discover God wherever you are. There is only one condition: one must be a sincere seeker.

Once, someone asked me how we can know God. I asked him to reflect on the fingers of his hands and the toes on his feet. His life would have been difficult had his fingers been short and his toes long! Our fingers and toes are just the size for our hands and feet to function properly. They

indicate wise planning that only the Creator and Provider of the universe, who is beyond man, could have arranged for. If one does not accept such a God, the Creator and Provider and Sustainer of the universe, one cannot correctly understand anything in the universe at all. Knowing God is as easy as knowing oneself.

This discovery can be called the discovery of God at the commonsense level. However, there is another level of discovery, which man has discovered in modern times—and that is the discovery of God through scientific evidence. This phenomenon has been indicated in the Quran in these words:

“We shall show them Our signs in the universe and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that this is the Truth.” (41:53)

Today, man can easily discover God through new and abundant scientific evidence pointing to the existence of a Supreme Being behind the universe and its functioning. This is a significant point that this book seeks to make.

Science is the study of Nature, which consists of everything in the universe. Scientific research began with some initial issues, and as it advanced, it became abundantly clear that the universe is an exceedingly meaningful realm. Any explanation or interpretation of the universe that is not based on its meaningfulness cannot be compatible with the findings of scientific research.

Through scientific research, it has come to be known that the universe is characterized by intelligent design. Now, if one does not accept that this intelligent design indicates an



Intelligent Designer—or, in other words, the Creator, God Almighty—who arranged for this intelligent design, the various phenomena of the universe are entirely inexplicable.

Likewise, scientific research has shown that our universe is custom-made—that is, it is entirely in line with the needs of all living beings inhabiting it. Now, if it is not accepted that this compatibility between the universe and its various living creatures points to the existence of a Creator Who caused this to be so, it is simply impossible to provide a comprehensible explanation of this phenomenon.

Likewise, findings in various fields of scientific research show that different parts and features of the universe are intricately, profoundly interconnected, and immensely finely tuned. There must be some explanation for these mind-boggling phenomena. However, their only truly meaningful explanation is based on the concept of the Creator, God Almighty, Who has designed the universe in the most appropriate way possible.

Science is not a religious subject. The subject matter of science is not the discovery of God or the Creator. Instead, its subject matter is the study of Nature, or, in other words, the study of the Creator's creations. However, as we see the signs or evidence of the Creator in His creation, the study of the creation, indirectly, becomes the study of the Creator. The things science has discovered in research on the universe or Nature are Divine Signs, which in the Quran are called '*Ayaatu Allah*' or 'Signs of God.' In this sense, it would be correct to say that the discovery of the meaningfulness

of the creation is synonymous with the discovery of the meaningfulness of the Creator.

The realization of God has been the focal point of my quest from the very first day. My days and nights have been spent in this quest, so much so that perhaps I can say I have found God. Around 1960, I was in my brother's house in Azamgarh, in Northern India, where I met a person. During our conversation, suddenly, he asked me, "Can man see God?" I answered, "Have you not seen God as yet?"

I have had many such experiences in my life. However, be that as it may, 'seeing God' in this world is in the figurative sense, not in the real or literal sense, because in the real sense, in this world, no person can see God, the Creator and Sustainer of all the worlds.

Once, in an article, I wrote that to believe in God is strange, but not believing in God is stranger still. So when I say I believe in God, I prefer the less strange to the more strange.

A friend of the scientist Albert Einstein once asked him if he was an atheist. He replied in the negative and explained that he could be more appropriately called an agnostic. An agnostic is someone who says that he cannot say that God does not exist, nor can he say that God does exist.

Einstein's response to his friend can be paraphrased as follows: "I have no evidence to support the denial of God, as the scientific evidence in support of the existence of God is so considerable that I am also not in a position to say that there is no God. I can say that probably there is a God, but

I am not in a position to say, in certain terms, ‘Yes, God does exist.’”

Taking the help of terminology used in Quantum Physics, one could say that Einstein’s position is synonymous with the acknowledgement of God because following the discovery of subatomic particles and probability waves, in Quantum Physics, probability has acquired the status close to certainty, and now it is accepted that while probability is less than certainty, it is more than ‘perhaps.’

The search for Reality is a natural quest. Every person who comes into this world has an innate desire to know what and who he is, how and why he came into existence, what his significance in this world is, how this world came into being, and what will happen to him after he dies. Such questions underpin man’s quest for understanding Reality. This quest has always been a common search for all humans who have taken birth on Earth. However, perhaps not everyone is bereft of the urge to find the answers to these existential questions. Some people have given this quest the status of a spiritual search, while others have thought of it as a mystical journey. Some have tried discovering what they were looking for through meditation, while others have taken to other spiritual practices for the same purpose.

As far as I understand, this search acquired a new form with the Italian scientist Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) when he observed space through a telescope in 1609. The invention of the telescope (and later the microscope) that observes quantitative matter has added a new era to this search. After a deep study over hundreds of years, the

scientific community differentiated between the qualitative and quantitative aspects of matter when it affirmed that science provides only a partial knowledge of reality. This means that, according to the self-confession of the material sciences itself, qualitative aspects are beyond the scope of the scientific material investigation that focuses only on the quantitative aspects of the matter. In other words, while science investigates quantitative matter, it leaves aside the qualitative search.

After that, humanity has come to realize that the qualitative aspect of this question that relates to the search for Reality is essentially unknowable, but its quantitative aspect that relates to the study of material things is largely knowable. At some point, the two sides diverged from each other. The qualitative aspect remained a subject of exploration for certain individuals who continued their search for Reality, while the quantitative aspect attracted an entire community of scientists dedicated to its investigation. This is what we now refer to as science. Subsequently, this observable aspect became further divided into two parts: theoretical science and applied science. These two aspects are distinct from one another yet also intertwined.

I have studied and extensively written on this topic, and some of my findings about scientific evidence of religious truths, which, in essence, is religious theology based on scientific evidence, are given in the pages of this book.

New Delhi  
25 May 2020

Wahiduddin Khan



CHAPTER ONE

# DISCOVERY OF GOD

## SEARCH FOR THE SUPREME REALITY

The history of the philosophical pursuit of God goes back to ancient Greece. In terms of its actual reality, philosophy is the search for the Creator. However, philosophy could never succeed in discovering God. The subject matter of philosophy is Existence. It studies general and fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language.

This is, as it were, an ‘external description’ of the subject matter of philosophy. However, in terms of its reality, philosophy is but another name for the search for the Supreme Reality or Truth, or, in other words, God. All philosophers were engaged, in some way or the other, in search of the Ultimate Truth. However, no philosopher was able to succeed in his quest.

### **Failure of the Philosophical Search**

The case of all philosophers was the same—that is, they set out on the search for Reality. All philosophers sought to know the Truth through the path of knowledge. However, experience tells us that every philosopher failed in this regard.

Let us take the case of one of the most well-known philosophers of modern times, the British scholar Bertrand Russell (1872-1970). One of his biographers has written that he was a ‘philosopher of no philosophy’. Despite studying for much of his life, Russell failed to discover

the Truth. The case of all other philosophers has been just the same.

Few of them acknowledged this fact, though, in contrast to Russell, who confessed in his autobiography:

“When I survey my life, it seems useless, devoted to impossible ideals. My activities continue by force of habit, and in the company of others, I forget the despair which underlies my daily pursuits and pleasure. However, when I am alone and idle, I cannot conceal that my life has no purpose and that I know no new purpose to devote my remaining years. I am involved in a vast mist of emotional and metaphysical solitude from which I can find no exit.” (*The Autobiography of Bertrand Russell*, 1950, p. 395)

This is not the story of just one philosopher alone. Instead, it is the case with all philosophers. All philosophers had made the Supreme Reality the subject of their research, but not one of them could obtain the answer to their quest.

### **Correct Methodology**

This failure is because the philosophers could not discover the correct methodology for their search. This methodology has been indicated in the Quran. It is reflected in the following narrative in the Quran, which is related to the Prophet Moses and may have occurred around 3500 years ago:

“And when Moses came at Our appointed time, and his Lord spoke to him, he said, ‘My Lord, show Yourself to me so that I may look at You.’ He replied, ‘You cannot



see Me, but look at the mountain; if it remains firmly in its place, then only will you see Me.’ And when his Lord manifested Himself on the mountain, He broke it into pieces, and Moses fell unconscious. And when he recovered, he said, ‘Glory be to You, I turn towards You, and I am the first to believe.’” (7:143)

Reflect on this verse of the Quran. At the beginning of this verse, God says, “You cannot see Me,” at the end of the verse, the Prophet Moses says, “I am the first to believe.” If one reflects on these two sets of words, it will be evident that while man cannot see God directly, he can still obtain God’s realization indirectly. By pondering on the creation and discovering its properties and laws—which is what science does—one can realize the Creator’s existence and grow in understanding and appreciation of God’s attributes. As indicated earlier, a key event in using this indirect methodology started in the early 17th century, when Galileo used the telescope to study the solar system. The telescope symbolizes a scientific reflection on God’s creation, which is the scientific method of obtaining the realization of the Creator. Reflecting on the marvels of the creation provides sufficient evidence for the Creator’s or God’s existence. In other words, science can be of great use in the realization of the existence of God through the indirect or inferential method or the indirect methodology.

In the age of Quantum Physics, it was proved that the final particle of matter is a subatomic particle. A subatomic particle is not directly observable. It cannot be seen, and it is always in a state of motion. While moving, it generates

heat, which is its directly observable effect. We cannot see a sub-atomic particle but infer that it exists through its effect, heat. In this way, as its effect—heat—is observable, the final particle of matter becomes discoverable. In other words, as the effect of the final particle of matter is observable, it is discoverable indirectly, not directly.

The same is the case with the Creator of the universe. The Creator undoubtedly has His separate existence. However, concerning man, He is indirectly discoverable through reflection and contemplation on His creation. We cannot see God directly, but we can infer that God does exist by studying its effect—His creation or the universe. This is the inferential argument or the indirect methodology to discover something.

The philosophers were engaged in the search for God but could never discover Him at the level of certainty. The reason that philosophers were not able to discover God was that their approach or method was impractical. Scholars have failed to find the correct method to know God despite their philosophical endeavours. Many of these individuals sought to observe God directly like they were exploring other phenomena in the universe. However, this method proved inapplicable to discovering the Creator (God), leading to their ultimate failure. The situation regarding secular philosophers and religious theologians is similar in this regard.

All the intellectuals who tried to arrive at the discovery of God through the philosophical method or the direct argument could not discover the right approach to finding

God. They all wanted to see God directly, whereas the realization of God is possible only indirectly. Therefore, they kept up their fruitless effort of trying to discover God directly. However, the direct method they sought to use can discover things in the created realm but is not workable concerning the Creator or the Ultimate Truth. That is why secular philosophers and scholastics failed in their quest for Truth or their search for the Ultimate Reality—God Almighty.

What, then, is the correct method for discovering God? Guidance in this regard is provided in the narrative about Prophet Moses in the Quran referred to earlier.

According to the above verse of the Quran (7:143), an incident of great significance occurred to Prophet Moses on a mountain in the Sinai Desert. The words of the Quran: ‘You cannot see Me, but look at the mountain; if it remains firmly in its place, then only will you see Me,’ indicates that the knowledge of God’s existence can only be obtained indirectly by contemplating on the creation—the effect of the Creator—to arrive at an understanding of the Creator.

Reflecting on this incident, one learns that man cannot see God directly. Knowledge of God’s existence can only be obtained indirectly by contemplating His creation and reaching an understanding of the Creator. This guidance, exemplified by the experience of Prophet Moses, has existed for thousands of years, yet scholars have never truly embraced this approach. Instead, they persisted in their pursuit of directly discovering the Creator. According to the Quranic and scientific methods, man can obtain

knowledge of the existence of God only indirectly—that is, using the inferential argument, which is a scientifically valid argument, we can arrive at the knowledge of the Creator through contemplating His creation.

The fact remains that philosophers have long been pursuing God, yet they have never been definitively able to discover God. This is primarily because their approach has been impractical. Scholars have failed to find the correct method to know God despite their philosophical endeavours. Many of these individuals sought to observe God directly, like exploring other phenomena in the universe. However, this method proves inapplicable to the Creator (God), leading to their ultimate failure. The situation regarding secular philosophers and religious theologians is similar in this regard.

A tradition in the books of Hadith states: “God will certainly make a non-religious person support this religion.” (*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Hadith No. 3062 I *Sahih al-Bukhari*, Hadith No. 4203). In this Hadith, the term ‘al-Rajul al-Fajir’ refers to a secular person. This authentic clue suggests that a secular figure would provide initial guidance in this matter. As we have seen, philosophers and Muslim theologians have failed to find the correct guidance.

I have contemplated this topic extensively and realized that the ‘al-Rajul al-Fajir’ (secular person) mentioned in *Sahih al-Bukhari* is most likely the Italian scientist Galileo Galilei, born four hundred years ago. Galileo’s contribution in this matter was not direct but indirect. His discoveries indirectly answered the question of how to obtain knowledge of God.

A significant event occurred about the telescope's discovery during Galileo Galilei's time. Galileo played a crucial role in enabling the indirect discovery of God through the observation of the Creator's creation. The telescope was initially developed in 1608, and Galileo improved it the following year. Using this instrument, he partially observed the solar system. Through his studies, he refuted the ancient theory of the sun revolving around the earth and established that it is, in fact, the earth that revolves around the sun.

Consequently, the "heliocentric theory" replaced the "geocentric theory." This event marked the dawn of modern science. Galileo is often hailed as the founder of modern science because he separated the quantitative from qualitative aspects. This separation allowed science to focus primarily on the quantitative aspects while relegating the qualitative ones.

Separating the qualitative and quantitative dimensions of matter led to significant scientific transformations. It opened doors to scientific research that had previously been closed under the influence of philosophy. Various fields of science began advancing as a result. While this research was not directly linked to religion, religion indirectly benefited. The discoveries provided scientific data that could indirectly prove the existence of God and other religious truths. Using the scientific data about the universe generated through the separation of quantitative and qualitative aspects, it became possible to offer scientific evidence for religious truths.

Galileo's method, in empirical terms, involved separating the observable aspects of things from their unobservable

aspects. Previous scholars had struggled to separate the two, consumed by the quest to discover the unobservable aspects. After Galileo separated the observable from the unobservable, people could indirectly reach the unobservable aspects by shifting their focus to the observable aspects. This intellectual approach, often called the inferential argument or indirect method in science, allowed for discovering objects and their features in the created realm, like the sub-atomic particles, which cannot be directly observed but can be discovered by observing their effect. Similarly, the inferential argument can also be used to find out the unobservable Creator by observing the effect of His creation—the universe, which is observable to all. This method has indirectly enabled the discovery of God and other realities. In recent decades, numerous writings have been published on this subject.

The inventions of the microscope and the telescope propelled the search for Reality to new heights. Science has significantly advanced in understanding quantitative and observable aspects of reality. However, the qualitative aspects, particularly the “why” questions concerning the universe and humanity, remained outside the realm of science. Nevertheless, these questions are crucial in the search for Reality, and this book strives to reflect upon them.

I have written extensively on God, Religion, and Science. My writings include numerous articles and a full-length book in Urdu titled “Mazhab Aur Jadeed Challenge” (Religion and Modern Challenges), published in 1965. It

was later translated into English and published under “God Arises: Evidence of God in Nature and Science” (1985). As seen in this book, I have made this subject one of my primary concerns.

## FAITH IN THE UNSEEN

The Quran says: “This is the Book; there is no doubt in it. It is a guide for those who are mindful of God, who believe in the unseen.” (2:2-3)

Faith in the unseen is not simply a matter of religious belief. It is directly connected with the issue of spiritual guidance. Only someone who has faith in the unseen will gain spiritual guidance. In contrast, a person who does not have faith in the unseen will not receive spiritual guidance. When all the realities are unseen, how can the matter of the discovery of Higher Reality be an exception?

In Arabic, the word *ghaib* or ‘unseen’ does not only mean something that is not present. The term is used for something invisible but not non-existent—that is to say, a thing that is not visible while remaining present or having an existence. This is the case with God. Even though God appears to be in the unseen, He is more present than anything else. In the above Quranic verse, ‘the unseen’ means having faith in God, but indirectly, all those aspects related to faith in God are also included here that are necessary for a true believer of God to have belief in—for instance, Divine Revelation, Angels, Hell and Heaven, etc.

The fact is that we know things through two methods. One is through direct observation, and the other is through inference. From the scientific point of view, both these methods and arguments are equally valid. In terms of their validity, there is no difference between them.

In the present age, science is a valid means for scholarly research. Science has two parts—one is theoretical science, and the other is technical science or applied science. Technical science deals only with the external or apparent aspects of things. However, in their final analysis, all things that appear to be visible become invisible. According to a scientific study, all things are finally a collection of atoms, and an atom, in its final analysis, is a collection of sub-atomic particles that are not visible. In this sense, it would be correct to say that not only is the unseen Creator in the unseen realm and hence unobservable to us directly, but even apparently, observable creations are, in their final analysis, in the unseen realm, therefore, unobservable to us.

Alfred Korzybski (1879-1950) described the universe as engaged in a ‘mad dance of electrons,’ highlighting the undeniable presence of the invisible in the cosmos. Another scientist has defined the universe as ‘waves of probability’ due to its invisible state. The British scientist Sir Arthur Eddington (d. 1944) explored this theme in his book *Science and the Unseen World* (A. S. Eddington, Macmillan, 1929, 91 pages). From this perspective, it is correct to say that not only is the, apparently, invisible Creator in the unseen realm, but the apparently visible creation is also in the unseen state.



In this world, we perceive things, but we only see their apparent manifestations. The true essence of things remains unseen for us. This situation mirrors the nature of God. From His essence, God is unobservable and unseen, but God becomes observable and manifest in the context of His creation. The existence of creation itself is evidence of the Creator's existence. The creation of the universe is so meaningful that without accepting it as the work of the Creator, it is simply impossible to explain it.

God's being in the unseen is, in one sense, on account of the exigency of the test humans are being put to during our short spell on earth. If God could be seen through our physical eyes, the exigency of the test would be over. Because God is in the unseen, believing in Him is a test for us. If God were before our eyes and observable to us, having faith in Him would not become a test for man. To have faith in the unseen God and related beliefs in the unseen is a great blessing for man. This is because such faith is engendered through deep thinking and reflection in man's mind. As a result, a never-ending process of reflection and contemplation occurs within our minds. It is on account of this that it becomes possible for us to find God at the level of discovery. Because of this, the realization of God can be, for us, a self-discovered reality—and without doubt, there is nothing more significant than a self-discovered reality in this world. For God and the aspects of faith related to Him, remaining in a state of the unseen for man is an endless source of intellectual development.

Faith in the unseen is a necessary condition for obtaining

spiritual guidance. However, this is not any arbitrary sort of condition. Instead, it is an exceedingly reasonable condition for a creature like man. To understand any great reality, an awakened mind is required. Only a person whose mind is awakened can understand any great reality. God is undoubtedly the most significant reality. That is why only that person who awakens his mind through study and reflection can attain God- realization in the real sense. A person whose mind is not awakened is sunk into intellectual blindness. With intellectual blindness, no one can achieve the realization of God.

## EXPLANATION OF THE UNIVERSE

Modern studies in physics have shown that, some 13.8 billion years ago, there was a highly dense cosmic ball comprising all the particles of the universe in space. An explosion occurred in this ball, called the Big Bang. It is said to have been the beginning of the universe. It is also said that soon after this explosion, another event occurred, with the particles in the ball spreading in outward motion in the vast expanse at great speed. After this, in stages, the present universe came into being. The entire cosmos evolved from the original, highly compressed, scorching gas, taking the form of galaxies of stars, cosmic dust, meteorites, and asteroids. The present outward motion of the galaxies is a result of this explosion.

The fact that the particles in the 'cosmic ball' rapidly spread

out into space following the Big Bang was extraordinary. It could not have happened on its own. It indicates the presence of an Intervener who existed before the Big Bang and caused it to happen. An Intervener, in other words, is the Creator, God Almighty. A supposed cause of such an event as an ‘accident’ or ‘mere chance,’ which atheists might offer in this regard, cannot explain this meaningful phenomenon.

The fact is that modern scientific explorations, including the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe, have taken man to the very doorstep of realizing the existence of God, and now all that is left is for God’s existence to be verbally acknowledged.

We reproduce here a detailed report on the scientific evidence of the Big Bang published in *The Times of India*, New Delhi, dated March 19, 2014, p 23.

### **Universe Origins: Giant Boost for Big Bang Theory**

London: An international team of astrophysicists has discovered the signal left in the sky by the super-rapid expansion of space that would have occurred fractions of a second after everything came into being following the Big Bang. Announcing their finding over a global press call, scientists from Harvard Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics said researchers from the BICEP2 (Background Imaging of Cosmic Extragalactic Polarization) collaboration had found this first direct evidence for this cosmic inflation, a theory pioneered by Prof Alan Guth among others. They said that almost

14 billion years ago, the universe burst into existence in an extraordinary event that initiated the Big Bang. It has been theorized that in the first fleeting fraction of a second, the universe expanded exponentially in what is described as the first tremors of the Big Bang, stretching far beyond the view of our best telescopes. Their data also represents the first images of gravitational waves or ripples in space-time. The team analyzed their data for over three years to rule out errors. They also considered whether dust in our galaxy could produce the observed pattern, but the data suggest this is highly unlikely. Harvard theorist Avi Loeb said this work offers new insights into our fundamental questions: Why do we exist? How did the universe begin? These results provide strong evidence for inflation. They also tell us when inflation occurred and how powerful the process was. These groundbreaking results came from observations by the BICEP2 telescope of the cosmic microwave background, a faint glow left over from the Big Bang. (*The Times of India*, New Delhi, March 19, 2014, p. 23)

## THE SUPREME CREATOR, THE ALL-KNOWING

One of God's attributes is that He is the Creator of the universe. Another of His features is that He is the Omniscient. The Quran says:

“Is He who created the heavens and earth unable to

create others like these people? Of course, He is! He is indeed the Supreme Creator, the All-Knowing” (36:81)

In this verse, just as ‘Khallāq’ refers to the Great Creator, ‘Allām’ similarly refers to the Great Knower. This implies that Allah, the Lord of the worlds, is both the Great Creator and the All-Knower.

The universe that God created is itself proof of the fact that God is the Supreme Creator and the All-Knowing One. A verse of the Quran indicates this fact in the following words:

“Do not those who deny the truth see that the heavens and the earth were joined together and that We then split them asunder?” (21:30)

The word ‘Ratq’ mentioned in the above verse means joined together, and ‘Fatq’ means to tear apart. At the beginning of this verse, the words “Do not those who deny the truth see” appear. This verse indicates that the phenomenon of the heavens and the earth being “joined together” and then being “split asunder” that the verse refers to is, for man, something known at the level of observation. Moreover, in the 20th century, this event became known at the scientific level due to a scientific discovery known as the Big Bang. According to modern scientific findings, the Big Bang occurred in space 13.8 billion years ago. The details of this event that science has discovered testify to what the Quran says in the verse quoted above.

The Big Bang is scientific evidence that the One who brought this universe into being is the Great Creator and the All-Knower. Had He not been so, the universe’s coming into being would have been impossible. The words ‘Khallāq’

used for the Creator and 'Allām' used for the All-Knowing are not only the news of birth but also the evidence of the knowledge of the event of birth.

The cosmic phenomenon that science has discovered reveals that approximately 13.8 billion years ago, a massive cosmic ball suddenly appeared in space. Within this super cosmic ball existed all the particles that would eventually combine to form the universe as we know it today. Then, a tremendous explosion occurred within this super cosmic ball, causing its particles to scatter throughout space at an extraordinary speed. If these particles had continued to disperse at such a high velocity, the formation of the present universe would have been impossible, as they would have remained too widely spread apart to come together.

However, scientific research demonstrates that the speed of the particle dispersion slowed down in the first fleeting fraction of a second after the explosion occurred in the super cosmic ball. This reduction in the speed played a crucial role, allowing the scattered particles to begin recombining. As a result of their reassembly, stars, galaxies, the solar system, and other celestial bodies came into existence.

This event suggests that the entity responsible for initiating the explosion within the superatom possessed immense power and knowledge. The Creator had prior knowledge of this occurrence and skillfully planned its unfolding. If this entity had not possessed foreknowledge of this event, which transpired within a fraction of a second, all planning would have been in vain, rendering the existence of the universe impossible. This scientific discovery serves as

undeniable evidence of the existence of a Creator and the vast knowledge of the Lord of the worlds.

## BIG BANG, LITTLE BANG

Man has always wondered about how the universe came into being. He has always wanted an answer to this question at a rational level. In the first quarter of the 20th century, man found a rational explanation for this issue for the first time. As mentioned earlier, modern astronomical science indicates that approximately 13.8 billion years ago, there was an explosion in space. This explosion is generally called the Big Bang. It is said that following the Big Bang, the present universe gradually came into being.

Be that as it may, one question remained unanswered. That was how the solar system, where the Earth is located, came into being. The solar system is exceptional in the entire universe. And then, inside our solar system, the Earth is an extraordinary planet. Astronomers have been unable to explain rationally how the special kind of solar system came about in the universe. However, some decades after discovering the Big Bang, scientists conducted particular experiments in Switzerland. During these experiments, it was discovered that a small explosion occurred in space after the 'Big Bang.' This was given the name 'Little Bang'. Following this 'Little Bang', the solar system came into being, and, gradually, the planet called 'Earth' came into existence.

The scientific discoveries of the Big Bang and the ‘Little Bang’ tell us that the creation of the universe happened through sophisticated planning. This universe did not come into existence by accident but by a purposeful plan. This indicates the existence of a conscious Planner—or, in other words, the Creator, God Almighty—behind it.

The Big Bang and Little Bang events prove that this universe has a meaningful purpose and a specific destination. The universe is meaningful in the complete sense, and a meaningful universe cannot have a meaningless end. There must be some definite reason why it was brought into being.

## SIX BANGS

At the beginning of the 20th century, it was discovered that the astronomical event known as the ‘Big Bang’ took place 13.8 billion years ago. The British scientist Fred Hoyle (d. 2001) named this phenomenon the ‘Big Bang.’ One of the events that occurred in space after the ‘Big Bang’ was the formation of the solar system. An American scientist, Alan P. Boss (b. 1951), called the event that led to the solar system’s formation the ‘Little Bang.’ This principle of nomenclature led me to consider six types of similar events that have occurred throughout history. These six events, often referred to as “bangs,” include:

1. Big Bang
2. Little Bang



3. Water Bang
4. Plant Bang
5. Animal Bang
6. Human Bang

The present world of stars and planets emerged after the ‘Big Bang.’ Following this, the ‘Little Bang’ took place, through which the present solar system came into existence. After this, a ‘Water Bang’ occurred on Earth, and the world was filled with water. After this, life—plants, animals—and various related things were created. After that, man finally appeared on Earth.

Scientists have not identified six eras or ‘bangs’ like this, but based on data that science has made available about the universe, it seems correct to say that the process of creation that has occurred in the universe probably had these six periods. Science so far appears to support this classification. In this sense, this classification of six eras is indirectly scientific.

## BIG BANG—A PLANNED EVENT

One of the current astronomical theories is what is called the ‘Big Bang.’ The universe was estimated to be singular around 13.8 billion years ago. Then, a primordial matter came into existence, which some scientists have called a “super-atom,” and all its components were violently drawn inwards. Then, this primordial matter exploded. As

a result of this explosion, its components began to spread outwardly, and eventually, the present universe with all its stars and planets was formed.

According to the news published in *The Times of India* (December 11, 1977), two scientists from California have arrived at new facts showing that the Big Bang was a much calmer and more orderly event than is generally understood. In a statement from the American space agency NASA, Dr Richard A. Muller (b. 1944) and Dr. George Fitzgerald Smoot (b. 1945) said they found in their research that the universe is completely around them and spreading at the same speed.

Most scientists believe that the universe began with a big bang. Some think that it was in a dispersed state, which created the quality of a vortex in matter. However, the latest evidence clearly shows that no “explosion” occurred in the known sense. Instead, it was a quiet event of a release of energy, a reality that the scientists could not understand even till now. It was a much more complex event than it is currently understood.

Both theories are based on the background radiation detected by the sensitive instruments on NASA’s U-2 aircraft. An aircraft was flown to an altitude of 20,000 meters. It is believed that a ray was released during the initial explosion. These rays were first discovered in 1965. The U-2 spacecraft has found certain rays in every part of the universe. There is so much order and arrangement in them that the speed of celestial bodies can be measured with utmost accuracy.

However, from the measurements, they have found an exception in the discipline. The Earth, our solar system, and our galaxy (in which the solar system is located) are moving apart at a speed of a million miles per hour compared to the rest of the celestial bodies. Smoot said, "Because if our galaxy were to keep up with the expansion of the rest of the universe, it would have to travel at 1/6th of its current speed." We do not know the reason for this. The answer to this fundamental question is still unknown: Why did the initial movement or explosion in the matter of the universe start?

### **The Big Bang Was Not at all that Big**

*Reuters* published this news on December 10, 1977. These are the words:

"Two California scientists have come up with new data suggesting that the Big Bang, 'which brought the universe into being some 15 billion years ago, was a much smoother and more orderly event than popularly imagined.'

In an announcement from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently, Dr. Richard Muller and Dr. George Smoot of the University of California said they had found that the universe was expanding constantly in almost all directions.

The new findings 'take the simplistic Big Bang theory a long step down the road and give us a model that will eventually help to unravel the mystery of how the universe was formed,' Dr. Smoot said in an interview.

Most astronomers believe the universe began with a massive explosion. Some think this was a chaotic mess, occurring at different speeds in different places, giving rise to great swirls of matter.

Others see it as a homogeneous event, sending newly formed matter out in all directions at the same speed.

However, the new findings indicate that the Big Bang was smoother than the 'homogeneous school' had expected.

'It appears,' said Dr Smoot, that 'there was no explosion such as a Super Nova (large exploding star), but rather some energy release which we don't understand yet.

'We're really giving added weight to the Big Bang theory. But it is an infinitely more complex process than the originators conceived.'" (Washington, December 10 [Reuters])

## **Background Radiation**

The two scientists, Dr. Richard Muller and Dr. George Smoot of the University of California base their ideas on readings of background radiation detected by sensitive instruments aboard the NASA U-2 aircraft at an altitude of 20,000 meters. This plane, a type that was most famous for spy flights over the Soviet Union and Cuba in the late 1950s and early 1960s, is also used for photography of agricultural and Earth resources, NASA said.

Background microwave radiation, discovered in 1965, is thought to be the heat left over after the bang.

But U-2 fighters found that the radiation was the same in all the sky sectors, indicating no central core of the

universe and no single primal explosion at one “spot” took place.

The radiation is so regular that it allows the measurement of the motion of heavenly bodies, just as water resistance allows the ship’s speed to be measured.

These measurements reveal one exception to regularity: the earth, our solar system and our galaxy—the Milky Way—are out of step with the rest of the Hydra at the speed of more than one million miles per hour.

“This is a slight paradox,” Dr. Smoot said. “Because if our galaxy was constant with the rest of the universal expansion, it should only be travelling at about one-sixth that rate of speed.”

Why the Milky Way is acting this way remains unknown, though Dr Bernard Jones of England’s Cambridge Institute of Astronomy has suggested that the entire universe might be slightly top-sided, with more matter on one side than the other.

The gravity of this matter could be tugging the Milky Way, but other galaxies would be affected in that case.

The two scientists found none of the swirls of radiation a chaotic explosion might have caused.

The basic Smoot-Muller model of the universe is one of the clusters of galaxies moving away from one another at a constant rate towards the end of the universe—if it has ended.

More complex than the idea of a messy explosion, the model still leaves the fundamental question unanswered: how did the original bang come about?

## DISCOVERY OF GOD

Some astronomers speculate that the collision of matter and anti-matter caused it. This theory holds that there was originally slightly more matter than anti-matter, so some matter was left over after the blast. (*The Times of India*, December 11, 1977)

This model explains that the Big Bang was not big. This background microwave radiation, discovered in 1965, was considered “heat left over after the bang.” Referring to this radiation, known as the ripple remnants of the Big Bang in outer space, the American scientist Joel Primack (b. 1945) remarked that they “are no less than the handwriting of God.” Further, the exception found in our Milky Way raises the question: who caused this exception? These scientific discoveries point to the existence of a Planner, which is another name for God.

## A COMPARISON

Man does not know the matters of the unseen realm. The Quran says:

“Say, ‘I have no power to benefit or do harm, save as God pleases. If I had knowledge of the unseen, I would have availed myself of an abundance of good, and no harm would have touched me.’” (7:188)

According to the above verse, man does not know the unseen. He does not know what will happen in the future. He acts based on his knowledge of ‘today’ but is completely unaware of what will happen tomorrow. In contrast, God

is the Knower of the Unseen (besides the Seen). That is, He has complete knowledge of the Unseen. From this difference between man and God, we can obtain a principle of comparison.

It is in comparison that we understand. Using this principle, we can understand that no work done by man is without flaws; in contrast, all the examples of God's creation before us are flawless. No human management system is free from defects, but the solar system, which God has made, is an example of entirely zero-defect management.

In the 20th century, developed countries made significant efforts to establish a zero-defect management system within their industries, aiming to achieve perfection in the natural world. However, they failed miserably in this endeavour, leading to the acceptance that no man-made system could ever be completely devoid of defects. This disparity serves as conclusive proof of the existence of a Creator.

## FLAWLESS UNIVERSE

The universe is an entirely zero-defect universe. In the Quran, this aspect of the universe is related in this manner:

“He created seven heavens, one above the other in layers. You will not find any flaw in the creation of the Gracious One. Then look once again: can you see any flaw? Then look again and again. Your gaze will come back to you confused and exhausted.” (67:3-4)

Here, the Quran highlights the fact that the universe that God has created is flawless. When the above verses of the Quran were revealed, man did not know that the universe was flawless. He would see the sun, moon, oceans, and mountains and feel a sense of awe. From this feeling, the concept of nature worship was born. The actual purpose of the Creator was for man to understand the flawless aspects of the universe, that is, the perfect system of the universe, and through it, to discover the power of the Creator. However, this aspect of the universe remained undiscovered for thousands of years.

With the advent of modern science, over the last 400 years, scientific discoveries have informed man that a perfect level of meaningfulness characterizes the universe. The universe is well-planned. The universe is well-managed. The universe is well-designed. The universe is well-disciplined. Many scientists now believe that the universe is intelligent, so much so that this has become a regular subject on which a vast amount of literature, including many books, has been published.

In Newton's time, the universe used to be thought of as a mechanical universe. However, with further research, this notion was proved to be erroneous. Through investigation in different fields, scientific circles widely believed that the universe is intelligent. To consider the universe as an 'intelligent universe' is, in other words, to accept that it is the creation of an Intelligent Creator. There can be no other sensible meaning to this. Perhaps the first formal book on the subject was *The Intelligent Universe: A New View of Creation*



*and Evolution* (1983) by Fred Hoyle. Since then, numerous books and articles have been published on the intelligent design of the universe. These resources can be found in extensive library collections or on the Internet. Intelligent Universe points to Intelligent Design. This is only possible through the work of an Intelligent Designer, another name for God Almighty.

## ZERO-DEFECT UNIVERSE

During the Second World War (1939-1945), a concept called 'Zero Defect Management' emerged. Efforts to establish zero defect management systems on a large scale in industrially developed countries. Much research has been done. Much literature has been produced on this subject. This concept spread rapidly in 'developed' countries, where efforts were made to establish a zero-defect management system in their industries, just as it prevails in the world of Nature. This work continued almost throughout the 20th century. However, in this regard, they met with complete failure. Finally, it was accepted that no system made by man could be a zero-defect system. It was acknowledged that the concept of zero-defect management was not attainable by humans.

Even as the evidence indicated that zero-defect management was not possible in man-made industries and organizations, scientific findings emerged that proved that the system of Nature is entirely flawless. For example, the movement of

the stars and the planets happens precisely as predicted, with zero defects, which have been going on for billions of years. On this basis, if you want to know, for instance, at exactly what time on a particular date, several years later, the sun will rise and set at a specific location on Earth, you can find it out today itself. For example, if you want to know at what time on 15th April 2025 the sun will rise and set in New Delhi, you can find out well in advance that sunrise will be at 05:56 and sunset at 18:48. The timing of the sun rising and setting on a particular day in the future can be found with the same accuracy for any other place in the world. The entire system of the physical universe functions with complete precision and predictability.

When we reflect on the fact that the physical universe has operated flawlessly under the management of the Creator for billions of years, while human projects often suffer from defects in planning and implementation, a stark contrast emerges. Under divine management, the material world has adhered to zero-defect management since its inception. In comparison, human-made systems, such as industrial projects, have been unable to establish a zero-defect management system despite continuous efforts. This comparison emphasizes the difference between divine and human management.

To gain insights into human management, an article titled “Zero Defects” on the internet discusses the concept as popularized by Philip Crosby’s book “Absolutes of Quality Management.” It acknowledges that achieving absolute perfection or zero defects is technically impossible in sizable

or complex manufacturing projects. However, the concept focuses on waste elimination and defect reduction to ensure the highest quality standards.

Applying the formula of understanding through contradiction and comparison, the Quran highlights the need to compare the systems created by humans and those existing in the rest of the universe. This comparative study reveals a fundamental difference between the two worlds. Despite human efforts, a zero-defect management system cannot be established in the world of humans, leading some to believe it to be unattainable. On the other hand, in the material world created by God, the concept has been consistently established with great accuracy throughout history.

Applying this formula shows that God, the Lord of the Universe, is the superior entity governing this universe. The difference between the world of humans and physical science is undeniable evidence of God's existence. The Quran describes this truth in verses such as the following:

“He created seven heavens, one above the other in layers. You will not find any flaw in the creation of the Gracious One. Then look once again: can you see any flaw? Then look again and again. Your gaze will come back to you confused and exhausted.” (67:3-4)

“Have they not observed the sky above them and marked how We have built it and adorned it, leaving no flaws in it” (50:6)

The discovery of the infallible system of the universe confirms the existence of God, the Lord of the Worlds. The

comparison of the functioning of artificial systems (where zero-defect management, despite all efforts, is impossible) with the system of Nature established by the Creator (which is entirely zero-defect) leads to the realization that there is indeed a Creator of the universe and that this Creator is a Supreme Being who is the Lord, Master and Sustainer of the universe. The difference between the human world and the world of Nature is clear and definite evidence of God's existence.

The discovery, through modern science, of the flawless system of the universe resonates with what the following lines of the Quran reveal about God:

“God: there is no deity save Him, the Living, the Eternal One. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him.” (2:255)



CHAPTER TWO

UNIVERSAL EVIDENCE OF  
GOD AND THE HEREAFTER

## THE UNIVERSE IS INEXPLICABLE WITHOUT GOD

Albert Einstein is considered the most outstanding scientist of the 20th century. He was born in 1879 in Germany and died in 1955 in America. In 1921, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. Einstein engaged in a deep study of the physical world. In his research, he found that the universe is exceedingly meaningful. In its every aspect, great wisdom is hidden. However, where did this meaningfulness and wisdom come into the universe? Einstein discovered immense wisdom and meaningfulness in the universe, but he could not find the Mind behind this wisdom and meaningfulness. Einstein is said to have remarked:

“The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious.”

Another of Einstein’s quotes is as follows:

“The *most incomprehensible* thing about the world is that it is *comprehensible*.”

This statement could be better phrased as follows:

“Without God, the world is incomprehensible. With God, it becomes comprehensible.”

Why did this great scientist face this predicament? It was because although he discovered meaningfulness in the system of the universe, he could not discover the Creator of this meaningful system. The fact is that without the concept of God, the universe becomes utterly meaningless. Only

belief in God makes the meaningfulness of the universe comprehensible for man.

## AN INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGE

On March 30, 2008, I met with two British gentlemen. One was the famous journalist Mark Tully, and the other was a Christian scholar, Dr Richard Cheetham, Bishop of Kingston. They wanted to know about Islam, so we had a detailed conversation about different Islam-related subjects. Mr. Tully said that belief in One God is fundamental in the Islamic belief system. He asked if this was just a religious belief or if there was also some scientific proof for God's existence.

I said that in Islam, no article of faith is a mere dogmatic belief.

The belief system of Islam is based on the fixed and unchanging principles of Nature. This is what is called the 'scientific basis' today. A century ago, Newtonian mechanics prevailed in science, according to which the final unit of matter was the atom. At that time, the atom was considered indivisible and incapable of division. It was also believed that everything that exists is observable. That is why only arguments based on direct evidence or observation were considered valid in science. However, the atom was split due to new research in nuclear science. Now, wave mechanics and quantum physics have replaced



classical physics. This impacted the principles of argument in science. This discovery strengthened the significance of the inferential argument. Scientists now accept that an inferential argument is as valid as a direct argument based on direct observation.

We can say that the history of scientific knowledge can be divided into two different phases—the classical science phase and the quantum physics phase. In the classical science phase, scientific knowledge was confined to that portion of the material world that was observable and measurable. And so, it was held that only those things had an actual existence that were physically observable by man, while anything that could not be so observed (like God, the soul, the Hereafter, etc.) had no actual existence. For proponents of this way of thinking, the only valid argument was the direct argument, which was demonstrable in material terms.

