

Say, produce your evidence, if you are true

27(64) Al-Quran

# THE CHALLENGE OF REALITY

**Irrefutable evidence from nature about the Ultimate Reality of Allah *Subhana-Hu*, Perception and understanding of Him through His creations. Where does Man stand in His scheme of things? What is the Universal religion? What does it teach? Personality Test to judge our own rating in the Sight of Allah.**

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(Sitara-e-Imtiaz)

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# PREFACE

*We all talk of Allah. Is He really there? If so what is He like? Where does He live? How does He operate and carry over His orders? How does He control the Universe? Why did He make it? Where does man stand in His scheme of creation? Is man a purposeful creation or an accidental product of nature? What is the relationship between Allah and Man? Did Allah provide him with His Revelation? What is the proof? Does this Revelation exist even today? What is it?*

The spirit behind this work is to look for the answers to some of these vital questions on the basis of scientific evidence of reality. It is to help the readers to have an unbiased belief in the fundamental spiritual truths and thus let the inquisitive minds discover *Reality* by themselves in the modern secular environment of today.

It invites the seekers of Truth to look around and listen to the tune of nature as the evidence of their Creator and understand His working in the universe, a dire need of the man for the peace of mind and salvation in the Hereafter. But it is not in defence of Allah, for He does not need one. On the other hand it is to discover our ourselves, for our own sake, to know who we are and what best can we do for ourselves?

**Sultan Bashir Mahmood**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is in memory of my loving mother and caring father, who first taught me to acknowledge, “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah”; I confess However, that it took me a long while to discover the true meaning of this statement.

In the compilation of this book, besides my own family, I am very grateful to the following friends for their help. May Allah reward them with the blessings of Jannat in the Hereafter.

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**Sultan Bashir Mahmood (S.I.)**

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## **Part I**

# **THE CHALLENGE OF REALITY**

*“Behold! In the creation of the heavens and the earth; in the alterations of the night and day; in the sailing of the ships through the oceans for the profit of mankind; in the rain which Allah sends down from the sky; And the life which He gives there with to an earth that was dead; in the living beings of all sorts that He scatters through the earth; in the change of winds and the clouds which trail like slaves between the sky and earth; there indeed are signs for a people that are wise”.*

*(Al-Quran Sura 2 – Ayat 164)*



## MYSTERY AND PUZZLES

**“Science without religion is lame, Religion without science is blind<sup>1</sup>.” (Albert Einstein)**

A building reminds you about its architect, a meal about the cook, a book about its author, a painting about the painter. An effect points out to its cause, a machine to its manufacturer and a design to its designer. Yet, there are people who say, “The Universe became by itself”. Atheists say openly, there is no God. Agnostics say, if He is there, where is He? However, even staunch believers may sometimes wonder, “Is Allah really there?” "What could He be like?"

Science in its search for “Reality” faces the same dilemma: is the Universe an accident, or the product of some objective reality? The order in Universe points out to a definite grand design. The chain of causality ends at the Big Bang, but with the enigmatic query still far from resolution, what was before the Big Bang? What was the cause of the Big Bang? Why did it have to be? What was before it? Who did it?

The emergence of a grand order out of the chaos in the Universe is also surrounded by mystery. Science says that orderly structures and complex activities that we see today have somehow arisen from the featureless ferment of the Big Bang. But this is in apparent defiance of the second law of thermodynamics which requires that left at its own, order will turn into disorder with time, unless checked by an external agency. Resolution of this paradox requires the presence of an all-intelligent, ever active super power.

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1 Paul Davies, “God and the New Physics” Penguin Books, 1983

Then there is a host of irritating, so-far unanswered questions, why are the laws of nature as they are? Why does the Universe comprise of the things that it does? Like everything within it, will the Universe also end? What is beyond physics? What is life? What is mind? Questions such as these and other similar ones, trouble every thinking human being.

The renowned physicist Paul Davies said, *“No scientific pattern is more fundamental or more daunting than those puzzles, how the Universe came into being? Could this have happened without any supernatural input?”* In the answer to this question in the preface of his book, he says, *“It may seem bizarre, but in my opinion science offers a surer path to Allah than religion”*<sup>1</sup>

The search for ultimate reality doesn't lack enthusiasm. Atheists, secularists and religious people, all speak of some supernatural power, but what is it? Believers call Him Allah, God, Ishwar, Permatma. Agnostics have given Him the names such as “the first cause”, “infinity”, “the omega point” or “the grand singularity”. Atheists appear to be the most confused. To them, He is delusion, the fundamental law of quantum mechanics or simply nothing. Thus all search for Him in their own ways.

Whatever it may be, there comes a point in the search for reality where time and space lose meaning, where the limits of physics snap, and minds boggle. What is beyond that limit of rational human understanding? At this stage an argument starts. Believers say, “It is Allah”. The atheist abruptly jumps in, “I don't believe”. The agnostic points out in all earnest, “Allah might have been necessary in the beginning to create the Universe, but not after that He handed it over to the laws of science. There is no role left for Him now. Accept Him or reject, it makes no

difference”. Then the debate starts over the nature of Allah, “If He exists, where does He live? What is He made of?” Is He all alone or comprises an Allah Head like the chair person of the board of directors of a corporation? Some even object “if He is a just and loving Allah, why is there so much misery in the world?”

If it is said, “He is up there”, the questioning mind immediately asks, "on which planet... and galaxy?" A Christian priest enters fray, “The loving Allah, sent His own son to die for our sins”. “Could He not forgive the sins without going through that trouble?” asks the Agnostic. The discussion goes on, endlessly. These and many more conundrums concern us deeply in the understanding of our own reality. Indeed our ethics and responsibilities in society depend upon the answers to such fundamental questions.

A lot of the responsibility for this apparent perplexity lies with the priestly classes who assert themselves as mediators between the people and their Allah. When a Christian priest tells his audience that the Creator and Controller of the entire Universe had a son, born about 2000 years ago to a Jewish lady (peace be upon her) in Palestine, whom He allowed to be crucified for our sins, he makes a mockery of the concept of infinite Being of Allah. And when a Muslim cleric points out, “Allah is up there”, sitting on the throne called “*Arsh*”, he limits His omnipotency. Under these circumstances if some people reject such an Allah in their frustration, they could hardly be exclusively blamed.

Nevertheless, for a thinking human being, evidence in nature for the existence of the Supreme Creator is all pervasive. The complex structures and elaborate organization of the universe, from the whirling galaxies to the heart of the atom, seem to suggest answers to the

question, why are things the way they are? Why the Universe at all, and why the set of laws? Perhaps in asking these questions, we are trying to say that reality is not separate from ourselves. We are a subset of His superset. Just as a subset cannot comprehend the superset, our brains are not made to understand Him, but we feel His presence everywhere through His creations.

Science, which deals only with the physical Universe, might successfully explain one thing in terms of another but cannot comprehend the Supreme Creator since there is nothing else like unto Him. Moreover a subset cannot grasp the reality of the superset. It is fundamentally empirical in characteristic. Without verifiable observations, science becomes speechless. So let us acknowledge quietly, "All praise for Allah, the Designer, the Creator and the Sustainer of the worlds" الحمد لله رب العالمين. It is only the deep reflection into the reality of His creations that may help us to feel the Presence of the Creator everywhere.

Belief in Allah is important. Not for Him, but for our own sake, because it makes a huge difference to the meaning of our own lives. If He is there, then He cannot be neglected. *If you cannot afford to neglect the boss of your company, how could you get away from the Creator of the Universes?* If He is there, then He will not be unconcerned about you. *If you are accountable to the laws of your government, how could you take for granted the Ruler of the Universe? Should He not provide you with the criterion to judge upon, what is wrong, what is right?*

The book in your hands aims to answer some of the questions raised above that eventually lead to exploring the puzzle of our own reality. In this respect Holy Quran says:-

***Behold, your Lord said to the angels: "I will create a vicegerent on earth." They***

***said: "Will you place therein one who will make mischief therein and shed blood? While we do celebrate your praises and glorify your holy (name)?" He said: "I know what you know not." 2(30)***

It further confirms that universe is integrated whole with all its components serving each other. Man is the reason for its creation; therefore, he must also serve the design of the Creator wilfully.

***"And He (Allah) has subjected the night and day; and the sun and moon to be of service to you; (Likewise) are the stars made subservient by His Command. Lo! Herein are portents for the people who have wisdom". 6(12)***

Nature speaks of its Creator all the time. It is up to us to listen to its melody and explore its secrets to discover the ultimate Reality.

## THE FIRST CAUSE

The Universe as understood by science today consists of more than 100 billion galaxies. Each one of these galaxies may in turn contain more than a billion stars. It also appears unlimited in its expanse. Light travelling at the speed of 300,000 km (186,000 miles)/second, cannot reach from one end of the Universe to the other, even after billions of years since it is expanding also. However,, throughout, as science believes today, the Universe exhibits a grand order of unity. Wherever man sees, he finds billions of trillions of planets, stars and clusters of galaxies held together in an orderly manner. It poses a big question, "*Who maintains this grand order*"?

Science now claims that about 13.7billion years ago, there was no time, no space. Then a Big Bang took place. It was a very precisely calculated event. Thereafter the Universe began to evolve into an orderly organism and since then has been following certain definite rules, called scientific laws. Following these rules it has thereby grown into countless beautiful worlds of stars and planets.

The famous scientist Paul Dirac said that the "Big Bang explosion parted off nothingness into matter and anti-matter, *with precisely calculated initial conditions.*"<sup>2</sup>

*Who calculated it so precisely? Who set the laws of science into operation? Who caused the Big Bang in the nothingness?*

*Science says these questions are out of its domain. Then who will tell us about the Ultimate Reality?*



**Fig. 1**

Science believes in the law of cause and effect. It says that everything has a cause in order to come into existence and every event in turn, produces some effect to become another cause. So the chain of casualty continues. In the infinite combinations of the causes and the effects at last the search stops at what science calls “Primordial Cause”, the cause of all causes. *What will you call it in the language of religion?*

In their make everything is made up of simpler components. A home is made of bricks, a machine of different materials, and a meal of food ingredients. All of them are made of atoms; and atoms ultimately of energy; and energy is made of what, search stops. So behind every activity there is a simpler more subtle but stronger reality.

*What is that?* In the mundane world of our own we see a purpose behind every move.

*Have the Universe come into existence purposelessly out of nothing, for nothing, by nothing?*

After the Big Bang there was a state of chaos. The Universe was a soup of unimaginably hot plasma of matter and energy in transition. It was from this hot transient state that the orderly Universe came into existence.

According to the second law of thermodynamics all orderly systems will decay with time into disorderly chaos, unless checked by some external agency. *Who is that Authority that created order in the chaos of the Big Bang?*

Agnostics and atheists, say that the Universe has evolved by an unending chain of accidents which resulted into eventual creation of order. But according to science, the theory of probability does not support this scenario. Even an infinite number of chances could not produce such an all prevailing intelligent universal order.

*Can the dead produce the living and darkness turn into light by nothing?*

Science is proud of its discovery of the set of principles of nature, which it calls the laws of science. The genius of modern physics, Dr. Albert Einstein, discovered that throughout the time and space continuum, everywhere in the Universe, in its past and present, there is only one set of scientific principles. The same physical laws which operate on earth also control the rest of the Universe. All scientific predictions, research and analysis are based upon this simple fact.