However, the situation changed after the atom split in the quantum physics phase. After the splitting of the atom, matter as a solid substance disappeared. The micro sub-atomic world replaced it beyond the atomic world, where everything was reduced to unseen waves (of electrons). These waves were themselves neither measurable nor observable. Only their effect (in the form of heat) could be observed and measured. This change in knowledge compelled scientists and thinkers to revise their logical criteria. It has now become accepted that an inferential argument is as valid as a direct one.

Present-day science includes many things in its ambit (such as electrons, the law of gravity, X-rays, etc.) that are non-

material in nature. They cannot be observed by the human eye directly, but every scientist believes in their existence for the simple reason that although we cannot see these things directly, we can see their effects—for example, the heat of an electron, a falling apple, in the case of gravity, and a photo film, in the case of X-rays. We believe in the existence of all these things, not by direct observation but by their effects, or, in other words, by indirect knowledge or the inferential argument.

This change in human knowledge also changed the acceptance of the method of argument. It is now well established in science that the inferential argument is as valid as the direct argument. In the classical physics stage, people held that the concept of God pertained to the unseen world and that since no direct argument was available to prove it, belief in God was illogical. Since they were inferential, they considered all the relevant indirect arguments as scientifically invalid. But now the whole situation has changed. As nothing is observable, the existence of anything can be established only using the inferential argument, not the direct argument. If the inferential argument is valid concerning the unseen micro-world, it is also valid about the existence of God and other religious truths.

Following this change in the basis of scientific argument, proving the existence of God became as possible as proving the existence of the subatomic particle known as the electron. As is known, the presence of the electron is proved through the inferential argument or evidence. We cannot see the electron, but we can infer its existence by

observing its effect in the form of heat. This same inferential argument was now available to prove the existence of God intellectually. We cannot see the Creator directly, but we can infer His existence—from the creation—in the form of the universe, which is observable all around us. The immense meaning, design, and fine-tuning in the universe is proof of the existence of a Designer of the universe or God. Bertrand Russell (d. 1970) described the argument from design as scientific. Russell admitted that the argument centred on design propounded by theologians seeking to offer evidence for the existence of God is scientifically valid. The fact is that when there is design, there must also be a designer. We see that our world is well-designed. This should lead us to believe that there is a Designer of it—God Almighty.

Then, Dr Richard Cheetham remarked that it was true that present-day physicists acknowledged that the immense meaningfulness of the universe testifies to the fact that the universe is the creation of some mind but remarked that biologists do not corroborate this.

I responded that his statement was true, but the biologists' stance was not based on scientific reality. The opinion of biologists was based entirely on a mere theory. Charles Darwin (d. 1802) presented just a hypothesis in this regard in the form of the Theory of Evolution, and then everyone accepted it as true.

Darwin studied different forms of life and found considerable similarity in body structure between certain species. Thus, for example, there are certain similarities

in the body structure of cats and tigers, goats and giraffes, and humans and monkeys. Based on these similarities, Darwin hypothesized that, according to natural selection, an evolutionary process had occurred through which one species was automatically transformed into another.

However, Darwin's explanation of the similarities among different species was questionable. The fact is that these similarities indicate variety rather than affirming some hypothetical evolutionary process. Various life forms are visible to us, so the concept of variety is established independently. However, in contrast, we do not see one species turning into another, nor any intermediate species present in fossilized or any other forms. Thus, the Darwinian concept of the evolution of species is mere speculation; there is no solid proof supporting it. When I explained this to him, he agreed with me.

I concluded that now it is well-established in science that the inferential argument is as valid as the direct argument. As nothing is now observable in the scientific sense, the existence of anything can be established only using the inferential argument, not the direct argument. And if the inferential argument is valid about the unseen micro-world, it is also valid concerning the existence of God and other religious truths.

## GOD'S EXISTENCE

How can one discover God? I answered this question in an English talk at the India International Center, New Delhi, on 9 May 2009, on the topic: "How to discover God?"

In the talk, I said that discovering God is not an academic issue. Instead, it is about a personal quest every human should embark on.

Everyone has a natural desire or urge to know that Being who has bestowed them with existence. I, too, like other people, was confronted with this issue. I was born in a family where the environment was religious. Because of this influence, I began to believe in God traditionally. Later, when my awareness matured, I wanted to reason out that belief. To reinvestigate this issue, I studied the relevant subjects.

As is known, the subject of God is related to three fields of knowledge: philosophy, science, and religion. Here, I will describe some of my experiences with philosophy and science.

During my studies, I came across the famous French philosopher Descartes (d. 1650). He famously said, "I think. Therefore, I am."

This formula applies to man's existence, but it applies in just the same manner to the existence of God. Expanding on the above statement by Descartes, one can say:

"The existence of man makes the existence of God understandable."

This was my first philosophical argument about God's existence. I framed this in these words: "I am; therefore, God is."

### **Scientific Validity of the Inferential Argument**

After this, I sought to study this issue using scientific methods. As long as studies in science were limited to the macro world, only something that could be directly observed was regarded as valid. However, when the journey of the study of science moved on and arrived at the micro world, a significant change occurred. If earlier, the observational or direct argument was regarded as valid, with the splitting of the atom, the inferential argument came to be considered equally valid. The principle of arguments from the seen (direct argument) to the unseen (inferential argument) was now accepted as a proper scientific argument and method.

This issue can be easily explained through simple examples. For example, if you want to count apples, you can say: "Two apples plus two apples make four apples." This is an example of an observational or direct argument.

An example of the inferential or indirect argument is that Isaac Newton saw an apple falling from a tree and landing on the ground. This was an observation. After this, he arrived at an inference—that there is a force of gravity on Earth that pulled the apple down. From the apple's falling, Newton inferred the existence of a force that he could not directly see but whose presence he could infer which had caused the apple to fall—the gravitational force. Finally, he surveyed other relevant data, and it was verified that the

inference that he had made was valid: the force of gravity did exist.

In quite the same manner, we cannot see God. However, we can infer that God exists from the immense order, design, and precision in everything the universe contains.

To understand the scientific methodology, I read many books. One such book was by the famous British philosopher Bertrand Russell, titled *Human Knowledge*. In this book, Russell says there are two types of knowledge—knowledge of things and truths.

The observational method of argument helps discover things that can be observed through one or more of our five senses, but the issue of God's existence is related to the subject of truth. That is why, in this matter, the argument applicable here is the inferential argument, which is as scientifically as valid as the direct argument.

It was in 1965 that I met with a professor of philosophy. I discussed the existence of God with him. During our conversation, he asked: "What criterion do you have to prove the existence of God?" I replied, "The same criterion you have to prove anything else."

After this, I explained to him the methods of argument mentioned above. I said that the issue of God's existence is related to the subject of truth. Therefore, using the inferential argument, one can use the same criterion to prove God's existence and the veracity of any truth. He accepted my argument and became silent.

**Where there is Design, there is a Designer.**

Serious scholars have accepted the argument from design to prove God's existence. For instance, Bertrand Russell acknowledged that theology generally uses the argument method called 'argument from design' to prove God's existence. According to Russell, this method is based completely on scientific logic. That is why this argument is as valid as any other scientific argument. The gist of this argument is: "Where there is design, there is a designer." Applying this argument to the universe, one can say, "There is an amazing design in every bit of the universe, and so there is a Designer of the universe." Intelligent design in the universe clearly points to an Intelligent Designer, another name for God.

The scientific study of objects began in 1609 when the Italian scientist Galileo Galilei (d. 1642) observed the stars through an initial telescope. After that, there were further advancements in telescopic observations, leading to the establishment of the Palomar Observatory in California in 1949, which allowed for larger-scale astronomical observations. Later, electronic telescopes were developed, and the United States installed the Hubble Observatory in 1990.

Through such studies, it was discovered that approximately 13.8 billion years ago, the event of the Big Bang occurred in the universe, after which the current world of stars and planets came into existence. Then, about a billion years ago, a Little Bang occurred, forming the present solar system. Following that, a Water Bang occurred on planet



Earth, filling the earth with water. Subsequently, life and everything related to life emerged.

Who but the Divine Designer could have devised such an amazing and orderly design that the universe displays? Referring to the signs in the universe, Ludwig Eduard Boltzmann (1844-1906), an Austrian physicist and philosopher, remarked:

“Was it a God who wrote these signs, revealing the hidden and mysterious forces of nature around me, which fill my heart with quiet joy?”

The answer to Boltzmann’s query is most definitely in the affirmative.

In 1989, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States sent a particular satellite called the Cosmic Background Explorer into space to further study the ‘Bing Bang’ event. This satellite has sent images of upper space, revealing the presence of ripples on the surface of the outer regions of the universe. This finding is not limited to the ripples discovered by the ‘Bing Bang’ but extends to the countless phenomena spread throughout the cosmos. When serious humans study the universe, they may ponder, like Boltzmann, asking, “Was it a God who wrote these signs?”

When the scientific study of the universe is conducted, it becomes evident that the entire cosmos is flawless. In the vast expanse of space, countless stars and planets are constantly in motion, yet unlike our cities, accidents do not occur in them. It seems as if, in the immense space, there is an accident-free traffic system operating on a grand scale.

On our earth, nature presents numerous events at every moment. It appears to be a tremendous industrial system but operates as a zero-defect industry. It is an unparalleled cosmic control and an appeal for harmony that undoubtedly lies behind it. This clearly suggests that a great God—the Creator and Sustainer of the universe—is orchestrating these events.

Evidence for the existence of the Creator is abundant in the creation. Therefore, using the inferential method of argument, we can state that this evidence in the creation points to the presence of the Creator.

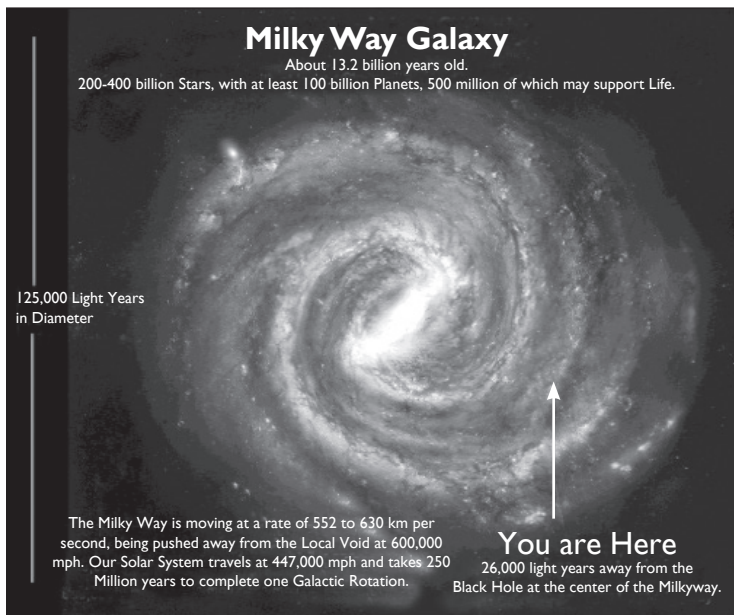
### **Intelligent Planning is Evidence of an Intelligent Planner**

From the data that modern science has provided us about the features of the creation of the universe, we can easily infer the existence of an All-Powerful Creator of the universe, as the examples below show:

1. Intelligent planning is very clearly evident in the universe. This planning is visible everywhere, from the tiniest particles to the sun and the moon. This is undoubtedly evidence that a Supreme Mind is at work behind this universe. The conviction of an unseen Creator being behind the visible creation is as scientific as accepting the existence of unobservable X-rays on seeing an X-ray image.
2. Observation of things in the universe reveals that there are exceptions and uniformity. An exception is something that does not follow a general rule. Consider a simple

example: Generally speaking, every person has five fingers on each hand, which is an almost uniform pattern. However, each person's fingerprints are different and unique. This exception to a uniform pattern could not have been possible without the purposeful intervention of a superior Being, whom we call God.

3. Earth is in the solar system, which, in turn, is located in the Milky Way galaxy. There may be 100 billion galaxies in the universe. There is a fascinating aspect of the Milky Way that points to the Supreme Mind that is behind the universe. The middle region of the Milky Way is exceedingly hot. If our solar system had been located there, no life, including human life, could have been possible on Earth. However, our solar system is strangely located at a distant corner of the Milky Way. Because of this, it is safe from the dangerous environment of the middle region of the Milky Way, which makes life possible on Earth. This is clear evidence of planned intervention, and this planned intervention is clear evidence of a powerful Mind behind it, another name for God.
4. There are several planets in the solar system, one of which is our Earth. Earth, while revolving in its orbit around the Sun, is also rotating around its axis. Nevertheless, the dual pathways of the planet Earth—one around its axis and the other around the Sun—are firmly fixed, and deviation has never been noted in this regard. This phenomenon is inexplicable without accepting the existence of a Supreme Being who has established it this way and has maintained it for billions of years.



5. It is said that the Milky Way galaxy alone might contain at least 100 billion stars and perhaps a somewhat similar number of planets. Considering that there may be well over 100 billion galaxies in the universe, you can understand that the number of astronomical bodies in the universe must be mind-boggling! Be that as it may, as far as we know, among all the innumerable astronomical bodies in the universe, the Earth is the only one with a life-support system suitable for a creature like a man.

A life-support system can be described as a natural system that provides all of the elements essential for maintaining life, including oxygen, water, food, control

of temperature, etc. Because of this natural system on Earth, it is a livable place for a creature like man. So far, no other habitable place of this sort has been found in the entire universe.

Here, on Earth, all that is needed to support life has been made available without effort from human beings. Without this life-support system, the existence of man, or any other species, would have been entirely impossible. This unique life-support system is such solid evidence of the presence of God that no truly sensible person can sincerely deny it.

These are only a few innumerable examples that point to the existence of a Creator and Sustainer of the universe—or, in other words, God.

### **Scientific Evidence of the One God**

Albert Einstein (d. 1955) is considered the most extraordinary scientific mind of the 20th century. Einstein studied the universe in great detail and found a profound sense of spirituality in every part of it. Upon realizing this, he said, “The most incomprehensible fact about nature is that it is comprehensible.”

In this statement, Einstein indirectly acknowledges the existence of God. If we were to rephrase his statement, it would be as follows: “Without God, the natural world remains completely incomprehensible, but with God, the natural world becomes fully understandable.”

This universe is undoubtedly a significant realm. Scientists are people who study aspects of the universe in great

depth. Compared to other people, they are often more familiar with and aware of the meaningfulness of the universe. Thus, generally, scientists have acknowledged the meaningfulness of the universe. Because of their particular mindset, many scientists avoid using the word ‘God’, but without taking God’s name, they are compelled to admit to the reality that the word ‘God’ points to. For example, British mathematician, physicist, and astronomer Arthur Eddington (d. 1944) acknowledged this reality by saying, “The stuff of the world is mind-stuff.” Likewise, British scientist Sir James Jeans (d. 1946) wrote a book titled *The Mysterious Universe*, where he remarked that the universe bears witness to a mathematical mind. British astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle believed that the universe is intelligent, even authoring a book titled *The Intelligent Universe*.

The existence of God is undoubtedly a proven reality in just the same way as any other proven reality. The existence of God is not a matter of some mysterious belief. Instead, it is an intellectually-accepted fact, just like any other fact. Now, the question is: Is God one, or are there many gods responsible for the creation and administration of the universe? In other words, which concept of God is valid: One based on polytheism, one based on monotheism, or what is called *tawheed* in Islam? On this point, evidence entirely supports *tawheed*, or monotheism.

At one time, superstitions were rife in the world, and many people believed that many gods controlled the universe—for example, a sun god, a moon god, a rain god, etc. However, today, this view does not have much support.

The British mathematician and scientist Isaac Newton (d. 1727) is considered one of the pioneers of modern science. He is said to have discovered the Law of Gravity when he saw an apple falling from an apple tree. Why did the apple not go up? Why did it come down? These questions led to the discovery that there is a specific force, the force of gravity, at work on Earth. The theory is regarded even today as an accepted principle in science.

Newton stated that four forces controlled the system of the universe. These four forces are:

1. Gravitational Force
2. Electromagnetic Force
3. Strong Nuclear Force
4. Weak Nuclear Force

At one time, scientists believed that through the interactions of these four forces, all the phenomena of the universe came into being. However, in line with its nature, science is always in quest of oneness. The scientific observation of the universe reveals that one law is at work in the whole system of Nature. Thus, physics is continuously in search of a unified theory. The ‘conscience’ of science is constantly engaged in trying to reduce the number of forces of nature and discover some such principle of nature that can explain all phenomena.

Abdus Salam (b. 1926), Sheldon Glashow (b. 1932), and Steven Weinberg (b. 1933) were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for research on this. They unified the strong and weak nuclear forces in a single mathematical scheme.

This theory was named as G-S-W Theory. Through this, they proved that both these forces are one. In this way, they lessened the number of forces that were said to be behind the functioning of the universe from four to three.

However, even with these three forces, the scientific mind was unsatisfied. It wanted to reduce this figure further and bring it to one. This task was performed by the British scientist Stephen Hawking (d. 2018), who was considered an influential name in theoretical physics. He proved through complex mathematical calculations that only one force controls the universe. This theory has now been accepted as a fact among the educated classes. Generally, it is referred to as 'single string theory'. The single-string theory provides a scientific basis supporting the belief in the One God. Furthermore, it provides a religious belief with the status of an intellectually-accepted truth. On a purely scientific basis, it can now be said that there is a God in this universe, that this God is one and only one, and that the concept of God is purely scientific.

There can be no more convincing explanation than the single All-Powerful Creator.

### **Evidence of the Monotheistic Concept of God**

At the end of my lecture, I observed that the audience agreed with the scientific evidence presented for the existence of God. However, a highly educated senior Hindu lady spoke to me after the speech, saying, "I agree with your statement, Maulana Sahib. But I believe there is no need for a scientific



argument to prove God's existence because, in my opinion, God is present inside us. Please explain this matter.”

Contemplating the question, I realized that what this lady said was no simple matter. The fact is that there are two distinct concepts of God. One is Tawheed or monotheism—the belief in the One God as a personal God. The other is monism, which is based on the concept of an impersonal God. Monism is the same thing referred to as the ‘indwelling God.’

According to monism, God is a power, just as the force of gravity is a power, and this power is present in everything. Although some Muslim Sufis also adopted the theory of monism, it is incorrect. The fact is that monism is a philosophical concept that has been incorporated into religion.

The concept of monism is found in some religious traditions. According to monism, God has no form of His own. He is a formless God. According to this notion, God has no separate existence of His own. Whatever exists in the universe is all a manifestation with a form of this formless God. This concept is a philosophical one. Many philosophers accept God in this sense. They refer to God through words such as ‘spirit’ or ‘idea.’ This same philosophical concept has come to be incorporated as a religious belief in some religious traditions.

However, this concept of a formless God with no separate being or existence is merely a baseless speculation. It has no evidential basis. The universe that we experience in the form of creation is entirely with form. It is illogical

to claim that a God who was a mere ‘spirit’ or ‘idea’ and had no separate identity brought innumerable forms into existence, all being His own.

A modern scientific study of the universe strongly suggests the presence of a Superior Mind in the creation and administration of the universe, a Creator who is separate from the creation. This simultaneously negates the monistic concept of God as it testifies to the monotheistic understanding of God.

The monotheistic concept of God is rational. It is based on dualism, that the creation, including man and God, have a separate existence. Both have separate identities. God is the Creator, and all His creations, including man, are the created. This is the theological concept termed dualism, which states that God and His creation are separate entities. According to the monotheistic concept of God, two distinct entities emerge: the Creator and the creation. God is the Creator, and all the things in the universe are His creation, including human beings. There is no third position. On the one hand, there is God, and on the other hand, there is God’s creation. Thus, we have the Unity of God—monotheism.

Monotheism is the belief that all power lies in the hand of one God alone. It is God alone who is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. It is God alone who is behind the functioning of the entire universe.

## SCIENCE CONFIRMS RELIGIOUS TRUTHS

If you cut a tree and then plant it in the soil, on the first day, it will appear to be green and verdant, but the very next day, its leaves will likely begin to wither, so much so that it will soon dry up and die. The same has been the case with atheism in the present era. Initially, it appeared as if the Age of Religion had ended and human history had entered an age of irreligiousness that might last forever. However, soon, things began to change, and religion returned to human life with new strength and vigour.

Until the end of the 19th century, what was called ‘scientific atheism’ dominated the intellectual world. However, new scientific findings in the 20th century weakened ‘scientific atheism’ and rendered it weightless. For example, in the early 20th century, the English physicist, astronomer, and mathematician Sir James Jeans declared that the universe that modern science had discovered was refusing to accept a mechanical interpretation. Moreover, in the 21st century, many scientists interpret the universe so that without acknowledging God, one cannot adequately explain the universe.

In 1988, the British theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking authored a book titled *A Brief History of Time*. In the book, he stated that, according to the Big Bang theory, the universe has continued to expand since its beginning. Hawking noted that this process is very well-calculated. The initial

rate of expansion of the universe had been established with exceeding accuracy and precision because this rate of expansion was very close to the critical rate needed to prevent the universe from collapsing. This means that if the model of the Big Bang is correct and it is from this that time has begun, the universe's initial conditions must have been selected with exceeding care. Had this not been the case, the universe would have ended by now.

This phenomenon cannot be explained without accepting that the universe's expansion rate had been selected with exceeding care beforehand. Relating such details, Hawking, who is said to have been an atheist, writes:

“It would be very difficult to explain why the universe should have begun just this way, except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us.”

The amazing quality of the universe is that it does not accept any interpretation other than a Divine one. The universe is a known phenomenon. It is not possible to deny its existence. This is why some of the best minds have sought its explanation and interpretation at every age. Some have claimed that the universe has always existed and is eternal. Some opined that it came about independently and is running by itself. Others have argued that a chain of cause and effect has given everything in the universe existence. However, others have tried to prove the principle of evolution to be the creator of the universe. And so on. However, reality negates, rebuts, and rejects all these explanations. The more knowledge man obtains about the system of the universe, the more hollow the claim appears to be that the cause of

the universe is anything other than the One God. The very existence of the universe testifies that its cause is God. To consider anyone or anything other than God as the Creator of the universe is only a hollow speculation, in support of which there is no real, objective evidence whatsoever. All claims or theories that posit any factor other than God as the cause of the universe have been proven to be baseless in the light of modern scientific knowledge.

## FROM SCIENCE TO THE REALIZATION OF GOD

The purpose of the creation of man is described in the Quran in these words: “I created the jinn and mankind only so that they might worship Me” (51:56). Here the term, “worship” has been interpreted by Abdullah ibn Abbas, a Companion of the Prophet (Al-Dinawri, *al-Mujalasa wa Jawahir al-`Ilm*: 225), and his student Mujahid, as obtaining *maarifah* or realization of God. (Abu Hayyan, *Tafsir al-Bahr al-Muhit*, Vol. 9, p. 562) In his commentary on the Quran, Ibn Kathir narrated the same thing with reference to Ibn Jurayj. (Vol 7, p. 425)

The realization of God is connected with man’s very being. Man has been fashioned as a creature who possesses free will. One definition of man is a creature with the capacity for conceptual thinking. Conceptual thinking is an ability that no other creature possesses. For man, the realization of God is based on this unique ability. In this sense, for man,

the criterion for the realization of God is the self-discovered realization of God. It is this self-discovered realization of God that is man's actual test. Man must develop his thinking power until he becomes capable of discovering his Creator at the level of self-discovery.

### **Two Levels of Realization of God**

There are two levels of the discovery of God. The first level is discovering the Creator at the level of commonsense. The second level is discovering the Creator at the level of science. For the last thousands of years, man has desired to use his commonsense in an unadulterated manner and obtain the conscious realization of his Creator at the commonsense level. There was only one condition for this discovery—and that was honesty. If a man lives honestly, commonsense will be sufficient for him to discover God.

The second level of realization of God is with the help of science—recognizing the signs of the Creator hidden in Nature and then, through their help, arriving at the rational realization of the Creator. For the scientific realization of the Creator, man needed to have sufficient supporting scientific data about the creation to reflect and ponder on. The scientific realization of God is not possible through mere abstract intellectual thinking. It is possible only when the supporting scientific data is available. The means to acquire this scientific data is knowledge of the laws of Nature. In ancient times, man did not have an adequate understanding of the laws of Nature. That is why the scientific realization of the Creator was not possible for man at that time.

However, in today's age, we have this knowledge, which is why it has become possible for man to arrive at a scientific realization of God.

The Creator who brought man into being also manages human history—that is; while keeping human freedom intact, He guides man to the desired state in line with His Creation Plan. The Creator does this work of His without abrogating human freedom. This is an exceedingly complex work, and the Creator of the universe alone can do this with His great Power and Knowledge. Our job is to understand this Divine plan and not try to change it, which is impossible for us to do.

God repeatedly stated in the Quran that the universe had been subjugated to man. Therefore, it was the responsibility of the believers to discover this fact and attain the level of realization of God through scientific discoveries. This was only possible after the scientific age. However, the believers failed to perform this task. After this, God raised another community for this task (Quran 47:38)—the Christian peoples of Europe. The Europeans were so badly defeated in the Crusades that war no longer seemed an option. After this, they had no choice but to re-plan their affairs and engage in efforts in some other field instead. Thus, instead of the battlefield, they gradually began to shift the direction of their efforts to the discovery of the laws of Nature. In a sense, they turned their efforts from the Violent Crusades to the Intellectual Crusades.

The Italian scientist Galileo Galilei (d. 1642) is called the Father of Modern Science. The reason for this is that he was

the first scientist through whom the journey of modern science began systematically. This process continued for almost four hundred years until it reached its culmination. By the 20th century, all the scientific data necessary to discover the Creator at a scientific or rational level had been obtained by human beings. This process continued for some four centuries until its culmination in the 20th century. Now, man has obtained all the scientific data necessary for the Creator's discovery at the scientific or rational level.

Every particle of the universe that God has created bears the stamp, as it were, of the Creator. Then, he introduced this knowledge to the Angels. After this, He placed this knowledge in the universe in a hidden form so that man could discover it independently through conceptual thinking. It is this hidden knowledge that, after its discovery, is known by the name of 'modern science.'

### **The Evidence of Science**

What is science? Science means the study of the universe objectively and organized in the light of proven or established principles. Essentially, science is the systematic knowledge of Nature.

Man has always reflected and pondered on the reality of the universe—first of all, in the light of traditional beliefs, after that, in the light of philosophical thinking, and then, in the light of accepted principles of science.

The physical sciences have had three major paradigm shifts in the last four centuries. First, there was the Newtonian hypothesis that matter is the basic building block of the



universe. Then, in the early 20th century, this gave way to the Einsteinian energy paradigm, with energy being the basic building block of the universe. The latest paradigm is accepted in the present era when more and more scientists accept consciousness as the basic building block of the universe. These shifts have had inevitable consequences for contemporary philosophy, helping crass materialism to give way, in many circles, to spirituality, another name for which is the authentic version of Divine religion.

What can be called the 'Modern Scientific Age' began four centuries or so ago in Western Europe. Gradually, an impression generally prevailed that science was the highest means for knowing reality. It came to be believed that something that was proven through science alone was real, while something that could not be established through science was unreal. Initially, science was considered synonymous with just knowledge of material phenomena that were directly observable. Because religious realities did not appear to be proven through methods used for studying material phenomena, they were deemed to be 'unscientific.'

However, the river of knowledge continued to flow ahead until the time came when science recognized the reality of phenomena that cannot be seen or otherwise directly observed—such as the subatomic particle known as the electron, which is always in motion—but whose existence can be inferred only through its effect, that is the heat it generates while in motion. Using the inferential argument, an unobservable particle becomes discoverable indirectly. Science admitted the validity of the inferential method.

Moreover, through this same method, the existence of the Creator can be inferred from a study of the creation.

The Creator undoubtedly has His separate existence. However, concerning man, He is indirectly discoverable through reflection and contemplation on His creation. That is to say that we cannot see God directly, but we can infer that God exists by studying its effect—His creation or the universe that is all around us. In this way, we can use the same criterion to prove God’s existence and the veracity of any truth using the inferential argument used to prove anything else scientifically.

### **Science and the Concept of God**

The intellectual history of recent decades shows that scientists are now increasingly accepting that the universe is the handiwork of a Supreme Mind. As Arthur Eddington remarked, “The stuff of the world is mind stuff.”

In 1927, the Belgian scientist Georges Lemaitre (d. 1966) presented the Big Bang theory and the expanding universe concept. Further research was done on this subject until its status became an accepted fact. Finally, in 1965, background radiation was discovered. From it, it came to be known that there are ripple remnants of the Big Bang in outer space. Referring to them, American scientist Joel Primack (b. 1945) remarked that they “are no less than the handwriting of God.”

George Smoot (b. 1945) is an American astrophysicist and cosmologist who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2006 for his work on the Cosmic Background Explorer.

In 1992, when Smoot announced the discovery of ripples in the heat radiation still arriving from the ‘Big Bang,’ he said it was “like seeing the face of God.” (*God For the 21st Century*, Templeton Press, May 2000, p. 153) As these observations were ‘evidence for the birth of the universe’, Smoot remarked that it was “like seeing the face of God.”

### **Fine-Tuning in the Universe**

The scientific study tells us that the different components of the universe are exceedingly closely interrelated and are characterized by a great degree of fine-tuning. Therefore, there must be some explanation for these mind-boggling phenomena. The following excerpts are taken from a review of the book by physicist Alan Lightman for The Washington Post on April 11, 2014, on this topic.

#### **Fine-Tuning in the Universe**

“There is plenty of good scientific evidence that our universe began about 14 billion years ago, in a Big Bang of enormously high density and temperature, long before planets, stars and even atoms existed. But what came before [The physicist Lawrence] Krauss, in his book, discusses the current thinking of physicists that our entire universe could have emerged from a jitter in the amorphous haze of the subatomic world called the quantum foam, in which energy and matter can materialize out of nothing. Krauss’s punch line is that we do not need God to create the universe. The quantum foam can do it quite nicely all on its own. Aczel asks the obvious question: But where did the quantum foam come from? Where did the quantum

laws come from? Hasn't Krauss passed the buck? Legitimate questions. But ones we will probably never be able to answer." ...[The fine-tuning problem] For the past 50 years or so, physicists have become more and more increasingly aware that various fundamental parameters of our universe appear to be fine-tuned to allow the emergence of life—not only as we know it but the life of any kind. For example, if the nuclear force were slightly stronger than it is, then all of the hydrogen atoms in the infant universe would have fused with other hydrogen atoms to make helium, and there would be no hydrogen left. No hydrogen means no water.

On the other hand, if the nuclear force were substantially weaker than it is, then the complex atoms needed for biology could not hold together. In another, even more striking example, if the “cosmic dark energy” discovered by scientists 15 years ago were a little denser than it actually is, our universe would have expanded so rapidly that matter could never have pulled itself together to form stars. If the dark energy were a little smaller, the universe would have collapsed long before stars had time to form. Atoms are made of stars. Without stars, there would be no atoms and no life. So, the question is: Why? Why do these parameters lie in the narrow range that allows life? (Book: *Why Science Does Not Disprove God* by mathematician Amir D. Aczel, who is currently a researcher in the history of science at Boston University.)

In recent decades, scientists have revealed plenty of good evidence clearly showing that the universe is not eternal

but was created—perhaps some 14 billion years ago, through the ‘Big Bang.’ For several decades now, physicists have become increasingly aware that various fundamental parameters of this created universe appear to be very precisely finely tuned to allow the emergence of life, as exemplified in the excerpt above.

The parameters being so finely tuned for life on Earth indicate the existence of a Fine-Tuner who finely tuned them in such a way as to enable the universe to host life. Another name for this Fine-Tuner is God.

If the theory of Quantum Physics is applied to this issue, it can be said, “Probably there is a God.”

This is a purely scientific position. However, at the level of human intuition, God’s existence is as proven as man’s.

The meaningfulness that pervades the universe, the planning, the flawless design—all of these indicate the existence of a Supreme Mind. In the universe, mathematical precision is found to such a high degree that it can be said to demonstrate the existence of a mathematical Mind.

The presence of intelligent design in the universe created by God and its perfectness were already mentioned in the Quran centuries before modern scientific discoveries that testify to them. However, through current scientific study, we learned many details about them, which are, as it were, a commentary on the brief statements of the Quran on this matter. Now that the river of knowledge has arrived here, the only thing that remains is to give the discovered ‘Intelligence’ or ‘Mind’ behind the universe the name of ‘God,’ as per religious terminology.

## SCIENTIFIC REASONING AND EVIDENCE FOR GOD'S EXISTENCE

In the 19th century, when the method of scientific observation came to be widely established, a new perspective emerged among scientists. According to it, only that thing is real, which is directly observable or verifiable by known scientific methods. Different schools of thought appeared in line with this thinking—for example, the Positivism of the French philosopher Auguste Comte (d. 1857) and the Logical Positivism of the German philosopher Rudolf Carnap (d. 1970).

For around a century, these thinkers and philosophers tried to convince the minds of the whole world that something that could not be observed or verified directly by any of our five senses was unreal, including God. According to their theories, the concept of God had been proven to be baseless because it could not be 'scientifically' verified using the direct argument. However, discussions were still going on in intellectual circles when science proved this claim of the validity of only the direct argument to be unfounded. This change in the attitude toward science occurred in the wake of the discovery of the reality of what is called Quantum Mechanics. One result of this scientific theory was that sub-atomic particles began to be considered waves. This scientific discovery negated the ancient Newtonian mechanics at the intellectual level of the macro-world in which only directly observable objects were real, showing it worthy of rejection. The river of knowledge now, passing

through the macro-world, entered the micro-world—in which, besides things that can be seen, things that cannot be seen were considered real and became the subject of scientific study.

This far-reaching intellectual revolution occurred in the first half of the 20th century. The theoretical transformations brought about a change in the principles of scientific reasoning. Before this intellectual revolution, it was believed that the only valid argument was based on direct observation and experimentation. However, now, the inferential argument has come to be regarded as an equally valid argument. When subatomic particles, despite being unobservable, came to be accepted as a scientific fact based on an inferential argument, it necessarily also meant that the inferential argument for the existence of God was a valid scientific argument.

## EVIDENCE OF GOD AND THE HEREAFTER

Our world is so meaningful that, in itself, it is evident that its Creator has a deep awareness of meaningfulness. Such a Creator cannot create a defective universe in terms of its conclusion. It is impossible that a meaningful Creator would create a meaningless universe.

However, despite all its meaningfulness, the universe, with respect to man, is defective in its present state. Therefore,

for its completion, it requires another world. It is this other world that the Prophets of God have referred to as the world of the Hereafter.

The well-known American Christian missionary Billy Graham (d. 2018) once received an urgent message from an American billionaire who requested him to meet him urgently. When he met him, the man said to him:

“You see, I am an old man. Life has lost all meaning. I am going to take a fateful leap into the unknown. Young man, can you give me a ray of hope?” (*The Secret of Happiness*, by Billy Graham, p.2)

This question is not just of one American billionaire alone. Instead, every person who takes birth is faced with this question. The rational answer to this question can be found only in the belief in the world after death or the Hereafter. This question will remain unanswered if one does not accept the world Hereafter.

All religions have a concept of the Hereafter, a life that follows the body's death. However, the world of the Hereafter is not an issue of religious belief alone. It is also an utterly intellectual phenomenon. Therefore, the existence of the world Hereafter can be proven based on the same academic criteria used to verify all other things in science.

### **Scientific Evidence for the Hereafter**

In this regard, one should first know what scientific proof is. According to contemporary science, scientific proof is not in which one arrives at absolute certainty in a particular matter. This sort of certainty is not possible about anything.



In modern science, the theories accepted as established are recognized not because they have been definitively proven through observation but because they have been proven at the level of probability. Accepting the structure of the atom as a reality is one such example.

To prove the existence of the world of the Hereafter, we can also employ the same accepted scientific method. In such matters, the scientific method has three components: hypothesis, observation and verification. Suppose this ‘three-point formula’ is used for the question of the Hereafter. In that case, we certainly arrive at the favourable probability or supportive possibility of the existence of the Hereafter—and it has been said that arriving at a possibility is another name for certainty.

By birth, every human being possesses two contradictory qualities. On the one hand, everyone has an intense desire to build a dream world of their own, a world that is per their ideal, where they can spend the ‘tomorrow’ period of their life in joy and comfort. However, on the other hand, everyone is sunk in the contradiction that despite obtaining many of the things they desire, they can still not build and live in their desired world. Hence, boredom, sickness, accidents, old age, and, generally in less than 100 years, death—this is man’s story in this world.

This is the case with every human being. Everyone is born with the concept of an ideal embedded in their mind. However, each one takes their beautiful longings with them and dies before they can find their desired world.

Here, an observation comes to the fore to help us understand this seeming conundrum. In the present world, the principle of pairs prevails. Here, everything is found in the form of a pair. Everything becomes complete when two of a pair unite: in atoms, a negative particle and a positive particle; in the world of stars, pair stars; in the world of plants, male and female; in the world of animals, masculine and feminine; and in the world of human beings, men and women.

This natural principle can be called the 'pair principle.' This principle informs us that everything completes itself by joining with its pair in this world. The answer to the above-mentioned apparent conundrum is found in this global principle. In line with the 'pair principle,' this present world must have a pair world, another world, which is its pair. Only by meeting this other world can the present world complete its existence.

In light of this observation, the point can be verified that the concept of the world of the Hereafter is true. The world of the Hereafter is the pair of the present world, joining with which the present world completes its existence. Without the Hereafter, our present world is incomplete, like all other things in the universe remain incomplete without their pair.

There is also a pair of worlds for man—the present world and the world of the Hereafter—which is extremely meaningful. After accepting the world of the Hereafter, human existence becomes a complete existence. Everything now obtains its meaningfulness. All things now fall into place. We can now understand that only in the Hereafter

can man find the satisfaction of all those fine longings and desires that cannot be fulfilled in this present world, provided he has lived appropriately while in this world.

Study reveals that nothing has been made futilely, without a purpose. Be it the sun or the moon, insects, trees, minerals, or various gases, all of these things have been created in line with some purpose, fulfilling it. However, there is only one thing in this world that, on its face, seems to be without meaning—the beautiful desires and longings embedded inside every human being by birth itself. No person is devoid of these desires and longings. Therefore, when everything else has been made with a definite purpose, man's finer desires and longings must have a real destination. Man's finer desires and yearnings cannot be purposeless in a universe where everything is purposeful.

Indeed, these finer desires and longings are a planned creation. There is a very definite and clear purpose for their existence. However, this purpose cannot be fulfilled in the present world. These desires and longings are limitless and can only be fulfilled in an unlimited world after death—the name for this eternal world is the Hereafter.

### **Proper Framework**

The concept of the Hereafter provides us with a framework in which life and everything in it can find its satisfactory explanation. Through this concept, the reality of Paradise and Hell becomes clear. Paradise is, as it were, the resting place for virtuous believers, while Hell is the place for punishment for those who revolt against God and ally with evil.

An understanding that emerges in line with this is that the present world has been made as a testing ground while the next world is where one will obtain one's final result. By birth, man has been created as an eternal creature. Everyone has been given a distinct personality that will always remain alive and have an eternal existence. That being said, man's life is like an iceberg. A tiny portion of the iceberg is visible above the sea's surface, while the rest, a much more significant portion, is invisible below the surface. In the same way, man's lifespan is divided into two parts: one, a tiny piece, has been placed in the present world, while a considerable portion—which will continue forever—has been kept in the world of the Hereafter.

Everything in the present world is a test paper for man. Everything in this world exists so that man can develop his personality. For example, the present world is filled with all kinds of unwanted situations. This is so that, passing through these experiences, man can give evidence that even in unfavourable conditions, he can live with positive feelings. Only people with such a positive personality will be admitted to the ideal world of Paradise. In contrast, those who fall prey to reaction and who, amid negative experiences, become negative will be deemed unqualified for Paradise. These people with a negative personality will be dumped in the dustbin of the universe, from where they will never be able to emerge.

### **A Satisfactory Explanation**

In light of this, it can be said that in accepting the world of the Hereafter, one obtains a satisfactory explanation of

human life. In contrast, in the event of not accepting the reality of the world of the Hereafter, everything remains inexplicable, and the present world appears to be woefully incomplete and utterly absurd.

In accepting the world of the Hereafter, the fact that many truthful and virtuous people depart from the world while having received no reward for their goodness here becomes understandable, for we now know that they shall receive justice in the Hereafter.

Without the concept of the Hereafter, we cannot understand why many people engage in evil but do not receive any punishment for their wickedness here. However, one gets a satisfactory answer on accepting the reality of the Hereafter, for one learns that the unjust will have to face punishment for all their actions.

Similarly, in the event of not accepting the reality of the Hereafter, one cannot understand how and why man takes birth here with a concept of an ideal world, but each person finally departs from this world without obtaining this perfect world. By accepting the reality of the Hereafter, this dilemma is fully resolved. Man can now live in this present world with the conviction that he might be able to obtain in the world after death the things that he desired but could not get in the world before death.

In this limitless world of the Hereafter, the virtuous people will be admitted into Paradise, which will be filled with every sort of joy and comfort. However, in contrast to them, those who proved evil in the present world will be in eternal deprivation in the world of the Hereafter.