*The oneness of scientific laws is leading science to the concept of grand singularity, a Single Super Unifying Force. What could it be?*

*Will you still deny Allah?*



## ASK THE CONSTANTS OF NATURE

Constants of nature are the most amazing things that science has ever discovered. It has found that the entire Universe is functioning as a very sensitively balanced, mathematical orderly system based upon just a few fundamental numbers. If there were even an iota of change in these numbers, the Universe as today, could never have come into being, or survived as long as it has.

For example, there are 92 stable elements, each having its own specifically fixed atomic structure, atomic weight and atomic number. Strangely, light or heavy, the number of atoms in every gram atomic weight is always  $6.2 \times 10^{24}$ , called Avogadro number after the name of the scientist who first discovered this fact. As such one gram of hydrogen, sixteen grams of oxygen and 238 grams of uranium, each will always have  $6.2 \times 10^{24}$  atoms.

*Who fixed the constants of nature?*

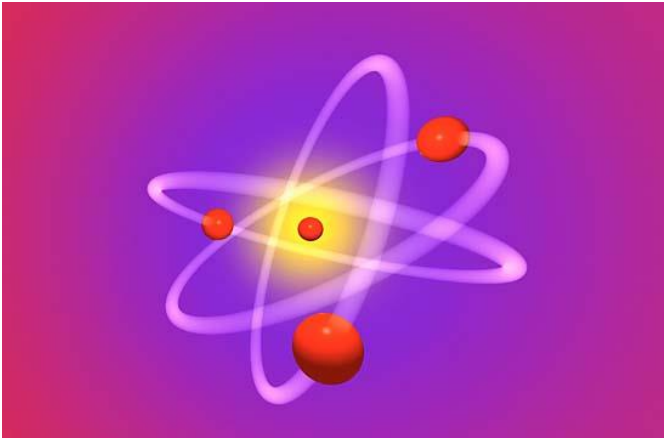
According to Prof. Abdus-Salam<sup>3</sup> the entire Universe is controlled by four forces, the strongest of which is the nuclear force. The next in order of strength is “electromagnetic force” many times weaker than the nuclear force. The next is the “weak nuclear force”, a million times weaker, and still next the “gravitational force”, which is a billion, billion, billion times weaker still. All particles can be considered manifestation of these forces.

As for their sensitivity, he says, if constants of the gravitational attraction and that of the electromagnetic

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3 Abdus Salam "Symmetry Concept in Modern Science", PAEC, Lahore 1966

force had been even slightly different from their given value, even by one in a million, no star could have existed. If the charge on electrons had been even slightly different, atoms would not have formed.



**Fig. 2**

According to Stephen Hawking, “If the density of the Universe, one second after the Big Bang had been greater by one part in a thousand billion, the Universe would have re-collapsed after ten years. On the other hand, if the density of the Universe at that time had been less by the same amount, the Universe would have been essentially empty<sup>4</sup>.

*Shall it not require a Master Mathematician who precisely calculated, designed and then fixed values for the constants of nature before the Big Bang?*

How strange that atheist agree with scientific laws but not the Lawmaker; acknowledge the absolute control in the Universe but not the Controller; witness the marvellous design but deny the Designer? For them it is all accidental. *Will you believe them?*

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4 Stephen Hawking "Black Holes and Baby Universe" p 150

## THE CHALLENGE OF DESIGN

Nature on the whole is so designed that the best intellect of the human race put together has not been able to understand it. Wherever science probes, it finds everything working according to a mathematical design which could not be better. Every move is seen as an objective reality. May it be the nucleus of a cell or the unfathomable depths of space; everything is seen following a superbly worked out pre-programmed course. The moon completes its cycle in 29 and  $\frac{1}{4}$  days, the sun goes through the solar spot activity in about eleven years; the earth returns to its original position after one year; radioactive materials radiate with a definite half life. So is human life, following its own design. Indeed all of nature, its macro and micro system inclusive, is highly mathematical and chronological.

*According to Abdus Salam, "If we have done anything we hope to have shown that allied with the wonder of Allah's creation, all explanation we have ever formed is based in symmetry concepts. Whenever faced with two rival theories for the same set of phenomena, one has always found that a theory more aesthetically satisfying is also the correct one. The Holy Quran in Sura al-Malik, verses 3-4 has proclaimed the faith of the true scientist,*

***"Thou sees not in the creation of the all merciful any imperfection. Return thy gaze; sees thy any fissure? Then return thy gaze again, and again, and thy gaze, comes back to thee dazzled, a weary."***<sup>5</sup>

*Will you still doubt Allah?*

## THE EVIDENCE OF WATER

Everything on freezing shrinks in size and attains higher density. But there is one strange exception. It is the water that you drink. As it cools, it first contracts and gets heavier until it reaches 4°C. Upon further cooling it starts expanding, becomes lighter and solidifies. That is why ice is lighter than the water, and floats like a blanket over it. Thereby, being a bad conductor of heat it does not let the lower layers of water to cool any further. This protects the lakes and oceans from freezing all the way to the bottom.



Fig. 3

Imagine the consequences, if water was not exempted from the general rule of continuous shrinking with cooling. Oceans and lakes would have turned into solid blocks of ice. No marine life could have been possible, and ships could not have floated. Moreover, no rains, no fresh water on the ground would have been possible and consequently, no life would have existed on earth.

*Who caused this wonderful exception in the general rules of freezing? Is it that water in sympathy to marine life and*

*the rest of the world, decided at its own to behave the way it does?*

*Do you still doubt Allah?*

**06**

## **THE WONDERFUL WATER CYCLE**

Everyday the heat of the sun raises millions and millions of tons of sweet water from the salty oceans in the form of vapour. Winds carry it to different lands and pour it down in various forms of precipitation. Thus rain and snow bring sweet water to give life to the dry and barren lands. Also it helps to keep the atmosphere sufficiently humid, so that we may breathe comfortably.



**Fig. 4**

Moreover, trillions of tons of water are stocked in the form of snow on mountain tops for our use during summer. Sub-soil aquifers are also continuously being charged for man to dig and find water, or through the gushing natural springs. Rivers and streams bring water from the mountains to the alluvial plains and provide fertility to land. Excess water falls back into the ocean. It is a perfect cycle.

Everyone's need is being met without wasting a drop. All of this is powered by the "Sun Engine" about one and a half billion kilometres away from us. Without it life would not have been possible.

*Could this be the work of the oceans and the mountains with the approval of Sun? What do you say? Will you not as a civilized man thank Him who has arranged all this for you?*

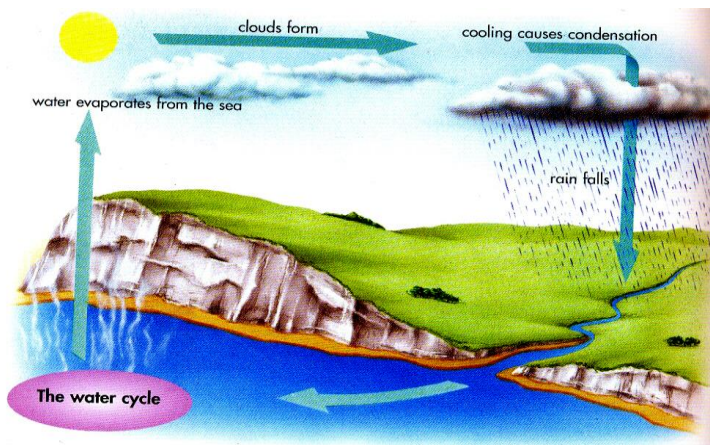


Fig. 5: The Water Cycle

07

## WHAT DO THE MOON AND THE OCEANS TELL?

From an average distance of 270,000 miles above the earth, the moon performs a daily service of pushing and pulling the waters of oceans, causing ebbs and tides. This is achieved as the result of a complex arrangement of the changing distance of the moon on its orbit around the earth brought about by the axial rotation of earth around itself. Water in the oceans on earth is pulled by the gravity of the moon. This is called tide. When water is pulled up on one

side, a depression is created on the opposite side, called ebb. This constant movement of oceans enriches the waters with oxygen and provides sustenance for life within them. It also cleans the harbours, river deltas and seashores by taking the polluted waters to deeper levels. Without this auto-cleaning and washing system oceans would not have been able to support marine life for long. The distance between the earth and the moon is also crucial. Was this lesser, water would have rushed over land, had it been more, tides would have been insufficient.



**Fig. 6**

*Did the moon on its own decide this role for itself in sympathy of the oceans for the sake of boosting biological life in them? What would you say?*

Seawater is salty to a measured level. This salinity has been maintained within limits over the last three billion years since life began in oceans, to the level necessary for marine life. It makes it easier for them to swim, and also, after dying it disposes of them without smelling foul.

*Who established this salt balance to sustain biological life in the oceans effortlessly? Will you still deny the supreme Creator, and the favours He has done for you?*

Also look into the streams of sweet and saline water flowing side by side in the seas. There are aquifers of sweet and saline water under the surface of earth as well. At places these waters are joined together, yet they do not mix.

*Who maintains this hydro barrier between them to keep them apart? Just an accident? Will you believe so?*

**08**

## **THINK OVER THE EARTH**

Earth is unique in all respects. It is the only habitable planet in the solar system. This is due to its very special position in the solar system that causes a mild climate suitable for life, and the special elements it is composed of.

The earth revolves around the sun and at the same time it also rotates around itself on its axis. In its motion it also spins like a top. If the axes of the earth were at right angles to the path of the earth around the sun, all the days of the year would have been of equal length. This would not have been as good for mankind. In order to create a variety of seasons in a year, the earth is tilted at an angle of  $67.5^\circ$  on its path around the sun. Thus in June, the northern hemisphere is tilted towards the sun and it receives more sunshine during the day. This brings summer, as also winter, spring and autumn during the different periods of the tilt with respect to the sun. Our survival on earth depends upon this comfortable weather pattern and the regular cycle of day and night.

*Think who has tilted the earth for us at precisely  $67\frac{1}{2}$  degrees at its orbit around sun? Who had fixed an elliptical orbit for it instead of a circular one in order to produce variations in seasons on it? Who had made it rotate on its own axis once in 24 hours to produce the cycle of day and night?*



*Did the earth decide all this by itself and then integrated them into a living system?*

The inner core of earth is made of molten iron which is the cause of the massive electric currents in it This in turn is responsible for lightning in the clouds that converts free nitrogen into nitrous oxide, necessary for the growth of food and flora. Moreover, this feature also allowed the invention of magnetic compass, which in turn contributed to the invention of submarines, aircrafts among others by helping to orient and track their paths and destinations. What a design! *Who did it?*



**Fig. 7**

The same magnetism causes a very strong protective cover of ionosphere over earth, which shields life on it from the harmful radiations from outer space. Moreover, it reflects radio waves back to earth allowing long distant radio communication possible. *Imagine the consequences if earth was not made like that! Will you still deny the favours of the supreme Creator who did all this for you?*

## 09

### THE WORLD AROUND YOU!

The earth's original atmosphere contained poisonous gases. The lack of oxygen meant that animals or plants could not have survived. Along came the algae, the plant-like bacteria, which release oxygen through the process of photosynthesis. Thus, gradually the atmosphere was made fit for life to appear on earth.