## GOD, THE HEREAFTER, AND HUMAN NATURE

Questions related to God and the life Hereafter are ostensibly related to the Unseen world, but they are an essential and indispensable part of human nature. Man's innate nature knows the issues of God and the Hereafter.

The fact is that there are two levels of realization of God—the rational and the natural. God-realization at the rational level is only the initial stage of this realization, whereas certainty about God's existence and the Hereafter at the natural level is the highest level of God-realization. The purpose of using rational arguments concerning God and the Hereafter is only so that the veils of doubt can be lifted from man's mind, and he is taken to the position where he can accept the reality of God and the Hereafter at least as possible truths. The purpose of using arguments, evidence, and logic about God and the Hereafter is to bring man to that intellectual level where he can accept his existence.

Every person has eyes that can 'see' God and recognize the reality of the Hereafter, but a curtain of conditioning covers his eyes. Logical evidence breaks this conditioning or mental block and removes this artificial curtain placed over the eyes of man's nature. After this, he is able to accept God and the life Hereafter. He now develops complete certainty about the existence of the invisible God and the reality of the Hereafter, just as a child is sure of his mother's

existence, even though he has not seen himself coming out of her womb.

The issue of God and the life Hereafter remains a subject of logical debate until the artificial curtain that covers man's mind is not removed. When this curtain is lifted through reflection and thinking or rational arguments, man recognizes God and the Hereafter in line with his inner realization. God now becomes for him the most known of all that is known. The task of logical evidence is to take a person to the door of man's innate nature. As soon as this door is opened, man finds God in such a way as if he knew God already. The Hereafter becomes a reality for him.

If a blindfold is tied around a person's eyes, one might need to use logical arguments to prove the sun's existence to him. However, he does not need arguments to accept the sun when removing the blindfold. Then, he can see the sun directly, in a natural way. The same is true with awareness of God's existence and the Hereafter. The consciousness of God and the Hereafter is deeply embedded in human nature. The real need is only to lift the curtain of conditioning over man's innate nature. Through arguments or evidence, when this curtain is raised, man begins to 'see' God and the Hereafter with even more certainty than a man who sees the sun with his own eyes.

## DIVINE REVELATION AND INSPIRATION

The Quran says:

“Your Lord inspired the bee, saying, ‘Make your homes in the mountains, in the trees, and also in the structures which men erect.’” (16:68)

From this, one learns that some signs are similar to Divine revelation among animals. Therefore, studying these signs makes the issue of Divine revelation more comprehensible for us.

Revelation indicates the coming of guidance from an external source. A study of animals reveals that this source of knowledge is present among them. Certain features are found among animals that cannot be explained other than by accepting that they receive guidance from outside of themselves. Among these traits is the migration of particular creatures. Migration, especially of birds and fish, contains certain signs that can help us better understand the phenomena of Divine Revelation and inspiration.

Many birds periodically migrate from one part of the world to another in search of food or following the change of seasons. First, they leave their actual locations and head to more appropriate places at a great distance. Then, after a certain period, they return to their former sites.



Many studies have been done on these birds. From this, it has been learned that their migratory journeys are not some purposeless flying about. Instead, they indicate a very high level of organization, as meaningful as any well-planned journey of human beings. Further, observation has revealed that these flights take place extremely accurately on well-designed flyways.

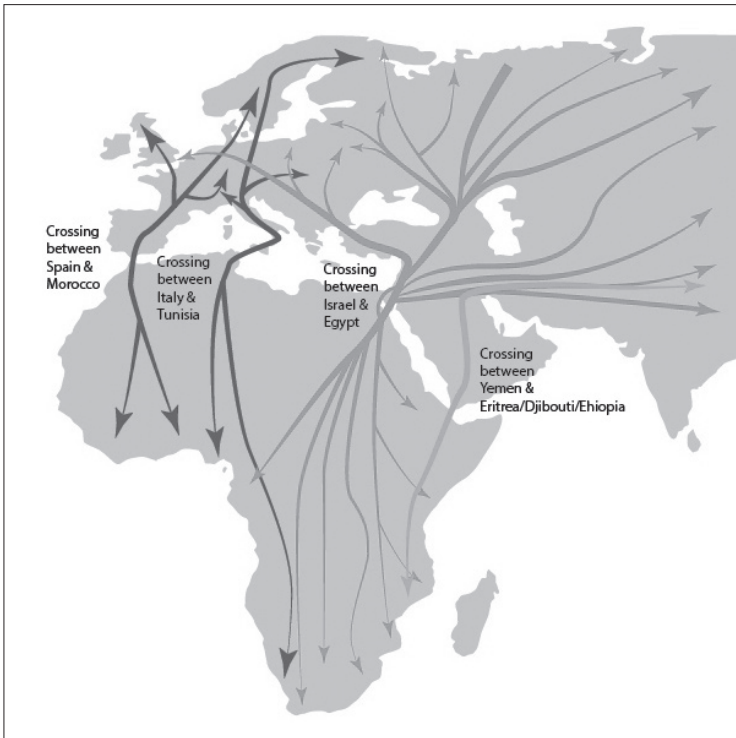
The phenomenon of these birds' migratory journeys is truly remarkable. Human beings can go from one place to another, but this is only possible when they have obtained detailed information about the route and destination from some external source. These external means include hearing from others, reading other people's research findings, consulting guidebooks, and electronic devices that provide travel information like GPS systems. If man were cut off from this information accumulated over time, he would be unable to do anything.

For example, Al-Idrisi (Abu Abdullah Muhammad bin Muhammad Al-Idrisi, 1100-1166 AD) initially took the concept of the Earth being round from the Indian Arin theory. Then, this idea reached Europe through the Latin translation of Al-Idrisi's book entitled *Kitab Nuzhat al-Mushtaq fi Ikhtiraq al-Afaq* (*The Pleasure Excursion of One Who Is Eager to Traverse the Regions of the World*). Then, with the experiments of Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), further knowledge of the later generations was

added. This chain kept growing in this way. Until the science of geography reached the level of progress we have today. Today, when the captain of a ship enters the sea and takes his ship from one coast of the ocean to another, or the pilot of an aeroplane takes off from one continent and lands on another, behind his action is presented the knowledge of a vast number of years of human experience.

However, birds have no means of acquiring knowledge for their migratory journeys. They are completely cut off from such means of information. There is no mutual exchange of information among birds as happens among humans. Because of this, one bird cannot benefit from another bird's travel experiences and gather information about travel routes from them. No bird pens down route details in the form of a book so that other birds can obtain guidance by reading it. However, despite being utterly bereft of such facilities, birds engage in long-distance travel just as humans do. They fly with fantastic accuracy from one location to another, like a rocket zipping around in space directed through radio control.

The migratory flights of birds follow specific routes, sometimes entirely well-defined, over long distances, for instance, in the case of the paths of some birds shown in the map on the next page.



*Transcontinental Migratory Journeys of Certain Birds*

The map shows the transcontinental journeys of certain birds. It indicates that some birds leave Russia and other European countries in winter and head towards warmer parts of the world, including Africa and Asia. The birds do not leave their locations and ignorantly fly off in any random direction. Instead, their routes are accurately determined by what is most suitable for them. They adopt those routes in which they have to pass over the least possible stretches

of the sea because, over dry land, they can come down if and when needed, but for them to land at sea is impossible. One flock of these birds, coming from Europe, reaches a point where they encounter the Caspian Sea. Here, they turn. Departing from the edge of the Caspian Sea, they fly into Asia. The second group of birds flies till it reaches the Black Sea. There, they divide into two groups. One group travels by the western coast of the Black Sea, and the other by the eastern coast till they enter Asia. The third set of birds comes to Bulgaria and turns towards Turkey. Then, flying over coastal Syria and Lebanon, they arrive at the Suez. From there, they enter Egypt and advance further into Africa. The fourth set of birds passes over Greece and crosses the sea in the narrowest region, clearly adopting this route so that they fly as little as possible over the sea. The fifth group of birds travels towards France and, turning towards Spain, arrives near Gibraltar, where the sea is only around 10 miles wide. To cross the sea, the birds choose the most appropriate location. From here, they fly over the sea and land in Africa.

These journeys of the birds are truly unique. When humans go on these lengthy journeys, they use many different instruments and sources of information. However, these birds have neither a human mind nor access to various information-providing gadgets. How, then, do they successfully undertake such complicated journeys?

A scholar contends, “Birds have evolved a highly efficient means for travelling swiftly over long distances with great economy of energy.” However, these are just words. The

reality is that nothing can prove that birds have developed this fantastic ability through any evolutionary process.

There are only two possible explanations for this phenomenon. One possibility is that these birds have full knowledge of the geography of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the seas on the way, which helps them complete their long journeys with amazing accuracy. Unfortunately, however, no research proves this. On the contrary, according to all our information, the birds lack geographical knowledge.

The only other possibility is that some 'Knowledgeable Geographer' is guiding the birds, that there is some hidden sort of remote control that provides the birds with continuous guidance, just as the rockets are—continuously guided through radio control.

The second scenario seems more likely. It also makes the concept of Divine Revelation fully comprehensible.

There are features in the life of creatures like migratory birds which cannot be explained without accepting that they are obtaining guidance from an external treasury of knowledge. The name for this in religious language is 'Divine Revelation.' The study of the life of such creatures makes the issue of Divine Revelation more understandable for us. Moreover, for something to be understood as a possibility or probability, it suffices for one to have certainty about its veracity.

Divine Revelation means God guides a person (a Prophet) through invisible means. This guidance explains what man should and should not do. However, this link of Divine

Revelation (wahy) through a Prophet cannot be physically seen between God and man. Therefore, some people might ask, “Why should we believe it?”

However, reflecting on the migratory journeys of certain birds, the phenomenon of guidance, like Divine Revelation, becomes clearer to us. The birds travelling with incredible accuracy makes the issue of divine inspiration more understandable for us because no correct explanation of these birds’ journeys can be made other than by accepting that the birds are receiving some hidden sort of guidance from outside of them. When inside the birds, no known cause of this is present; it must be deemed something coming from an external source.

The Prophet acts as a link between God and man. He receives God’s Divine Revelation (wahy) and passes it to man. The Prophet’s claim that he receives Divine Guidance is undoubtedly strange. However, such hidden guidance is not strange in the universe. Numerous other instances here confirm that such guidance exists as a phenomenon in the universe. The case of migratory birds is just one example among countless others, briefly stated here.

## THE JOURNEY OF KNOWLEDGE

The Quran was revealed in the 7th century CE. At that time, a culture of superstition prevailed across the whole world. After the Quran, a process of scientific discoveries

began. This process arrived at its culmination in the 20th century. It is scientific proof of the veracity of the Quran that the scholarly research findings of later times went on to verify the statements of the Quran. In this regard, these words of Sir James Jeans are very pertinent:

“The stream of knowledge is heading towards a non-mechanical reality; the universe begins to look more like a great thought than a great machine.” (James Jeans, *The Mysterious Universe*, p. 137)

This point was made sometime in the 1930s by an eminent British scientist. After this, scientific discoveries verified that the concept of Ultimate Reality in the Quran is true. During this period, through scientific discoveries, atheistic ideas and notions were demolished, and conceptions based on the existence of the One God, as described in the Quran, were proven.

For example, ancient atheists believed that the universe is eternal and has existed since time immemorial. Now, if the universe were indeed eternal, it would mean that it had not been created, and so there would be no question of there being a Creator of the universe. So, atheists used this claim to ‘prove’ that there is no need to believe in the Creator. However, the scientific findings of recent times have proved that the universe had a definite beginning (according to many scientists, some 13.8 billion years ago, in the form of the Big Bang), which points to the need for a Creator who caused the universe to come into being.

Likewise, ancient atheists believed that there is no order in the universe, but from modern scientific findings, it has

been proven that a particular order pervades the entire cosmos, clearly indicating the existence of an Intelligent Designer or the One God.

All scientific discoveries verify the religion of monotheism, whether directly or indirectly.

## POWER AND POWERLESSNESS

Albert Einstein expressed a fundamental principle of the physical world in the following statement: “Energy cannot be created or destroyed.”

This phenomenon is evidence of the Creator’s absolute power. Man can only use the present world. He does not have the power to change its fundamental nature, cancel its laws, or destroy it. From this, we also learn about man’s status in the present world. Man in this world does not enjoy the position of a master but, rather, the position of a subordinate. This situation is called a ‘test’ in the language of religion. Man comes into this world only so that, staying here for a limited period, he can complete ‘writing’ his ‘test paper,’ as it were. After this, he will go away to the world of the Hereafter, where his eternal future will be decided based on his performance in the test he has undergone while he was on Earth. He has no absolute power more than this. Some people, despairing of the conditions of the world, decide to commit suicide. They think that in this way, they can eliminate themselves. However, this is just not possible.



Just as that energy that appears in the form of matter cannot be destroyed, it is impossible to eliminate that energy that has assumed the form of man. It is within the power of man to commit suicide, but to extinguish himself is not within his power. This fact symbolically conveys what man's situation truly is in this world.

Man has the power to deny the reality of a fact, but to change a fact is not possible for him. Man has the power to rebel against God, but he cannot save himself from the consequences of such an action. Man has the power to refuse to accept moral boundaries, but he cannot eradicate the desirability of morality from the universe. Man has the right to do what he wants, but he does not have the right to give his desires the status of a universal principle according to which the decisions of all people will be made. In this world, man is free, but his freedom is limited.

## THE PHYSICAL TESTIFIES TO THE METAPHYSICAL

In 1978, *The Encyclopaedia of Ignorance* was published in London. These words were prominently displayed on its cover page: "Everything you ever wanted to know about the unknown."

In this volume, 60 famous scientists surveyed different fields and mentioned some things most people know little or nothing about. In addition, the Encyclopedia contained

papers on things we do not know, which lie on the edge of knowledge.

“Compared to the pond of knowledge, our ignorance remains Atlantic. Indeed, the horizon of the unknown increases as we approach it. The usual encyclopedia states what we know. This one contains papers on what we do not know, on matters which lie on the edge of knowledge.”

Here, we are giving an excerpt of an article titled, ‘The Top Ten Secrets of Science’ that appeared in the *Sunday Times*, London, dated December 4, 1977, p. 13, that shares the words of 10 of these scientists.

### **The Top Ten Secrets of Science**

In *The Encyclopaedia of Ignorance*, to be published next Thursday, some 60 well-known scientists survey different research fields, trying to point out significant gaps in our knowledge of the world. They write at very different levels, at very different lengths. However, last week, we contacted some authors dealing with significant branches of science and asked them to name a single unsolved problem that they found especially important or interesting. They give their choices below, together with those of two—Professor John Maynard Smith and Dr. Francis Crick—who could not be contacted and which have been taken directly from the book.

1. *Why is the universe so uniform?* Ian Roxburgh, Professor of Applied Mathematics, Queen Mary College, London: “The universe is astonishingly

uniform. No matter how we look, the universe has the same constituents in proportion. The laws of physics discovered on Earth contain arbitrary numbers, like the ratio of the mass of an electron to the mass of a proton, which is roughly 1840 to one. But these turn out to be the same in all places at all times. Why? Did a creator arbitrarily choose these numbers? Or must these numbers have the particular uniform value we observe for the Universe to exist?"

2. *Is there a Z-particle?* Abdul Salam is a professor of theoretical physics at Imperial College, London. "In the next decade, we need to confirm or disprove the existence of the so-called Z-particle. If it does exist as predicted by current theory, it will clinch the unification of two of the four forces we know in nature. [The four forces are gravity, electromagnetism, the strong nuclear force that binds the atomic nucleus, and the weak nuclear force involved in radioactivity. Recently, Professor Salam and others have made some progress towards unifying the weak nuclear force and electromagnetism. The discovery of the Z-particle would lend strong experimental support.]
3. *What preceded DNA?* Dr. Graham Cairns-Smith is a lecturer in chemistry at the University of Glasgow. "We need to discover new genetic material that is as different as you like from DNA. [Francis Crick and James Watson discovered the double helix structure of DNA in Cambridge in 1953.] I do not believe DNA could have been made on the primitive Earth. Life must have started with something else, and DNA evolved later."

4. *How are genes switched on and off?* Sir John Kendrew is the chairman of the European Allender Biology Organisation, Heidelberg. “We know something about how genes are switched on and off in bacteria, but next to nothing about how it is done in higher animals? [It is by switching genes on and off that the cells of a single organism, which all contain the same set of genes, can do such different jobs and become constituents of nerves, skin, etc.]
5. *Why do we have an immune system?* The body’s immune system defends us against infection, is responsible for allergies, and makes organ transplants difficult. But according to Dr. H. S. Micklem of the University of Edinburgh, “The most interesting question is not how the immune system works, but why it is there at all: Invertebrates seem to get along quite well without one, but it is incredibly complicated in vertebrates. The idea that it was needed to detect small changes in the cell surface which might lead to cancer has been popular in the last ten years, but there is much data to suggest it is not good enough.”
6. *How can we measure evolution?* John Maynard Smith, Professor of Biology at the University of Sussex, thinks that the theory of evolution has a built-in problem. “The essential components of the theory of evolution are mutation (a change in a gene), selection (differential survival or fertility of different types) and migration. The theory tells us that each of these processes, at a level far too low to be measurable in most situations, can profoundly affect evolution. Thus, we have three processes that we believe determine the course of evolution, and we have a mathematical theory that tells us that

these processes can produce their effects at levels we cannot usually hope to measure directly. It is as if we had a theory of electromagnetism but no means of measuring electric current or magnetic force.”

7. *How is the nervous system built?* Francis Crick, Salk Institute, California. “Perhaps the most challenging problem in developmental biology is constructing an animal’s nervous system. Many years ago, it was shown by Roger Sperry that if a newt’s eye were removed so that the optic nerve from its eye to its brain was broken, then even if the eye were replaced upside down, the optic nerve would regenerate from the retina, grow towards the brain and connect up again. After a period, the animal could see again with this eye, but it always saw upside down. In other words, the new connection had been made ‘correctly’ except that the eye did not know it had been inverted. The results show that fairly precise processes are at work to make the correct, rather intricate, connections needed between one set of nerves and another, but exactly what these mechanisms are, we do not yet know.” [In other words, the fact that it was upside down shows how specific the links are.]
8. *Does the quantum theory apply to gravity?* Sir Herman Bondi, Chief Scientist, Department of Energy. “If we follow Einstein’s widely accepted theory of gravity, then any rapid change in the source of a gravitational field—two stars revolve in orbit around each other, for example—should radiate gravitational waves at the speed of light. All other forms of recitation are ‘quantized,’ that is, they are not continuous but come in discrete but minute

packets. It is hardly conceivable that gravitational waves are quantized too, but nobody has succeeded in establishing the equations, though many have tried.”

9. *How do different parts of the brain link up?* Professor Horace Barlow, Cambridge. “We are almost ignorant about how different parts of the brain communicate. For example, what goes on between the parts of the brain concerned with hearing and the rest when we recognize a familiar voice? You can draw an analogy with speech. Sound waves carry it, but it is far more meaningful than a baby’s babbling, which is carried by sound waves. In the brain, nervous impulses are the equivalent of soundwaves, but we have no idea how they become meaningful.”
10. *How old is man?* Dr. Donald C. Johanson, Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio. “Fossil discoveries in Europe, Africa and Asia are pushing human origins back in time. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that the scenario of human evolution is much more complex. The probable time was three to ten million years ago. There appears to have been a great diversity of possible human ancestors, and we don’t know how they were related. [This is due partly to Johanson’s discoveries in Ethiopia and others of even older fossils made in Pakistan] (Excerpt of the article in *Sunday Times*, London, December 4, 1977, p. 13)

## Commentary

Given the full scope of existence, life is a phenomenon that cannot be explained without accepting the guidance of a

Creator. Scientific study reveals a numerical proportionality in the universe, suggesting the work of a mathematical mind in its creation. Human anatomy contains such wisdom that no natural explanation can adequately account for it. If an animal's eye is removed, reversed, and reinstalled, it will still see, but everything will appear inverted. The various parts of the body, which function with extreme precision, result from a very delicate structure. From a scientific standpoint, sound is a mechanical wave, but when these waves enter the human brain, they become meaningful speech. These and countless other wonders abound in our world. It suggests that this world is not an accidental but a planned event. Behind it is a superior mind, controlling it with enormous power. The organization of the universe and its profound significance ultimately point to one conclusion—human ignorance about the world unveils a profound truth: the existence of a God that is governing the universe with immense wisdom. Looking at these scientific investigations, it can be said that the ocean of knowledge is steadily moving towards acknowledging God.

### **Modern Knowledge Is Advancing Towards Acknowledgement of God**

Current natural investigations astonishingly lead humans to a “supernatural” destination. In every scientific field, researchers, in their quest, eventually reach a point where the limits of natural law have ended, and the operation of supernatural powers has begun.

For instance, the structure of the human brain was considered a mystery until about fifty years ago. Today,

scientists believe they have uncovered many layers of this mystery. However, the addition of our knowledge about the human brain astonishingly contradicts the old assumptions. It was previously assumed that the human brain evolved to its current state 14 million years after the Miocene period. However, recent information shows that the human brain is so complex that the abovementioned period would not have been sufficient for its evolution.

A question regarding the human brain is how it changes “moods.” Researchers in this field have attempted to alter moods using drugs artificially. These drugs can reduce, increase, or change various states of the mind. For example, they can decrease or increase sleep, affect sexual desires, decrease or increase memory performance, and so on. However, researchers in this field are somewhat perplexed by the results of their research. They don’t know where they’re heading: The researchers are slightly perturbed since they feel they don’t know where they are headed. Perhaps they are stepping into the realm of metaphysics. (*Times of India*, 28 January 1978)

There is so much about the universe that we still do not understand. The universe is such an astounding phenomenon that its satisfactory explanation is impossible without accepting that it has a Creator. Scientific study reveals that the universe has mathematical proportionality. This is evidence that a Supreme Mind is at work in its creation. In the structure of man’s body, so much extraordinary wisdom is visible that no material explanation can account for it. The different parts of the body that work with immense



accuracy result from a highly delicate design and order. In the scientific sense, sound is the name for some waves, but these waves, entering man's brain, assume the form of meaningful speech. These sorts of amazing things found in our world are definite evidence that this world is not some chance accident but, instead, that it has come into being in line with a well-thought-out plan. This indicates the existence of a grand planner behind the world, the One Creator—God Almighty, and a Supreme Mind controlling it. Nothing else can explain the order and meaningfulness of the universe, which modern science has so brilliantly unravelled for us.

In light of modern scientific findings, it can be said that the river of man's knowledge is advancing towards the acknowledgement of God. On the other hand, recent research findings of the physical world that have emerged are leading man toward a metaphysical destination. In every field of scientific knowledge, when researchers move ahead in their search, they finally arrive at a place where it appears that the limits of physical laws have been reached and that for a proper understanding of things, there is no choice but to recognize the role of the metaphysical.

## KNOWLEDGE TESTIFIES TO THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

The Quran says: "I swear by the glow of sunset, by the night and what it covers, and the moon when it grows full, you

will progress from stage to stage. What is wrong with them that they do not believe?" (84:16-20)

Man's study of the universe continued over the centuries. Arriving in the era of Isaac Newton, it was assumed that matter was the building block of the universe. However, the journey of human knowledge went further, and later research findings rebutted the above hypothesis. In Einstein's era, the hypothesis that the building block of the universe was energy came to prevail. But the journey of human knowledge moved ahead further. Later research showed that this hypothesis was not correct. Finally, in the period of Fred Hoyle, it was discovered that the building block of the universe was intelligence. However, the journey of human knowledge continued until, in the 21st century, it was found that intelligent design pervades the entire universe.

This is convincing proof of the existence of God. The intricate design in the universe indicates a Designer and conscious activity on the Designer's part. If the universe is characterized by design, it must be the handiwork of a grand Designer. This Designer can be no one but the Creator, the One God.

## GOD: THE GREATEST REALITY

Sir Michael Francis Atiyah (1929-2019), a famous British mathematician, remarked that God is a mathematician. Likewise, another prominent British scholar, Sir James

Jeans, suggested that the universe was the handiwork of a mathematician. God was an artist to the renowned Spanish artist Pablo Picasso (1881-1973).

Anyone who observes the universe with sufficient depth is led to feel that someone else who is greater and more powerful than man is present. The mathematician sees such high-level mathematical accuracy in the universe that he forgets his mathematics and cries out, "God is a very big mathematician!" When an artist sees the universe through his particular perspective, such beautiful art appears before him that his art seems utterly insignificant in his own eyes, and he calls out, "God is the greatest artist!" When a sagacious person looks at the amazing wisdom in every bit of the universe, he is astounded that someone else is more intelligent than all humans put together and recognizes the Creator's existence.

The fact is that God is the greatest mathematician, the greatest artist, and the wisest of all, and along with this, much, much more. The person who does not see the signs of God in the universe is blind, as is the person who, even on seeing them, does not accept them for what they indeed are.

CHAPTER THREE

FROM DENIAL TO  
BELIEF IN GOD

## LIMITLESS UNIVERSE, HUMAN LIMITATION

For the last several centuries, man has been engaged in the scientific study of the universe. Many big minds have been involved in this work. Scientific research has reached the final truth that the universe is so vast that man cannot encompass it. According to the latest scientific findings, man's knowledge barely covers around 5% of the universe. And even about this 5%, the limitedness of man's knowledge is such that the more we discover, the more we learn how little we know about things. That is, we are knowing more and more about less and less.

To know about the creation is to know about its Creator. Given that man has been able to know only about 5% of the creation, for someone to insist that he be given complete information about the Creator before he can accept Him is an unreasonable demand. When man's state is such that he is very far from having acquired full knowledge of the creation, how can he obtain complete knowledge about the Creator?

The existence of the creation is within space and time, while the Creator's existence is beyond space and time. When man is so limited that he cannot encompass things within space and time, how can he encompass something beyond space and time? In this world, man can discover God only at the level of *ijz* (helplessness), not knowledge.

## BELIEF IN GOD

Atheists claim that God has no real existence and that the idea of God is a product of the human mind. They say that God is a great invention of man. But this is only a wordplay. The more proper thing is to say, “Man is a great creation of God.”

Intellectual reflection on God’s existence began first of all in philosophy. However, philosophers could not arrive at any definite conclusion on this matter. After Galileo and Newton, the process of scientific reflection began. The subject matter of science is not the Creator, but it is what science calls ‘Nature’. What is ‘Nature’? It is but another name for the creation of the Creator. Thus, the subject matter of science is the study of creation without reference to the Creator.

In scientific study, firstly, in Newton’s era, the world was believed to have a mechanical design. After this, in the era of Ernest Rutherford (1871-1937), it became known that the world has a meaningful design. After this, the era of Fred Hoyle (1915-2001) arrived, when it was discovered that the universe is characterized by intelligent design.

Keeping these discoveries in mind, it would be correct to say that at the intellectual level, God’s existence has already been discovered and that now the whole issue is only one of nomenclature—that is, what the name of this discovered reality should be. Some philosophers might refer to this reality as ‘World Spirit.’ Science is calling it ‘Intelligent

Design.’ In the language of people of religious faith, the name of this same reality is ‘God.’

Science only discovered creation, but along with the discovery of creation, the Creator is automatically discovered.

## ARGUMENTS OF OPPONENTS OF RELIGION

Atheists might argue that with the advancement of knowledge of the universe in recent centuries, all religious beliefs regarding God have been proven to be false. They might contend that religion is not based on actual reality and is only a product of man’s desire to seek an explanation for the universe. They might claim that paucity of information led our ancestors to those ‘wrong’ answers called ‘God’ and ‘religion.’ They might contend that just as man has corrected his ways in other matters due to intellectual advancement, he must now correct his religious beliefs regarding the universe.

According to this way of thinking, religion is an unreal explanation for a real phenomenon. In earlier times, it was argued that because man’s knowledge was minimal, he could not acquire a correct explanation of phenomena, and so, in the name of religion, he established various absurd hypotheses. But, according to this perspective, the global phenomenon of progressive evolution has extricated man from this darkness, and now, in the light of modern

knowledge, it has become possible that instead of clinging to baseless religious beliefs, man can find out the reality of things through purely experimental and observational methods. And so, it is claimed that all those previously believed to be the result of supernatural causes can now be explained entirely through natural causes. Modern methods of research, it is argued, have informed us that to believe in the existence of God was not the result of any discovery by man but that, instead, it was simply speculation from the days of ignorance which, after the spread of the light of scientific knowledge, has been proven to be false. Thus, for instance, British writer Julian Huxley (d. 1975), who was possibly a hardened atheist, writes:

“Newton showed that God did not control the movements of the planets. Laplace, in a famous aphorism, affirmed that astronomy did not need the god hypothesis; Darwin and Pasteur did the same for biology, and in our century, the rise of scientific psychology and the extension of historical knowledge have removed gods to a position where they are no longer of value in interpreting human behaviour and cannot be supposed to control human history or interfere with human affairs.” (Julian Huxley, *Religion Without Revelation*, 1958).

In the physical world, the ‘hero’ of this revolution was Newton, who presented the theory that specific unchangeable laws bind the universe. There are some laws by which all astronomical bodies are in motion. Later, innumerable people further advanced this research, so much so that all phenomena on Earth and in the skies began



to align with a determined and fixed system named ‘The Laws of Nature’. Following this discovery, the idea that behind the universe, there is an active and powerful personal God running it and caring for human beings began to lose currency. People began attributing to ‘The Laws of Nature’ many of the roles that were earlier attributed to God.

For growing numbers of people, especially in the West, the maximum concession they were willing to make was that a God initially set the universe in motion and, after that, had nothing to do with it. And so, in the beginning, people kept believing in God in the capacity of a ‘Prime Mover.’ One scholar came up with the idea that God had made this universe in the same way a watchmaker makes a watch: gathering the watch’s parts, giving them a particular structure, and after that, having no relation with the final product. But later, David Hume (1711-1776) objected, arguing that we have no experience of the world being made. With a watch, we know it has to be created by a watchmaker because we can observe it being made this way and compare it to the making of similar watches to deduce they have similar causes in their creation. However, we have no experience of the universe’s creation (or any other universe’s creation to compare our universe to) and never will; therefore, it would be illogical to infer that our universe has been created by an intelligent Designer in the same way that a watch has been.

### **Nature Itself Is in Need of an Explanation**

According to atheists, the advancement of science and the spread of knowledge has now shown man the truth of things

that he had not hitherto understood, because of which he had wrongly attributed them to some ‘imaginary’ supernatural force. Events and phenomena in his surroundings that man lacked proper knowledge of were declared miracles of that supernatural force, but now science has shown them to be the result of entirely natural forces. Earlier, there were certain links in certain events that man did not know; because of this, he could not understand why these events were occurring, so he attributed them to some God. But now, because we fully know all the links in these events, we fully understand why and how they happen—entirely because of natural causes and having nothing to do with a God.

For example, earlier, man did not know the truth about the sun’s rising and setting. That is why, atheists might argue, man came to believe that there is some God who takes the sun out, makes it rise, and causes it to set—and in this way, the notion of a supernatural force was born. But now, when we know that the sun’s rising and setting happens because of an entirely natural cause—the rotation of the earth around its axis—there is no need to believe in God to explain this phenomenon.

In the same way, atheists would contend, all those other phenomena regarding which it was earlier thought that some supernatural force was at work behind them have, in the wake of modern scientific findings, come to be known to be the result of the actions and reactions of entirely natural forces, forces that are known to us. Thus, atheists

might argue that after discovering the natural causes of events and phenomena, there is no need to account for them by assuming the existence of a God or some other supernatural force.

This argument can be expressed as follows:

“If a rainbow is caused by the refraction of the sun’s rays as they fall on raindrops, it is wrong to say that they are a sign of God in the sky.”

Atheists might remark:

“If events are due to natural causes, they are not due to supernatural causes.”

Atheists would say that from the study of the universe, it has come to be known that all the events here follow the determined laws of Nature. Hence, to explain them, there is no need to posit the existence of any unknown God because known natural laws explain these events.

In my view, the best answer to this argument is the one that American biologist Cecil Boyce Hamann gives: ‘Nature does not explain; she is herself in need of an explanation.’ This means that Nature or ‘The Laws of Nature’ cannot be the final explanation of such phenomena because the question still arises: “Who or what made Nature and the Laws of Nature?” Analyzing this argument, I would like to conclude that science, which seeks to provide explanations only for the laws of Nature, cannot replace religion because it would need to discover the ultimate and absolute explanation, which it is not in a position to.

## **Secondary Cause, Primary Cause**

The atheists' naturalistic argument can be answered by asking, "What or Who caused the laws of Nature to come into existence?" Man has indeed discovered various laws of Nature. But the 'Laws of Nature' are not the answer to the question in response to which religion has come into being. Religion informs us about the Ultimate Cause that is working behind the universe and that also has brought the Laws of Nature into being, whereas the discovery of the laws of Nature is only related to the external structure of the universe. The 'Laws of Nature' are only a secondary cause of the various phenomena they are used to describe; the primary or Ultimate Cause being that Being or Force that caused the laws of Nature to come into being and be just the way they are. And this primary or Ultimate Cause is, in the language of religion, called 'God.' Modern science only gives further details of various phenomena in the universe and does not provide an actual or final explanation.

## **The Ultimate Cause**

All the knowledge of science is related to the 'what' of things. The 'why' aspect is outside its reach, whereas the ultimate explanation of something relates to this latter aspect, which only religion can answer satisfactorily.

One can understand this with the help of an example. A hen lays eggs that have a strong shell. A chick is nourished inside the protective shell of its egg. When the shell breaks, the chick comes out into the world. Now, how does it happen that the shell breaks and the chick, which is not more than a

bit of flesh, emerges from it? In ancient times, many people might have said: "God does it like this." In modern times, through observation through a microscope, it has come to be known that when a period of 21 days is about to get over, a small, hard horn appears on the chick's beak. With the help of this horn, the chick breaks its shell and emerges. The horn, completing its work, automatically falls off a few days after the chick's birth.

According to the worldview of the opponents of religion, this phenomenon proves that the ancient belief that the cause of the chick's emergence from the egg is God is wrong because the 'eye' of the microscope very clearly shows us that there is a 21-day law that causes a horn to appear on the chick's beak, which the chick uses to break its shell and emerge out of the egg. But this argument is nothing but a misunderstanding. All that modern scientific observation has shown us in this regard is one additional step of the phenomenon of the chick's emergence from its shell. It has not told us the actual or ultimate cause of the phenomenon. Following the observation of the horn that emerges on the chick's beak, which the chick uses to crack the shell of the egg, the difference that has come about in the situation is nothing more than this: earlier, the question was about how the cover of the egg breaks, and now the issue was extended to ask how the horn-like feature emerged on the chick's beak! The chick using its 'horn' is only an intermediate step of the phenomenon of the chick coming out of the shell of the egg; it is not the ultimate cause of the phenomenon. The ultimate cause of the phenomenon will come to be known

only when we can come to know what or who it is that made the horn appear on the chick's beak—in other words, that Ultimate Cause that had prior knowledge of the chick's need for a tool to help it to come out of its shell and which compelled a bit of matter to appear, right on time, after 21 days, on the chick's beak, in the form of a horn, which, after finishing its work, drops off the chick's beak on its own.

In other words, earlier, the question was, "How does the shell break?" Now, the question is, "How does the horn come into being?" There is no qualitative difference in either of these cases. One can, at the most, term the appearance of the horn on the chick's beak as a broader observation of reality. One cannot term it as an ultimate explanation of a phenomenon.

The question of what it was that ultimately caused the horn to appear on the beak cannot be answered by materialist science. For theists, the answer is that the horn did not appear on its own. God arranged for this to enable the chick to emerge from its shell.

Invoking the 'laws of Nature' may explain the secondary cause of occurrences, but the primary or Ultimate cause is other than this, for a secondary cause is itself caused by another cause—a primary cause—and so it cannot be the ultimate cause of a phenomenon.

Take another example: atheists might admit that the food digestion process and the food becoming part of the body is truly remarkable. But they would probably contend that people who believe that all this happens because God has so arranged for it are in error, claiming that modern

observation indicates that it is simply the result of chemical reactions in the body. But will the existence of God be negated because of this? After all, what is that power that makes the chemical components in the human work in such a way as to enable food to be digested and to become part of the body?

After food enters the body, it passes through different stages, in line with an amazing automatic arrangement. Witnessing this, it would be absurd to claim that this arrangement existed on its own or by chance, as atheists might argue. The fact is that this phenomenon makes it even more necessary for us to accept that it is God who is the Ultimate Cause of it and that here, He works through the laws of Nature, which He has established in the world.

In other words, Nature and the laws of Nature do not explain the creation and the functioning of the universe. Instead, they require an explanation for themselves—and that explanation is God. Undoubtedly, science has told us many new things. But even if these discoveries were to increase millions and billions of times, the need for religion would remain. This is because these discoveries only tell us how these events occur. They do not tell us why these events are happening and their ultimate cause. All of these discoveries are only intermediate or secondary explanations, while authentic religion gives us the ultimate and total explanation of things, centred on the existence of the Creator.

## THE UNIVERSE 'SPEAKS' ABOUT GOD

Scientific discoveries indicate that God's existence is an undeniable reality.

The Christian Mission of Kerala has published a booklet titled "Nature and Science Speak about God." This 28-page booklet, the size of a newspaper, makes it clear through scientific discoveries about the universe that the existence of God is a fact and cannot be denied in any way.

There are many creatures like scorpions and spiders and many other aquatic and terrestrial creatures that fend off enemies or subdue prey by stinging. There is a very tiny hole at the tip of their sting, through which they inject a kind of poison into the body of their enemy. If this hole were at the very end of the sting, it would close up when the sting was jabbed. In addition, the sting would not work as well in stinging itself. That's why the hole in the tip of the sting is always slightly off-centre, just like in a doctor's syringe. This is just a small example. In everything we see, an exceedingly intelligent design is apparent. The universe is not a haphazard pile of rubbish. Instead, it is characterized by great purposefulness and order. Could this have been possible without conscious planning by a Supreme Mind?

Consider an example from the world of insects to appreciate this issue. Termites can live in wood, inside which they carve out their homes. Termites build a home that is several hundred times their height. If humans were to make a house in the same proportion, we would need to build a more than one-mile-tall structure!



Studying the life of termites reveals numerous amazing facts. Take just one example: termites eat wood. After stone, wood is possibly the most indigestible thing. But eating wood is no difficult task for termites. For this purpose, they have special jaws that, besides working as a saw, also grind. What accounts for this phenomenon?

Now, no matter how much one grinds wood, it remains wood, and going inside the stomach, one might expect that it would only create indigestion instead of fulfilling the need for food. Then what is it that assists termites here? For this purpose, tiny, microscopic insects are present in the termites' entrails. These insects, engaging in a particular process on the swallowed-up wood, produce such changes that it becomes digestible and a part of the termites' body. Now, who has arranged for this fantastic feature? The only sensible explanation is that this feature reflects a Creator's planning and loving care.

Let us take another example: A hen's egg. Every such egg contains several unique features, each so important that if even one is absent, the egg cannot form. Let us understand this better.

The shell or outer hard covering of the egg comprises calcium, magnesium carbonate and calcium phosphate. It contains thousands of pores that allow carbon dioxide and moisture to escape and air to enter. The shell gives shape to the egg and holds the inner contents. The shell is covered by a cuticle membrane or bloom, which acts as a protective covering, blocking the pores and preventing moisture loss and bacterial contamination.

The egg white consists of three parts—the outer thin albumen, the middle thick albumin and the inner thin albumen.

The egg yolk is the unfertilized embryo in the egg, yellow in colour. The vitelline membrane separates the yolk from the white, which prevents the mixing of the yolk and the white. In a fertilized egg, the yoke supplies the nutrients and the albumin or white supplies the water necessary for the embryo's development.

The chalazae, the two twisted membranous strips joining the yolk to the ends of the shell, help maintain the embryo's orientation within the egg.

If even one of these is separated from the egg, the egg cannot remain a place for nourishing a chick. Now, is it that these various components came together merely by chance, as atheists might argue? 'Chance' most definitely cannot explain the simultaneous presence of these things found in the egg and precisely the necessary and appropriate proportions.

Think of the human brain. There are around 1000 million nerve cells in it. From every cell, very fine fibres spread out through the body. These fibres are characterised by a system of receiving messages and sending commands that function at the speed of around 70 miles an hour. What made this possible? Man did not design this himself, and it is also impossible to have come into being independently.

Consider the human heart. It is 4 inches long and 2.5 inches wide on average, and its weight is perhaps not more than

8 ounces. But this little pumping organ functions day and night for as long as a person lives. It beats around 100,000 times a day. Every 13 seconds, it sends approximately one gallon of blood into the entire body. This amazing phenomenon could only have been possible through some non-human power.

These are only some instances that are silently speaking about the existence of God.

### **Not by ‘Mere Chance’**

There are innumerable such unique phenomena in the universe, and to only make a list of them would require an entire library. Man’s knowledge of the realities of the universe is almost nothing at all. There is far more that man has not seen than what he has seen.