Each plant that grows on earth is directly beneficial for us. These are factories made to receive solar energy, and convert it into food for us to eat, and grow the wood for us to burn. They suck carbon dioxide from the air, retain one atom of carbon and in return give out two atoms of oxygen back to the environment.

*Who programmed all this, the oceans or the algae?*

## 10

### MESSAGE OF CARBON

Our body is primarily made of carbon. How did this basic building block of life come into existence? Science has now discovered that carbon atoms in your bodies were formed in some remote star by a very special process. When three atoms of helium are fused together at ultra high temperature and pressure, one atom of carbon is formed. It is further discovered that fusion reaction is made possible by precisely determined resonance of helium atoms at a special frequency. Had there been even a minute mismatch in the mutual resonance of these elements, they would not have joined together to make the elements of your body.

Consequently, no energy, no higher elements, no plants, no animals, no humans would have existed.

*Who masterminded this grand design of creation? Who fixed for helium the special frequency of resonance to make the fusion of elements possible?*

*Did helium think of that itself? Did carbon ask for it? Will you still not believe in the supreme Creator and thank Him for all that He has done for you?*

## **11**

### **WITNESS OF THE STARS IN THE HEAVENS, AND ELECTRONS IN THE ATOM**

Modern science has discovered that everything in nature is in motion. Electrons within the atom dart around the nucleus. Planets go round stars, and constellations are moving in the galaxies. Everything is floating in space on pre-destined and pre-programmed courses.

Our sun also along with its ten planets, twenty-seven moons, and millions of meteorites, keeps moving on its course in space at a fantastic speed of six hundred miles per second. In this breakneck journey, no one oversteps the rights of others.

Rotation is necessary for the survival of all these bodies. If anyone stops, it will be devoured by the gravity of its nearest companion and destroyed. It provides the repulsive, centrifugal force emanating from the centre of each body in motion, in order to balance the forces of gravitation and electron charge. Hence all heavenly bodies are maintained in their positions precisely.

*Was this enduring, finely balanced system designed by the planets and the stars themselves?*

*How could you doubt the Ultimate Reality of Allah and forget Him?*

## **12**

### **THE EVIDENCE OF THE NEWLY BORN BABY**

The behaviour of new born life is fascinating. Who teaches the baby to cry to draw the attention of its mother other than Allah? Who gives fortitude to the mother to face every challenge to the life of its offspring so bravely other than Allah? A mother sparrow can stand eye-ball to eye-ball with an eagle in order to protect her chicks. *Who gives her this courage?*

*Who teaches the chicks to start walking soon after hatching? Who prepares the cow to feed the calf before its birth? Who makes the offspring of mammals dart to their mothers' mammary glands immediately after birth?*

*Will you still deny Allah and thank Him not?*

## **13**

### **ASK THE HONEY BEE**

This little creature is a miracle of design and a wonder of performance. She searches for nectar far and wide, travelling off miles, sucking flower to flower, each time collecting a few micrograms in her belly. In return, the honey bee helps flowers to produce fruit by pollinating their male and female genes.

She is aware of the science of poisons also and thus never touches a poisonous flower. She is a master chemist also who knows the art of separating honey for food and wax for building its hive.



**Fig. 8**

She is an expert air conditioning engineer as well, quite aware of the science of heating and ventilation. During hot weather, she knows how to keep the honey cool in order to prevent it from flowing out of the hexagonal cubicle stores and during the cold winter, she works as a thermostat to stop the honey from freezing.

She is also a superb civil engineer. Her hexagonal houses are magnificent pieces of art and architecture. She is also a master par excellence of sociology and management. Thousands of honey bee work in tandem under the leadership of one queen – nobody has ever known of strikes, quarrels or any other form of mismanagement amongst them so far!

She is superb electronic engineer with mind boggling skills of remote sensing and mutual communication. She is equipped with a marvellous system of distance tracking and direction keeping, so she flies back to her home without

losing way. Her defence system is no less astounding. The way they perform guard duties around their home will amaze any highly trained security expert. And their spirit of caring, sharing, and mutual team work truly is astonishing.

*Think of the One who taught the little bee the wondrous techniques of making honey for you? How great He must be?*

If still not clear, then ask the spiders also. They are excellent weavers. Who taught them to weave matchless fine web? The only tool they have for this unparalleled product is their specialized salivary glands! Who made it for them?

*Will you still doubt Allah and remember Him not?*

## 14

### ASK THE LITTLE ANTS ALSO

This tiny creature is a miracle of creation, clever and efficient and has far outlasted the dinosaurs. In her skills she is a marvel of science and technology. Ants live in a highly organized way, like soldiers in an army cantonment.

*Who has taught them other than Allah the norms of mutual caring and sharing and the canons of living together as a civilized community? Who educated them in the safety rules and environmental laws, and who taught them weather forecasting so that they rush to safety before it rains? Ask also who assigned them the job of clearing refuse and waste foods from the floor? Imagine a world without them.*

*Will you still doubt Allah and thank Him not?*

## PEEP INTO YOUR OWN SELF

Our body is a wonderfully packed bio-factory in which thousands of life giving chemical reactions takes place all the times. Our pancreas do not let the level of sugar in our blood go beyond certain limits. The heart pumps blood to each cell of the body untiringly for the entire length of its life. It beats around forty million times a year, about three billion times in an average life span, without needing repair.

*Who made such a rugged pumping system? As a civilized man how much do you thank Him for this kindness?*

Think also of the kidneys. They know what to filter out and what to retain in the blood. So are the stomach and the liver, miraculously designed factories which convert food into blood, proteins and hydrocarbons needed for our nourishment.