The fantastic craftsmanship, the perfect planning, and the brilliant intelligence are clearly visible in the universe. Did all of this come about by chance, as atheists might say? Undoubtedly, on some occasions, through chance, a phenomenon can come into being. For example, a whiff of air could cause pollen from a red rose to land on a neighbouring cream-coloured rose, resulting in a yellow flower blossoming. But this sort of chance can produce only partial and very minor changes. It can only explain the unique colour of a particular rose but cannot be the cause of the entire existence of the rose. ‘Mere chance’ can never explain how the amazing system of the universe continues to function for billions of years and with exceptional

efficiency and accuracy. 'Mere chance' does not explain why regularity and order are found in the universe.

The process of 'mere chance' cannot operate uniformly. It is not possible that whatever happened today by 'mere chance' will also be brought about by 'mere chance' every day that follows. That being so, the fact that everything in the physical universe is characterized by fantastic precision, predictability, regularity, and uniformity—such as, for instance, the speed at which the Earth rotates around its axis or revolves around the Sun—cannot be the result of 'mere chance.' Then what accounts for these remarkable features of the physical universe? The only reasonable explanation is to attribute them to the Almighty Designer, Creator, Master, and Sustainer of the universe, God Almighty.

If you take some bits of plastic shaped in the form of the letters of the alphabet and throw them up in the air, is it possible that by 'mere chance,' they will fall on the ground in the form of complete sentences and paragraphs? Obviously not! If such a small thing cannot happen by 'mere chance,' why is it posited that such a vast universe, with its unique features, came into being by 'mere chance'? What evidence exists to accept intellectually a theory that cannot be proven in any laboratory?

Another purported explanation of phenomena that atheists depend on is the laws of Nature. Why do chicks emerge from a hen's egg in 21 days and an ostrich's egg in 45 days? There are innumerable questions like these whose answer, according to atheists, is that these are simply a result of the laws of Nature. Ostensibly, this is an explanation, but in

fact, this answer only states an event. Using the phrase ‘The Laws of Nature,’ we only acknowledge the universe’s order, precision, and regularity. But this phrase does not explain why and how this order, precision, and regularity came about and how they prevailed. It only tells us that certain things always come into being by certain determined and specific principles and will always come into being in this same way. However, from this, one does not learn why whatever is happening is happening. This phrase does not tell us the ultimate cause of events but only presents a picture of those events.

### **Science Brings Man Closer to God**

Consider the following hypothetical conversation.

If you ask a doctor why blood is red, he might reply that the reason is that there are tiny, red-coloured components in the blood, or what are called red blood corpuscles.

“True, Doctor, but why are these particles red?”

“This is because these particles contain a special substance called ‘haemoglobin,’ which turns red when the lungs absorb oxygen.”

“That’s fine, doctor, but where did the red blood corpuscles come from?”

“They are produced in your spleen.”

“Doctor, whatever you have said is strange, but please tell me why the red blood corpuscles, the spleen and thousands of other things are so finely interconnected inside the single unit of the human body. How are they

able to function so accurately, in such a way that I can breathe, I can walk, I can run, I can speak, I am alive?"

"That is because of the laws of Nature."

"But what is that which you call 'the laws of Nature'?"

"Hmmm, well, I suppose by this, I mean the blind interplay of physical and chemical forces."

"But what is the reason why these supposedly blind forces always function in one particular direction, which takes them towards a determined end? How do they organise their activities so that a bird can fly, a fish can swim, and a human being can come into existence with all his many special abilities? Can all this result from some 'blind' interplay of physical forces?"

"My friend, please don't ask me all this! A scientist can only narrate *how* what is happening is happening. He does not know *why* whatever is happening is happening."

This hypothetical conversation makes clear the reality of the scope of present-day science. Undoubtedly, science has told us many new things. But whatever it has told us is some features of events and phenomena in the universe. It does not have the answers to *why* those events happen and *why* those phenomena are as they are. For instance, no doubt, science has told us a lot about how the delicate parts of a fly work, but what is that Mind that knew that a fly would require these delicate parts and bestowed them on it? Only religion can provide an answer to this question. Suggesting, as atheists might, that this is an outcome of the working of this or that law of Nature is hardly convincing, for the laws of Nature are a phenomenon of the universe, not an explanation of the universe. They are phenomena

that themselves require to be explained. Nature does not explain—it needs explanation.

For even the smallest part of the human body to come into being, hundreds of thousands of items must go together in a particular and unique arrangement and design. Blind forces can certainly not manifest this sort of purposefulness. They cannot produce meaningfulness and harmony in events and phenomena regularly and uniformly. This means that for meaningfulness in something, there is clear evidence that some Mind is at work behind it. The same is true for the universe as a whole.

A sperm produced in a man's body is similar to other cells in the body in some ways, but it has very different properties from other cells. It can fuse with an ova cell from a female body to bring into being a completely new person. What has made it possible that two cells, each of which is produced in two different bodies, harmoniously unite to function in such a manner as to bring about such a miraculous result? Can this be explained without accepting the functioning of a creative Mind behind it?

To believe in the existence of a creative Mind, whom we call 'God,' behind the universe is not to believe in some mere baseless dogma. Innumerable facts compel us to accept the functioning of a Supreme Mind behind the universe whom we cannot physically see, in the same way as the sounds coming out of radio to compel us to accept the existence of radio waves even though we cannot see them.

If you put some sugar in a glass of water, in a short while, it will dissolve. The sugar particles will not be visible. But on

tasting the mixture, you can discern the presence of sugar in the water. In the same way, our eyes cannot see God, but when we study the world around us, our intuition calls out that undoubtedly there is a God present here, for without Him, the universe could not have come into being, and it could not possess any of its many unique features.

The growth of scientific knowledge of the universe has not distanced man from God, as atheists might aver and hope. Instead, it has potentially brought man closer to God. This being the case, doubting God's existence is only a declaration of ignorance. Newton was true when he remarked, "A smattering of knowledge turns people away from God—but much of it brings them back to Him."

## PREDICTABLE UNIVERSE

In 1964, I wrote a book in Urdu titled *Mazhab aur Jadeed Challenge* (which has been translated into English as *God Arises*). This book shows that the universe is very meaningful. Such a meaningful universe cannot have been made without a Maker. One of the points the book makes is that on the 11th of August 1999, a solar eclipse would be completely visible in Cornwall. I had written this around thirty-five years before this event. Thirty-five years after I wrote this, the date arrived. By this advance announcement, at the exact appointed time, a solar eclipse did indeed occur. There was not a minute difference in the occurrence of this event.



I had not come up with this point myself, but rather, it was based on the calculations of expert astronomers. These experts made such an accurate claim well in advance because the universe runs according to well-established laws. Even after millions of years, there has not been the slightest change. Based on this discovery, the scientist Sir James Jeans suggested in his book *The Mysterious Universe* that the study of the universe seems to indicate that its Creator is a Mathematical Mind.

A major aspect of something being meaningful is that it is also predictable. This quality is present completely throughout the universe, one proof of which is evident in the above-cited example of the solar eclipse.

Some people who deny the existence of God claim that the present universe came into being through chance or accident, not by the decision of any Creator. But this is not correct. If it is accepted that the present meaningful universe emerged as a result of an accident, the necessary consequence would be that we should also have to admit that the accidents, without any consciousness, that occur in this world are also a factor that can bring into existence meaningful things. In such a situation, the 'accident' that supposedly brought the universe into being must be repeatable. The universe should come into existence repeatedly because accidents happen frequently. If an unconscious accident has supposedly created a meaningful universe once, in the same way, it should happen again that a meaningful universe should come into being through an 'accident.' But as is known, a universe other than the one

that exists never again comes into being after the existing universe did.

According to scientific estimates, the universe is around 15 billion years old. What reason is there that in this long period, a meaningful universe has come into being just once and never again after that, not even partially? For example, as far as we know, it has never happened that a new solar system has been created again or that a planet like Earth has come into being with water, air, and greenery, where humans and animals move about. This is clear evidence of creation as a result of a conscious decision by a Creator and not as an 'accident.'

The present world is an exceptional phenomenon. The universe is an exception and refutes the view of the deniers of God. If the universe were only the result of an accident, it would be repeatable through another such 'accident'. But when it is not repeatable, seeking to explain it as a result of a supposed accident is entirely baseless. This sort of explanation is not scientifically acceptable.

The fact is that for a person, the existence of God is as certain as that of his existence. Every person accepts their existence. Through the same evidence and proof, he will also have to accept the existence of God. To accept one's existence and not to accept God's existence is an intellectual contradiction. No serious person can accept this.

The famous 17th-century French philosopher Rene Descartes (1596-1650) said, "I think, therefore I exist." This principle is undoubtedly a firm one. According to this principle, a person aware of himself reaches the stage

of realizing God. According to this principle, it would be correct to say, “I exist; therefore, God exists.”

The universe is not repeatable, proving that a conscious Being made this universe according to His will and decision. God is a proven Being. To believe in God is to accept something that is proven, while to deny God is to deny something that is proven.

## SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY

Professor Paul Davies, a well-known American writer who is also Director of a research centre at Arizona State University, has written many thought-provoking books, one of which is titled ‘The Goldilocks Enigma.’ One of his research articles was published in ‘The Guardian’ and was reproduced in ‘The Hindu,’ in its June 27, 2007, edition titled: ‘The Flaw in the Creationists’ Argument.’ This article is reproduced below:

“We will never explain the cosmos by taking on faith, divinity, or physical laws. The true meaning is to be found within nature. Scientists are slowly waking up to an inconvenient truth—the universe looks suspiciously like a fix. The issue concerns the very laws of nature themselves. For 40 years, physicists and cosmologists have been quietly collecting examples of all too convenient “coincidences” and unique features in the universe’s underlying laws that seem necessary for life, and hence conscious beings, to exist. Change any

one of them, and the result would be lethal. To see the problem, imagine playing God with the cosmos. Before you is a designer machine that lets you tinker with the basics of physics. Twiddle this knob, and you make all electrons a bit lighter; twiddle that one, and you make gravity a bit stronger, and so on.

It happens that you need to set 30-something knobs to describe the world about us fully. The point is that some of those metaphorical knobs must be tuned precisely, or the universe would be sterile. For example, neutrons are just a tad heavier than protons. If it were the other way around, atoms could not exist because all the protons in the universe would have decayed into neutrons shortly after the Big Bang. There are no protons, then no atomic nuclei, and no atoms. No atoms, no chemistry, no life. Like Baby Bear's porridge in the story of Goldilocks, the universe seems just right for life. So what's going on? Fueling the controversy is an unanswered question lurking at the heart of science—the origin of the laws of physics. Where do they come from? Why do they have the form that they do? Traditionally, scientists have treated the laws of physics as “given,” elegant mathematical relationships that were somehow imprinted on the universe at its birth and fixed after that. Inquiry into the origin and nature of the laws was not regarded as a proper part of science.

### **Illusory Impression**

But the embarrassment of the Goldilocks enigma has prompted a rethink. The Cambridge cosmologist Martin Rees, president of ‘The Royal Society,’ suggests

the laws of physics are not absolute and universal but more akin to local bylaws, varying from place to place on a mega-cosmic scale. A God's eye view would show our universe as a single representative amid a vast assemblage of universes, each with its bylaws. Mr. Rees calls this system "the multiverse," and it is an increasingly popular idea among cosmologists. A universe will rarely possess bio-friendly laws and spawn life within the variegated cosmic quilt. It would then be no surprise that we find ourselves in a universe customized for habitation; we would hardly exist in one where life is impossible. The multiverse theory cuts the ground from beneath intelligent design, but it falls short of a complete explanation of existence.

For a start, a physical mechanism must make all those universes and allocate bylaws to them. This process demands its laws or meta-laws. Where do they come from?

The root cause of all the difficulty can be traced to the fact that both religion and science appeal to some agency outside the universe to explain its law-like order. Dumping the problem in the lap of a pre-existing designer is no explanation, as it merely begs the question of who designed the designer. But appealing to a host of unseen universes and a set of unexplained meta-laws is scarcely any better. This shared failure is unsurprising because the notion of physical laws originates in theology. The idea of absolute, universal, perfect, immutable laws comes straight out of monotheism, which was the dominant influence in Europe at the time science as we know it was being formulated by

Isaac Newton and his contemporaries. Just as classical Christianity presents God as upholding the natural order from beyond the universe, physicists envisage their laws as inhabiting an abstract transcendent realm of perfect mathematical relationships. Furthermore, Christians believe the world depends utterly on God for its existence, while the converse is not the case. Correspondingly, physicists declare that eternal laws govern the universe, but the laws remain impervious to events in the universe.

### **Outdated Theory**

I think this entire line of reasoning is now outdated and simplistic. We will never fully explain the world by appealing to something outside it that must be accepted on faith, be it an unexplained God or an unexplained set of mathematical laws. Can we do better? I propose that the laws are like computer software: programs run on the fabulous cosmic computer. They emerge with the universe at the Big Bang and are inherent in it, not stamped on it from without like a maker's mark. Man-made computers are limited in their performance by finite processing speed and memory. So, too, the cosmic computer is limited in power by its age and the finite speed of light. Seth Lloyd, an engineer at MIT, has calculated how many bits of information the observable universe has processed since the Big Bang. The answer is one, followed by 122 zeros. Crucially, however, the limit was smaller in the past because the universe was younger. Just after the Big Bang, when the basic properties of the universe were being forged,

its information capacity was so restricted that the consequences would have been profound.

Here's why. If a law is a truly exact mathematical relationship, it requires infinite information to specify it. In my opinion, however, no law can apply to a level of precision finer than all the information in the universe can express. Infinitely precise laws are an extreme idealization with no shred of real-world justification. The laws must be seriously fuzzy in the first split second of cosmic existence. Then, as the universe's information content climbed, the laws focused and homed in on the life-encouraging form we observe today. But the flaws in the laws left enough wiggle room for the universe to engineer its own bio-friendliness. If there is an ultimate meaning to existence, as I believe, the answer is to be found within nature, not beyond it. The universe might be a fix, but if so, it has fixed itself. (Paul Davies is Director of Beyond, a research centre at Arizona State University, and author of *The Goldilocks Enigma*.)

Taken from: 'The Flaw in the Creationists' Argument,'  
*The Hindu*, June 27, 2007

## **Commentary**

In the above article, Paul Davies notes, "Scientists are gradually reaching an inconvenient truth, that the universe is an exceedingly precise cosmos. Scientists have been studying the laws of nature that operate in the universe for the past forty years. This research points towards a conscious Being behind the universe. If any one of the laws of the universe is altered, the result would be catastrophic.

The universe is so finely tuned that even a minor alteration in its current structure could lead to its unravelling.

Davies gives the example that the entire universe comprises atoms, and the nucleus of each atom is a combination of neutrons and protons. Neutrons are somewhat heavier, and protons are slightly lighter. This ratio is critically important. If it were reversed, meaning protons were heavier and neutrons lighter, atoms would cease to exist according to known laws. Without a nucleus, there would be no atom; without atoms, there would be no chemistry, and without chemistry, there would be no life.

This example suggests that current science faces insurmountable questions, like where the current laws of physics come from, why they maintain their current precise state, etc. Traditionally, scientists assumed that these laws were inherent in the universe. The search for the reality of the laws of nature was not considered the domain of science. But now, these questions are bothering scientists.

Davies further writes that Cambridge scientist Martin John Rees, President of the Royal Astronomical Society, suggests that the laws of physics are not absolute and universal but are parts of a more extensive cosmic system. Each part has its own rules. He calls this system the multiverse system. According to this research, our universe is one of those that carries bio-friendly laws. This implies that we find the universe in a form that exactly matches our needs. If this were not the case, human existence here would be impossible. Where did these precise laws that control the universe in such an organized manner come from?



According to modern thinkers, the cause of all these problems is that both religion and modern science, which provide a conception of the universe, demand an agency outside the universe that is managing the universe. However, acknowledging a designer who existed before the universe to account for the direction of the universe is not an explanation. This explanation immediately raises the question, ‘Who designed the designer?’

If there is an ultimate meaning to life, as I believe, the answer should be found within nature itself, not outside of it. The universe could be a precise cosmos, but if so, it has made itself so.”

After analyzing the article, I would like to offer clarification.

In theology (*ilahiyyaat*), the modern mind is a victim of severe confusion. We have an idea of this from this article by Professor Paul Davies. Atheist philosophers have been asking: if, according to religious belief, God made the universe, then who created God? But this question is illogical. It is a negation of logic.

Furthermore, this objection is based on an apparent contradiction in thinking. This is because the question comes from those who believe in the universe without a Creator, but so far as their belief in a Creator is concerned, they need a Creator of the Creator. Yet, if the universe’s existence is possible without a Creator, then the existence of the Creator, too, should be possible without a Creator.

In the above article, Paul Davies explores the fine-tuning in the universe and analyses the extraordinary balance

of physical constants that allow life to exist. These bring existential questions about God's existence and man's place in the cosmos.

## GOD AND SCIENCE

There is considerable confusion among people regarding Albert Einstein. Some say that he was an atheist. Some others hold the opposite view. However, by studying various statements by Einstein himself, it is clear that he was not a denier of God. Instead, he had doubts in the matter of the existence of God.

In 1997, *Skeptic*, a science magazine, published a series of letters that Einstein exchanged in 1945 with an officer in the US Navy named Guy Raner Jr. on the existence of God. Raner wanted to know if it was true that Einstein had converted from atheism to theism when confronted by a Jesuit priest with the following argument: A design requires a designer, and since the universe has a design, it must have a designer.

Einstein wrote back that he had never spoken to a Jesuit priest in his life but that from the viewpoint of such a person, he was and would always be an atheist. He added that it was misleading and childish to use anthropomorphic concepts in dealing with things outside the human sphere and that all we could do was to admire, in humility, the

beautiful harmony of the structure of this world as far as we can grasp it.

Raner replied, asking for clarification of Einstein's position, wanting to know if he was an atheist from the viewpoint of the dictionary—someone who disbelieves in the existence of a God or a Supreme Being.

To this, Einstein replied:

“I have repeatedly said that, in my opinion, the idea of a personal God is a childlike one. You may call me an agnostic, but I do not share the crusading spirit of the professional atheist, whose fervour is primarily due to a painful act of liberation from the fetters of religious indoctrination received in youth. I prefer an attitude of humility corresponding to the weakness of our intellectual understanding of nature and our own being.”

Einstein's position on the concept of God is the same as that of many other scientists. God is not a subject of scientific study. Then, why do many scientists not deny God and, at most, call themselves 'agnostic'—that is, holding to a position in which they are neither in a position to deny God nor in a position to affirm Him?

The subject matter of science is the material world. But what is the material world? It is a creation of the Creator. That is why the study of science is nothing but the study of the creation of the Creator. A scientist can deny belief in God, but denying the signs of God, the Creator, present in the entire creation is impossible.

Science has discovered that many non-physical or non-material realities exist in the physical world—meaningfulness, design, intelligence, and purposeful planning. This discovery is indirect evidence of the existence of the Creator. A scientific method applicable to forming an opinion about the existence of God is to see which theory the world discovered by science is verifying, either the theory of denial of God or the theory of affirmation of God. This principle of reasoning in science is called verificationism.

There is a principle in science known as the principle of compatibility. This means that a theory that is not observable but is based on the information obtained through observation is then given the status of truth based on this indirect testimony. A theory for such compatibility will be accepted as truth based on indirect verification. If this scientific principle of reasoning is applied to the belief in God, then fundamentally, the belief in God becomes a proven belief.

Scientists who describe their case as agnostic have consciously or unconsciously chosen a way of escape. They cannot deny God according to their knowledge, so they claim their point is agnostic.

## THE 'THEORY OF EVERYTHING'

Although Einstein was born into a Jewish family, after studying science, he doubted God's existence. A year or so before his death, in January 1954, he wrote a letter in German to a Jewish philosopher, Eric B. Gutkind, stating

that the word ‘God’ was nothing more than the expression and product of human weakness.

What Einstein thought to be human weakness was not weakness but a unique aspect of man. This attribute can be rightly stated as: “Man is an explanation-seeking creature.” This unique feature of man is the basis for all of man’s intellectual advances. Because of this unique feature, man seeks to explain things and advance in his quest. If man had not possessed this unique feature, human civilization might not have advanced beyond the primary stage.

About Einstein himself, it is said that during the last 30 years or so of his life, he kept trying to find a scientific answer to a particular question but could not succeed. In Einstein’s words, this question was about discovering a unified field theory. From a scientific point of view, this question is so important that it has become the focus of many theoretical scientists. These days, this question is generally known as a ‘Theory of Everything.’

Now, what is this ‘Theory of Everything’? It is about discovering a mathematical formula that can scientifically explain all the phenomena in the universe. A ‘Theory of Everything’ is a theory that can explain everything.

Under the European Organization for Nuclear Research, a project was launched in 1998 in Switzerland called the ‘Large Hadron Collider.’ Much money was spent on the project—tens of millions of dollars. The project received the assistance of some 10,000 scientists from almost 100 countries. Although the project was unsuccessful, it aimed to discover a theory of everything.

Almost a century has been spent trying to discover a ‘Theory of Everything,’ or, more appropriately, an ‘Explanation of Everything,’ but scientists could not succeed. This is because the correct explanation of the phenomena of the universe can be obtained only if one accepts the existence of God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. No mathematical formula can ever become the answer to this question. Searching for the answer to this question in mathematical formulae is like trying to quench one’s thirst by eating rubber instead of drinking water.

## FROM UNSEEN WORLD TO UNSEEN GOD

Science has discovered electrons, neutrons, and protons, but it is also a fact that until now, no scientist has seen electrons, neutrons, and protons with their own eyes or through a microscope. Then why do scientists believe in their existence?

The scientists would reply that although they cannot see these particles, they can see their effects—for example, the heat of an electron, a falling apple, in the case of gravity, and a photo film, in the case of X-rays. We believe in the existence of all these things, not by direct observation but by their effects, or, in other words, by indirect knowledge or the inferential argument. We can believe in the existence of things that we can observe directly, as well as those that we infer by their effects indirectly. From a scientific point of

view, both methods, the direct and inferential arguments, are equally valid. In terms of their validity, there is no difference between them.

An argument given to negate belief in God is that behind every event in the universe, a cause is at work. And so, it is claimed that all those things previously believed to be the result of supernatural causes can now be explained entirely through natural causes. Further study tells us this is not only an issue of 'cause and effect.' A more important point is that from the study of science itself, it has been learned that there is a high level of intelligence in the universe and perfect harmony and planning. Top scientists have accepted these facts. For instance, James Hopwood Jeans (1877-1946), Arthur Stanley Eddington (1882-1944), Albert Einstein (1879-1955), David Foster, and Fred Hoyle (1915-2001), among others. Now, how does one account for these features of the universe? They point to the existence and role of a Supreme Mind or the One Creator God. God is the Final Cause of all causes.

Molecular biology has conclusively proved that the stuff of the world, "matter of organic life, our very flesh, really is mind-stuff." (Sir Arthur Eddington: *The Nature of the Physical World*, Cambridge [1948])

The God that religion had presented was in the form of an article of faith or belief. But even though it is not directly a subject matter of science, modern scientific discoveries indirectly affirm this article of faith by testifying to a Creator and Designer of the universe. Science has not proven the concept of God, but it would be correct to say

that science has provided sufficient data as evidence for the existence of God.

In the standard model of science, one thing had the status of a missing link: this model reveals an action taking place in the universe, but not the Actor that is ultimately behind it. In contrast, in the model of the universe that the Quran provides, both the Actor—God—and the action—the universe—are present. The Quran highlights the Ultimate or Final Cause of the universe, the Mind behind the universe—the Creator, God. When science is now verifying and attesting to the intelligence evident in the universe, logically, there is no argument for it not to testify to the Mind that possesses this intelligence—the Creator, God.

## UNIVERSE WITH GOD

When an infant is in the protective shell of his mother's womb, he does not know the world outside. Outside the womb, a world as a whole is present, but the infant has no idea at all of it. The same is valid for man himself. All of man's information is limited within space and time. Man does not know the realities that are beyond space and time.

When British philosopher John Stuart Mill (d. 1873) was in his youth, his father said that belief in God is irrational because if it is said that God created man, then the question arises as to who created God. Mill mentions this in his autobiography. After this, this point began being repeated



by philosophers like Bertrand Russell, Julian Huxley, and others. This process continued further, and one often hears this argument today, too.

I have analyzed this objection of certain atheists: if God created the universe, then who created God? According to my study, this objection is based on an apparent contradiction in thinking. This is because the question comes from those who believe in the universe without a Creator, but so far as their belief in a Creator is concerned, they need a Creator of the Creator. Yet, if the universe's existence is possible without a Creator, then the existence of the Creator, too, should be possible without a Creator.

In Mill's day and age, man's knowledge was confined inside a limited scientific 'shell' or 'womb,' just like an infant inside the shell of his mother's womb does not know the world outside. But now, there have been significant advances in man's scientific knowledge of the universe that testify to the existence of the Creator.

The situation is that before us, an entire universe is present. We can see it. We are experiencing it. And so, we are compelled to accept the existence of the universe. Even if a person does not accept the existence of God, he does accept the universe's existence.

Now, one scenario is that a person regards the universe, whose existence he accepts, as causeless. But such a belief is not possible because, in the universe, all events seem to be coming into being in line with cause and effect, and behind every event, a cause is at work. But the nature of the

universe itself desires a Final Cause for its existence—the Cause of all causes, which is another name for God.

It is not possible to accept a causeless universe. In fact, with the ‘Big Bang’ theory, modern science has proved that the universe is not eternal and had a definite beginning, which points to a cause of the universe. The universe necessarily requires a Final Cause for itself. When we accept the causeless God as the cause of the universe, we save ourselves from accepting the impossible belief in a causeless universe, which modern science has shown to be fallacious. That is why I assert that it is strange to believe in God, but not believing in God is even stranger. In accepting God, we only choose something less strange over something more strange.

This is not an issue only of God’s existence. From a purely scientific point of view, nothing can be conclusively proven or disproven in this world. In accepting anything, the option is not between proven and unproven. Instead, every choice is between workable and non-workable.

For example, scientists generally believe in the theory of gravity. But it is not because gravity is a proven theory. Newton saw an apple falling from a tree and wondered why it fell downwards. After investigation, he came up with the theory of gravity. However, a scientist once said that Newton was amazed at why the apple fell down and did not go up. The roots of the tree go down, and its trunk goes up. If the reason for the roots going down is given as the presence of gravity on the Earth, then how will the going up of the trunk and branches be justified?

This is the case with all scientific theories. In science, whenever a theory is accepted, it is not about accepting the proven against the unproven. Instead, it is about accepting a workable theory against a non-workable theory. The same principle applies to the theory of God.

In the case of gravity, our choice is not between matter with gravity and matter without gravity. Instead, it is between matter with gravity and non-existent matter. Because the theory of non-existent matter is not workable. Therefore, we have chosen the theory of matter with gravity, and the same is true with believing in God from a purely scientific point of view.

The universe does not possess the ability to create on its own. It cannot produce even a particle inside it. That is why, here for us, the choice is not between a universe with God and a universe without God. Instead, the option is between a universe with God and a non-existent universe. Because we cannot choose a non-existent universe, we are compelled to accept the theory of a universe with God.

## WHO SHOULD CONTROL?

British writer Julian Huxley wrote a book titled *Religion Without Revelation*, where he tried to prove that the age of religion based on Divine revelation had ended. He opined that man is devising his religion himself. The basis of this new 'religion' is reason, and the name of this 'religion'

is 'Humanism.' Huxley's argument can be expressed in these words:

“Man has learned in large measure to understand, control and utilize the forces of external nature; he must now learn to understand, control and utilize the powers of his nature.”

This understanding is shared by many atheists today. But this is nothing but playing on words. These are beautiful-sounding words, but they are entirely devoid of meaning. It is as *impossible* for man to control the forces of his nature by himself as it has become *possible* for him to control the forces of external nature.

Matter cannot control itself. In the same way, humans cannot control themselves. It became possible for humans to control matter because humans had superiority over matter due to their intellect or mental faculties. In the same way, humans can be controlled only by a being who has superiority over them. No being can control another being that is equal to them. Therefore, to keep human beings under control requires belief in a superior Being—God Almighty. There is nothing except the belief in a Supreme God that can keep humans in control.

## A RATIONAL STAND

In the matter of the existence of God, the actual point at issue is what stand we can adopt and what stand we cannot

adopt from a purely logical viewpoint. There is no other way of looking at this.

It is a fact that the universe has a high degree of organization. The matter of organization (*nazm*) is within man's observation. Professor Davies has given a scientific example of the composition of the atom. Therefore, so far as the question of order in the universe is concerned, it is accepted by the scientific community.

Regarding taking a rational stand, the second most important thing is that the concept of order can never be explained without the idea of an Organizer of the order. That is, design is not possible without a Designer. Without a Designer, the concept of order is rationally untenable. The presence of design has its compulsive logic, that is, unconditionally accepting the existence of a Designer. The absence of an explanation of the presence of the Designer is not a logical justification for denying the Designer's fact.

What Professor Davies says about the structure of the atom is true of everything in this world. Each part of this world, be it big or small, is so regulated by eternal laws and is so in proportion that even the slightest change in its structure will suffice to disturb the whole world's system.

For instance, gravity on Earth is, to the ultimate extent, suited to our needs. If the gravity on Earth were to become weaker or stronger, in both situations, the survival of human civilization would be rendered impossible. We know we have two immediate neighbours in space—the sun and the moon. If the sun were to take the place of the moon and the

moon to take the position of the sun, then not only would human life but the Earth itself would be burnt to ashes.

Everything on our Earth moves from above to below. But the tree is exceptional because its roots go down into the ground, and the trunk grows upward. Earth would have no green trees if the trees did not have these outstanding features.

All these events indicate a high degree of organization in the universe. This points to the fact that an Organizer is behind the universe's existence. Another name for the Organizer is God Almighty.

## THE INTELLIGENT UNIVERSE

There are innumerable things in the universe, each in some divisible form. The atom was believed to be the basic unit of the universe, a single and individual entity. In Einstein's time, when the atom was split, it was discovered that it was not a singular entity but a compound comprising what is now known as subatomic particles.

In the modern age, everything has been the object of scientific research, from which we have learned that there are always several options in the arrangement of matter. However, the study of science tells us that nature always selects only that formulation that is precisely in coherence with the overall scheme of the universe. This is why everything appears to have taken its final shape.

This principle operative in the universe can be summed up in a single phase: intelligent design. There are billions and trillions of things in this world, but everything, without exception, serves as an example of this thoughtful design. This principle is so universal that a Nobel prize-winning physicist, Dr. Fred Hoyle, wrote a 200-page book supporting this thesis. It is titled, 'The Intelligent Universe.'

This phenomenal aspect of the universe is no simple matter; it is the ultimate proof of God's existence. In the making of the universe, the presence of intelligence is proof of an Intelligent Creator. Logically, it is unthinkable that intelligent action should exist without an intelligent actor. Both are, without doubt, inextricably related to one another.

Believing in intelligent action and then denying an intelligent actor is similar to believing in a complex machine but denying the existence of the engineer who made it. Dr. Fred Hoyle has rightly pointed out in his book that the Christian church's violent opposition to scientists during the early development of science still affects people's minds. They are afraid that if they acknowledge scientific proof of the existence of the Intelligent Creator, ancient religious persecution might return. But this is a baseless fear. After the scientific acknowledgement of the wise Creator, what will remain the force in history will be a true divine religion rather than the tenets of the Christian church.

## **Two Options**

We have two ways of explaining the universe's extraordinary order: design and proportion. One theory posited for this

is that this universe is its designer. However, all scientific research refutes this claim. The design or order discovered by science in the universe is a brilliant design. On the other hand, science also tells us that the universe has everything save what is called intelligence. The universe discovered by science is, at the same time, a designed universe in the total sense, and along with this, it is non-intelligent. In such a situation, regarding the world to be its designer is like supposing a stone statue with a meaningful design to have been its designer. That is to say that the statue is a self-created being.

We have only one option for explaining the universe: to hold some outside agency as the cause of the design in the universe. There is no other acceptable option.

### **The Only Choice**

The truth is that, in this matter, we do not have a choice between a Godless universe and a universe with God. Instead, we can choose from the options: 'a universe with God' or 'no universe at all.' That is to say that if we deny God, we shall also have to deny the universe's existence. Since we cannot deny the existence of the universe, we are compelled to accept the existence of God.

One of the principles of rationality is that where there is essentially only one option, we have to recognize the compulsiveness of the situation. That is, we are compelled to make just that one choice. However, it is possible to go against this only when more than one possible course of action is available. However, we inevitably accept that single choice when no other option exists. In this context, the



only thing to do is accept the existence of God as a reality. Because, except for acknowledgement of the existence of God, there is no other possible choice.

### **Logical Argument**

To understand anything rationally, man's most important tool is logic. Through logic, any valid argument may be made understandable. There are two important kinds of reasoning. One is by optional logic, and the other is by compulsive logic. Both of these logical methods are equally reliable. Using either of the two logical methods, we can prove any valid theory. Optional logic is one in which man has many choices. In such a case, we have different means by which we can make one choice and leave aside the others. Compulsive logic is when a man has only one option. In this case, man is compelled to accept the single choice, for no other choice is available.

### **Selective Logic Or Optional Logic**

Another name for optional logic is selective logic. Selective logic is where one can choose one out of many options. In such cases, we have methods that can be applied to select only one out of many and leave the rest.

Let us take the case of the sunlight. The sun's light appears to be a single colour when viewed with the naked eye. But the light is divided into seven distinct colours when we see it through a prism. Therefore, we have two ways of deciding the colour of the sun's rays. Now, accepting the choice that carries more logical weight is possible. Therefore, in this

matter, the theory of sunlight being made up of seven colours is acceptable because scientific methods have proved it.

### **Compulsive Logic**

The matter of compulsive logic is entirely different. As far as compulsive logic is concerned, man has only one option. Man is compelled to accept the single choice, for no other choice is available. In compulsive logic, the state of affairs is such that man must necessarily accept whatever the proposition is, as no other options are available.

One prominent instance of compulsive logic is the identification of one's mother. Everyone is compelled to accept one woman as one's mother. Although the individual does not remember the experience of being born, he accepts his mother with absolute conviction. This acceptance happens by following the method of compulsive logic. One does so because, in this matter, one's position is such that one must accept someone to be his mother. Therefore, when he is old enough to be aware of her, he accepts his mother as such with conviction because, in this case, there is no other choice available.

Accepting the existence of God also pertains to this kind of compulsive logic. The point worth noting in this matter of the existence of God is that we have no other option. We are compelled to believe in the existence of God because if we do not believe in the existence of God, this further leads to the denial of the existence of the universe along with our existence. Since we cannot negate the existence of the universe, we also cannot deny the existence of God.

Using this logic, we can say that the choice is not between the ‘universe with God’ and the ‘universe without God.’ Instead, the real choice is between the ‘universe with God’ or ‘no universe at all.’ As we cannot opt for the proposition ‘No universe at all,’ we are compelled to opt for the proposition ‘The universe with God.’

## MAN’S EXISTENCE IS PROOF OF GOD’S EXISTENCE

In the vast universe, man denies God’s existence even though man’s existence is the most extraordinary proof of Divine existence. If a being like man exists, then God indeed exists. All those qualities present in perfect form in God are present in imperfect form in man. If an imperfect being exists, then a perfect being also certainly exists. Believing in one and not believing in another is a logical contradiction that no person with a thinking mind can countenance.

Rene Descartes, a renowned French philosopher (1596-1650), was faced with the question of whether man exists and what the rational proof of his existence is. After a long reflection, he answered, “I think, therefore, I exist.”

Descartes’s answer is a logically sound one. But this logic, which proves man’s existence, gives us something more significant: the rational evidence of the existence of God. In the light of this rational principle, it would be correct to say, ‘thinking exists; therefore, God exists. Thinking is an

abstract thing. People deny God because they think that the concept of God appears to be something abstract.

Moreover, the existence of an abstract concept is not understandable to them, that is, to believe in something with no material existence. However, every man is a thinking creature. Therefore, based on one's experience, everyone believes in the existence of thinking despite thinking being an abstract concept with no material existence.

If man believes in the abstract concept of man's existence, he must also accept the abstract idea of another existence. This is, without doubt, proof of God's existence. Every person undergoes this experience and believes in it without any disagreement. If the existence of thinking is denied, then one's existence will have to be rejected. No one can deny one's existence; it is not, therefore, logically possible for anyone to deny the existence of God.

Another reason why people deny the existence of God is that He is invisible; he cannot be seen. God's being invisible is not a sufficient reason to deny His existence. The truth is that denying God's existence because He is invisible is an anachronistic argument in this age of modern science. In the post-Einstein era, when the atom was split, and the river of knowledge reached the micro-world, which was in the unseen, it was learned that everything was invisible. Things previously regarded as visible—atoms—all became invisible—sub-atomic particles that cannot be seen. In such a situation, denying the existence of God based on invisibility has become an unscientific stand. For details on this subject, studying these two books is recommended:

1. *The Unseen World*, by Sir Arthur Eddington

2. *Human Knowledge*, by A. W. Bertrand Russel

Present-day science accepts the existence of many things that cannot be seen, such as electrons, the law of gravity, X-rays, etc. Although they cannot be observed by the human eye directly, every scientist believes in their existence for the simple reason that although we cannot see these things directly, we can see their effects—for example, the heat of an electron, a falling apple, in the case of gravity, and a photo film, in the case of X-rays. From the scientific point of view, we believe in the existence of things, both by direct observation and their effects or, in other words, by way of indirect knowledge or inferential argument.

If everything in this universe is proved through indirect evidence, then the same is true for God's existence. God certainly is not visible to our eyes. But He is undoubtedly observable through His signs—His creation in the form of the universe around us. So, we can say that the presence of the creation is proof of the Creator. This is scientific and intellectual evidence for the existence of God.

## **Space Observation**

Space travel is one of the new things that have come into existence in present times. Many people have travelled into space in rockets, and with special telescopes, they have studied the Earth. Their space observations have revealed many new things. An Astronaut once observed that he realized there was no planet like the Earth in the vast universe during his space journey. There is life on Earth, and along

with it, a high-order life support system exists. These two things are found on the planet most proportionately. One astronaut expressed his observation regarding the Earth in these words: “Right type of material at the right place.”

It is a unique quality of the planet Earth that life is found here. Here, there are walking, talking human beings. But the existence of life of such a kind is no simple matter. For it, innumerable factors are required, without which the existence or survival of life would not be possible. In this respect, Earth is a unique exception in the vast universe. Here, exceptionally, man exists, and the entire life support system exists in the very proportionate manner required for man’s survival. This meaningful exception in the vast universe is proof of purposeful action and planned creation. Therefore, the existence of such a Being who possesses Will and who can create needs no proof.

### **The Earth: An Exception**

If anyone could travel and observe the whole universe, he would find that this vast universe was entirely lifeless. There is boundless space, terrible darkness, hurdling stones, colossal fireballs, and all these things are in a perpetual and frenzied state of motion. When an astronaut passes through these incredible scenes and finally reaches the planet Earth, he finds an astonishing exception. Exceptionally, there is water, greenery, animals, life, and human beings with intelligence. Then he sees, astonishingly, the existence of the life support system. Here, a complete civilization exists that is not found anywhere in the vast universe. Apparently,

there is an extremely meaningful world in an entirely meaningless cosmos.

This event shows that the planet Earth is a unique exception in this vast universe. This exception is no simple matter. Exception proves intervention, and intervention proves the existence of an Intervenor, and when the existence of an Intervenor is proved, the existence of God is also proved.

## FROM DENIAL TO BELIEF

There are countless examples of superb organization throughout the universe, far surpassing even the most advanced systems of man-made machines. It is simply unthinkable that the formidably complicated system of the universe could have come into existence without a Creative Intelligence being behind it. There is something utterly irrational in refusing to believe in the Organiser of an organized universe. The human mind has, thus, no rational grounds for denying the existence of God. We have to concede that there is a formidable array of facts in the universe that cannot be explained unless we admit the role of a superior Mind or God Almighty.

In the following statement of belief, George Earl Davis, an American physicist, makes perhaps the best summing-up of the situation:

“If a universe could create itself, then it would embody the powers of a Creator, a God, and we should be forced to conclude that the universe itself is a God.

Thus, the existence of a God would be admitted, but in the peculiar form of a God that is both supernatural and material. I choose to conceive of a God who has created a material universe not identical to Himself but dominated and permeated by Himself.” (*Man Does Not Stand Alone*, p. 71)

One must ask, “Can such a great scheme of checks and balances as found in Nature develop without deliberate planning?” Examining the excellent organization, meaningfulness, and extraordinary wisdom that manifest themselves in the universe will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that there is indeed an Organizer and Sustainer of this universe.

Once again, asserting that the choice before us is not between the ‘universe with God’ and the ‘universe without God’ is important. Instead, the real choice is between the ‘universe with God’ and ‘no universe at all.’ As we cannot opt for the proposition ‘No universe at all,’ we are compelled to opt for the proposition the ‘universe with God.’





CHAPTER FOUR

THE UNIVERSE TESTIFIES TO  
GOD'S EXISTENCE

## SCIENCE AND BELIEF IN GOD

Science is the expression of that knowledge of Nature about which the Quran had predicted in these words:

“We shall show them Our signs in the universe and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that this is the Truth.” (41:53)

In light of modern scientific findings, the new picture of the emerging universe resonates very closely with what was presented well in advance in the Quran. In this sense, contemporary scientific discoveries are, as it were, a detailed explanation of and elaboration on brief statements given in the Quran, as well as evidence for the veracity of the Quran.

According to modern scientific discoveries, the universe began some 14 billion years ago. After that, passing through different stages of transformation, it arrived in its present form. The record of this entire journey can be found in various books. Besides, one can visit a good planetarium to get a feel for it. I witnessed this at The National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC during one of my visits to the US. A brief introduction to this is given below.

According to a scientific study, 13.8 billion years ago, a superatom appeared in the universe. It was a collection of all the particles found in the existing cosmos. It seems as if the entire universe was compressed into an immensely large, intense, and mutually interacting ball of particles in inward motion. All the particles within this ball were intricately

connected to each other with an infinite gravitational force. According to the laws of natural physics, they could not separate and travel in an outward direction.

At that moment, a tremendous explosion occurred within this superatom. Immediately after this explosion, the particles of the superatom scattered and began to travel rapidly in outward directions. Subsequently, these particles gathered in various formations in the vast expanse of space. From these formations, celestial bodies were created and described in terms such as stars, planets, galaxies, solar systems, the earth, and the moon.

The explosion of the super-atom simultaneously establishes two things. One that there is a powerful entity distinct from the universe, which was already present and intervened of its own will, causing an extraordinary event where the particles of the super-atom started travelling in an outward motion instead of the inward motion, which was its original path.

The second significant aspect of this incident is that an explosion always results in destructive consequences. From firecrackers to bombs, every explosion invariably has a destructive property. However, the explosion of the superatom was exceptionally non-destructive. It produced only healthy and constructive results.

This exceptional event is evidence that the Creator of the universe is the possessor of unlimited power and is the Lord and Master of the universe. He has a unique ability to exercise complete control over events and, along with this, over their results.

Scientific studies also tell us that this universe is an expanding universe. Like a balloon, it is constantly expanding in the outward direction. From this, it can be proven that the universe had a definite beginning. It would have ended if it had been eternal because of its expanding nature. Therefore, it is proved that the universe has a beginning and that some pre-existing Being must have caused it to begin. For, a previously non-existent thing to come into being can only be possible if before it came into being, something or someone else existed who, through his will, caused it to come into being. Therefore, this is convincing evidence for the existence of a Creator, God Almighty, who pre-existed in the universe and who caused it to come into being by His will.

Uncountable phenomena in the universe prove that the Planner and Administrator of the universe are just One. The universe would have been chaotic if there had been more than one administrator.

Consider the following facts to understand this point: The distance between the Earth and the Sun is around 93 million miles. This distance has been continuously maintained over millions of years. If any substantial change were to occur in this distance, it would have disastrous results. For example, if this distance were to increase to double, the Earth would turn so cold that water, animals, and humans would all freeze. On the other hand, if this distance were halved, the Earth would become so hot that everything, including man, would burn up and be finished off.

This proves that the God of the sun and the earth are the same. If the Earth and the sun had two separate gods, both would want to run things according to their respective wills and then the distance between the sun and the Earth would keep increasing or decreasing. Due to this irregularity, human civilization on Earth would have been impossible.

In the vast unknown universe, our planet Earth is a rare exception. There are countless things, like water, air, and plants, which are essential for human life, whereas elsewhere in the vast space, as far as man has come to know so far, there is no place where these things are present. This exception reveals that this Earth did not come about through unconscious matter acting independently, as atheists might argue. Instead, it must undoubtedly be the creative miracle of a conscious Being. Had it been the product of mere material forces, there would be many more such locales like Earth in the universe, and not just one.

Everything in our universe is exceedingly meaningful. The meaningfulness of things proves that this world is the creation of a conscious Creator. No other explanation can account for this meaningfulness. For example, take the size of the Earth. The equatorial circumference of the Earth is around 25,000 miles. This size is immensely significant. Had this figure been 50,000 miles, the Earth's gravity would be so much that it would have halted the physical growth of the human body. Because of this, only dwarf-like people would be seen on Earth. On the other hand, if this figure had been 12,000 miles, the Earth's gravity would have been so low that it would not have been able to stop the growth

of the human body, as a result of which human beings would be like palm trees! Besides this, various unfavourable conditions would have been produced, rendering all of man's civilizational progress impossible.

If one reflects on these aspects, one learns that from the scientific point of view, there is no option but to accept that there is indeed a Creator of this universe and that He is most definitely just one.

## CREATION TESTIFIES TO THE CREATOR

If a person can exist, why can't God exist? If air and water, trees and stones, the moon and the stars exist, why is the existence of the One who gave them existence doubted? The fact is that the presence of the creation is proof of the Creator. Man's existence is evidence of a God who is present, hears and sees, thinks, and causes things to happen. There is no doubt that our physical eyes cannot see God. But there is also no doubt that nothing can be seen with the physical eyes regarding its final subatomic components. Then why is the condition of seeing necessary for believing in the existence of anything?

The stars shine in the sky. The ordinary person thinks he is seeing the stars, but from a strictly scientific point of view, this is not true. When we see the stars, we are not seeing them directly. Instead, we see their effects in the form of

light, which, separating from the stars, reach our eyes after a long time, sometimes even after many years.

The same is true for all other things. Everything in this world that man 'sees' he sees only indirectly. Man does not see anything directly, nor can he ever do so with his present limitations. So, when the existence of all other things is accepted based on indirect evidence, why should the existence of God also not be accepted based on indirect evidence?

The fact is that God is as clearly proven as anything in the universe. Everything in this universe is proved through indirect evidence. In this world, everything is recognized by its effects. The same is true for God's existence.

God certainly is not visible to our eyes. But He is certainly observable through His signs—His creation in the form of the universe around us. And undoubtedly, for intellectual evidence for God, this is enough.

## EVIDENCE OF GOD IN THE UNIVERSE

For the existence of life on Earth, various complex conditions are necessary. These conditions are such that they cannot come about by mere chance. They cannot be together by fluke. This being the case, one must necessarily accept that there is some conscious guidance that is present in the universe that is the cause behind these conditions and that has arranged for them to come about in just the manner needed for life to be able to exist on Earth.



The Earth is continuously moving about in the vast space. That itself is a fascinating phenomenon! Along with this, the conditions on Earth are those of a highly exceptional planet. These things are so astounding that one is amazed if one thinks about them. There are many signs on Earth and in the rest of the universe which, if a person sincerely reflects on them, can become a mirror for the realization of God and God's beauty and majesty.

In terms of size, the Earth does not even have the status of a tiny particle compared to the rest of the universe. But despite this, in the entire known universe, as far as scientists have been able to discover, it is only on tiny little Earth that the conditions necessary for life are present. As far as our knowledge goes, such conditions are not present elsewhere.

To get an idea of some of these conditions necessary for hosting life, consider the issue of the Earth's size. Had the Earth been considerably smaller or bigger than it presently is, life on it would have become impossible. If the Earth were as small as the moon—that is, if its diameter were a fourth of its present size—its gravitational force would turn into a sixth of what it is now. As a result, the Earth would not have been able to maintain water on its surface and air on top of it, and then life here would have been simply inconceivable. On the other hand, had the Earth's diameter been twice what it presently is, its gravitational force would double. As a result, the Earth's atmosphere, which stretches to a height of around 500 miles above the Earth's surface, would have been pulled down. The atmospheric pressure would then increase by 15 to 30 pounds per square inch, harming life in various ways.

Consider another feature of the fantastic way the Earth has been designed in a manner that is conducive to life. A blanket surrounds Earth—the atmosphere—some 500 miles high. If this thickness were reduced from 500 to 400 miles, the atmospheric pressure would increase to one ton per square inch. Due to this extraordinary pressure, it would no longer be possible for living beings to flourish on Earth. An animal that weighed one pound would now weigh some 150 pounds!

Reflect on another fascinating aspect of the Earth, which shows how perfectly it has been designed in the necessary manner for life to flourish on it. Earth completes one round around its axis in 24 hours. In other words, the Earth travels around its axis at around 1000 miles an hour. Suppose this speed were to drop to 200 miles an hour; our days and nights would become ten times longer than at present. In summer, the sharp sunlight would burn up all the plants on Earth, and what might remain would be subjected to frost during the long nights.

Think of another interesting aspect: The sun, which provides heat and light, is a scorching place. Its surface temperature is 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit! The sun is located at a distance of around 93 million miles from the Earth. This distance is maintained with amazing regularity. This phenomenon is exceedingly significant for us because if the distance between the sun and the earth were to reduce substantially—for instance, if it were to reduce by half—it would become so hot on Earth that life here would be impossible.

On the other hand, if this distance were to double, the Earth would become so cold that, once again, life would not be possible here. The same would happen if an extraordinarily bigger and hotter star assumed the place of the sun. Its immense heat would have caused the Earth to become like a furnace.

Another unique feature of the Earth that indicates how its design is well-calculated for the flourishing of life as we know it is that its axis is tilted at around 23 degrees. This tilt gives us our seasons. As a result of this tilt, large portions of the surface of the Earth have become habitable and can host different sorts of plants and crops. Had the Earth not been tilted like this, there would have been perpetual darkness in the polar regions, with major consequences for the world's climate. There would be many other such effects, as a result of which life would have become impossible on Earth.

If the surmise is true that the Earth came into being after breaking off from the Sun, its initial temperature would have been the same as that of the Sun—i.e., 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Gradually, the Earth must have cooled after that. It would not have been possible for hydrogen and oxygen to combine until the Earth's temperature had declined to 4000 degrees. When that happened, water, essential for life, came into being. Then, millions of years passed with many dramatic transformations on the Earth's surface, and perhaps a billion or so years ago, the Earth acquired its present shape. A significant portion of the gases in the Earth's atmosphere went into space. Some went into forming water, while others were absorbed into various

things on Earth. Another portion remained in the air in the Earth's atmosphere, consisting mainly of oxygen and nitrogen. Why was all this happening precisely this way, with the gases being apportioned in particular proportions and quantities? It may be that this was precisely what was necessary for life as we know it to exist.

The Earth's upper atmosphere is a collection of gases, of which 78% is nitrogen and 21% oxygen, with other gases in tiny proportions. Here, the question arises as to how these gases combined in this way and remained in just the correct quantity and proportion in the atmosphere necessary for life. If the oxygen ratio in the atmosphere had been 50% instead of 21%, many things on the face of the Earth might have easily caught fire. On the other hand, had this proportion been substantially lower, would human life as we know it have been impossible on Earth?

Oxygen, hydrogen, and carbon dioxide are separately formed and are vital components of life. There is no chance that one in a billion people could come together by chance in just the proportions they are presently in that enable human life to flourish on Earth.

### **Checks and Balances in Nature**

Here are some more examples that highlight how finely and wisely designed our Earth is:

1. An estimated 25 million meteoroids, micrometeoroids, and other space debris enter the Earth's atmosphere each day, which results in an estimated 15,000 tons of that material entering the Earth's atmosphere each year.

If this atmosphere had been considerably thinner than it is now, many meteorites would have fallen on the Earth. These meteorites travel at the speed of 25000 to 160000 miles per hour. They would have burnt up every flammable thing on the Earth and converted its surface into a vast field full of craters. Meteorites, which travel 90 times faster than the bullet of a gun, can turn a creature like man into pieces simply by their heat, but the Earth's atmosphere, on account of its exceedingly accurate and appropriate thickness, protects us from this fiery onslaught.

2. The Earth's atmosphere keeps just the right amount of density so that actinic rays of the Sun reach the Earth in just the appropriate quantity necessary for plant life. The quantity that precisely meets our needs is astounding.
3. One of the properties of water is that the density of ice is less than that of liquid water. Water has an exceptional quality: when it freezes, it becomes lighter rather than heavier. This water feature is essential for preserving aquatic life in regions where it becomes frigid in winter and water bodies freeze. Because of this feature, ice can float on the water's surface and not sink below; otherwise, all the water would turn solid, ending all aquatic life. This ice becomes a protective layer on the water's surface, allowing the temperature below to remain above freezing. Due to this unique quality, fish and other aquatic animals remain alive even in cold winters in regions where it snows, and water-bodies freeze.
4. At the beginning of the 20th century, when a disease

called Endothia attacked the chestnut trees in America, spreading rapidly, many people, upon seeing the cracks in the forest canopy, exclaimed, "These cracks will never be filled again." Any other type of tree had not yet supplanted the majestic American chestnut. Tall buildings were made from the durable wood of these trees, and they also had other advantages. However, in 1900, the disease known as Endothia entered Asia. Until then, these forests were considered the king of all woods. But now, this tree has become extinct in these forests.

However, the empty spaces in the forests soon filled up with trees of another kind. Perhaps the American tulip trees were waiting for these cracks to emerge. Before the appearance of the cracks, these trees, although a regular part of the forest, grew and blossomed very little. But now, no one feels the absence of chestnut trees, as other species have taken their place completely. These trees grow an inch in girth and six feet in height annually. Besides rapidly multiplying, they provide the best quality wood, which is especially useful for delicate work.

5. Once in Australia, a cactus was sown as fences for fields. No enemy insect of this plant was in the country, so it began proliferating. It even entered cities and villages, rendered areas desolate, and made agriculture difficult, if not impossible. No scheme seemed to work against it. The cactus seemed invincible. But experts worked on a solution till they finally arrived at an insect whose only food was the cactus. This insect finally established control

over the seemingly unstoppable army of this cactus in Australia, and then the problem was solved.

The checks and balances of this sort abound in Nature. Can any person reasonably claim that they have come about by chance, on their own, and not because of the conscious planning of a Creator?

### **Mathematical Precision in the Universe**

An astounding mathematical precision is found in the universe. A matter that appears stagnant and unconscious is not without order, organization, and meticulous arrangement. Specific, definite laws bind it. Here are some examples.

1. For instance, no matter when and where the word 'water' is uttered, it will have only one meaning—a compound consisting of two parts of oxygen and one of hydrogen. Everywhere on the Earth, water will boil at the same temperature—100 degrees Celsius—as long as the atmospheric pressure is 760 mm. Had there not been this sort of order, discipline, and regularity in matter and energy, there would have been no basis for scientific research and inventions because then, in this world, only mere chance would reign, and for scientists, it would have been impossible to say that under such-and-such conditions if one uses such-and-such method, such-and-such results will appear.
2. The Periodic Table of Elements is perhaps the first thing a new student is shown in Chemistry. It categorizes elements into groups based on their atomic numbers—

that is, the number of protons present in the nucleus of the atom of an element. These numbers create the difference between the atoms of one element and another.

Hydrogen, the simplest element, contains a single proton at its atomic core. Helium has two protons, and lithium has three. Creating a table of different elements became possible due to a fascinating mathematical principle inherent in them. The best example of order and organization can be found in identifying element number 101, which was determined by studying its 17 protons. This remarkable arrangement of nature is not referred to as a periodic chance but as a periodic law. However, those who seek structure and order from an organizer and planner deny it. If modern science fails to acknowledge God, it will inevitably deny one of its indispensable research findings.

3. Let us take another instance. On August 11, 1999, a total solar eclipse was fully observed in Cornwall, England. However, its prediction had already been made earlier. Consequently, the complete solar eclipse of 1999, which garnered the highest number of observers in history, was witnessed in Europe. Many individuals, including scientists, embarked on long journeys to reach the eclipsed area. Similarly, on July 22, 2009, a solar eclipse occurred, marking the most extended duration of any solar eclipse in the 21st century, lasting over five and a half hours. This event was visible in Pakistan, India, and China.

Astronomers have such faith in the regularity and predictability of the solar system's movement that



they can predict, well in advance, that a solar eclipse will happen at a particular time on a specific date. For instance, based on calculations, it has been predicted that a long solar eclipse will occur in the year 2132. This solar eclipse is predicted to be prolonged, as seen in 2009.

4. We are astounded when we look at the sky and see numerous stars scattered about. These huge balls in the space for aeons have specific and determined pathways and move about continuously. They travel in their orbits with such discipline and regularity that their location at a particular time can be predicted with complete accuracy centuries earlier.

From a humble drop of water to distant stars spread out in space, unparalleled order, precision, and organization are found in the universe. In the functioning of various things in the natural world, there is such a degree of regularity that we can devise laws on their basis. This is undeniable proof of the existence of a Creator and Master of the universe.

### **Predictability, Order, Precision, and Fine-Tuning**

Newton's theory of gravity explains the motion of astronomical bodies. As a result of this, British scientist John Couch Adams (1819-1892) and French scientist Urbain Jean Joseph Le Verrier (1811-1877) could predict, simply on a mathematical basis and without even having viewed it, the presence of a planet that till then had remained unknown. And so, in September 1846, when at night the direction of a telescope in the Berlin Observatory turned

to the location they had mentioned, they spotted that planet that is presently known as 'Neptune'.

We must consider: "To what extent is it incomprehensible that within the universe, a mathematical certainty exists that has spontaneously emerged?" The above and innumerable other phenomena in the universe cannot be explained without accepting the role of a higher intelligence behind them. How absurd it is to think that all this could result from matter organizing itself on its own! The regularity, predictability, order, precision, and fine-tuning found in the universe certainly demand a Creator of the universe who is also its Master. If modern science does not accept God, it would deny a necessary result of its findings.

### **Earth: A Sign**

Lewis Thomas (1913-1993) was an American scientist and philosopher. He authored a book on biology, in which he wrote the following words about Earth: "hanging there in space and alive." (Lewis Thomas, *The Fragile Species*, Collier, 1993, p. 135)

This depiction of the planet Earth is remarkably accurate. Earth is constantly orbiting within the vast expanse of space. The conditions of the Earth, in conjunction with its existence, are exceptionally extraordinary, akin to those of a vibrant sphere. These aspects are so awe-inspiring that contemplating them would send shivers down one's spine and cause their body to quiver. Earth, along with the myriad signs present in the cosmos, holds such profound significance that if an individual earnestly reflects upon

them, the universe becomes a reflection of their recognition of God's divine knowledge and majestic beauty.

## INTELLIGENT UNIVERSE

The solar system includes the sun and all those astronomical bodies that, directly or indirectly, are within the sun's gravitational pull and are revolving around the sun, each in their specific orbit. As far as our understanding goes, there is only one such solar system in the known universe in which our Earth is located. But astronomers think there could be a million more such solar systems in the universe.

A 'galaxy' is the term used for a collection of stars that move around in a particular system. Our galaxy is the Milky Way, which appears as a long white stream in the night sky. It contains approximately one hundred billion stars, and our solar system is in it. There are more than 100 billion such galaxies in the vast observable universe, and there are several billion stars in each galaxy, many of which are huge.

The Sun orbits the centre of its galaxy at 175 miles per second, carrying all its planets, including Earth, on its celestial plate. The solar system is so vast that despite the Sun's rapid journey, it takes our solar system 200 million years to complete one orbit around the centre of the Milky Way galaxy. Such spiral galaxies with more than one trillion stars are found in the vast universe, and within each galaxy, there are numerous massive stars.

Inside a galaxy, stars are located at vast distances from each other. The star nearest to our Sun is so far away that it takes its light more than four years (travelling at the speed of 1,86,000 miles per second) to reach the Earth!

Now, we must ask ourselves: What has been preserving and maintaining such a vast system of astronomical bodies in such perfect order and arrangement for billions of years without any deviation whatsoever? According to astronomers, it is the mutual attraction between these bodies.

It is strange that man understands the meaning of 'the mutual attraction of astronomical bodies' but cannot understand the meaning of the word 'God' that stands for the Being behind this astounding phenomenon!

## MEANINGFUL EXCEPTION

A strange aspect of the universe is its lack of complete uniformity. In every portion, exceptions are found. These exceptional examples are proof of the fact that this universe has a great Creator. An exception in the universe is proof of intelligent intervention in the universe, and intelligent intervention in the universe is proof of an intelligent Creator of the universe, who can, through His will, intervene to make it possible for there to be an exception to a general rule.

For example, the solar system is an exception in the vast universe. Planet Earth is an exception in the solar system.

The size of the Earth, which is just how it should be for human life to flourish at its best, is an exception. The Earth's life-support system is an exception. Life on Earth is an exception. Man being on Earth is an exception. And so on.

These different sorts of exceptions in our world are not random exceptions without significance. Instead, they are significant exceptions. In the vast universe, these meaningful exceptions are definite proof of the fact that this universe has a Creator who made this universe in line with a deliberate plan. Where He wanted, He arranged for uniformity among things, and where He chose to, He caused exceptions to be present.

For example, in the structure of the bodies of human beings, there is uniformity, but along with this, each person's genetic code is unique. Everyone's fingers look structurally similar, but each person's thumb impression is different. These exceptions amidst uniformity are certainly evidence of intervention and intelligent design by the Creator. They certainly cannot be the result of blind chance or coincidence, as atheists might insist.

## SIGNS IN THE UNIVERSE

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) was a famous English philosopher and poet. A well-known poem of his is titled *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. Coleridge talks about a mariner stuck in the sea with no potable water in this poem. The sea's water is spread out on all sides of the ship. But because it is salty, it is not fit for drinking:

“Water, water everywhere,  
Nor any drop to drink.”

The state of Coleridge's imaginary mariner is potentially that of all human beings. Man cannot remain alive without water. But all of the water in the sea is very salty, with salt forming one part out of ten of seawater. Because of this, no one can drink it.

The Creator has arranged for drinking water through the phenomenon of rain. Due to the impact of the heat of the sun, evaporation occurs in the oceans and seas. The sea's water turns into vapour and moves up towards the sky. However, in line with the law of nature, its salt component remains in the sea, and only the sweet water component goes up. This cleansed water rises to form clouds and then falls on land as rain, giving man the sweet water he needs.

This natural process of desalination through rain is an amazing aspect of the universe. If a person reflects on this one phenomenon, he can be so overwhelmed that he can live in the thrill of the discovery and blessings of God.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964), India's first Prime

Minister, once remarked that life is an intricately woven tapestry. We construct plans and chart out paths of action, but the outcome seldom matches the blueprint we envisioned. Often, unknown factors exert a powerful influence, challenging our assumptions. It appears that specific hidden forces shape the course of human destiny.

An individual who lacks faith in God could express it this way. However, religion adds a layer by affirming that, undoubtedly, a concealed power determines human destiny and that power is none other than God.

## QUASARS: BRIGHTER THAN A BILLION STARS

One can see long light clouds in the night sky when the atmosphere is clear. This is our galaxy, the Milky Way. These clouds of light are not clouds. Instead, they are uncountable collections of stars that appear to be joined because they are far away from us. If you view them through a telescope, you will see them as separate stars. The Sun, which is 12,00,000 times the size of the Earth, appears to be very big, but many of the stars in our galaxy are even bigger than the Sun.

Uncountable galaxy-like clusters of this sort and other such unique astronomical phenomena are spread across the vast expanse of the universe. For example, astounding discoveries in astronomy are called 'quasars.'

A quasar is an astronomical object of very high luminosity found in the centre of some galaxies. The brightest quasars can outshine all the stars in the galaxies in which they reside. This makes them visible even at distances of billions of light-years. Quasars are among the most distant and luminous known objects. The radiant energy of quasars is enormous. Like the Milky Way, quasars have thousands of times greater luminosities than a galaxy. An entire galaxy in which there could be around 100 billion stars, many of which may be much bigger than our Sun, emits tremendous energy in light and heat, but a single quasar can emit even more energy than that!

This Earth, filled with such blessings, manifests God's beauty, and the fiery stars in space manifest God's majesty. If the Earth's life-support system is a sign of Paradise, then the blazing balls of fire in the form of stars in the sky remind one of Hell. If a person reflects on these signs on the Earth and in the skies, he can be filled with remembrance of God. The Quran points to this in these words:

“There are signs in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day for people of understanding; who remember God while standing, sitting and [lying] on their sides, and who ponder over the creation of the heavens and the earth.” (3:190-191)



## THIS BEAUTIFULLY-ARRANGED SYSTEM

Innumerable stars constantly move about in space, but no clash exists among them. If one planet crashed into another, it would cause enormous destruction. But that does not happen.

The precise location of the Sun is of great significance for sustaining life on Earth. It is located far from a region in space that is characterized by the presence of dangerous supernovas. Because of this, the Earth is protected from their impact. The Sun is located in one corner of the Milky Way galaxy. Had it been located at the centre of the Milky Way, many of the astronomical bodies there could have crashed onto Earth. Likewise, the electromagnetic waves from the galaxy's centre could have harmed some living beings.

The moon is located relatively close to Earth. But despite this, it does not crash against the Earth, whereas artificial satellites routinely fall on the Earth when their time is up. It is estimated that the weight of the moon is 73.5 million tons. Its diameter is 3500 kilometres, and its distance from the Earth is 3,84,000 kilometres. The Earth revolves around the Sun, and the moon revolves around the planet Earth. This has been happening for millions of years. But their system is so firm and fixed that they remain established in their orbits with complete accuracy. The Earth's magnetic force pulls the moon towards it, but the force of the moon's motion keeps it constantly at a distance from the world.

As a result of these two mutual processes of gravity and motion, the moon's pathway adopts the form of a long oval orbit. If the moon were to depart from its orbit and begin to fall toward the Earth, its speed would be 11 kilometres a second. If it were to rush with such incredible speed and crash on the Earth, it would be a more severe accident than all the bombs in the world exploding simultaneously. But this has never happened. Have you thought about why this is so? Could 'good fortune' or 'mere chance' account for it? Does it not point to some Divine arrangement?

## EARTH'S PROTECTIVE SHIELD

The Quran says:

“We have made the heaven a well-secured canopy.” (21:32)

From this, we learn that God has made the upper atmosphere with His mercy and power so that it becomes a means to protect man from harmful things. There are innumerable aspects of this Divine system. One part of it is the atmospheric gas called 'ozone.'

The Sun provides us with light and heat; life on Earth would have been impossible without it. In the Sun's rays, some things—for example, ultraviolet rays—can lead to various illnesses, and excess of them can even kill human beings and animals. Ultraviolet rays are continuously emitted from the

sun and come towards the Earth. Despite this, how is it that human beings and animals are still alive on Earth?

The reason for this is that the Earth's atmosphere, which stretches several hundred miles over the planet's surface, has several layers, one of which consists of ozone gas. Due to its particular structure, when ultraviolet rays fall on it, it absorbs them, preventing them from reaching the Earth's surface. This layer of ozone gas saves human beings from the harm of ultraviolet rays.

As mentioned in the above Quranic verse (21:32): "We have made the heaven a well-secured canopy," God has established a protective shield above the Earth in the form of the atmosphere. The recent scientific research on the atmosphere is intellectual support in favour of this statement of the Quran. Research has revealed that a natural reaction occurs among the gases present in the atmosphere at a height of between 20-50 kilometres. A new sort of molecule emerges from this process, producing ozone gas. A thick layer of ozone gas is spread on all sides of the Earth. This atmospheric umbrella works as a protective shield for man. Without it, human beings would not have been able to remain alive on Earth.

Modern industrial civilization has produced new problems for man. One of these is that significant damage is being done to the ozone layer due to factories' production of certain gases. As a result, ultraviolet rays reach the Earth's surface, causing various unsolvable problems for man.

From a scientific point of view, the change in the atomic structure of oxygen molecules is the cause of the production

of ozone, which possesses the quality of absorbing harmful rays from the sun and preventing them from falling on the Earth's surface. However, there is no rational or scientific evidence to prove that the oxygen molecule possesses the unique and beneficial ability to cause this change in the number of atoms on its own. The one who saves man from the assault of harmful rays from the skies is God Almighty. At the external level, the change mentioned above (in the number of atoms) has been made to happen so that man sees it, and the discovery of this thrills him so much that he stops in his tracks. Witnessing this external phenomenon, he should reach the inner reality: It should make him realize the presence of God.

The two phenomena—the presence of ozone in the system of Nature, on the one hand, and the destruction of ozone gas by modern industry, on the other—hold valuable lessons for us. They contain great signs for those who think and ponder. The presence of a thick layer of ozone gas in the atmosphere shows that the Being that made the world system knew in advance what the needs of the human beings who would be settled on Earth would be. He had prior knowledge that the sun's rays would contain harmful elements along with their beneficial aspects. He established the beneficial aspects and arranged for a system through which man could be protected from their harmful aspect when he was settled on Earth.

Now, see the other side of the story, which emerged in the second half of the 20th century. Some decades ago, man invented a technology called air conditioning. This invention

has provided man with many items of extraordinary comfort. Air-conditioned houses, offices, and buildings are considered by many to be a necessary part of modern life. When air-conditioning was invented, it seemed wonderful, but current research has shown that both minus and plus are present.

Modern air-conditioning uses a CFC-based system. CFC technology has emerged as a significant danger for man today. CFC stands for 'chlorofluorocarbons,' a chemical used to manufacture air-conditioned products. Factories that manufacture this chemical produce a byproduct called 'chlorine monoxide,' which is causing the depletion of the ozone layer, so much so that it has generated an enormous hole in the atmosphere through which the harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun have begun to fall on the Earth, posing a grave threat to humanity. Thus, research is being conducted on a large scale to discover an alternative material through which air-conditioners and other such products can be manufactured without producing this harmful chemical.

Now, there are two models to consider here: the model of Nature, on the one hand, and the model of human industry, on the other. In the model of Nature, provision was made beforehand, in the form of the protective ozone layer, to prevent the sun's harmful rays from reaching the Earth's surface so that humanity could be protected from them. On the other hand, the human beings who run big air-conditioning-related industrial empires could not know beforehand that their factories would seriously disturb the precious balance of Nature by damaging the ozone

layer and that this would result in severe consequences for life on Earth.

This situation is evidence that behind the creation of the universe and its planned nature was a superior, Divine Mind—that is, the Creator, God—at work. Had no such Mind been active therein, the system of Nature would also be characterized by the same defects and harmful consequences that manifest themselves in man-made industries. This reality is reflected in the following words of the Quran:

“Blessed is He in whose hand is the Kingdom: He has power over all things; He created death and life so that He might test you and find out which of you is best in conduct. He is the Mighty, the Most Forgiving One. He created seven heavens, one above the other in layers. You will not find any flaw in the creation of the Gracious One. Then look once again: can you see any flaw? Then look again and again. Your gaze will come back to you confused and exhausted.” (67:1-4)

As mentioned in the above verses of the Quran, the system of Nature created by God is flawless. This can be seen from the fact that God created and brought the sun into being before man was settled on Earth. God had prior knowledge that one part of the sun's rays would be harmful to man. And so, beforehand, God arranged for a firm protective system in the atmosphere in the form of the ozone layer that could save man from these harmful rays. On the other hand, the flaws in the working of human engineers and scientists can be seen in how they established the air-conditioning industry on Earth which emits harmful gases in the atmosphere that

damage the ozone layer that protects man from the sun's harmful rays. However, human experts were not even aware of the detrimental effects that their industry was going to have until their effects became prevalent.

This comparative example, contrasting God's management with human management, indicates that the creation of the universe could not have come about without a Supreme Mind. It also tells us that the intelligence of the sort that man possesses is insufficient for bringing about this creation. Without a Supreme Mind, the present meaningful universe could never have existed.

## THE UNIVERSE: A MIRROR

The universe is a mirror in which the Face of the Creator is visible. In this sense, everything in the universe is a sign of God. If a person can see, he will find meaningfulness in everything. With all its vast expansiveness, the present universe will become, for him, an excellent treasury for the realization of God.

### **Mathematical Universe**

The universe appears to be mathematical. It is mathematically ordered. This aspect of the universe is prominently visible in every part and portion. An example of this is the two-way movement of the Earth, that is, the rotation around its axis and the revolution around the sun, that occurs with

such precision that one can draw up a calendar that goes back thousands of years into the past or years into the future. The same is the case with all other components of the physical universe. Every part of the physical universe functions under such clear, firm, and definite principles that one can accurately predict its future. This aspect of the physical universe greatly impresses scientists so much that they are sure it is a mathematical model. As long as they have not understood a particular thing at the mathematical level, they assume they have not yet understood it.

Scientists study the world of Nature. Even though science has many departments and different scientists conduct their research and study separately, if one were to give a standard label to their work, it could be 'Searching for mathematical order in the universe.'

It is the shared conviction of all scientists that there is a mathematically precise order and arrangement in the universe. A scientist becomes completely satisfied with his research findings only when he can express his research mathematically. For scientists, mathematical verification is the ultimate evidence of a theory.

Scientists use mathematics to study the universe, and goldsmiths use touchstones to distinguish between genuine and fake gold. A goldsmith regards a bit of metal as gold only if verified through a touchstone. In the same way, a scientist accepts a theory to be valid only if it is verified to be so by mathematics.

Why is there this compatibility between the system of mathematics and the system of the universe? Some scientists



have raised this question. Some, without directly answering the question, have shaped their answer into an additional question—“Did a mathematical Mind create the universe?”

Some scientists have provided a positive answer to this question. In 1932, British physicist Sir James Jeans rightly remarked, “The universe appears to have been designed by a pure mathematician.”

This point, made by Sir James Jeans in 1932, has been acknowledged by numerous other scientists. The fact is that for the universe to have been created on mathematical principles and to be in a state of constant motion with mathematical accuracy is clear evidence that behind the universe, a mind with an awareness of mathematical laws is at work. This scientific study reveals that the universe has been organized with high precision and that no satisfactory explanation is possible without accepting a Mathematical Mind behind it. And that could only have been the Creator God.

### **Balance of Nature**

The massive amount of ice in Antarctica is said to comprise 85% of the fresh water on Earth. If this ice were to melt, the height of the seas of the world would rise by around 60-70 meters, and about a tenth of the land would come under water. As a result, all coastal cities would sink, as would several countries. The average temperature of the seas would decrease by around two degrees, resulting in climate disaster on Earth because it would affect the temperature of the whole planet.

These facts are an example from which one can gauge how balanced the system in place on Earth is. Here, a balance is maintained between numerous simultaneous requirements so that everything necessary for human life provides its benefits and man is protected from harm.

The balance of Nature is prominently visible in every aspect of the Earth. This tells us that a Mind is active behind this universe. Without such a mind, this balance could never have been maintained over millions of years.

Studying the Earth, it becomes evident that the One behind this universe has made the present conditions on the planet in a particular way. He planned to have living beings—humans, animals, plants—here, so everything was crafted precisely according to their needs. If this phenomenon does not convince a person of the existence of God, then what can?

### **Miracle of the Neem Tree**

The second International Neem Conference took place in Western Germany in December 1983. Recently, the Neem tree has attracted considerable attention among plant scientists. This is because Neem is a natural repellent against harmful insects. Man has invented several chemical-based insecticides, but all of them, in addition to repelling insects, also harm the environment and, in this way, have become very harmful to humanity. But that is not the case with Neem. Without causing any environmental damage, it can protect human beings and plants from harmful insects. Neem is said to have a unique defence system that works to

control insects. It can reduce the number of harmful insects, thus resulting in a spectacular increase in crop outputs.

In modern times, the use of chemical-based insecticides has become widespread. This may have helped augment agricultural yields, but it has had very harmful consequences for the environment and the health of human beings and other species. When particles from these chemical products enter the atmosphere, man ingests them through breathing; he falls prey to various illnesses. Till now, man has not been able to discover a method to prevent the harmful effects of using these products.

The widespread use of chemical-based insecticides is causing a severe decline in people's health, resulting in sickness and even, in extreme cases, death. Despite all its apparent advances, man's science has not yet reached the level manifested in the form of the miracle of Nature called the Neem tree.

The Neem tree is living proof of God's existence. Only the Supreme Mind could have designed the Neem Tree, which functions as a natural insect-repellent without causing any damage to the environment and the health of human beings and other species. But despite this, many people assume or argue that there is no Creator and Sustainer of the universe and that there is no Mind that is running it.

Seeing a bottle of factory-manufactured chemical insecticide, no one would say that it came into being on its own or that 'Nature' produced it. Every sensible person will know that it was made in a man-made factory. But when they see a much better sort of insecticide in the form of the

Neem tree, people who deny the Creator say that it came into existence on its own or that 'Nature' produced it!

The Neem tree is undoubtedly more excellent than any artificial insecticide. Extraordinary intelligence is very clearly present in its very structure. How strange are those who accept a factory-made insecticide as a product of intelligence but do not accept the same for the Neem tree?

### **Intelligence in the creation**

Once, I read an article about honeybees. In it, among other things, it mentioned that some 550 busy bees must collect the nectar of as many as 2.5 million flowers to make just one pound of honey.

There are innumerable signs inside the humble honeybee. The above point is just one among them. If man reflects on these signs, he can be overwhelmed with the awareness of the greatness of God.

What does the honeybee do? It sucks the nectar of flowers and, through a process, prepares honey. But that is not the only work it does. Along with this, it performs several other essential tasks. One of these is the pollination of plants, or the transfer of pollen from one plant to another. The bees carry the pollen grains from one flower to other flowers so they can fertilize the cells of the new plants. In this way, bees help in fertilizing plants through the process of pollination. This task is so vital that it can be said that giving nectar to the bees is the fee plants pay for the fertilizing service of honeybees.

Research reveals that when the honeybee is sucking the nectar of a flower in a garden, it does not suck the nectar of all sorts of flowers simultaneously. Instead, it repeatedly sips the nectar of just one kind of flower. At one time, it flies amidst flowers of the same species and sucks the nectar only from these flowers, one after another.

This practice of the honeybee is very significant for agriculture. Because of this, the pollen grains from a particular sort of flower keep being transferred to other flowers in plants or trees of the same species. While sucking nectar from a flower, pollen grains of the flower get stuck on the body of the honeybees. When it travels to another flower of the same sort and sits on it, some of these grains fall inside it. In this way, the process of fertilization occurs. Had this not happened, around 100,000 plants might have been wiped off the face of the Earth.

This is unmistakable evidence of intelligent design present in the creation system. This sort of meaningful phenomenon definitely and necessarily proves that there is indeed a Creator of this world. Without a Creator, such meaningfulness, order, and design in the creation system would be impossible.

### **Lesson From a Black Box**

According to the rules for aircraft, it is compulsory to have a black box for a plane that weighs more than 12,000 pounds. A black box consists of two unique sorts of recorders, one of which is called a 'flight recorder' and the other a 'voice recorder.' These recorders are placed in the tail of a plane so

that they might remain safe in the event of an accident. They continuously record the pilot's voice, the craft's speed, and other necessary information. In case an accident occurs, vital information related to the plane's last moments can be recovered from its black box.

Several years ago, a big plane was flying over the Atlantic Ocean. Ground control was taking a report from the aircraft at every moment. But suddenly, the plane's image vanished from their computer screen. Messages of the aircraft stopped coming in. The plane had an accident and crashed into the sea. More than 300 people were on board, and all of them died. None of them survived to relate the details of that accident to the world.

The only way to know about the accident was the plane's black box that had sunk in the vast Atlantic Ocean at a depth of two miles. The plane's black box was smaller than a speck in the ocean. On the face of it, extricating that 'speck' from the sea was impossible. But this 'impossible' became possible, and the black box was recovered.

How did this extraordinary miracle happen? It happened through a remote-controlled robot. A black box contains machines through which it keeps sending out radio signals. These signals are emitted from it every second and continue for several days. Ships from France, the USA, and the UK, equipped with modern equipment, located these signals, indicating where they were coming from. After this, photographs were taken through a special camera. Then, a robot was sent into the depths of the ocean. It had arms, hands, and fingers like a human being. These robots are

controlled through radio waves, so humans can watch the scene on a mechanical screen while sitting in ships above the sea. They can guide the robot through radio waves to reach the exact location, pick up the black box in its ‘hands,’ and then come up and hand it over to them.

This was the method using which a tiny ‘speck’ was taken out from the depths of the ocean, after which it narrated, as it were, the entire story of the accident to the world.

When I read these details in the media, I felt as if in the form of this event, a demonstration of that most momentous event was being made that is narrated in these words in the Quran:

“Not the smallest particle on the earth or in heaven is hidden from your Lord, and there is nothing smaller or bigger but is recorded in a clear Book.” (10:61)

## EVIDENCE FROM SCIENCE

The Internet is a global treasure trove of information. It can be called an ‘electronic encyclopedia.’ If you go to the Internet and type in the following words: ‘Thought-Controlled Wheelchair,’ a page will open up on the screen informing you that there is a wheelchair that can be controlled simply through the mind, without any external instrument! A person sitting in this electric wheelchair can, without using his hands, move the wheelchair as he wishes, only through his mind. An excerpt of an article on

this wheelchair published in *The Times of India*, New Delhi edition, dated July 1, 2009, is given here.

### **Thought-Controlled Wheel Chair**

Japan's Toyota Motor Company said yesterday that it had invented a way to allow a person to steer an electric wheelchair through a simple thought, using a helmet-like device that measures their brain waves. They said they had developed a way of running a wheelchair by detecting brain waves without the person having to move a muscle or shout a command. Toyota's system, developed in collaboration with researchers in Japan, is among the fastest in the world in analyzing brain waves, it said in a release on Monday. (*The Times of India*, New Delhi, July 1, 2009)

This is an invention of Japan's well-known Toyota company, which demonstrated this technology to the public. People can steer the wheelchair through simple thought using a helmet-like device that measures their brain waves. Toyota stated that they had developed a way of driving the wheelchair by detecting brain waves without the person having to move a muscle.