Then consider the lips, tongue, eyes, ears and nose. Hundreds of movements of muscles are coordinated to perform their functions. *Who is the master designer to put them together to work in such breathtaking complex harmony? Have you ever thought of Him?*

Imagine the miraculous control of the wind and food pipes in the throat, one closes as the other opens to direct food to the stomach and air to the lungs. *Which of the favours of your Creator will you then deny?*

Think of the delightful taste buds in our mouth. Thousands of them are scattered along the tip, sides, and back of the tongue. We have around 10,000 taste buds on our tongue only. Each one is microscopic bunch of about 50 cells which have furry, frilly tips and are divided into four main

groups to detect sweet, sour, salty and bitter tastes located on different areas of the tongue. When molecules land on the frilly tip, the taste bud cells send out electric signals. These signals pass along small nerves which gather into two main nerves and then travel along these to the taste-conscious areas in the brain.

*Could this wondering system be the work of chance or evolution?*

Now look at the spleen which is one of the main filter systems for the blood. Not only it filters out the dead cells, but removes the abnormal ones also. This applies in particular to the red blood cells, but white cells and platelets are also filtered selectively by the spleen when it is necessary. The spleen also plays a major role in the manufacture of new red blood cells for people with bone marrow disease. It also manufactures a large part of the blood for the foetus while it is in the uterus during its gestation period.

Also look into the mystery of immune system of your body. In spite of all scientific knowledge, it is still not understood even by expert doctors.

*Who is that who has so wonderfully designed, constructed and integrated to gather your body parts for their wondrous functions? You don't thank Him! How sad even then?*

## 16

### MARVALS OF GENETIC MYSTERIES

Have you ever thought of about three trillion cells work together in your body in perfect harmony for a healthy life? Who coordinate them? Each cell knows exactly what to do, and where to fit in. It is a wondrous super computer system



with its own power source. Moreover, human body is an incredible factory producing millions of new cells daily to replace the worn out ones so that it stays fresh. Could it be the work of the blind evolution?

A baby's genetic makeup is decided right from the time when the egg is fertilized by the male sperm. The crucial activity of cell division involves the nucleus. Each nucleus contains two sets of genes: one comes from the father and one from the mother. Before a cell divides, both sets of genes are copied in a process termed as DNA replication. Thus new cells receive a full double set of genes, one from the father and one from the mother. The life of the organism then unravels according to the programme stored in its genes.

Not only that, every cell is like a seed, a complete personality in itself. It is made to grow, multiply and integrate with billions of other cells to become a complete human child in the watery sack of its mother's womb. What an automatic wonderful factory to produce human beings! Although there are billions of humans, yet each is unique within itself.

A microscopic cell turns into a full sized, muscular, talking, walking genius. *Who is behind all this?*

We always plan our tasks diligently to the best of our abilities. Strange enough when it comes to the complex development of our own self, some say it happened accidentally. *Could there be a more bogus claim than that?*

*Could this precisely programmed development of the living organisms be the work of evolution? By its own admission the theory of evolution works only in the long periods, counted in terms of millennia, whereas life would have no chance of survival without transferring of genetic traits even from one generation to the next?*

## 17

### ASK THE BRAIN

Bubbly, greyish dough, locked safely in a spherical box of bones, it floats in a delicately balanced fluid of minerals. It is an absolutely unrivalled intelligent supercomputer which gathers, stores, processes and takes decisions. It remains active at work 24 hours of the day and 365 days of the year. All our inventions, scientific discoveries, creative works, poetry, philosophy and of course our super computers, internet, space crafts and all other scientific developments are the brainchild of this wisdom pack in the human head.

*Even then some say, “Man is also an animal, an accidental product of evolution”. What an insult to the human intellect!*

*If an ordinary computer needs hundreds of highly trained people to design and make it, how could it be, that the wondrous computer called the human brain, became by itself, needed no designer, no creator?*

*How could mindless evolution make this wisdom pack for us? If you are a die-hard evolutionists even then think of, why did it work for the man only and other animals have been left far behind?*

*Where of the favours of your Lord will you deny?*

## 18

### EVIDENCE OF THE VOCAL CORDS, LIPS AND THE TONGUE

As air flows out of the lungs, we use it to make unlimited sounds, words and rhythms. At the top of the windpipe, at the sides of the voice box or larynx, are two stiff shelf-like

folds – called vocal cords. Criss-crossed muscles in the voice box can pull them together so that air passes through a narrow slit between them and make them vibrate. As the vocal cords are pulled tighter, they make higher-pitched sounds. As they loosen, they produce lower-pitched sounds. Our speech function depends on the signal to and from the brain and its ability to differentiate in the sounds that we emanate.

*Even a minor invention needs a genius to make it. Who is the inventor of this unique system of intelligent speech of man, accident, evolution or an All-wise Creator? Will you not then thank Him?*

## 19

### WHAT DO THE EYES TELL?

They are the body's window to the world. Like a video camera they detect the moving world around us and turn this picture into tiny electrical signals. These signals are nerve impulses which go to the brain to be sorted. Every second or two, eyelids blink and sweep tear fluid across the conjunctiva, washing away dust and germs.

The image that forms on the retina when light passes through the lens is upside down, because of the way in which light rays are bent by the eye's lens. The brain automatically turns the image the right way up, but we are never aware that this is happening.

*If making of a video camera has been the result of the efforts of great number of highly capable scientists and engineer, how come the wonderful camera of the eye became by itself?*

*How unfortunate, that still some people insist that man is a genetic accident. No design, no planning, just by a slow trial and error process of chemical combinations and*

*environmental reactions, over a long period of time he evolved into a walking, talking, seeing and thinking genius. Will you believe so?*

**20**

## **ASK THE EVOLUTION!**

There is the protective layer of ozone gas, seven hundred miles above us to save us from the damaging ultraviolet rays of the sun. Life on earth would roast without this protective umbrella. *Who established it?*

There is the critical distance between the sun and earth, to ensure perfect temperature and to maintain the required energy balance for the nourishment of life on earth. *Is it the work of evolution?*

There is the buffer of atmosphere around the earth that extends up for thousands of miles and that helps burn hazardous shooting meteors before they hit the surface of earth. *Is it established by evolution also?*

Plants use the solar light for photosynthesis of carbon dioxide and water, to produce food and generate oxygen for biological life to survive on earth. *Is it by chance development?*

*If survival is for the fittest, why are there millions of competing species of plants as the evolutionists say; and animals, living and developing together side by side, since billions of years on earth? Who keeps the harmony between them? Who had produced the original single cell to begin with?*

*If your god is evolution then think of who regulates it?*

*What about the earthly resources, its minerals, atmosphere, environment, fauna and flora necessary to support each other? Did evolution make them?*

*Who creates every one of us, unique? Who produces the wonderful symmetry in the assembly of billions of human beings? No two finger prints match one another, yet they have many similarities and commonalities. Is it the work of evolution also?*

*Such is the creation of Allah. If still in doubt then ask who regulates and integrates billions of evolutionary moves to produce purposeful creations all around us?*

*According to the second law of thermodynamics, of science “entropy or disorder in any system must increase with time, unless and until it is compensated by some appropriate external agency”. If this is true then how could disorder create order from the chaos of Big Bang, without some external supernatural power?*

*How could darkness bring light?*

*How could nothingness cause something?*

*How could dead give birth to the living?*

*How could brainless atoms of matter produce an intelligent being like you?*

*Will you still not believe in Allah the supreme Creator and Nourisher of everything?*

Creation, the like of man is not an isolated event. It required integration of millions of causes. For example, our bodies are produced from the dust created in a series of stellar explosions; it needed a sun, a very typical middle level star, placed at a very special position in our galaxy; it also required an earth-like planet which is unique in many respects; this in turn needed the very specially configured moon, so on, so forth. Thus life produced on earth is not an

isolated event but the result of innumerable, very sensitive, closely interrelated, integrated events and parameters. Specialists in the theory of probability say that such a complex, sensitive, balanced and integrated system of uncountable causes and effects is simply impossible.

There must be an All-intelligent, Ever-living and All-Powerful Being who has created and then integrated all these millions of necessary events and then guided them to achieve the desired outcome. If you call such a Being evolution, then that is the name of your God.

SURELY, THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAH

## 21

### **BELIEVE IN HIM OR NOT, HE IS THERE**

Indeed everything in the Universe is compelling evidence about its All-wise, All-knowing Designer, Integrator, Systems Engineer, Maker, Nourisher, Controller, Sustainer and Supreme Operator. He is Allah. As the Holy Quran says;

*“Of Him seeks (its needs) what so ever is there in the Universe. Each day He shines in new Splendour”. 55(29)*

Indeed, may it be a petal or a sepal, or a drop of water; all extol the glory of their Creator. Laws of science are His orders, the Universe is His domain. Future, present and past are one to Him. All measures are His. When He wants to do something, He simply says, “Be” and it is there. Kind and Merciful always. To the believers and the non-believers, agnostics and the atheists alike; – He says in the Holy Quran *“Indeed, We have honoured Mankind”*.

HE IS ALLAH!

He looks after His creations without their asking. He is the Ever-living, All-encompassing, Absolute Singularity, the Supreme Integrator, the Grand System Engineer, the Creator and the Sustainer of everything. He is the Total Control, the Omnipresent, the Omniscient, All-knowing, All-wise, All-Powerful, Ever Active, The Ultimate Reality.

HE IS ALLAH!

The One and the only One, without any partner, free of all faults, and supreme in all qualities. He is The First Cause; Who has no father, no mother, no son or daughter, The Absolute Infinite Whole. There is nothing like unto Him but everything in nature is evidence of His Supreme Reality.

He also sent His human messengers to mankind to remind them of Him and to testify His Existence. These are the most truthful people. The last of them is Muhammad (Peace be upon him), who taught mankind. *"Your Creator is one and the only one, The Most Kind, and the Most Compassionate, Who sustains all, even those who deny Him. If you oblige His creatures He says, 'You have obliged Me.' If you spend in His way, He says, 'You have given to Me.' His patience is boundless even for those who defy Him; The best friend, closer than your jugular vein."*

HE IS ALLAH!

There are not enough words to describe Him, no eyes to see Him, no vision to comprehend Him. Nevertheless, you can feel the Grandeur of His presence everywhere.

HE IS ALLAH!

**How sad! We live in His sovereignty, but violate His rules!**

**He surrounds us all around, but we do not realize it!**

**We come from Him and than at the end go back to Him, but are not mindful of Him!**

**We seek the knowledge of things, but forget their Creator!**

**We look for the purpose behind everything, but do not bother to care to know about our own purpose of existence.**

**We believe in the laws of conservation of matter, energy and momentum, but doubt our own life in the Hereafter?**

Don't forget Mr. Doubtful! Allah exists, He is with us everywhere. Each atom of matter and photon of energy is accountable before Him and hymn His Glory. We are His wonderful creation, not a meaningless entity. Each one of us is His idea, and life is His gift to us. One day we shall have to answer the big question, *what did we do with it?* How did we honour our Creator?