This phenomenon can help us understand how God controls the universe according to His will. The successful demonstration of a thought-controlled wheelchair is empirical evidence for God's thought-controlled universe. The above scientific invention makes it understandable that a superior, Divine Mind controls the universe altogether.



## THE FALLACY OF MECHANICAL INTERPRETATION

A computer is an electronic machine whose work is to obtain data from input devices and, in line with the instructions given, analyze and process this data and express the result as output. It is used for a wide variety of purposes. Observing the fantastic computer functioning, many people believed that science had now arrived at the position where it could manufacture a ‘mechanical mind.’

It might have reflected the hope or expectation that something—like an intelligent mind possessed by man—which so far was being made only in the ‘factory’ of Nature might now begin to be manufactured in factories made by man. It also had a philosophical aspect: If it were possible for man to manufacture a ‘mechanical mind,’ atheists could use this to back their case, arguing that if human beings could produce a creature with a mind like man in a factory, there was no need whatsoever to accept the existence of a Creator—God, to account for the existence of an intelligent creature like man. They could have argued that just as an artificial ‘mechanical mind’ could perform various tasks accurately, the giant ‘factory’ of the universe could also function independently, with no God behind and beyond it. But scientific research and experience proved this wishful thinking to be utterly baseless. This experience about machine intelligence led to great despair among people, who were hoping that man could be proven to be a sort of

evolved mechanical animal so that there would remain no need to accept God's existence.

The fact is that just as a 'mechanical mind' like a computer necessarily demands the existence of the superior mind of a human being to account for its existence and functioning, man's existence and functioning are possible only because of the existence of a Divine Mind, which is far superior to man's mind.

A computer with a 'mechanical mind' cannot exist without a living human. In the same way, without the Creator God, a living human is simply impossible.

### **A Case in Point**

In 1983, the US Navy engaged in military exercises near San Francisco. This process was conducted through computers. A naval cannon was meant to be used as part of these naval exercises, but when that happened, there was some computer-related problem. As a result, the cannon balls began firing in the opposite direction. The plan was for the cannon balls to fall off far into the sea, but due to a computer problem, the balls began falling in the reverse direction and fell near a cargo ship.

In computers, such mistakes called 'glitches' keep on happening. Why is this so? This is because a computer is just a physical machine made of matter. It does not possess intelligence of its own. From this, it can be assumed that had the universe been a mere physical machine with no God controlling it—as many atheists might say—it could never function as perfectly and accurately as it does. It might have

made grave blunders, causing massive destruction on Earth and the rest of the universe. But that nothing of the sort happens in the universe is a clear indication that it is created by a Supreme Mind that has designed it to function with perfect accuracy, beyond anything that man-made machines are capable of.

Consider the following: “There is no God of the universe. A universe is only a machine made of matter.”

If the above sentence appears correct from the grammatical point of view, from the point of view of reality, it is entirely erroneous. The sentence would have been accurate had machines—even the smallest and simplest of them—been able to come into being on their own, without a maker, and if they could operate independently. But all the machines we are familiar with have been made and operated by humans. This being the case, how could it be possible, as many atheists argue, for the amazingly vast universe to come into being on its own and function on its own, continuously, over billions of years, with complete accuracy?

### **Need for a ‘Grand Engineer’ of the Universe**

Making and operating a machine requires a human being. No matter how sophisticated a device is, it cannot come into being and function without human intervention at some level or the other. This negates the mechanical interpretation of the universe—the argument that the universe is a machine that has come into being on its own and is functioning on its own, without a Creator and Master behind it.

If, for any machine, a human being is needed—because it cannot come into being or function on its own—why is it said that the ‘great machine’ of the universe came into being on its own and is running on its own? There is no basis whatsoever for this speculation. If the universe is, as some hypothetical scientist might say, simply a ‘great machine,’ even then, for it to come into being and function, a great Mind is required. Reason and logic compel man to accept God—whether in religious language as Creator, Lord, and Master or in scientific terms as ‘The Grand Engineer’ who is running this ‘world-machine.’

## LESSON FROM A TRAIN JOURNEY

On April 18, 1986, I embarked on a journey to Bhopal, travelling by Tamil Nadu Express, and my return journey was by air. On the morning of April 19, when I woke up, our train was racing through the countryside, through the fields of Madhya Pradesh. There was greenery all around. The morning sun had risen and was lighting up the sky.

I started thinking that for such a world to come into existence is the most wondrous thing among all wonders—a world where there is abundant greenery, where the sun delivers light and heat in specific proportions, and where uncountable causes come together that make it possible for a train to be manufactured and then for it to race at high speed on the surface of the Earth.

The Maker has made this world in a truly remarkable manner. Here, innumerable phenomena are visible, but the One who has brought them into being is invisible. The signs of creation are spread out all around, but our physical eyes cannot see the Creator amidst them. This situation has made many people question and even deny the existence of God. They argue, “When we do not see God, how can we accept Him?” But this argument has no solid basis at all.

The train in which I was travelling was racing at the speed of perhaps over 100 kilometres an hour. I was sitting inside it and heading towards my destination. I had not seen the train’s driver; I did not even know his name. But I could be sure that the train had a driver and that he was driving it.

Why do we have this certainty about a train driver we haven’t seen? Deniers of God would say that this is because although we have not seen the train driver, we can see him if we want to. For us, it is possible to get off at a station on the way where the train might halt for a while, walk up to the train engine, and see the driver there. But this argument does not hold.

If we get off at a station and go to the engine and see the driver of the train there, then what will we see? We will see only a human body with hands and feet. But is this visible body driving the train? Certainly not! The one driving the train is a mind, which is not visible to us and not an external human body that we can see with our eyes. And so, after his death, the driver’s body will remain intact, but it cannot drive a train. So, it can be said that we accept there to be a train driver without actually seeing the driver in the real sense.

We are ready to believe that there is indeed a driver of a train without seeing him in the real sense. The same logic should apply concerning the existence of God, too.

Deniers of God say that this world came into being by chance and has no originator or creator. But for this vast universe, which is so meaningful, to come into being through mere chance is just not possible. It would be much more unlikely an occurrence than an entire train coming into existence from an explosion that happened by chance in a rubbish dump!

## FLAWLESS SYSTEM OF GOD'S UNIVERSE

In June 1988, an Iran Air passenger plane took off from Tehran. It was passing over the Persian Gulf towards Dubai when an American military ship (*USS Vincennes*) shot it down and caused it to crash, causing the death of its 290 passengers and crew.

This was undoubtedly a terrible deed. Why do such events occur? A US naval officer explained the event as a result of a computer error. Their computer mistook the passenger plane for a military aircraft, so they attacked it.

That American naval ship probably had the most modern radars and computers available. This system could survey planes flying in the sky and specify on the radar screen whose planes they were: if they belonged to 'friends' or to 'foes.'

When the Iran Air plane was flying in the heights of the sky, the ship's computer, surveying the craft, recorded it on the radar screen as an F-14 jetfighter instead of what it was—an Airbus A 300 passenger plane. It was mistaken for an inimical military aircraft. Immediately after that, an officer on the ship pressed a button, and two missiles flew out, dispatching the plane and everyone on board to their deaths.

Modern atheists say that the universe is a machine. Why don't such mechanical blunders occur if the universe is a machine? Why has such a vast universe, which contains billions of galaxies and stars, continuously functioned flawlessly for billions of years? The only reasonable explanation is that this is because the universe is managed by the Lord of the universe, who is flawless and can never make any mistake.

### REMOTE CONTROL: A SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

One of the many terms the modern age has added to the dictionary is 'remote control.' This term denotes controlling something from a distance without any direct physical contact.

These days, remote-control technology is widely used for a variety of purposes. Signals are sent out in the form of codes. In the concerned machine, a receiver obtains these

signals at an appropriate frequency and functions in the desired way as directed by the person holding the remote control. Remote-control technology has advanced so much that commands are sent from Earth through remote control to artificial satellites orbiting space. Any defect or dysfunction on them can be repaired from Earth without direct physical contact simply through radio waves.

The system of remote control is a material manifestation of a spiritual reality. It provides a practical example of how God directly controls and guides the vast universe according to His will. While a remote control may be a human invention, it has made a grand Divine phenomenon—of God's control of the universe—more understandable for us.

## UNIVERSAL ONENESS

A study of the universe reveals that the entire universe revolves around a centre. The atom has a nucleus, and the whole structure of the atom revolves around this nucleus. The centre of the solar system is the sun, and all its planets and satellites are continuously revolving around it. Likewise, the galaxy has a centre, and billions of stars move around it. The universe has a centre; all astronomical bodies and their subsidiary movements move around this final centre.

Scientists estimate that this centre of the universe will one day drag all the astronomical bodies towards it, and then this vastly spread-out universe will begin to withdraw and



converge towards its centre. Finally, the time will come when the entire collection of astronomical bodies in the universe will compress together as a condensed ball as it was at the time of creation, just as a magnet draws all the nails together towards it. God says as follows:

“On that Day, We shall roll up the heavens like a scroll of parchment. As We originated the first creation, so shall We repeat it. This is a promise binding on Us. Truly, We shall fulfil it.” (Quran, 21:104)

In this way, the universe is, as it were, a practical demonstration of Monotheism—Oneness of God. These models in the universe tell us what man’s life should be like. Man’s life should be such that all activities should have just one centre—the One God. Man’s emotions, thinking, and activities should begin to revolve around this one centre—God Almighty.

If a person makes himself his centre, the universe will reject him. The same will happen if he makes some other creature, different from himself, his centre. The present structure of the universe refuses to accept the centrality of anyone but the One God. Through its very existence, the universe says, “Make the One the centre of your attention, not the ‘many.’”

CHAPTER FIVE

# GOD AND MAN

## THE INNATE EMOTION TO FIND THE CREATOR

Human beings have a strange feature that is not shared by any other creature. And that is the unlimited desire to search. Every human being has this desire within him from birth, which makes him constantly search for something unknown that he has not yet found. No success or achievement whatsoever manages to satisfy this desire. Nor does any failure destroy it. Philosophers have termed this as the desire for the ideal.

This desire for the ideal is the real and final moving force behind all human activities. If this desire were absent, all activities in this world would suddenly stop. It is this powerful desire of the human mind that Sigmund Freud wrongly termed as sexual desire. Alfred Adler wrongly branded it as the desire for power. William McDougall erroneously claimed it was a mysterious result of the combination of various animalistic instincts in man. Karl Marx tried to prove that it was the desire for material or economic accumulation which, in his view, controlled all other human activities. To write all these explanations off as erroneous, it is enough to note that even when some people acquire the things that the thinkers mentioned above labelled this desire actually to represent, it did not make them content. Instead, their inner being remained as restless as before, and they were no different from other people.

## GOD AND MAN

For thousands of years, people have been trying to search for this ideal in the things of this world. Yet, no one could be satisfied without obtaining the complete answer to this quest. In this regard, an Emperor is as unsatisfied as an unemployed pauper. This long experience of humankind is enough to prove that the answer to an individual's quest is not present in the visible world. Instead, the answer lies in the world that is not visible—the unseen realm—a world that a person can sense but cannot see.

The fact is that this desire is the desire for God. The Creator is the ideal that a human is so anxious to find. The thing that everyone is actually in search of is God, the Creator of every soul. Based on their innate nature, every person remains continuously searching for God. This inner emotion drives people to the things of the world. They imagine that perhaps these things are the answer to their search. But they realize they are not what they were looking for when they obtain these things and experience them at close range.

## GOD AND MAN

The most outstanding evidence for God's existence is man's existence. It is as strange to accept a Being like God as it is to accept a being like man. If we accept a being like man, we must be ready to accept a being like God.

According to the Quran (15:29), God breathed His spirit into man. This means that man is a human reflection of God's attributes like existence, life, knowledge, power,

will, choice, and other attributes of perfection. The real manifestation of these attributes is God's Being alone. A reflection, not a part, of these attributes has been given to man. Man is not, in any sense, a part of God; however, in his being, he serves as tangible evidence of the God whom he is asked to believe in, even though God remains in the unseen. That is to say, man possesses all those characteristics at the visible level, which he is asked to accept in God, who is in the Unseen.

A human has an independent existence. He possesses the ability to see, hear, and speak. He thinks and plans. He acts according to his own will. He transforms matter into civilization. He operates space machines through remote control systems. He is aware of his own existence. He knows that "I am." God is another name for these attributes in their complete and perfect form.

However, man's existence is unreal in the absolute sense, and God's is real in the absolute sense. Man is a creature, while God is the Creator. Man is limited, while God is unlimited. Man is powerless, while God is All-Powerful. Man is mortal, and God is immortal. Whatever man has is a gift from God, whereas whatever God has is His own; it is not given by someone else.

Believing in man, without ascription, is believing in a mini-god. A person who does not accept God indeed negates his own existence. It is akin to negating human existence. There is no argument or evidence not to accept God for the person who accepts man. By acknowledging man's existence, he has also accepted the existence of God, irrespective of whether or not he has expressed this in words.

The fact is that denial of God is a denial of oneself, and who is there who can deny himself?

## SIGNS IN THE UNIVERSE

“If you break some stones, grind some wood, and mix them, it will turn into petrol.” Such talk may appear ridiculously funny. Indeed, man does not have the power to make something like this happen. But an event of the same sort is happening in the world every day, as the working of the laws of Nature brings petroleum into being, which is only an inexplicable marvel for man.

Oxygen and hydrogen are two gases. When Nature unites them in specific proportions, their union manifests as a clear liquid known as ‘water.’ Life comes into being when carbon comes together with some salts and minerals. When a magnetic field and motion combine, an amazing force—electricity—is produced. When a seed is planted in the soil, a plant emerges. And so on.

Uncountable miracles of this sort are manifested in the entire universe at every moment. On observing them, man should be amazed. He notices that these things do not have the power to bring themselves into being, nor does he have the ability to produce anything like them on his own. That being the case, how is all of this happening?

In answer to this question, some people say that all these phenomena are manifestations of God—that is, everything

is God Himself, manifesting Himself in innumerable forms. But this is not correct. The Quran considers such an answer to be incorrect. According to the Quran, things are not manifestations of God; instead, they are the commands of God.

That is, God has, with His power, created them. It is not that God has manifested Himself in their form.

Stars have, since ancient times, been a focus of the fancies and imagination of poets. Some poets have considered the moon as a 'god.' But the reality is different. Stars are giant balls of fire, and the moon is simply a dry rock with no drop of water or a single blade of grass. Despite being incredibly vast, the universe is an exceedingly unfavourable place for man, except for planet Earth. This exception of the planet Earth in this limitlessly vast universe is clear evidence of a conscious Being who, with His intention, has created the exceptional conditions to prevail on Earth necessary for human life to be possible there.

Scientists have been trying to discover other planets similar to Earth for nearly half a century in the vastness of space so that it can be confirmed that our Earth is not unique in the universe, and such conditions may also be found on other planets. For some people, the intention might be to seek to prove that the Creator of the universe is 'The Law of Nature' or 'The Law of Evolution' and not God. But despite spending billions of dollars on this purpose, they have achieved nothing but failure. They have not found any astronomical body that can support life like the Earth.

## LESSON FOR MAN

Reflecting on God's creation, man can learn great things. His life is itself a veritable library. Through his self-study, man can learn many big lessons.

For example, when man observes this universe, he notices that it is functioning in a very planned manner. The sun rises and sets with amazing accuracy, but such order, regularity, and precision are absent in the human world. Similarly, the entire universe functions on the principle of zero-defect management; in contrast, there are always defects in man's management of things. If man studies these issues dispassionately and with an open mind, he can discover the existence of Almighty God through his study. This discovery will compel him to say, in the words of the Quran:

'Is there any doubt about God, the Originator of the heavens and earth?' (14:10)

This discovery can become, for him, a rediscovery. He can begin to discover these things more effectively. For example, the Quran says:

"He has given you all that you asked of Him; and if you try to reckon up God's favours, you will not be able to count them." (14:34)

Reflecting on these words, when man recognizes that he is in such a human-friendly world, this awareness can significantly increase his gratitude towards his Creator—God Almighty.



## GOD'S GREATNESS

The realization of God is the beginning of faith in God. It is the basis of Islam—the higher one's realization of God, the higher one's level of faith in God. The culmination of this realization happens when one discovers God with God's grand majesty. When a person finds God with God's greatness, his state is reflected in these words of the Quran:

“True believers are those whose hearts tremble with awe at the mention of God.” (8:2)

A positive contribution of modern astronomy in this regard is that it has given a framework to perceive the unfathomable Majesty and Greatness of God. With the help of this framework, man can bring some idea of the inexpressible greatness of God into his mind.

Modern astronomy can be said to have begun in 1608 with the invention of the telescope. The telescopic observation of the skies then kept advancing over the years. Earlier, observatories for studying astronomical bodies were built on top of mountains. In the age of space science, man invented space observatories, through which it has become possible to observe the universe at such great distances that can be expressed only in light years. In this way, man now has access to a new and much bigger field wherein to grow in awareness of the greatness of God.

Consider a recent astronomical discovery: A massive black hole has been discovered through an electronic telescope installed in space. This black hole can swallow up the entire

solar system! It is bigger than all the black holes found so far. It is said to weigh the same as 6.8 billion Suns! According to scientists, this black hole, identified as M87, is as large as the orbit of Neptune!

The following is an excerpt from an article on this subject that appeared in *The Times of India* on 18 January 2011.

### **The Black Hole Can Eat the Solar System**

“Astronomers have discovered what they say is an enormous black hole that weighs the same as 6.8 billion Suns and could swallow our entire solar system.

According to scientists, the black hole, identified as M87, is as large as the orbit of Neptune and is by far the most giant and most distant galaxy in the nearby universe. As a point of comparison, the black hole at the centre of the Milky Way is 1,000 times smaller than this one, which has been observed some 50 million light years away.” (*The Times of India*, New Delhi, Tuesday, January 18, 2011, p. 19)

This phenomenon—and other similar phenomena—is an incredible treasure trove for realizing God. These phenomena convey some idea of God’s inconceivable power and majesty. Reflecting on these phenomena, one’s heart can be overwhelmed with awareness of God’s greatness. They remind man of his extreme helplessness and powerlessness on the one hand and of God’s enormous Might and Power on the other.

The realization of God can be described as the discovery or realization of man’s limitedness, on the one hand, and God’s limitlessness, on the other. The realization of God

refers to the condition that overwhelms a person due to this discovery. If one obtains this realization, or, in other words, makes this discovery, it is as if the doors of all the blessings of the world and the Hereafter have been opened unto him. He is that fortunate person about whom it will be said in the Hereafter: You can enter Paradise through any gate you wish. From today onward, there is no fear or sorrow for you.

## MAN'S POWERLESSNESS

Man's condition in this world is extraordinary. He finds himself alive here, with an individual existence of his own, but this existence is a gift, for he has not bestowed it on himself. Man requires those many things to live that comprise the life-support system, but he cannot create any of these on his own. Man desires eternal life, but every person who takes birth on earth dies at an appointed time. It is beyond man's capacity to stave off the arrival of death.

Man is, in a complete sense, a powerless creature. He is entirely dependent on an external Power to fulfil all his needs. This aspect of man shows that in this world, he is only a taker and that, on the other hand, there is someone else here—the Creator—who is a Giver, on whom man is dependent for everything. This equation should lead man to think about the reality of his existence and shape his life accordingly. He should recognize both his own and the Creator's actual position.

Briefly put, if man reflects on his case with seriousness, he will find that in this world, he is in the position of a servant, and God is in the position of his Master. That person alone deserves to be called an actual human being who discovers this reality using his intellectual abilities. All the eternal successes will be decreed upon him on this basis.

Conversely, a person who fails to discover this truth is no better than an animal in human form. Such a person faces nothing but eternal loss.

The person who discovers this reality will, in a very natural way, respond to it in a manner that reflects these words of the very first chapter of the Quran:

“All praise is due to God, the Lord of the Universe”  
(1:2)

These words express gratefulness to that Almighty Being who is the Sustainer of all the worlds and the One who compensates for all the limitations of human beings. This acknowledgement can produce a veritable revolution inside a person if he is overwhelmed with an intense love for God and fear of God. This person is referred to as a believer in the Quran who has discovered God.

## THE HUMAN MIND

Experts have estimated that man’s brain contains more particles than the collective number of particles in the universe. The brain’s capacity is immense, but not even a great scientist has used more than a tenth of it.

Research reveals that a brilliant person like Einstein, who used his mental faculties, used a tiny portion of his brain. The more significant part of his brain remained unused till his death.

The human mind is so complex that despite enormous research on the subject, we still know relatively little about it. We can say that the more we know, the more we realize how little we know and how much more we need to know!

This shows that man is born with unlimited potential, but the present world is limited and insufficient to actualize this potential. A limitless and vast world is required to actualize human potential fully. The eternal and ideal world of Paradise has been created so that man can realize his potential.

## IMPORTANCE OF DISCOVERY

For humans, the most essential thing is discovery in the context of this world and the world of the Hereafter. According to the Quran, the desired individual believes in the unseen (2:3). What does it mean to believe in the unseen? It is to turn the unknown into the known; in other words, it is called discovery in modern terms.

God has hidden the secrets of worldly progress inside the earth and in the skies. These secrets are called 'The Laws of Nature.' A primary focus of science is discovering these secrets or the laws of Nature. The people who discover these

laws and draw benefit from them advance beyond others, as has happened in several Western nations and Japan, particularly in the modern age. The progress of 'developed' countries has been obtained based on these discoveries.

In the same way, God has kept the world of the Hereafter hidden from man's sight. Now, man has to discover the Hereafter. He has to bring into the 'seen' a thing that is in the unseen. This discovery is called *iman* or conviction. The more a person advances in this conviction, the more progress and success he will obtain in the Hereafter.

## THE DELIGHT OF DISCOVERY

The Sun is 12,00,000 times the size of the Earth and is more than 900,00,000 miles from it. Yet, we get adequate light and heat from the Sun. Compared to many other stars, the Sun is quite small but seems very big because it is relatively close to the Earth. Most stars are much bigger than the Sun and emit even more light than it. Innumerable stars—an amazing world of light and heat—are scattered all over space. Despite being in existence for trillions of years, their light and heat have not been extinguished.

How does such immense energy get produced in the stars? After long years of research, Hans Bethe discovered that this secret lies in the 'carbon cycle.' For this discovery, he won the 1967 Nobel Prize for Physics.

It must have been a moment of immense and inexpressible

delight for Dr. Bethe when he discovered the ‘carbon cycle.’ His wife, Rose, said she was with her husband in the desert in New Mexico one night. In the desert, stars appear to shine with great intensity. Rose looked at the sky and exclaimed, “How brightly the stars are shining!” Dr. Bethe remarked, “Do you realize that just now you are standing next to the only human who knows why they shine at all?”

Hans Bethe’s discovery is related to just one tiny aspect of the Truth. He had discovered the ‘carbon cycle’ of the stars. But the question is, “Why is this ‘carbon cycle’ in the stars?” A true believer discovers this great secret through faith in God. Faith in God is a discovery that is greater than all other discoveries.

But it is so strange that when a scientist discovers something quite minor, he is overwhelmed with emotion. In contrast, a person of conventional faith claims to have found the greatest reality—God—but yet he experiences no emotional upheaval.

Perhaps, then, those who claim to have faith in God have not discovered God as yet!

## FAITH IN GOD

There is a God of the universe—its Creator, Owner, Lord, and Master. The most outstanding evidence for God is the universe that is spread out before us. The universe’s very existence announces that there is a great God who created it and who, with His incredible power, is running it.

Because the universe is so obvious, we are compelled to accept its existence. For the same reason, we are compelled to accept the existence of God, for accepting the universe is meaningless as long as one does not accept its Creator and Maker. This universe is so unique that it could not have come into being without a Maker, and its functioning is so unique that it cannot be possible without some Supreme Mind running it. Man is as compelled to accept God as he is to accept himself or the universe.

If you place a pebble on the wheel of a bicycle and then start peddling the wheel quickly, the pebble will fly off and fall far away. This happens even though the speed of the bicycle wheel is barely 25 miles per hour. The Earth on which we are presently living is like a vast wheel. It continuously races around its axis at around 1000 miles an hour. This speed is faster than that of an ordinary passenger aeroplane. We live and move about on this fast-speeding Earth. We build houses and entire cities on it. But our state is unlike the pebbles placed on a fast-moving wheel. We don't fall off from the Earth's surface, nor are we hurled into space. How strange is this miracle!

Scientific investigation reveals that the reason for us being stable on Earth is that from below, the force of gravity pulls us down, and from above, the heavy pressure of the atmosphere pushes us down, thus keeping us firmly rooted on the surface of the Earth. This two-way process keeps us stable on the Earth so we do not fly off like pebbles on a wheel into space. However, this answer only reveals that an even greater miracle lies behind the power of gravity and



atmospheric pressure, which work to keep us grounded on the Earth's surface. There must be a Mind that has arranged for the force of gravity and the atmospheric pressure to be precisely balanced, ensuring the stability of all things and beings, including humans, on Earth. That Mind is of God.

### **A Mind-Boggling Universe**

Everything in this world is a miracle. A farmer places a tiny seed in some soil, and after some days, he sees a green and white radish appearing from inside the soil. When he plants another seed, he sees a red carrot forming. Put another seed in the soil, and guavas come into being; some other seeds bring mangoes. One seed produces a Sheesham tree, while a Chinar tree emerges from another. And then, each of these looks different. The beauty of each is unique, and so are their benefits and special qualities. The soil is the same, and the seeds are incredibly tiny. But from these little seeds planted in the same soil, many different things emerge with so many qualities that they cannot be enumerated!

An entire universe of mind-boggling miracles is visibly spread out on all sides. In a world where even if all human beings get together, they cannot create even a single particle out of nothing, every moment, innumerable things are being constantly developed by someone other than humans. These are all such amazing miracles that man's tongue cannot express their greatness. Even all the words in a dictionary would be insufficient to narrate them. Our words only limit the vast greatness of these miracles; they do not express them at all.

Can these miracles come into being on their own, without a God, as atheists claim?

### **The Miracle of the Universe**

Everything in the universe is made up of atoms. Everything, in its ultimate analysis, is a collection of atoms. But what a fantastic miracle it is that in one place, a certain quantity of atoms collect, and they become a shining star like the sun. In another place, atoms come together and form a flowing river. In the third place, atoms coalesce and assume the form of a fine breeze. In some other places, atoms take the shape of fertile land. In this way, the world has uncountable things arranged through a collection of atoms. However, their status, nature, and special features are separate and different from each other.

A miraculous universe of this sort, along with its uncountable activities, is engaged in the service of man. Whatever man needs for his life has been organized on a vast scale. To make the world usable for ourselves, the effort required from us is minimal. Under the cosmic arrangement, an abundance of valuable sustenance is produced. Our contribution is merely to use our hands and mouths to consume this sustenance. After that, without conscious effort, the natural automatic system digests the food within us, transforming it into flesh, blood, bones, nails, hair, and many other components that become part of our body.

Another example is a fantastic liquid called 'petroleum,' produced through various processes in which man plays

no role. All that man does is extract, refine, and fill his machines with it, and then this liquid fuel runs the whole system of human civilization!

Likewise, in the universe, all those things have been made available in abundant quantity, which man has to only work on a bit to turn into items that meet his needs and wants, from clothes and houses to machines and vehicles.

Are these phenomena in the world not sufficient evidence that a Creator and Sustainer runs the universe and has arranged for all the many things man needs to live and thrive, with just the right features and proportions?

### **Perfect Planning of the Universe**

Now, view the matter from another perspective. The world contains 'raw materials' of various sorts, which man uses to make many different things. Man plays a very tiny part in making them usable for himself. He shapes iron ore into a machine, and, refining oil, he fills the tanks of his cars with it. However, the result of such simple human actions is that the land and the seas are filled with chaos and corruption, which are various forms of pollution. Nature has bestowed us with a beautiful and pure world, but our actions have caused us to be surrounded by smoke, noise, dirt, destruction, conflicts, and various insoluble problems. Continuously, more work than the little action we perform in our fields, factories, and offices keeps happening, day and night, in the vast universe, but no such problems are produced there.

The Earth continuously engages in two types of movement:

one on its axis and the other in its orbit around the Sun. These movements have been carried on non-stop for millions of years, yet they produce no sound and generate no pollution.

A tree functions as a grand factory, as it were, but it does not produce any smoke.

Countless creatures die daily in the sea, which does not pollute the waters.

Innumerable stars and planets are racing about in the vast firmament every moment, but no change ever happens in their speed and orbits. They never slow down or go faster. Nor do they step out of their clearly defined routes, which they have followed for millennia. We see that the universe is a zero-defect universe.

The system of the universe has been functioning for billions of years, but its planning is so perfect that there never has been a need to review it.

Are these all not mind-boggling miracles? After all of these, is there still a need for evidence for man to acknowledge that behind the universe is a Divine Power—Almighty God?

### **The Miracle of Life**

Reflect on the phenomenon of life itself. It is such a fantastic event that a few material particles come together in a body, and a new living being is produced: becoming a fish that swims in the water, a bird that flies in the sky, or a human being who builds a civilization. In line with some mysterious causes, a body is formed inside a mother.

Bones are brought into being, which assume the form of a significant structure. Then, a layer of flesh is put on this structure, which is covered by a layer of skin. Hair and nails are made to develop. Blood vessels are laid out throughout the body. In this way, through a seemingly self-operating process, an amazing being called 'man' is formed who walks, who holds, who sees, who hears, who tastes, who thinks, who acts, who remembers, who acquires information, who writes, who speaks, and so on. For such an amazing existence to emerge from lifeless matter, as it were, is such an amazing event that even the word 'miracle' is insufficient to describe how mindboggling it truly is.

If a person were to say that he has heard mud speak and see a stone walk, people would be amazed. They would hardly believe him. But the external form of a human being, who speaks and who moves about, is, after all, just mud-and-stones, as it were. The components of his physical body are quite the same as that of mud and stones. We would think it would be astounding to hear mud and stones speaking and walking somewhere, but the creature called 'man' would be even more astonishing. For human life and consciousness to be produced in 'lifeless' matter—in mere 'mud' and 'stones' as it were—is this not evidence that there is a superior Being, Who, with His extraordinary power, has brought about this amazing miracle?

People ask for miraculous proof to accept God and God's message for humankind. But what other miracle do people require than all the many miracles already in the universe? If such miracles are not enough for man to bow down before

God Almighty, how will he become ready to accept God on seeing any other miracle?

The signs needed to believe in God and surrender oneself to Him are always present before every person. If, despite this, a person does not recognize God and His glory and perfection, it is their fault, not that of the universe.

## THE EARTH: AN AMAZING BLESSING FROM GOD

In 1977, the USSR sent its orbital space station Salyut 6 into space. In February 1979, two Soviet astronauts, Vladimir Lyakhov and Valery Ryumin, were sent there, where they had to spend almost half a year in space. They had been in orbit in the space laboratory for a record 171 days and made an 83-minute excursion to dismantle equipment in preparation for their return to Earth.

The Communist Party newspaper 'Pravda' reported that the men were growing homesick. Someone at the Earth station asked them a question as to what they feel like these days. One astronaut is quoted as saying:

“What are we dreaming about? Well, we want to put our feet on the ground again.” (*The Indian Express*, August 16, 1999)

These two Russian cosmonauts returned to Earth after spending approximately six months travelling in space. After living around half a year in a state of weightlessness,

they were dazed and awe-stricken. They could get very little sleep in space due to fear and bewilderment.

How God has made the Earth and put together favourable conditions here for human beings is a great blessing. In the known universe, no place is conducive for a creature like man to live in. Man can get an estimate of this great blessing from God when he is deprived of Earth, like the above-mentioned Soviet astronauts were, just as when, after remaining hungry for a long time, a person can realize the value of food.

## GRATITUDE TO THE CREATOR

Professor Carl Troll (1899-1975) was President of the International Geographical Union from 1960 to 1964. He once remarked:

“The fruit of my life as a scientist and geographer is to become more deeply grateful to our Creator.”

When a scientist studies the world, an immense awareness of its wonders wells up inside him. If he acknowledges the world’s Creator, as Professor Troll did, his inner self expresses gratitude to that Being who brought such a meaningful universe into existence.

Some people wrongly think that scientific truths and religious truths are mutually contradictory. It is simply not true. The findings of modern science have automatically accepted all claims of religious truths. Many scientists are

devout believers in the Creator, God Almighty, finding enough evidence for God in the findings of modern science. It is a fact, though, that some deniers of God among the philosophers wrongly interpreted modern scientific discoveries to imply the non-existence of God, even though these discoveries, when rightly interpreted, actually pointed in the opposite direction—to God’s existence.

When scientists study nature, a profound sense of its greatness emerges within them. Their inner being bows before the entity that created such a meaningful universe. The truth is that scientists were not responsible for forming the mindset of denying God in the modern era. Instead, it was some atheistic philosophers who misrepresented scientific discoveries, thereby, creating a self-constructed meaning of atheism. In reality, these scientific discoveries more accurately pointed towards the affirmation of God.

## VISION OF GOD

In the books of Hadith, there is a narration by the famous Hadith-e Jibreel. One part of this Hadith is: ‘Worship God as though you are seeing Him. Or if you are not seeing Him, He is seeing you.’ (*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Hadith No. 50)

In the above Hadith, the reality of worship is explained. Reflecting on this tradition, one learns that although the direct vision of God is not possible for man, man can find God at the level of indirect vision. Although apparently,



there is a difference between direct and indirect vision, in terms of reality, there is no difference between the two.

How does a person attain an indirect vision of God? The method is to contemplate and ponder over God's creation. Although God is not visible to us in His essence and Being, He fully manifests Himself through His attributes in His creations. As it were, creation mirrors God's attributes through which we can realize the Creator. Whoever has seen the creation has, in a way, seen the Creator. Just as someone who has seen art has, in a way, seen the artist.

In recent decades, scientists have discovered that high precision and design characterize the universe. This discovery reveals that a Supreme Mind is at work behind the universe. In the language of religion, this Mind is called 'God.' In the language of science, one could say that following this discovery, the existence of God becomes proven at the level of probability. In Quantum Physics, it is accepted that while probability is less than certainty, it is more than 'perhaps.' Therefore, from the scientific point of view, probability has acquired a status close to certainty.

## MAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

In the last few centuries, faith in God was regarded as a mere personal belief that had no relation to intellectual thinking. But in recent decades, such scientific evidence has continuously emerged that testifies to the fact that

conviction in God's existence is rational and that it is not some belief without any scientific basis.

But scientific research is taking man only till that abstract reality that God exists, that God is. Beyond that, there is the question of what His relationship with man is when God exists. Scientists do not give any information about this, and nor can they. This is where the frontier of science stops and that of religion begins. In principle, all religious traditions are a standard answer to this question. However, various religious traditions have not remained preserved in their original form. Some claim the existence of several gods, even though all fields of knowledge prove that He must be just One if God does exist. The existence of a multitude of gods is scientifically an impossibility.

Scientific realities lead man to God, and after accepting God, the only correct choice is taking the protected path of willing self-surrender to the One God taught by all the many prophets of God. When the intellectual study reveals that this world has a God, then godless traditions are automatically proven to be false. When research on the universe reveals that its entire system is functioning according to unity, then traditions that posit the existence of several gods are shown to be meaningless. In such a situation, the right course for man is to turn to the path of willing self-surrender to the One God. This path, described in the Quran, is not only based on the correct conception of God but also very clearly tells us what sort of relationship there should be between man and God.



CHAPTER SIX

GOD: VOICE OF  
HUMAN NATURE

## THE CONCEPT OF A SUPREME BEING

In a research study, a report published in the New Delhi edition of *The Times of India* (8th September 2009) stated that human beings are born believers. The study of human psychology reveals that the concept of a Supreme Being is present inside human nature as a natural phenomenon. The idea is so powerful that no ‘training’ can eliminate it. This fact is expressed in the words of a scholar: “Belief in God is hardwired in our brain.”

However, in the research mentioned above, this unique feature of human beings was wrongly linked to the theory of evolution. It was claimed that humans are programmed by evolution to believe in God as it gives them a better chance of survival.

This is an entirely illogical argument. Research has proved that belief in the supernatural is present in man by birth. No human being is devoid of this. However, the claim that this belief appeared in man on its own, through some hypothetical evolution, is entirely unproven.

Research findings in various fields point to the fact that man is born with a belief in a Supreme Being. This phenomenon makes man religious in some respect or another, so much so that even among those thought of as atheists, this concept is present in some corner or the other of their minds.

## VOICE OF NATURE

God is the voice of human nature. In normal circumstances, this voice remains hidden. But when some sensitive or delicate moment arrives in a person's life, it is often awakened. There are innumerable historical examples from which it is clear that no person is devoid of this aspect.

Gina Lollobrigida (1927-2023) was an Italian film star. In 1975, she came to India. At a press conference, in response to whether she believed in God, she said, "I believe in God, I believe in God, more when I am on an aeroplane."

When a person travels in an aeroplane, he is entirely at the mercy of external factors. If there is even a minor fluctuation in the balance of these factors, it might be enough to lead to his death. The same helplessness man faces while on a sea voyage. The Quran says:

"Have you not seen how the ships sail on the sea by God's grace so that He may show you some of His signs? Surely, therein are signs for every steadfast, thankful person. When the waves engulf them like shadows [of death], they call to God, sincere [at that moment] in their faith in Him alone, but as soon as He has brought them safe ashore, only some of them take the right course. And none denies Our signs save the perfidious and ungrateful person." (31:31-32)

No matter how haughty and insolent a person who denies God may be, he uncontrollably cries out to God when he faces harsh conditions. This is proof of the fact that God is the voice of human nature.

In 1917, a Communist Revolution occurred in Russia. Then, in 1991, after almost 75 years, the Communist regime collapsed. During this period, the Communist government flooded Russia's media and schools with anti-religious propaganda. According to communist ideology, religion reflects 'false consciousness' and is an appendix of the capitalist system. Following the abolition of the capitalist system in Russia, its 'appendix' should have ended if the communist ideology were true. The Soviet government claimed that it had eliminated religion from the USSR. But, astonishingly, religion remained alive there, and now, there is a revival among the new generations.

### **Joseph Stalin**

The Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin (1878-1953) was a denier of God. However, at least one recorded event might suggest that he would also remember God under challenging circumstances.

In 1942, during the Second World War, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (1874-1965) visited Moscow to discuss forming a Second Front against Hitler with Soviet leaders. In this context, Churchill presented the Allied military plan to Stalin, codenamed Torch. Since Stalin feared Hitler's increasing onslaught, he took a deep interest in this plan. Churchill writes that at a particular stage in detailing this plan, Stalin's interest in it had significantly increased, and he uttered these words:

“May God prosper this undertaking.” (Winston S.

Churchill, *The Second World War*, (Abridgement) Cassell & Company, London, 1965, p. 603)

## **Stalin's Daughter**

Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, was born in 1926. Despairing about the communist world, she came to India in 1966 and then went to Europe and died there in 2011.

This daughter of an atheist dictator later accepted Christianity. She was dissatisfied with life and was searching for solace. That thing—solace—according to her, she found in these words of the Bible:

“The Lord is my light and my salvation—

Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—

Of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me  
to devour me,

It is my enemies and my foes.

Who will stumble and fall?

Though an army besiege me,

My heart will not fear;

Though war broke out against me,

Even then, I will be confident.” (Psalm 27:1-3)

## **A Russian Pilot**

In this series, another fascinating incident occurred in India in 1973. A Russian plane (Ilyushin Jet) was flying in the airspace of West Bengal when its engine malfunctioned. Despite the pilot's efforts, the aircraft could not be saved,



and it crashed to the ground, claiming the lives of all the passengers, including the pilot.

Since this accident happened on Indian soil, India needed to investigate it according to international law. An aircraft must have a self-recording machine installed, commonly known as the “Black Box.” This black box continuously records the pilot and control tower communication. It is placed in the tail of the aircraft so that it can survive even after the plane’s destruction by fire.

Indian authorities recovered the black box from the wreckage of the aircraft. When the tape of the box was played to aid in the investigation, it became evident that in the pilot’s final moments, he uttered these words in Russian: “Peter, save us.”

It is clear that Peter or Petr was one of the disciples of Jesus (peace be upon him) and is considered an esteemed figure among Christians.

### **Mikhail Gorbachev**

In 1990, in the last years of the Communist regime in the USSR, I visited Russia. At that time, an era of freedom had begun. Religious activities were happening in churches and mosques that used to be desolate earlier. I told my guide that we had heard that in Russia, religion had died, but here it seemed to be alive. My companion replied that faith was always active there. The difference was that religion was underground earlier, and now it had come to the fore.

The fact is that the concept of God is embedded in human

nature itself. If a person denies God with his tongue, even then, awareness of God remains deep inside his heart. The former President of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev (1931-2022), was once an atheist communist, but then his suppressed innate human nature awoke. He acknowledged this. According to a 2008 newspaper report:

“Gorbachev, who had earlier publicly pronounced himself an atheist, acknowledged his Christian faith while paying a surprise visit to pray at the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi in Italy.”

Awareness of God is embedded in man’s nature so that it cannot be separated from him under any circumstances. Those who deny God are not an exception. Abundant evidence exists in this regard that has been found following the collapse of the USSR and several other parts of the world that were once ruled by atheistic communist regimes.

### **Richard Nixon**

Richard Nixon (1913-1994) was the 37th President of the United States. He was elected President of the United States in 1969 and forced to resign in 1974. His resignation from the presidency was due to the Watergate scandal. A book about his last days in the presidency was titled “The Final Days by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein,” Simon and Schuster, 1976, 476 pages.

According to the book, President Nixon was greatly troubled by the revelations of the scandal. As the end of his presidency approached, Nixon asked his Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger (1923-2023), to kneel with him

before God and pray together. He said, “You are not a very orthodox Jew, and I am not an Orthodox Quaker, but we need to pray.” And they knelt and prayed according to Christian worship.

### **Bertrand Russell**

British philosopher Bertrand Russell was regarded as a staunch atheist. But his autobiography reveals that no matter how hardened an atheist a person may become, he cannot free himself from his innate nature.

In 1952, Russell went to Greece for the first time. Referring to this journey, he writes that whatever he saw greatly interested him. With one aspect, he says, he was a little surprised. He went to a church, and he reflects on this as follows:

“To my astonishment, I felt more at home in this little church than in the Parthenon or any other Greek buildings of Pagan times. I realized then that the Christian outlook had a firmer hold upon me than I had imagined. The hold was not upon my belief but upon my feelings.”

These are the words of a person who authored a book titled *Why I Am Not A Christian*. The fact is that Russell’s words are a call of his innate nature. Awareness of God is deeply embedded inside every person’s nature from beforehand. Even if a person wants to, they cannot remove it from themselves. This is why ‘big’ atheists and deniers of God remain dissatisfied internally with their denial of God, and in particularly challenging times, they race towards that very same thing that they had earlier been denying.

## HISTORY'S INTELLECTUAL FALLACIES

Among the speculative sciences, philosophy is one of the most ancient. Many 'big' minds have been engaged in philosophical reflection. However, despite a long history, philosophers could not give man anything positive. Instead, they only increased man's intellectual conundrums. A Persian poet has very rightly said:

“While the philosopher could not uncover the secret of truth, it became a mystery that others could disclose.”

In one term, what philosophy gave to man can be termed an 'intellectual fallacy'—speculations that are not based on facts. The history of philosophical thought is filled with such examples.

The common blunder of all philosophers is that there was an ideal model in each of their minds that could never be actualized. This is because the models in the minds of these philosophers were incompatible with God's Creation Plan regarding this world. The Creator has created the present world for the test, not for reward. For this test, man has been given freedom. Man is free to use his liberty correctly or misuse it. Due to the misuse of freedom, the ideal cannot be established here. That is to say, this freedom for a test prevents an ideal system from ever being established in this world. A perfect system can only be established when all people, without exception, use their freedom correctly. However, since people often misuse their freedom, establishing an ideal system on Earth is impossible.

Therefore, a perfect system can never be realized in this world.

But all philosophers in history were unaware of this reality. Because of this, they kept dreaming of an ideal system in line with the model they nurtured in their minds.

However, according to the laws of nature, this dream can never be realized. Here are some examples explaining this.

### **The Foundation of the Argument**

In the 19th century, when the scientific method of observation became widespread worldwide, a new idea emerged among philosophers: that reality is observable and verifiable according to scientific methods. Under this thinking, various schools of thought were established. For example, the 'Positivism' of the French philosopher Auguste Comte from the 19th century and the 'Logical Positivism' of the German philosopher Rudolf Carnap from the 20th century.

For nearly a hundred years, these thinkers and philosophers tried to convince the minds of the world that what cannot be observed is not real. According to these theories, belief in God and religion was proven to be baseless scientifically. This philosophy is referred to as 'scientific atheism.'

While 'scientific atheism' was being discussed in scientific circles, science itself proved this theory to be baseless. This change in science occurred when scientists discovered a truth known as quantum mechanics. One consequence of quantum theory was that atomic particles began to be

understood as waves. Notable scientists who contributed to this discovery include Erwin Schrödinger, Albert Einstein, Werner Heisenberg, Pascual Jordan, and Paul Dirac.

This scientific discovery scientifically refuted classical Newtonian mechanics. The river of knowledge now stretched from the macro world to the micro world, meaning that in addition to visible things, invisible things also became a valid subject of knowledge.

This intellectual revolution took place in the first half of the 20th century. One of the important changes that resulted from these theoretical changes was that the principle of reason changed. Before this intellectual revolution, it was understood that a valid argument is a direct argument, that is, an argument based on observation and experience. But now, an inferential argument has also become equally valid. When subatomic particles, despite being unobservable, were accepted as a scientific fact solely based on the inferential argument, because their effect—heat—was observable, it necessarily meant that an argument for the existence of God based on the inferential argument is equally valid scientific argument.

Theologians used to present an argument for the existence of God, which is called the ‘argument from design;’ that is, when there is a design in the universe all around us, there must be a Designer—the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. This inferential argument was initially considered secondary rationalism. But now, after the modern scientific revolution, this argument has also been included in the list

of primary rationalism, just like other famous scientific arguments.

### **Theory of Darwinism**

Among the intellectual fallacies that the history of philosophy is littered with is 'Darwinism.' The theory of Darwinism and its worldview have received immense popularity. Many books have been written on this theory, and it has probably been included in the curricula of almost all of the world's universities. However, if you analyze this theory scientifically, it is nothing but a beautiful fallacy.

Darwinism is also known as the 'Theory of natural selection,' based on random mutations or organic evolution. In brief, it claims that life started on Earth long ago as a simple organism. Then, through reproduction, due to the influence of various conditions, mutations continued to happen in this primitive life form. These mutations went on a continuous evolutionary journey in which the initial species turned into many different species. In Darwin's words, this supposed law was 'natural selection.' What Darwin meant was that a process of natural selection takes place in which favourable traits are transmitted through generations, resulting in the selection of the fittest and the formation of new species. According to Darwin, this material law was supposedly directing this long process of biological evolution.

One fundamental flaw of this theory is that it cites two species that show some bodily similarities and then claims that through a long process of biological evolution, one

species changed into another—for example, a goat very gradually turned into a giraffe.

This theory does show us a goat and a giraffe, but it does not prove any intermediate steps like fossils, etc., that can prove the supposed journey of the transformation of a goat into a giraffe. Advocates of the theory of evolution refer to those so-called intermediate steps between species as ‘missing links.’ But these so-called ‘missing links’ are only speculative links. They have no real existence at all.

One reason for the popularity of Darwin’s theory might be that it might have appeared to secular scholars as a workable theory. But no theory can be proved in this way through mere speculation. To make a theory a proven one, there must be known realities that verify it, but no such facts are available to support Darwinism.

For example, according to Darwinism, for biological evolution to occur, a very long period is required. However, according to scientific discoveries, compared to this supposed required period, the age of the Earth is minimal. Given this, if, for the sake of argument, the drama of the evolution of life did indeed happen in line with the Darwinian hypothesis, it could not have occurred on planet Earth.

After scientific discoveries highlighted the relatively limited age of the Earth, which seriously questioned the Darwinian hypothesis, advocates of evolution began saying that life might have started somewhere else, on some other planet, and that it then might have travelled from there and arrived on Earth. They gave this fanciful theory the name of



‘Panspermia.’ Some people even tried to locate such planets through telescopes and space travel. But despite these efforts, no such hypothetical planets have been discovered till now. From this analysis, the theory of evolution or Darwinism stands rejected.

### **Theory of Humanism**

A similar intellectual fallacy is called ‘Humanism,’ a human-based explanation of the universe. Humanism seeks to explain life based on man, with no room for God. The gist of this philosophy can be expressed as “The transfer of seat from God to man.” In recent decades, many books have been written in support of ‘Humanism.’ One among them is a book by British philosopher Julian Huxley, published in 1941, titled *Man Stands Alone*. This book is based entirely on mere claims and speculations. It argues that man now does not need divine revelation and that reason is sufficient for man’s guidance. However, it provides no objective evidence for this thesis. Abraham Cressy Morrison (d. 1951), who served as President of the New York Academy of Sciences, published a reply to this book, titled *Man Does Not Stand Alone*, which proved Huxley’s claim to be completely baseless.

### **Conclusion**

The study of history tells us that there are two eras in the history of mankind regarding ideas—the pre-scientific era and the post-scientific era. In the pre-scientific age, people did not know the reality of things, so opinions

about things were based on mere speculation. Therefore, the pre-scientific age is called the age of superstition. The objection mentioned above is, in fact, a memento of this old age. This objection was born under the conditioning of superstitious ideas.

In the ancient superstitious age, many such ideas that were unfounded in reality were prevalent. After the arrival of the scientific age, these ideas were disproven. For example, the ancient geocentric theory about the solar system has been disproven, and, in its place, the heliocentric theory has been accepted. Similarly, ancient alchemy ended after the advent of modern chemistry. Similarly, ancient astrology ended after the advent of modern astronomy. The objection about 'Humanism' is also of the same nature, and now it should undoubtedly end.

Galileo was a 17th-century Italian scientist. He disagreed with the ancient Ptolemaic theory, stating that the Earth was not the centre of the solar system but rather a planet that continuously orbits the Sun. This theory was contrary to the beliefs of the Christian Church, which dominated Europe at the time. Consequently, Galileo was summoned to the Christian Court (Inquisition), and after a hearing, he was severely punished. Later, his sentence was reduced to house arrest. Galileo remained under house arrest for eight years until he became blind and died in 1642.

The geocentric theory has now been proven wrong due to scientific research. Therefore, almost 400 years after this event, the Christian Church reconsidered its belief.

It realized Galileo's theory was correct, and the Christian Church's belief was wrong. After this, the Christian Church apologized to the scientific community and announced its mistake.

In the light of new observations and experiments, all man-made theories formulated within the last few hundred years are being re-scrutinized, and many, in the process, are being discarded. Conversely, religion presents a truth that is becoming more and more manifested with every advance in scientific research. It is supported and testified to by innumerable significant discoveries.

## DARWIN'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Charles Darwin proposed that man is a more advanced species that has emerged from other animals. From a logical and scientific point of view, this is highly absurd and baseless because man is extraordinarily different from animals. Nevertheless, if this is the case, how could it be that an amoeba's mind kept progressing till it finally transformed into a human mind? It is so implausible that Darwin himself was bewildered by his theory. In his diary in April 1881, he wrote:

“Can the mind of man, which has, as I fully believe, been developed from a mind as low as that possessed by the lowest animal, be trusted when it draws such a grand conclusion?... I cannot pretend to throw the least light on such abstruse problems.”

The fact is that explaining life and the universe is an inconceivably big issue, and no human being, with his limited lifespan and limited abilities, is capable of doing this. Because of this, anyone who attempted to perform this task always fell victim to a feeling of utter helplessness, irrespective of whether or not he openly acknowledged it. This phenomenon proves that a mind vastly superior to the human mind is required to explain the reality of life and the universe. This is a work only God can do. And God has done this through His Messengers. This is evidence that proves the necessity of prophetic guidance.

## MONISM: THE PHILOSOPHICAL CONCEPT OF GOD

The concept of monism is found in Aryan religions. According to this belief, God does not have a physical form and is considered formless. God does not exist as a separate entity. The things that appear in the world are all manifestations of this formless God's presence. This concept is philosophical in nature. Philosophers have generally believed in God in this abstract sense, expressing God through ideas like spirit or essence. This philosophical concept is integral to the beliefs in Aryan religions.

This non-existent concept of God is just an unfounded speculation. In real terms, it has no argumentative basis. The first thing is that the universe we experience in the form of creation is a form in full terms.

It is illogical to say that a God who was merely a spirit or idea, who did not have his existence, has created so many different forms. God is the one in whom the attribute of creation is found, and there is no attribute of creation in a spirit or idea. Therefore, *prima facie*, the notion of a non-existent God stands rejected.

The world, as discovered by science, is composed of atoms. Referring to this discovery, it is said that the study of science proves the oneness in the universe, that is, uniformity amidst exception in material things. However, this argument is not correct. There is certainly uniformity in the universe as regards its material elements. However, the combination of these elements displays extraordinary design, and design can only be the creation of an 'intelligent mind' rather than a formless spirit. Another name for this 'Intelligent Mind' is God.

## GOD'S SIGNS

James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879) put the laws of electromagnetic interactions into equations. These laws were so marvelous that when the noted German physicist Boltzmann saw them, he exclaimed, "Who was the God who wrote these signs?"

The universe is a highly organized phenomenon and not some random heap of objects. This fact compels one who

knows this to accept that a Supreme Mind is functioning behind events in the universe.

Einstein was a man with a purely scientific mind. Still, he said, “I am more of a philosopher than a physicist, for I believe there is a reality outside of us.” Because of his mindset, Einstein remarked, “In this sense, I belong to the ranks of devoutly religious men.”

The universe is a sign of God. It reflects the Creator in the form of the creation. The person who observes the universe with an open mind will discover God—the Creator and Sustainer of the world. However, those whose minds are crooked will live in darkness while in the light. Even while standing close to God, they will not find Him.

## SEARCH FOR REALITY

In the early 17th century, with his simple telescope, the Italian scientist Galileo could see only the front face of the moon. Today, with the help of telescopic cameras installed in spaceships, man can see the reverse side of the moon, too.

This is a simple example of how much difference has come about between ‘yesterday’ and ‘today’ in intellectual terms. But the price, in material terms, for arriving at the knowledge we now have of the known universe has been enormous. Vast sums of money have been spent in different

countries to explore the mysteries of the universe, such as on research, observatories, and space missions.

In the field of astronomy, the results of research often come out after many years of effort. Because of the expenditure of large sums of money on what may appear to some to be a useless cause, many people criticize research plans that seek to enable us to know more about the universe. Answering them, Nobel Prize winner Roger Penrose (b. 1931) asks:

“Do economists not share the thrill accompanying each new piece of understanding? Do they not care to know where we have come from, how we are constituted, or why we are here? Are they not driven to understand, entirely independent of economic gain? Do they not appreciate the beauty in ideas?”

Penrose adds:

“A civilization that stopped inquiring about the universe might also stop asking about other things. A lot else might then die besides particle physics.” (SUNDAY Weekly, Calcutta, November 30, 1980)

From these words, we can gauge how important and necessary the issue of understanding the reality of life is. Even someone who does not want to interpret the universe based on God is restless to find something else based on which he can try to explain and make sense of himself, his existence, and the universe. For a creature like man to exist, the visible universe and inside it is so unique that man cannot remain without wondering about its essence or reality. Not even ‘big’ material successes can make him indifferent to such a question.

Man finds himself within a limitless universe. This universe contains approximately a billion galaxies. Each galaxy contains roughly a billion stars, and each star is so far apart from the others, like ships sailing far apart in the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. The number of spread-out stars in the immense universe is so vast that if each star were given a one-word name, and someone began to speak these names, it would take over 30 trillion years to finish reciting them. (*Plain Truth*, January 1981)

In this inconceivably vast universe, man is an insignificant creature in size. But despite this insignificance, this same man is measuring distances in the universe. He studies various aspects of the universe, from physical particles to galaxies. He possesses a mind that can conceive both the past and the future. Why and how is all this happening, and what will be the outcome of this extraordinary drama? These questions whirl around in every thinking person's mind. He wants to arrive at their reality. But it is man's misfortune that he is searching for their answers in telescopic observations and laboratory experiments, although the answers to these questions are not present anywhere other than in the revelations given to God's Messengers.

How can man, who is a limited being, who lives only for 50-100 years and then dies, understand the reality of a universe with so many stars that to take their names merely requires more than 30 trillion years? The Creator alone can unravel the secret of the reality of the universe—and He has done so through His Messengers.



## RETURN TO RELIGION

The cover story of the April 8, 1966, issue of the American TIME magazine was titled *Is God Dead?* This was more than half a century ago. But today, in the Western world, such books and articles are being published continuously, and their titles are just the opposite, indicating a growing interest in and return to religion. People increasingly turn back to religion because man's 'secular gods' have failed. This return to religion is a return to man's innate nature—that is, to the awareness of the God embedded in human nature—and not simply to some religious concepts of inherited religious traditions.

In the USA and several other Western countries, religion is again coming alive after a brief period. Religious Studies classes in colleges that were once empty are now filled. There has been an extraordinary increase in the number of readers of spiritual literature. Conferences on religion are currently being held in large numbers. There is a fantastic increase in interest in religion in many circles.

In an article by Fran Schumer titled 'A Return to Religion' published in the *Span* magazine (December 1984), Harvey R. Cox, Professor of Divinity at the Harvard Divinity School, referred to a tremendous resurgence of religious interest. Cox's bestselling 1965 book, *The Secular City*, suggested people lost interest in the sacred. A book he wrote later, *Religion in the Secular City* (1984), described the

revival of religious concern. The article in *Span*, Dec 1984, p. 26, is reproduced here.

### **A Return to Religion**

“There’s no doubt about it,” says Harvey R. Cox, Professor of Divinity at the Harvard Divinity School, “There’s a tremendous resurgence of religious interest here. “It is not uncommon to see students wearing crosses or yarmulkes on campuses across the United States, and few hide that they go to a church or a synagogue. Not just students but the academic community, long a haven for sceptics, is now giving religion a second look. Cox’s bestselling 1965 book, ‘The Secular City,’ suggested people lost interest in the sacred. His new book, ‘Religion in the Secular City’ describes the current revival in religious concern.

A century that has seen the Gulag, the Holocaust, Hiroshima and the spread of nuclear arms has caused some who used to champion rationalism and science to humble themselves. Since their secular gods have failed, they are beginning to view more traditional gods with a new curiosity.

“There is a reaction against extreme individualism and self, a preoccupation with and a search for roots with a capital R, which takes people back to religion,” says Robert N. Bellah, Ford Professor of Sociology and Comparative Studies at the University of California at Berkeley.

“Tradition is back on the agenda with a positive force.” It would have been hard to imagine a similar revival 20 years ago. On April 8, 1966, *Time* magazine asked

on its cover: "Is God Dead?" Among intellectuals today, God is not pronounced dead easily. Science and religion are not necessarily incompatible, and logical attempts to disprove God's existence are viewed as somewhat arcane; this would have surprised our intellectual predecessors. At the end of the 18th and to the middle of the 19th century, almost every enlightened thinker expected religion to disappear in the 20th century," Daniel Bell said in a seminal lecture, "The Return of the Sacred," at the London School of Economics in 1977. "The belief was based on the power of reason." The theory was that man could use his mind to overcome his problems, and religion would wither away. But that has hardly been the case. "We've gained enormous power over nature via technology," Bell said in an interview. "And yet, the 20th century is probably the most dreadful period in human history." For intellectuals, according to Bell, there have always been secular alternatives to religious faith: rationalism and the belief in science; aestheticism and the belief in art; existentialism as expressed in the works of Kierkegaard and the early Sartre, and politics—the cults of Stalin, Lenin and Mao. Yet, one by one, those alternatives, according to Bell, have exhausted their power to move individuals. "It is ironic that my generation should be the one coming—back to religion," says Alan Dershowitz, 45, professor of law at Harvard Law School. "We were the generation that had all the freedom and all the choice." And yet, it is the rootlessness of much of that freedom that has brought so many intellectuals back to religion. "I can't say to you I believe in God," says Coles, who might be described as a spiritual wanderer rather than

a believer in any particular faith. “There are moments when I do stop and pray to God. But my mind boggles if you ask me who God is or what kind of image He has. I’m confused, perplexed, and confounded. But I refuse to let that confusion be the dominant force in my life.”  
(*Span*, Dec 1984, p. 26)

Some of the main arguments of the article are that a century that saw the Gulag, the Holocaust, Hiroshima, and the spread of nuclear arms had caused some who used to champion rationalism and science to humble themselves. Since their ‘secular gods’ had failed, it argued, they were beginning to view ‘more traditional gods’ with a new curiosity. The article quoted Robert N. Bellah, Ford Professor of Sociology and Comparative Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, as saying:

“There is a reaction against extreme individualism and self, a preoccupation with and a search for roots with a capital R, which takes people back to religion.”

The article further said it would have been hard to imagine a similar revival 20 years earlier. A few years before, it was claimed that ‘God is dead.’ But things had changed. The article stated, “God is not pronounced dead easily. Science and religion are not viewed as necessarily incompatible, and logical attempts to disprove God’s existence are somewhat arcane.” The article commented, “All of this would have surprised our intellectual predecessors.”

The article has quoted Alan Dershowitz (then aged around 45 years), a professor of law at Harvard Law School, as saying that it was ironic that his generation should be the

one coming back to religion, it having been a generation that “had all the freedom and all the choice.” The rootlessness of much of that freedom brought so many intellectuals back to religion.

This state of affairs has emerged among all peoples. Presently, there is also a new return towards religion among Muslims. However, this return is unrelated to any so-called ‘epoch-building thinker’ or ‘saint’ with a ‘special connection’ with God. It is entirely an embodiment of a changing era. It is for this reason that this happens uniformly in every community. It can be observed in all religious communities. In this regard, there is no difference between them at all.

The cause of this new situation is the despair of the ‘modern’ man that has emerged in recent decades. The 20th century was a century of rationalism and science. ‘Modern’ man came to believe that through his reason and science, he could obtain everything people had earlier hoped they could get through religion. But ‘modern’ man’s hopes were not fulfilled. His rationalism only took him to uncertainty, and his science became the black clouds of atomic war, global warming, and Covid 19 that began circling over his head. Because people’s ‘secular gods’ had failed, they began to look at the ‘traditional’ religious concepts more closely.

In this way, the present scenario has opened a new possibility for us. It has presented us with a new and favourable field for reaching out to people with the message of self-surrender to the One God. This was the message that all the Prophets of God taught. This is the message of the Quran, which has been preserved intact, free from any alteration.

Seeing the present conditions of the world, it seems as if God has drawn people to the doors of His mercy. The fact is that guidance for man has come from Heaven. Our task now is to convey the truth to the seekers of Truth.

## THE DESIRE FOR A DEITY

Andriyan Nikolayev (1929-2004) was a Russian cosmonaut. In 1962, he travelled into space for the first time. After his return from this trip, in August 1962, he participated in a press conference in Moscow. Narrating his experiences in space, he said he wanted to kiss it when he landed on Earth.

For a creature like man, many things and conditions that are conducive to human life have been made possible on Earth without any effort on man's part. As far as we know, such things and conditions are nonexistent anywhere else in the vast universe. When the above-mentioned Russian astronaut went from Earth into space, he found that there, for man, was only amazement and bewilderment. Nothing there can give him peace and fulfil his needs.

After experiencing this, when he landed on Earth, he realized the value of the Earth. Just as when experiencing intense thirst, a person recognizes the importance of water. He felt the Earth, along with all the conditions so favourable to man that it contains, to be so wonderful that he wanted to offer it his intense love.

This thing is called 'making a deity' in Islamic Shariah. Man does not see God with his eyes, so he makes a creature,

thing, or being his deity. A true believer of God passes by the external and arrives at the inner reality, who realizes that all that is visible is a gift from Someone, that some Supreme Being has created all that is on Earth. Seeing the creatures, he finds their Creator and makes Him his all. He offers all his best feelings for God.

The same inner state that the Russian astronaut experienced on returning to Earth, a person should experience this with greater intensity when he discovers God. A true devotee of God is one who, on seeing the sun, finds in its light the light of God, who begins to witness God's limitlessness in the vastness of the sky, who discerns God's fragrance in the perfume of flowers, who sees God's blessings in the flow of water. The difference between a true devotee of God and somebody else is that the latter's vision is entangled in the created world while the former, passing by the created realm, reaches the Creator. A non-devotee, fascinated by the beauty of created beings, gets immersed in them alone. On the other hand, the devotee sees the Creator's wonders in the beauty of created things and prostrates before the Creator—God.

## EXPERIENCING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Col. James Irwin (1930-1991) was one of three American astronauts who went into space on Apollo 15. In an interview, he spoke about the moment in August 1972 when he stepped on the moon's surface. He said that it was an extraordinary

experience for him. He felt God's presence there. He felt as if God was very near. He said that he could see God's greatness with his own eyes and remarked that the journey to the moon was not just a scientific journey; through it, he had received spiritual life. He said his experiences in space had made God more real to him than before.

Col. Irwin's experience was not unique. The fact is that everything that God has created is so exceptional that, on seeing it, one can be overwhelmed by the wonders of God. In the perfectness of the creation, the Creator's face is being reflected at every moment, but we have got so habituated to the world around us, having seen it from childhood itself, that we do not realize its wondrousness. Air, water, trees, birds, and innumerable other things are all miraculous. Everything is a mirror of the Creator's attributes. We cannot realize how amazing they are because we have become so used to them. But when a person suddenly landed on the moon and saw, for the very first time, the scene that was spread out before him, he could not help but feel the presence of the Creator. In the wonders of the creation that he witnessed before him; he found the presence of the Creator.

On Earth, too, where we live, the experience of 'the presence of God' can happen in the same way as Colonel Irwin experienced on arriving on the moon. But people do not see the world around them with that same sense of wonder and awe with which a new traveler to the moon sees the moon. If we begin to see our world with this same sort of vision, we will experience God's presence at every



moment. We will start to live in such a way as if we are living in the neighbourhood of God, feeling that God is at every moment present before our very eyes.

If we see a high-quality machine for the first time, at once, we notice therein the presence, as it were, of the engineer who designed it. In the same way, if we deeply ponder on things in this world, at that very moment, we can find God's presence there. Every creation in the universe bears witness to the existence of the Creator—God.

In the present world, man's most significant discovery is to begin to see God, to feel God's presence near him. If a person's awareness is alive, he will see God's light shining in the sun's golden rays. He will find God reflected in the beautiful sight of lush green trees. In the gentle breeze, he will experience a Divine touch. While placing his palms and forehead on the ground in prostration, he will feel as if he has set his entire being at the feet of His Lord. God is omnipresent, with His power and His mercy everywhere. The only condition is developing a vision that can 'see' Him.

## SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

Recent decades have witnessed the emergence of a unique field of research: 'Listening for life in space.' Behind this quest is the idea that similar living beings might be found in other locations in the vast universe as are on Earth. For some people, a significant reason for space travel is to

meet with such supposed life forms. They have such faith in this hypothesis that they have given it a unique name—‘extraterrestrial life.’

Big antennas called ‘radio ears’ have been set up in parts of America and other ‘developed’ Western countries. These machines send signals into space, and sensitive instruments are always ready to listen to any signals from above. In the pages of *Time Magazine* (March 21, 1983), an insightful commentary was shared, stating:

“If you are there, please call your friends.”

The existence of life and consciousness on Earth is a highly exceptional phenomenon in the universe. Because this life and consciousness have not brought themselves into being, their existence necessarily demands a source for them—which can only be God. The fact is that man’s existence is evidence of God’s existence.

Strangely, people are ready to believe in the possible existence of ‘extraterrestrial life’ on some hypothetical planet but decline to accept the presence of the extra-human Source of all life, including human life, on earth—the One Creator—God.

### **The Search for ‘Alien Life’**

Stephen Hawking, an avowed atheist, was a famous British scientist. After a detailed study, he stated that there must be some intelligent life beyond the Earth, which he termed ‘alien life.’

Hawking suggested that extraterrestrials are almost certain to exist. Hawking’s logic on aliens was simple: “The universe

has around 100 billion galaxies, each containing hundreds of millions of stars. In such an enormous realm, Earth is unlikely to be the only planet where life exists. Hawking remarked, ‘To my mathematical brain, the numbers alone make thinking about aliens perfectly rational.’” (*The Times of India*, New Delhi, April 26, 2010, p. 17)

The first thing that the phenomenon of intelligent beings on Earth proves is that this phenomenon is an exception. Now, what is the explanation for this exception? Atheists like Hawking might deem the hypothesis of evolution to be the basis for explaining the presence of intelligent beings on Earth. But it is much more appropriate to explain this based on intervention by the Creator because modern scientific evidence indicates it. And when this intervention is accepted, the existence of the Creator, who alone could have done this, gets proven automatically.

In present times, many realities about the universe have been discovered. These are clear evidence that points to the existence of the Creator, but in line with their worldview, atheistic-minded people declared them to be the result of some hypothetical evolutionary process. This, however, is baseless speculation, as science itself has proved.

### **The Search for ‘Extraterrestrial Intelligence’**

As explained above, there is much talk of ‘extraterrestrial intelligence’ in scientific circles these days. Among the things scientists are trying to discover, one is what is termed ‘alien civilizations.’ Besides the human civilization on Earth,

is there one or more civilizations elsewhere in space, perhaps established by some non-human entities?

Some people speculate that there could be other ‘technical civilizations’ elsewhere in the universe similar to the human civilization on Earth, established by ‘aliens.’ One reason for this speculation is that some people have claimed to have found indications of extraterrestrial intelligence in the universe. If these are indeed what these people think they are, it ought to have strengthened faith in God, but the mindset of those who deny God is such that it is ready to believe in the existence of some hypothetical extraterrestrial intelligence of unseen ‘aliens’ but hesitates at accepting the existence of God.

Some astronomers have claimed that in our galaxy, there are 10 billion stars that, like the solar system, have a planetary system. In their opinion, the existence of life is as possible there as is on Earth, although, so far, not one planet has been discovered where life forms as on Earth are present. Searches for radio signals or optical flashes from other star systems that might indicate the presence of extraterrestrial intelligence have so far proved fruitless. The following is an excerpt from an article on ‘extraterrestrial intelligence’ in Encyclopedia Britannica.

“Hypothetical extraterrestrial life capable of thinking, purposeful activity... more than 3,000 extrasolar planets have been detected... These efforts suggest that there could be many worlds in which life, and occasionally intelligent life, might arise. Searches for radio signals or optical flashes from other star systems

that would indicate the presence of extraterrestrial intelligence have so far proved fruitless.”

[www.britannica.com/science/extraterrestrial-intelligence#ref283898](http://www.britannica.com/science/extraterrestrial-intelligence#ref283898) [retrieved: 4th April 2020]

The caravan of humanity’s scientific discoveries is progressing at great speed. Science has reached a level of intelligence beyond that of humans, an extra-human intelligence. If one day it discovers that this extra-human intelligence is so unique in its nature that, rather than considering it to be akin to a human being, it would be more appropriate to call it ‘God,’ there would be nothing surprising about it in the least.

## IN THE MEANINGFUL UNIVERSE

The universe has been estimated to span one hundred thousand light years, encompassing our nearby galaxies. Within this galaxy, there are three hundred billion stars. Our solar system is located twenty-seven thousand light years from its centre. Most of these stars likely have a series of planets. However, most of these planets are unsuitable for life due to their proximity or distance from their parent star. Nevertheless, given the immense number of stars, based on sheer mathematical probability, there is a possibility that many stars are similar to our Sun and planets are similar to our Earth.

However, among the countless planets, Earth is the only planet with a life support system. A life support system

refers to the natural structure and system that provides essential elements for sustaining life: oxygen, carbon dioxide, food, water, waste disposal, and temperature and pressure regulation.

Due to this inherent system, the Earth is habitable for living beings like humans. No planetary system of this kind has been discovered in the entire universe thus far. Recently, a separate field of science has come into being called SETI, which stands for ‘Search For Extraterrestrial Intelligence.’

Perhaps inspired by the Darwinian evolutionary theory, some scientists speculate that there should also be intelligent creatures like humans in some other locations of the universe. The hypothetical evolutionary process desires a generality, there being no room for any exceptions in it, and so perhaps these people think that if that life ‘evolved’ on its own on Earth, this could not have been an exception and that life might also have ‘evolved’ on its own in other locations in the universe as well. An American writer, Isaac Asimov (1920-1992), even declared that there were 400 million stars in our galaxy on which plants and animals could be found. But all of this was mere speculation.

The Sun is an average-sized star with a diameter of 865,000 miles, approximately 109 times larger than Earth’s. The Sun’s surface temperature is estimated to be around 11,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The distance between the Earth and the Sun is approximately 93 million miles, a crucial factor for life on our planet. If this distance were to decrease or increase significantly, it would render the habitation of humans on Earth impossible.

For instance, if the Sun were to come halfway closer to us, the heat generated on Earth would be so intense that paper would start to burn. Conversely, if the current distance between the Earth and the Sun were doubled, the cold would be so extreme that life as we know it would cease to exist on Earth. This situation would arise if, instead of the current Sun, an extraordinary star were to take its place. For example, there is a star whose heat is eighty thousand times greater than our Sun. If it were in place of the Sun, it would turn the entire Earth into a blazing furnace.

## FROM DENIAL TO ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Nalin Chandra Wickramasinghe (b. 1939) is a Sri Lankan-born British mathematician, astronomer, and astrobiologist. He was a Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, from 1963 to 1973, until he became a professor of applied mathematics and astronomy at University College Cardiff. Later, he moved to the University of Buckingham as Director of the Buckingham Centre for Astrobiology, University of Buckingham. In 2015, he was elected Visiting scholar at Churchill College, Cambridge, England. He spent many years working on the issue of the origin of life on Earth with noted British astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle (who served as the Director of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge and was President of the Royal Astronomical Society). The duo, regarded as among Britain's most eminent scientists,

published their research findings in a jointly-authored book, *Evolution From Space* (1981).

According to an article that was published in *The Hindustan Times* (September 6, 1981), when Hoyle, an agnostic of Christian background, and Wickramasinghe, an atheist Buddhist, began researching the origin of life, they believed that the notion of a Creator was inconsistent with science. But then something quite remarkable happened. “Today,” the article explained, they are “changed, men. They believe.” The article ‘Conversion to God’ mentioned above is being reproduced.

### **Conversion to God**

There wasn’t much to agree on when two of Britain’s most eminent scientists began researching life’s origin. But on one point they were both quite clear—that the notion of ‘Creator’ is inconsistent with science. Today, Professor Sir Fred Hoyle, an agnostic of Christian background and Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, an atheist Buddhist, are changed men. They believe. What convinced both men were the calculations they each did independently into the mathematical chances of life starting spontaneously.

Each found that the odds against the spark of life igniting accidentally on Earth were staggering—in mathematical jargon, ‘10 to the power of 40,000.’ If you write down the figure ‘1’, you have the figure and add 40,000 noughts after it. “That number is such an imponderable in the universe that I am 100 per cent certain that life could not have started spontaneously on earth,” says Wickramasinghe, who has worked



with Hoyle since 1962. “It is quite a shock,” says Wickramasinghe, Sri Lankan-born Professor of Applied Mathematics and Astronomy at University College, Cardiff. “From my earliest training as a scientist, I was strongly brainwashed to believe that science cannot be consistent with any deliberate creation. That notion has had to be very painfully shed. I am quite uncomfortable in the situation, the state of mind I now find myself in. But there is no logical way out of it.”

They did calculations based on the size and age of the universe (15 billion years) and found that the odds against life beginning spontaneously anywhere in space were ‘10 to the power of 30.’ As they say in their book, *Evolution From Space*: “Once we see that the probability of life originating at random is so utterly minuscule as to make it absurd, it becomes sensible to think that the favourite properties of physics on which life depends are in every respect deliberate. Wickramasinghe says: Fred was tending much more than I towards the higher intelligent Creator. I used to argue against it, but I lost every argument. I can’t find any rational argument to knock down the view which argues for conversion to God. If I could have found an argument even a flimsy one—I wouldn’t have been party to what we wrote in the book. We used to have open minds; now we realize that the only logical answer to life is creation, not accidental random shuffling. I hope that one day I may return to favour a purely mechanistic explanation—I say ‘hope’ because I still cannot come to terms with my conversion. My being a Buddhist—albeit not ardent—was never a problem because it is an atheistic religion

which doesn't profess to know anything about creation and doesn't have a creator built into it.' But I now find myself driven to this position by logic. There is no other way to understand the precise ordering of the chemicals except to invoke the creations on a cosmic scale. "The two also believe that cellular life had already evolved to a high degree before the Earth was born, about three and a half billion years ago. "We received life with the fundamental biochemical problems already solved," says Wickramasinghe: We were hoping, as scientists, that there would be a way round our conclusion—but there isn't. Logic is still hopelessly against that." (*The Hindustan Times*, September 6, 1981)

From the above article, it can be seen that what convinced the two scholars were the calculations they each did independently, which led to the mathematical chances of life starting spontaneously to be minuscule. Each found that the odds against the spark of life igniting accidentally on Earth were staggering—in mathematical jargon, '10 to the power of 40,000' (that is, 1, followed by 40,000 zeroes). "That number is so imponderable in the universe that I am 100 per cent certain that life could not have started spontaneously on Earth," Wickramasinghe stated.

"It is quite a shock," the article quoted Wickramasinghe. "From my earliest training as a scientist, I was strongly brainwashed to believe that science cannot be consistent with any deliberate creation. That notion has had to be very painfully shed. I am quite uncomfortable in the situation, the state of mind I now find myself in. But there is no logical way out of it."

Both scientists independently calculated the mathematical probability of life beginning by chance based on the size and age of the universe. Their separate investigations converged on the same conclusion: the chance emergence of life is not mathematically possible. They calculated that if the probability of a random occurrence is considered “one,” the opposing probabilities are so numerous that to count them, forty thousand zeros would need to be written to the right of the ‘one’. “The number of existing volume and age (15 billion years) in the universe is so incomprehensibly vast that I am absolutely certain that life could not have started suddenly on our Earth,” Wickramasinghe said.

According to the article, Wickramasinghe remarked that Hoyle tended much more than he was towards the higher intelligent Creator. Wickramasinghe used to argue against it, but he lost every argument. “At the moment, I can’t find any rational argument to knock down the view which argues for conversion to God,” Wickramasinghe explained, adding that “the only logical answer to life is creation and not accidental random shuffling.”

## THE SOUL’S QUEST FOR ETERNAL TRUTH

Yakov Zeldovich (1914-1987) was a famous Russian scientist. In the period when the USSR was still in existence, an article he wrote appeared in a magazine published in

Moscow called *Sputnik* (August 1987). It was titled ‘Truth, Progress and the Human Soul.’

In this article, Mr. Zeldovich acknowledged that he was an atheist. He did not believe in God and religion. But along with this, he said that in human societies, the presence of faith was a proven historical reality. Further, he noted that spiritual needs are deeply entrenched in human consciousness.

This aspect of human nature is so clear and definite that all serious people have acknowledged it. From ancient times till today, all humans have been born with the awareness of the supernatural deeply embedded in their very nature. People born and socialized in atheistic families and societies cannot empty themselves of this awareness. This demand of human nature is such an accepted and acknowledged reality that it cannot be denied.

Only one question remains after accepting this reality—how to address this innate awareness of the supernatural embedded in human nature. Atheist scientists might say the answer lies in developing a person’s material consciousness. However, this answer is its rebuttal and negation because a matter-based option cannot answer a spiritual question about man’s innate nature. The fact is that the answer to the question is only God. The creature—man—is searching for his Creator, and only after he finds his Creator can the creature get peace. As the Quran says:

“Surely in the remembrance of God hearts can find comfort.” (13:28)

## SEARCH FOR THE SUPREME BEING

Dr. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar is a world-renowned astrophysicist from India. He was born in 1938. In an interview, he was asked about his views on “religious illusions” and how they compare to scientific beliefs held by other people. Dr. Narlikar responded:

“I find this matter extremely distasteful. Many scientists adopt a scientific perspective when working in their laboratories. However, they do not apply the scientific method when they go home. For example, many highly educated individuals in the West believe in astrology. This is a psychological issue. Human nature desires to seek immediate and easy comfort. It is, in fact, a mental crutch.” (*The Times of India*, April 30, 1979)

Every person is repeatedly faced with such occasions when he experiences helplessness. He feels that he is a powerless being. This feeling leads him to search for someone superior to him who can compensate for his limitations. When some highly educated people in the West, for whom all doors of material opportunity are open, take the support of metaphysical beliefs in search of peace of mind, this is not some crazy aberration. It reflects a deep inner quest, although they often get entangled in various superstitious beliefs and practices when they do not find the correct answer to this search.

The One Creator, God Almighty, is the only right destination for such a quest.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE LIFE WE WERE  
SEARCHING FOR

## THE GREATEST TRAGEDY

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of human history is that man has remained deprived of the realization of God. The path to realizing God is through contemplation of His creation. Before the modern scientific age, man knew little about God's creations. And so, in ancient times, this framework to arrive at the realization of God was not available.

In the modern age following the scientific revolution, man obtained a higher framework for the realization of God, whose prior intimation was given in the Quran in these words:

“We shall show them Our signs in the universe and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that this is the Truth.” (41:53)

But in this same period, when the universal or scientific framework emerged, the Muslims of the whole world fell victim to negative thinking due to political reaction. In this way, they were deprived of positive thinking.

Because no scientific framework was available for ancient man, it was challenging for him to realize God at a higher level. But despite the emergence of a scientific framework in the modern age, man could not realize God. The reason for this was that modern man was bereft of positive thinking. This was undoubtedly man's most significant loss. A higher realization of God is the greatest blessing for every human being. It is possible that every human being can reach this level of realization. However, the condition for this is

that they must protect themselves entirely from negative thinking. Those who fulfil this condition will succeed in arriving at higher levels of God-realization.

It is a tragedy of history that most people, based on some issue or the other, have fallen prey to negative thinking. As they could not develop positive thinking, they could not realize God.

## THE LIFE WE WERE SEARCHING FOR

The well-known German thinker and communist ideologue Friedrich Engels (1829-1895) believed that first of all, man needs clothing to cover his body and food to fill his stomach, and only after that can he ponder on matters of philosophy and politics. But the fact is that the first questions to which man wants the answers are existential questions, such as ‘Who am I?’, ‘What is this universe?’, ‘Who made it?’, ‘Why am I here?’, ‘How did my life begin?’, and ‘Where will it end?’. These are the fundamental questions people ask, which are rooted in human nature.

Man opens his eyes to a world filled with many different things. The sun sends him light and heat, but he does not know why it is engaged in the service of man. The air blesses him with life, but it is not in man’s capacity to take hold of it and ask, “Who are you? Why are you being so kind to me?” He sees his existence but does not know who he is and



why he has come into the world. Man's mind is not able to determine the answers to these questions. He still wants to know the answers to such questions. Even though these questions may not take the form of words and be uttered by every person's tongue, they keep man's soul restless and sometimes well up with such intensity that they can even drive a person mad.

The world knows Friedrich Engels as an atheist. But his atheism was a reaction to his environment that manifested in his life much later. His initial years were spent in a religious setting. When he grew up, he became dissatisfied with conventional religion. Reflecting on this state of his, at the age of nineteen, he wrote in a letter to a friend:

“I pray every day, almost all day long. I pray that the truth may be given to me. I have done this since doubts assailed me, but I cannot return to our faith. . . . I write these lines with tears in my eyes; it is hard to control my emotions, but I feel that I will not be lost and will find God, to whom I aspire with all my heart.” (David Riazanov: *Essays on the History of Marxism*,” p. 36, copied from “Max Eastman: *Marx, Lenin and the Science of Revolution*,” p. 148)

This was the natural urge for the search for Reality that had welled up in the young Engels. But he could not satisfy this urge, and becoming dissatisfied with conventional Christianity, he lost himself in political philosophies.

The truth is that the awareness of the One God, the Creator is embedded in human nature by birth itself. It is an essential component of man's unconscious. This urge is present in

every human being by birth. “God is my Creator, and I am His servant”—this is the silent oath that every human being, from the very first day itself, brings with him when he comes into this world. Awareness of the Creator, Lord and Benefactor is unconsciously racing in man’s veins. Without conscious awareness of the Creator, man experiences a huge vacuum inside himself. Deep inside, his soul demands that he find the Master he has not seen with his eyes, embrace Him and surrender to Him his all.

Attaining God-realization is obtaining the correct destination for this inner urge. The emotions of people who do not find God are drawn away from God towards other things.

### **Natural Urge to Bow Before a Deity**

On August 15, 1947, when the Union Jack of the British Empire was lowered from the official buildings of India and the country’s national flag was unfurled, it was a sight that brought tears to the eyes of those yearning to see their nation free. These tears were, in fact, an expression of their connection with the “Divine Gift of Freedom.” The joy is inherent in every person for their beloved, to whom they had devoted the best part of their lives. Similarly, when a leader visits the grave of the “Father of the Nation” and offers flowers, bowing his head in reverence, he perpetuates the same act that a religious person performs for his Creator through bowing and prostration.

Likewise, when a communist passes by the statue of Lenin and removes his cap, slowing down his pace, at that

moment, he is offering his emotional devotion in the service of his ideal. In this manner, every individual is compelled to make something or someone their deity and present their emotions as a sacrifice before it.

Every person has a strong desire to offer their noblest feelings to someone. Every person is compelled to make something or the other the object of their devotion and worship and offer the sacrifice of their emotions to it. Because this urge is natural, it initially emerges naturally towards God. However, circumstances and the conditioning of the environment, among other factors, turn it in the wrong direction toward something other than God. After some days, man becomes used to a particular lifestyle that he has been conditioned to and begins to feel pleasure in it. For instance, the atheist British philosopher Bertrand Russell was staunchly religious in childhood. He used to pray regularly. One day, his grandfather asked him what his favourite prayer was. Young Russell answered that he was tired of life and was burdened by his sins. At that time, God was Russell's object of devotion. But when Russell reached the age of 13, he stopped praying, and because of living in an environment that had revolted against religious traditions and traditional values, an attitude of rebellion against them began to emerge in him. Finally, he became an atheist whose most beloved things were mathematics and philosophy.

In April 1959, Russell sat down with John Freeman of the BBC program *Face to Face* for an interview. Russell reminisced about his early attraction to mathematics. "I got the sort of satisfaction that Plato says you can get out of

mathematics,” he said. “It was an eternal world. It was a timeless world. It was a world where there was a possibility of a certain kind of perfection.”

This British thinker had refused to make God the object of his devotion. But still, he could not remain free from the need for an object of devotion, and he placed mathematics where he had earlier placed God. Not only this, but he also accepted the mathematical attributes that only God can possess, such as eternity and freedom from the boundaries of time. He believed that through mathematics, he could obtain peace similar to that from religion—which his inner being was searching for.

People who do not accept God and regard God’s worship as meaningless prostrate before their self-made idols to satisfy their inner desire for worship and devotion. It is a fact that worshipping something is a natural need of man. If man does not bow down before God, he will have to bow down before other ‘deities’ because his inner vacuum cannot be filled without a deity.

People who make anything other than God the object of their devotion remain deprived of real peace in the same way as a mother who, deprived of her child, buys a plastic doll and seeks in vain to satisfy her motherly instincts through it. No matter how ‘successful’ an atheist may be in worldly terms, such moments are bound to come when he is compelled to think that reality is something other than what he thinks it is. Atheists, no matter how busy they may be, are sometimes forced to wonder what this world is all about, where they have come from, and where they will go

from here. There is a lack of contentment and peace deep inside them. People who refuse to make God the object of their devotion and worship may be so engrossed in the preoccupations and temporary pleasures of the world that they may feel very content and at peace. But as soon as the artificial environment in which they live begins to reveal a crack, reality begins to force its way from inside them and reminds them that they are devoid of true peace and contentment.

### **Search for Meaning in Life**

About twelve years before India's independence in 1935, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru completed his time in jail, he penned the following words: "I feel that one chapter of my life has come to an end, and now a new chapter will begin. What will it be? No one can speculate about it. The next pages of the book of life are unknown." (Nehru, "An Autobiography," London, p. 597)

As Nehru's life unfolded, it became evident that he would become the Prime Minister of the world's third-largest country, governing over the most populous part of the world. However, this realization did not quell Nehru's restlessness. Even in the zenith of his success, he continued to sense that there were still unturned pages in the Book of Life. This question persisted in his mind until his final days, a question that every individual carries from birth.

In the first week of January 1964, an international conference of orientologists convened in New Delhi, with representatives from India and other countries in attendance. During his

speech at the meeting, Pandit Nehru, acknowledging his political commitments and limited time for contemplation, expressed his compelled thoughts about the nature of the world, its purpose, our existence, and the actions we undertake. He affirmed his belief in the existence of forces that shape our destiny. (*National Herald*, 6 January 1964)

A certain unease lingers within the souls of those who have denied acknowledging God as their Lord and have chosen not to worship Him. At times, amidst the busyness of worldly affairs and temporary interests, it may seem as if they are momentarily detached from this unease. However, as the artificial environment fades away, reality begins to exert its force from within, reminding them that they are deprived of true tranquility.

Professor Michael Brecher (1925-2022) from Michigan University authored a political biography of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru entitled “Nehru: A Political Biography.” The author had the opportunity to meet Pandit Nehru himself while writing it. During a meeting held in New Delhi on June 13, 1956, Professor Brecher asked Pandit Nehru to briefly outline his beliefs regarding the essential elements of a good society and his fundamental philosophy of life.

In response, Jawaharlal Nehru stated, “I believe in certain standards, which you can consider moral standards. These standards are necessary for individuals and society alike. Without them, meaningful results cannot be achieved even with material progress. I am uncertain about how to establish these standards. They are associated with religious

perspectives, but I feel confined by all the rituals and practices that come with them. I place great importance on ethical and spiritual values that transcend religion, but I am unsure how to uphold them in modern life. That remains a question for me.” (Nehru: “A Political Biography,” London 1959, pp. 607-08.)

This question and answer shed light on the second aspect of human beings. There is another vacuum that man is facing on an extreme level today, which has to do with a severe moral crisis. It is an indispensable requirement for every social group that its members live by specific ethical standards. Without this, human civilization will collapse. But after abandoning God, man does not know how to fulfil this need. Even after decades of experiencing this predicament, man is still searching for a way out.

These signs prove that without God, civilization has plunged the human race into the abyss. It has derailed man from the path that leads to success. Life’s boat has become anchorless and sail-less. The only solution is for humanity to turn towards God. It must acknowledge the importance of divine religion in life. This is the only foundation upon which a better reconstruction of life is possible; no other foundation can reconstruct life.

## THE ONENESS OF GOD

There is a Creator of the universe. It is He who created the universe according to His plan, and it is He who is running

it. Just as the rest of the universe obeys God, humans must also obey God, but of their own free will. The right attitude for man is that he should lead his life in obedience to God. It was to convey this message to human beings that all the prophets came into the world throughout human history. And the universe, at every moment, is giving out this same lesson to man. This is what the Islamic concept of the Oneness of God is about. The Quran says:

“Is there any doubt about God, the Originator of the heavens and earth?” (14:10)

This statement of the Quran appears to be a question, but it is the answer to it. In this verse, the word ‘fatir’ or Originator is a definite and specific proof in support of God’s existence, which the Quran expresses elsewhere in this way:

“Do not those who deny the truth see that the heavens and the earth were joined together and that We then split them asunder?” (21:30)

An estimate based on research conducted in 2019 suggests that the radius of the universe is approximately 46.5 billion light years. This indicates that the universe is not confined to a single state but continuously expands uniformly in all directions. This implies that the universe was once in a compressed state in the past.

According to astronomers, in the beginning, the entire universe existed as a super-atom, with all its components drawn inward by immense force. Approximately 13.8 billion years ago, there was an event of a release of energy akin to an explosion in this primordial matter. Consequently, the



components of the super-atom shattered from its centre and began to disperse in all directions, giving rise to the present universe.

The above Quranic verse refers to the heavens and the earth being ‘joined together’ (*Ratq*) in an inward motion and then being ‘split asunder’ (*Fatq*) in an outward motion. The words used in the Quran in the 7th century about the universe’s beginning are exactly what scientists discovered in the 20th century in the form of the ‘Big Bang’ that occurred in space 13.8 billion years ago. Science confirms that at that time, the forces within the super-atom were only working to contract and compress everything inward. However, initiating the outward journey for its components went against its inherent law and necessitated the intervention of external energy. The fact that the outward journey of the particles within the primordial atom did occur after the explosion also compels us to acknowledge the existence of an Intervener or a Supreme Power beyond the universe itself, as it caused an extraordinary motion within the initial matter through a conscious act. Another name for this Intervener is God.

In one place in the Quran, the order in the universe is described as follows:

“If there had been in the heavens and on the earth, other deities besides God, both the heavens and earth would be ruined.” (21:22)

The above words of the Quran point to natural phenomena that provide evidence of a higher power at work, thereby confirming the existence of a single supreme authority

rather than multiple ones. All branches of natural science astonishingly affirm that the universe operates under a single law. The laws governing the earth function flawlessly in celestial bodies as well. This certainty in the universe's physical laws has driven man to invest billions of dollars and develop spacecraft capable of landing on the moon and Mars based on precise calculations.

These words of the Quran indicate that the power that controls the universe is God, and He is One. All physical sciences amazingly testify that a single law binds the functioning of the entire universe. If the whole universe were not to function according to a single law and with total accuracy, the telescopes installed on the Earth would not be able to 'see' up to 8000 million light-years in the vast universe. Our physical sciences would suddenly lose all their importance. For the universe to be in a state of unity with such order and precision tells us that it is in the control of only One God. Had several 'gods controlled it,' chaos would have erupted. In the internecine conflict of various 'gods,' the universe would have been devastated and destroyed.

Referring to the management of the universe, the Quran says:

“It is He who has created all things and measured them out precisely.” (25:2)

Physical observation tells us that there is one law for everything. This has been established in the universe with perfect precision, predictability, and regularity. In the 'Encyclopedia of Ignorance,' Dr. Ian Rexborough,

Professor of Applied Mathematics Queen Mary College, London, writes:

“The universe is astonishingly uniform to a remarkable degree. However, when one looks at it, the composition of the elements in the universe is in the same proportion. The natural laws discovered on Earth are based on arbitrary numbers. For example, the ratio of the amount of matter in an electron to the amount of matter (mass) in a proton is approximately  $1/1840$ . This ratio is found everywhere and at all times. Why is this so? Has a creator arbitrarily chosen these numbers? Is the same proportion necessary in these numbers for the existence of the universe that we observe?” (*Sunday Times*, London, December 4, 1977)

This clearly indicates that an omnipotent force controls all entities. This force is the Creator of the universe and also its Sustainer. In this sequence, people ask, ‘If God exists, then why can’t we see Him?’ The answer to this question is that in the age of science, we are in a world where we have no choice but to believe in things without seeing them. It is not just a question of belief in God. In the universe we inhabit, there are countless things we cannot see and perceive. Yet, despite this, we are compelled to believe in them. Just as we cannot comprehend the existence of God, we cannot understand the existence of all the entities in the universe without accepting faith in the unseen. For example, we accept the existence of the various particles in an atom. One of them is the neutrino. It is said that this particle has no electric charge. Nor does it have any mass. It seems to be nothing. In the words of a scientist:

‘Neutrino is a tiny bundle of nothing.’

Why is the existence of nothingness acknowledged? Its reason is that in atoms, some properties manifest themselves, whose explanation requires recognizing the existence of a non-particle within the structure of the atom. This assumption also includes one of the strange properties of neutrinos: they can pass through any material body without obstruction. They can even pass through the entire Earth in their journey. Experiments are being conducted in the United States to utilize this property of neutrinos for human applications. Scientists believe that if this property of neutrinos can be harnessed, it will revolutionize communication worldwide. Seeing anything in the universe is purely scientifically so impossible that it has led to disagreement among scientific philosophers about whether to consider the universe as an external (objective) event or merely something perceived mentally or internally (subjective).

Just as we believe in sub-atomic particles, although unseen, through their effect, we also have to believe in the unseen God.

### **The Concept of God**

Believing in God is not as difficult for humans as arriving at a correct understanding of God. Throughout the ages, humans have continued to acknowledge the existence of God, and even today, a significant majority of the earth’s population recognizes the existence of God as the Creator. However, the real challenge lies in that, despite believing

in God, people associate beliefs with Him that make acceptance and rejection equivalent.

While believing in God, some express such attributes for Him that His separate and independent existence becomes doubtful. Others, having believed in God, associate with Him such partners or close associates that, after that, the divinity of God becomes meaningless.

The reason for man to deviate from the proper understanding of God has always been only one—that is, applying to their concept of God, features or attributes that they observe in the world of human beings. For instance, in this world, people have sons and daughters, and on this basis, it was assumed that God must also have sons and daughters, and this led to the creation of a sacred divine family.

Similarly, since the emperors of the world had some close associates and courtiers to whom he had given powers and listened, it was assumed that some people were very close to God, too, to whom He had given powers and whose views He heard. In this way, belief in the intermediaries to God came into existence. In this world, many forces are seen to be at work—for example, the sun and various stars—and so, it was assumed that these are all beings that partake of Divinity and are running the universe in conjunction with the Great God. In this way, the idea of co-functionaries to God came into being. And so on.

Similarly, the concept of monism was accepted. Monism was the philosophic concept of the singularity of existence in which God and creation have the same existence. It is

the belief that God manifests Himself through His creation. Philosophers initially accepted this concept as the unity of existence or the unity of being, which later came to be accepted in religions.

This concept was developed when people saw the one universe filled with innumerable diverse things, from man to the stars, and they wanted to find unity in this diversity. And so, they said that the one Absolute God manifests Himself in different forms. In this way, the concept of God became like an abstract idea, a mere imagination devoid of any independent existence. It was accepted that everything emanates from it and, ultimately, after ending, merges back into it. It is this notion that produced the belief in 'human gods.'

Salvation, in this concept, was that the creation merges with the Creator, usually after one's death. However, there was also a belief that if one negates their worldly status through some spiritual practices, they could unite with God while still alive; this produced the concept of saints.

However, all these concepts of God are mere hypothetical speculations. They have nothing to do with reality. Islam has kept the concept of God pure from all these hypothetical speculations. According to Islam, every such addition negates the pure concept of God.

According to Islam, God is the One who possesses uniqueness in every aspect and is entirely pure from all forms of participation in His essence and attributes. This is the concept of tawheed or monotheism in Islam. In the Quran, this is stated thus:

“Say, ‘He is God, the One God, the Self-sufficient One. He does not give birth, nor was He born, and there is nothing like Him.’” (112:1-4)

### **Practical Significance of Monotheism**

In Islam, the doctrine of the Oneness of God, tawheed, or monotheism, is not an abstract idea or a formless spirit. Islam believes in the duality of existence. Both the Creator and creation have a separate existence. The Oneness of God means that just as the Creator of the universe is One, its Lord and Master is also One.

God is not some impersonal God. God has a profound and practical connection with man’s life. According to Islam, only that person is a true monotheist whose faith in, and devotion to, the One God is reflected in his thinking and character.

God is that Being to whom man is answerable and from whom man will receive punishment or reward in the world Hereafter according to his actions in this world. In this way, the concept of the Hereafter also becomes part of the Islamic concept of *Tawheed*.

Belief in God is meaningless without accepting His role as the Creator. In the same way, without acknowledging God as a Reckoner and worthy of trust, the concept of God remains incomplete. The universe manifests the One God’s Absolute Omnipotence with no partners. The present world is the unseen manifestation of Divine Oneness, while the world of the Hereafter will be its observable manifestation.

In the current realm, monotheism appears to be a subject of contemplation. The world of the Hereafter will be a place where monotheism becomes an established reality. On that day, the Oneness of God will be an accepted and known reality, just as today, the sun is an accepted and well-known reality for all to see at the level of observation. If a person considers God one but does not accept that His unity will manifest in the Hereafter, then his concept of monotheism is flawed. He can be a philosophical monotheist, but it would not be correct in any way to call him an Islamic monotheist. 'God is one' is not just a matter of numerical unity; it is related to explaining all the realities of the universe, be they known or unknown.

Be it the material world, the spiritual world, or the issues concerning this world or the other world in the Hereafter, all these things are incomprehensible until we find their relation to the Oneness of God. The discovery of God's Oneness is the central unity behind all realities. Only through pure monotheism can the eternal meaning of all realities be explained. From the Islamic point of view, an ideology that does not explain the eternal meaningfulness of realities as one whole cannot be called 'monotheism.'

Attaining the Oneness of God is complete only when it becomes synonymous with achieving the unity of humanity and the universe. This means that only one essence controls and governs the universe and humanity: the unparalleled God alone. All contradictions dissolve at this level, and only Oneness remains the ultimate reality.

Even a person like Darwin accepted the existence of the Creator. But he could not discover the relationship between



the Creator and man. As a result, the most extreme forms of atheism emerged from the womb of Darwin's theory.

The concept of the Oneness of God is also like this. The issue of the Oneness of God should be studied so that it can lead us to discover the relationship between God and man. Without this, not only would this study be incomplete, but there is also the possibility that it might lead the seekers of Truth in the reverse direction to some other destination.

It is essential, therefore, that the study of monotheism be conducted in a way that can explain the relationship between the concept of monotheism in relation to man. Without this, the study of monotheism will remain incomplete; hence, it might lead the truth-seeker in the wrong direction rather than the One true God.

## MAN AND MONOTHEISM

Man is just an insignificant part of the universe. The universe completely obeys its Creator and Master under compulsion, and the same thing is desired of man, too. The proper method of action for man is that he agrees to obey God of his own free will while the rest of the universe obeys God under the law of compulsion. If man submits to God, he will become a fellow traveler, as it were, of the rest of the universe. God manages all creatures in the universe. That is why the physical universe functions smoothly. In

the same way, human affairs can also be rectified when one surrenders one's will to God's control.

The reason for the accurate and perfect functioning of the universe is that it has dyed itself in the hue of Divine ethics. The secret of a truly successful human life is the same.

The One God is the source of all goodness. Being heedless of the One God is the root of all evil. Discovering the Oneness of God implies the discovery of the Creator of the universe, the One who maintains and manages it, the One who sustains it, and who is the Sole Master of every sort of power—the One God. Besides Him, no one in this universe possesses any power in the real sense. From atoms to galaxies, everything in the universe is under His command. The One Master ultimately manages it. This is why the entire physical universe, with all its vastness, is precisely as it should be. In its design, no single minor defect has been observed until today. It functions with such complete accuracy that even in billions of years, it has not erred by even a second or millimetre. Only by surrendering to the One God will man's life be rectified.

## THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

In the present era, arguments against the existence of God often include the problem of evil, which is widely regarded as the most significant among them. It is argued that the presence of imperfections in the universe cannot

be attributed with confidence to a wise Creator. As an illustration, it is pointed out that the force of gravity on earth is significantly higher than it would need to be. When someone falls from a relatively small height, it can result in a broken bone. If gravity were lower, this would not be the case.

However, such discussions arise from limited knowledge, contemplation, and thought. Ancient wisdom seems to have overlooked that falling is an occasional accident, deviating from the norm. If gravity were lower, it would disrupt everyday life on earth. Humans would struggle to stand firmly, our transportation systems would falter, buildings and factories would collapse, and water would not remain grounded, among other consequences. The truth is that what some perceive as flaws in the natural system are indications of balance and equilibrium within it.

An amazing balance in the system of Nature characterizes the universe. These words of the Quran beautifully express this reality:

“He created seven heavens, one above the other in layers. You will not find any flaw in the creation of the Gracious One. Then look once again: can you see any flaw? Then look again and again. Your gaze will come back to you confused and exhausted.” (67:3-4)

The physical universe is flawless and free of defects because it is under the direct control of God. It is the material manifestation of God’s attributes. However, the affairs of the human world are different. Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860-1904) rightly said:

“The world is infinitely beautiful. Only one thing in it is not beautiful: man.”

Man is the only creature in the known universe that harbours enmity with his fellow humans (Quran, 2:36). He creates corruption on the earth instead of reforming it. He engages in actions that destroy crops and generations (Quran, 2:205), and so on.

Why is there a difference between the two domains—man’s world and the rest of the universe? This is because the rest of the universe directly functions according to God’s command. It is compelled to be the way God wants it to be. But man has been given freedom by God for the test. And so, man can choose to walk either of the two paths: the right or the wrong path. The cause of the corruption of the human world is just this. The rest of the universe is bound to follow God’s will, which is why it is defect-free.

In contrast, man follows his desires, which is why chaos, strife, and corruption keep emerging in his affairs. Every evil found on earth results from a wrong use of human freedom. Throughout history, man has proven correct the apprehension the angels had expressed before God when man was created. The Quran says:

“When your Lord said to the angels, ‘I am putting a successor on earth,’ they said, ‘Will You place someone there who will cause corruption on it and shed blood, while we glorify You with Your praise and extol Your holiness?’” (2:30)

However, it is essential to understand that man’s freedom is not absolute. Only temporary freedom is given to him

according to God's Creation Plan. Human beings possess freedom for the sake of the test they are being put to while on earth. (Quran, 67:2). The planning of the Lord of the universe is to see who among them, despite possessing free will, chooses not to misuse it but instead uses it correctly so that He may bless the virtuous with His rewards (Quran, 13:22).

The existing system of the world will remain only until the examination process is complete. After the completion of this period, the Master of the earth will take the administration of the earth directly into His own hands, just as He is holding the administration of the rest of the universe directly in His hands (Quran, 19:40). At that time, the good people and the evil people will be separated from each other (Quran, 3:197). The good people will attain eternal paradise, while the evil ones will be cast into the universal dustbin and be eternally deprived.

The present world is, therefore, a place where men and women are being selected from the entire human history to inhabit the Divine World—Paradise—in the Hereafter. Who will be considered worthy of becoming inhabitants of Paradise? It will be only those who, despite being free, willingly submit to and faithfully follow God's commands. It will be those people who abide by God's will without being compelled to do so. In the present world, when the test of human beings is still underway, all sorts of good and bad people are present on earth together. But after the test period is over, only virtuous people will be deemed worthy of the eternal world of Paradise (Quran, 21:105).

## THE REALITY OF PARADISE

What is Paradise? Paradise is the answer to man's search. Man finds himself in such a world where he is a strange exception. Besides man, every component of the vast universe is complete in itself. Therefore, it is only man who is not complete in himself. The rest of the entire universe is a zero-defect universe. It is only man who, exceptionally, has defects.

In the universe, there is certainty in everything. However, in contrast to this, uncertainty prevails in man's world. In the rest of the universe, nowhere is fear visible, but man is always afflicted with fear and apprehension. In the rest of the universe, a state of satisfaction prevails, while in man's life, there is a state of pervasive dissatisfaction. In the universe, man is the only creature sunk in the feeling that he did not get whatever he wanted. The rest of the universe is an evil-free universe, but man is, as an exception, afflicted with the issue of the 'problem of evil.'

Paradise is the answer to these seeming conundrums. From the concept of Paradise, we can understand that man, too, will receive all that is fully available to the rest of the universe with only this difference—that the rest of the universe is getting what it 'seeks' in the 'today', whereas man can obtain what he seeks in the 'tomorrow'—in the world of Paradise in the Hereafter—if he leads a virtuous life here. This is why the rest of the universe has no concept of tomorrow, while man alone possesses this concept.

## WISDOM IN THE CREATION

On 12 June 2009, I had a dream. I saw that a person was asking me something. During the conversation, he said, “If there is a God, and God has created the world, why is there so much suffering in our lives?”

I remember this question in the dream, but I do not recall its answer. Still, I will say that the different calamities we face in the life of this world are not misfortunes. In terms of their reality, they are challenges. They awaken the human mind. They activate man’s intellectual and practical powers. These events are a positive experience, not something negative for us.

According to God’s Creation Plan, many things have been created in potential form. Along with this, man has been given an extraordinary mind. Man’s task is to use his mental abilities and convert what is potential into actual.

If life were structured so that man faced no problems, there would be no upheavals in his life. No storm would ruffle his existence. Such a man would be a stagnant person. But this is not nature’s plan for man. What man must do is face realities, use the ups and downs of life for the positive construction of his personality, activate the possibilities hidden in his being and make unfavourable events favourable to him. A person who does this may have been born an ordinary person, but he will become extraordinary.

## THE ISSUE OF SUFFERING

One of the arguments often raised to question the existence of God is known as the problem of evil or the problem of suffering. This objection stems from an erroneous view that evil in human life is God-made, which is untrue. While suffering in the human world is man-made, this misunderstanding leads to misattributing the suffering in human life to God.

The actual reason for this misunderstanding is that when people observe human suffering, they seek an explanation regarding the concerned individual. When, in many cases, this explanation is not immediately observable within the person, people start alleging that either no God is controlling this world or that if there is a God, He is unjust. However, this attribution is incorrect.

Suffering in the human world is man-made. This suffering in a person's life is sometimes caused by themselves, their parents, the society in which they live, and the broader social system they are a part of. Sometimes, suffering has an immediate cause, and sometimes, the cause of suffering can be traced back over several generations.

The reason for these misapprehensions is that people study situations from the wrong angle. They look at a phenomenon as if it is related to God rather than to man. This goes entirely against scientific facts.

Scientific studies show a clear difference between the human world and the rest of the universe. That is, while the eternal



laws of nature control the rest of the universe and are, thus, evil-free, man is free and leads his life according to his free will. This difference is, in fact, the real reason for what is called the 'problem of evil.' All the evils of this human world result from the wrong use of human freedom. Corruption in social systems results in many kinds of diseases. Likewise, wars, global warming, pollution, ecological problems, etc., result from the misuse of human freedom.

### **Misinterpretation Due to Incorrect Reference**

The reality is that this doubt arises from misinterpreting the actual scenario, i.e., viewing a phenomenon that should be seen concerning humans from the perspective of God, which is contrary to scientific facts.

For instance, the issue of AIDS is considered a grave problem in today's era. However, according to medical research, it results from the incorrect use of human freedom. Medical science also acknowledges that several diseases are inherited from ancestors. These are known as atavistic diseases. Likewise, various epidemics spread, causing thousands of deaths or ill health. According to medical research, these are also primarily human-induced.

A famous personality in Delhi, Dr. Arun Shourie's son, is paralyzed. This suffering occurred due to a wrong injection he received in a hospital in America at a young age, which resulted in his physical paralysis. Similarly, numerous people die or become disabled due to violence and wars; all these are also the result of human actions, etc.

The fact is that attributing human suffering to nature is

entirely unscientific. The study of all branches of science tells us that nature is devoid of anomalies. Nature is so precise that its operations can be predicted. If there were no predictability, all scientific activities would suddenly halt.

### **Comparative Study**

The first principle of scientifically studying the problem of evil is understanding things in comparison. Comparative study reveals that the problem of evil is mainly limited to the human world, whereas humans represent a tiny fraction compared to the entire universe. In all its vastness, the rest of the universe is an entirely zero-defect universe. Innumerable activities constantly occur in the universe, but no form of evil appears.

There are diseases in the human world; accidents occur; injustice, corruption, unfairness, exploitation, wars, hatred and enmity, rebelliousness, crises, crimes, and many other evils can be found in the human world. However, apart from the human world, the rest of the universe is entirely free of such evils. This difference proves that the problem of evil is man-made, not nature-made. If it were a problem created by nature, it would undoubtedly be found throughout the universe.

### **Scientific Study**

A scientific study of this issue reveals a clear difference between the human world and the rest of the universe—that definite laws of nature control the rest of the universe. In contrast, humans are free, and they map their lives with

this freedom. This difference is the root cause of what is referred to as the problem of evil.

A deeper study of this issue reveals that all the evil in the human world results from misusing human freedom. Medical science tells us that diseases are not caused by nature but result from human errors. The errors that cause diseases are sometimes of one's own making, sometimes the result of a hereditary legacy, and sometimes it is owing to the corruption of the societal system. It is worth pondering that linking disease to nature is an atheistic theory and is not based on any scientific discovery. Likewise, wars, global warming, ecological problems, etc., result from misusing human freedom.

In this way, all the issues of suffering or the problem of evil result from the misuse of human freedom and are, thus, man-made.

## GOD'S CREATION PLAN

The question arises as to why the Creator gave man this freedom. To understand this matter, knowing God's creation plan is necessary. According to the creation plan, God created man as an eternal creature and divided his life span into two periods: the temporary pre-death period of trial for which he has been granted freedom and the eternal post-death period for receiving reward or punishment merited by one's actions during one's lifetime. Man has been given complete freedom to test him in this world of trial. Every

human being born into this world can misuse his freedom or use it correctly. The problems that occur in human life are all the result of the misuse of this freedom, sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly, sometimes due to the personal actions of the person afflicted with suffering, and sometimes due to the actions of other humans, as a result of an immediate mistake, and sometimes it happens that the result of the error of previous generations comes before the later generations.

We must understand that whenever there is freedom, there will be the misuse of freedom; however, freedom is so precious that it cannot be taken away merely due to the risk of being misused by man. God is testing man to bestow a great reward upon man. This great reward is Paradise—a place of eternal pleasure in the world Hereafter. Only those who properly use their freedom in this world of test will be entitled to a place in Paradise. Who will be the inheritors of Paradise? It will be those who use their freedom correctly despite having the freedom not to do so.

In the present world, people from all over human history are being chosen to inhabit Paradise, generation after generation. This could only be possible by giving man freedom, which is why freedom is essential to the creation plan of God. This interpretation of human history not only explains the universe's existence but also makes the universe completely meaningful.

### **The Explanation of Cosmic Morality**

The second aspect of the debate about God's existence relates to the meaningfulness of the universe. Believing in

God not only explains the existence of the universe but also makes the universe completely meaningful. To deny God means a meaningful universe will end in a meaningless conclusion. Meanwhile, believing in God tells us that the universe will eventually reach a meaningful conclusion.

A sense of justice and injustice is found in human beings by birth. Man, by nature, wants the person who lives according to the principles of justice to be rewarded and the person who chooses the path of injustice to be punished. The fulfilment of this natural demand is found only in the theory of a universe with God; there is no answer to this natural demand in the view of a universe without God. As per the creation plan, man will be made to appear before God to be judged after death. God will reward people who chose the path of justice by granting them eternal Paradise and punish those who were unjust by throwing them in the eternal dustbin.

Every human being is born with a sea of desires. Fulfillment of these desires is not possible in this world. According to the theory of a universe without God, it is a heartbreaking fate that one's natural desires will never be fulfilled. However, in the belief of a universe with God, a person can achieve complete satisfaction of their desires in the afterlife by attaining eternal Paradise—if they use their freedom correctly in this world of testing.

### **Perception of Time**

The study of human psychology tells us that humans are time-conscious creatures. They perceive their time as

divided into the present and the future. However, the reality is that only the present exists in each person's life. Every person dies in a state of despair, deprived of their future. They work in their present for a better future, but within their limited lifetime, this better future does not materialize, and they depart from this world in despair.

Once, we searched the internet for notable individuals who succumbed to despair and died in a state of depression in their later years. The internet provided a list that contained four hundred and two such individuals. The title of the list was "Risk Factor Depression." In the theistic perspective of the universe, there is an answer to this innate question of human beings, but in the atheistic perspective, there is no answer.

The ideal future that man aspires for is eternal Paradise. This saves man from living in despair. In the present world, he realizes that although he has not found fulfilment, his belief in the Hereafter assures him that he will attain it in eternal Paradise.

### **The Principle of Pairs**

The study of the universe reveals that everything here is created in pairs—negative electrical particles have positive electrical pairs, flowers have male and female parts, animals are male and female, humans are women and men, etc. It is a universal law that everything completes itself by pairing with its counterpart.

In this context, human life is considered to have an incomplete phase before death in this world and a complete

phase after death in eternal Paradise. This complementary pair is present in the theistic view of the universe, but it is absent in the atheistic view.

### **The Failure of Idealism**

All philosophers and thinkers have considered the existing world to be eternal. They believed that someday, within this very existing world, we will create our desired world. Concepts of an ideal society, ideal state, and ideal system were born under this thought. All such thinkers were captivated by these concepts until their last days. But they were unable to achieve this ideal in this world.

For people, civilization was the interpretation of this human dream. After the industrial advancements, people thought that civilizational progress would eventually lead them to a point where they could build their paradise in this existing world. However, this notion turned out to be entirely false.

### **The End of the World**

After studying the laws of nature, Sir Isaac Newton (d. 1727), the founder of modern science, predicted in 1704 that the current world would end in 2060 (*Times of India*, June 18, 2007). All scientists worldwide declare, based on pure observations, that global warming has made the end of the world inevitable. Further progress of civilization is no longer possible here.

Alvin Toffler's book 'Future Shock' was first published in 1970. In this book, Toffler stated that the world was moving from the Industrial Age into the Super Industrial Age. The

next phase of civilization would be a phase of complete automation. The push-button culture would progress so much that everything would become automated. However, the issue of global warming, instead of bringing humanity to the completion of history, has brought humanity to the end of history.

Without a doubt, this phenomenon in human history is the biggest question of today. A satisfactory explanation for this question can only be found in the theory of a universe with God. Under the theory of a godless universe, it is impossible to explain this phenomenon satisfactorily.

Such examples demonstrate a significant gap in the theory of a godless universe, and in accepting this theory, a highly meaningful universe appears to end in an utterly meaningless outcome.

On the other hand, the theory of a universe with God is entirely free from this defect. Accepting the theory of a universe with God, the outcome of a meaningful universe ends in a highly meaningful future. This event serves as proof in favour of the theory of a universe with God that fully satisfies reason and logic.

## LIVING PROOF OF GOD

The universe is the mirror of God's attributes. Here, God's attributes are reflected through His innumerable creatures. The existence of the created realm provides ample evidence



of the existence, power, and greatness of the Creator who brought this realm into being. If your sensitivity is alive, you can find God all around you. You can see God everywhere. God's universe will then become a living proof of God for you.

The various forms and activities of living beings clearly indicate that the Creator of this universe is a living, active Being, not a lifeless one. When a river rushes ahead, tumbling down from the mountains, it loudly declares that the Creator of this universe is alive and dynamic. When a tiger pounces on its prey and brings it under control, it seems to announce that its Creator is a Being who holds all things within His power. The astounding expansiveness of space reveals to us that the Creator is an Unlimited Being. Witnessing the existence and glory of God in His universe ignites an individual's faith in Him.

At the same time, it makes him face questions of enormous, existential import. If God is, why does He not directly reveal Himself in this universe? Why do evil and suffering exist? Evil is rampant in this world. Oppression is rife. People are often at each other's throats. All of this happens day in and day out in God's world. So, why doesn't God stop the oppressors or stand up for the oppressed?

The answers to these questions can only be understood when you grasp God's creation plan—the scheme the Creator has devised for humanity. According to this plan, the world is temporary, and life here is short-lived. We are placed in this world to be tested. It is like a field where different plants are given a chance to grow, to see which will become strong

trees and which will turn into weeds. In the Hereafter, the strong trees will be granted the opportunity to flourish in eternal Paradise, while the weeds and thorny bushes will be uprooted and cast away.

Without God to guide it, the wagon of humanity has gone off course and is stranded in a quagmire of its own making. Only by turning to God can it extricate itself from this sorry predicament. The true importance of religion must be acknowledged; only then can society build itself anew. On any other foundation, its walls are sure to crumble and fall.

## LAST WORD

On September 7, 1982, I found myself standing before a tree in a mountainous region of Africa. This tree was unlike any I had ever seen.

The tree, in its entirety, seemed to be a manifestation of God's presence. Everything about it was extraordinary—the delicate flowers, the meticulously pruned fruits, the leaves crafted with mathematical precision. Each element silently proclaimed that it had not arisen by chance but was brought into existence by a Creator. While every tree in the world is a marvel of craftsmanship, this particular one, encountered for the first time, made an indelible impression on me.

As I gazed upon this unique and beautiful tree, I instinctively murmured, "It feels as though God has inscribed on everything He created in this world: Made by God."

God has imprinted this on all creation, then veiled Himself from human eyes, so that through His works, people might come to recognize Him. Despite His invisibility, His presence in the world is unmistakable.

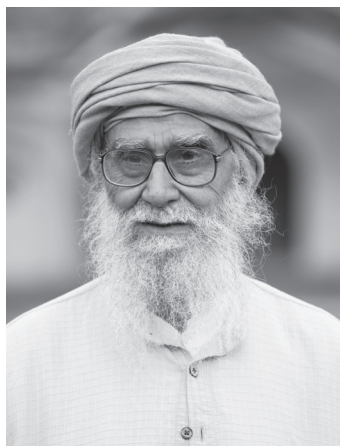
Just as an expert can examine a machine and discern whether it was made in Russia, America, Britain, Japan, China, or Vietnam, so too can one perceive the origin of the universe's countless natural "machines." We inhabit a universe brimming with these natural mechanisms, each performing its role flawlessly. This vast and magnificent

universe is in perpetual motion, filled with meaningful activity at every moment. Modern science reveals that despite the universe's boundless expanse, it remains a harmonious system, governed by a single, all-encompassing force. Every component is intricately interconnected, leaving scientists awestruck by this universal harmony, which defies complete explanation.

Although these “machines” do not visibly bear the stamp of their Creator, their extraordinary design and flawless operation unmistakably declare their origin. Creation itself speaks of its Maker. The stunning design, immense order, and profound purpose evident in the universe bear witness to an intelligent, omnipotent God. Without such governance, the universe would collapse in an instant. The perfect harmony within the cosmos is only possible because its Sustainer possesses supreme intelligence and absolute power.

While no physical words are inscribed on anything in the universe to identify its Creator, in a deeper sense, every aspect of creation bears His mark. For those with discerning eyes, each observation prompts an undeniable realization: “This is undoubtedly made by God. No one else could have made it.” As Professor Carl Troll (1899-1975), a distinguished German geographer, ecologist, and geomorphologist, famously remarked:

“The fruit of my life as a scientist and geographer is to have become more and more deeply grateful to our Creator.”



Maulana Wahiduddin Khan (1925-2021) was an Islamic scholar, spiritual guide, and an Ambassador of Peace. Having received international recognition for his work, the Maulana authored over 200 books and recorded thousands of lectures giving the rational interpretation of Islamic concepts, prophetic wisdom and the spiritual meaning of Quran and Islam in the contemporary style. His English translation of the Quran is widely appreciated as simple, clear and in contemporary style. He founded Centre for Peace and Spirituality International in 2001 to re-engineer the minds of people towards the culture of peace and present Islam in the modern idiom based as it is on peace, non-violence, and spirituality. CPS International Network is taking the legacy forward.

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Rather than denying God's existence, modern science—through its insights into nature and creation—actually leads to a deeper discovery and understanding of the Creator. Scientific findings affirm God's existence so strongly that denial seems implausible. Authentic science and genuine Divine Guidance, therefore, confirm rather than contradict each other.

The discovery that the universe had a definite beginning point to a pre-existing Cause, one that brought it into being. As this book shows that Cause can only be the eternal One God. The universe's fine-tuning, intricate design, and perfect balance—unveiled by science—can only be attributed to the One Creator: God, the Lord, Master, and Sustainer of the universe and all creation. God's Word (Divine Revelation) and God's Work (the Universe) are in perfect harmony.

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