Let us be reminded again in the words of the Holy Quran:-

***“It is Allah, Who causes the seed-grain and the date-stone to split and sprout. He causes the living to issue from the dead, and He is the One to cause the dead to issue from the living. That is Allah: Then how are you deluded away from the Truth?***

***He it is that cleaves the daybreak (from the darkness of night): He made the night for rest and tranquillity, and the sun and moon with a mathematical precision: Such is the judgement and ordering of (Him), the Exalted in Power, The Omniscient.***

***It is He, Who makes the stars for you, that you may guide yourselves, with their help, through the dark spaces of land and sea: We detail Our Signs for people who know.***



*It is He, Who has produced you from a single entity: Here (earth) is a place of sojourn and a place of departure for you: We detail Our Signs for people who understand.*

*It is He, Who sends down rain from the skies. With It, We produce vegetation of all kinds: From some, We produce green (crops), out of which We produce grain, heaped up (at harvest); Out of the date-palm and its sheaths (We produce) clusters of dates hanging low and near:*

*And (then there are) gardens of grapes, and olives, and pomegranates, each similar (in kind) yet different (in variety): When they begin to bear fruit, feast your eye with the fruit, and the ripeness thereof. Behold! In these things there are Signs for people who believe.*

*Yet they make the Jinns equal with Allah, though Allah did create the Jinns. And they falsely, having no knowledge, attribute to Him sons and daughters. Praise and glory be to Him! (He is) far beyond that they attribute to Him!*

*To Him is due the primal origin of the heavens and the earth: How can He have a son when He has no consort? He created all things, and He has full knowledge of all things.*

*That is Allah, our Lord! There is no Allah but He, the Creator of all things: Then worship you Him only: and He has power to dispose of all affairs". 6(95-102)*

## AWESOME BUT BEAUTIFUL!

(Acknowledged with thanks NASA for the pictures of Hubble Space Telescope)

To feel, appreciate and understand the Glory of Allah *Subahan-Hu*, all we need is a little science, a bit of common sense and an unprejudiced mind. The following *Ayaat* of the Holy Quran reveal His working in the Universe pointing out how dynamic it is:

*“Of Him seeks, what so ever is in the heavens and the earth. Every Day He is in New Splendour”. 55(29)*

*It is He who has created the seven heavens (multiple universes) one above another; No want of proportion will you see in the creations of the Most Gracious. So turn your vision again; do you see any flaw? 67(3)*

Man had to wait more then 1400 years after these revelations of the Holy Quran when he could send in space Hubble Telescope and have some glimpses of the dynamic nature of the Universe. Out of thousands of images of heavenly bodies astronomers have selected top ten most amazing pictures taken by Hubble Space Telescope in last 16 years shown below with the compliment of NASA. Remarking in the article from the Daily Mail, reporter Michael Hanlon says the photos 'illustrate that our universe is not only deeply strange, but also almost impossibly beautiful.'



**Fig. 9**

And why should it not be beautiful? The last of the prophets of Allah, Muhammad (PBUH) has told about the Supreme Creator, **“Allah is the most Beautiful, and He loves beauty” (Hadith)**. And in the Holy Quran Allah about the observable universe, it was revealed:

*“And We have adorned the heaven of this world with the lights. And made them as missiles to derive away the evil ones; and We have prepared for them the penalty of the blazing fire. 67 (5)*

They are indeed very beautiful and awesome!!! As you see them do not forget to ask your self, “Who could be the designer and maker of such astoundingly beautiful worlds?” Are they a mere accident of nature, or the handicrafts of an All-Prevailing Intelligence ..... Allah?



**Fig. 10**

The Sombrero Galaxy - 28 million light years from Earth - was voted best picture taken by the Hubble telescope. The dimensions of the galaxy, officially called M104, are as spectacular as its appearance it has 800 billion suns and is 50,000 light years across.



**Fig. 11**

The Ant Nebula, a cloud of dust and gas whose technical name is Mz3, resembles an ant when observed using ground-based telescopes... The nebula lies within our galaxy between 3,000 and 6,000 light years from earth



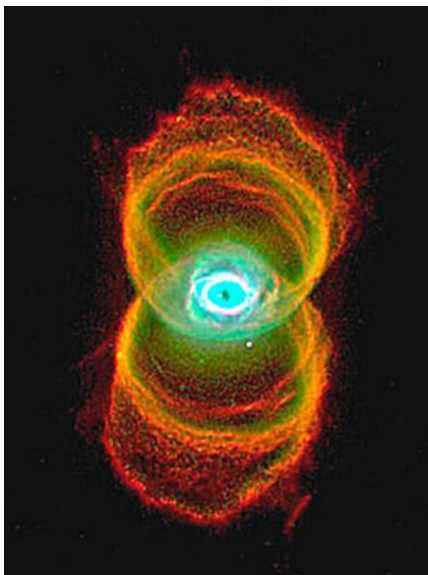
**Fig. 12**

In third place is Nebula NGC 2392, called 'Eskimo' because it looks like a face surrounded by a furry hood. The hood is, in fact, a ring of comet-shaped objects flying away from a dying star. Eskimo is 5,000 light years from Earth.



**Fig. 13**

At four is the Cat's Eye Nebula.



**Fig. 14**

The Hourglass Nebula, 8,000 light years away, has a 'pinched-in- the-middle' look because the winds that shape it are weaker at the centre



**Fig. 15**

In sixth place is the Cone Nebula. The part pictured here is 2.5 light years in length (the equivalent of 23 million return trips to the Moon).



**Fig. 16**

The Perfect Storm, a small region in the Swan Nebula, 5,500 light years away, described as 'a bubbly ocean of hydrogen and small amounts of oxygen, sulphur and other elements'.



**Fig. 17**

Starry Night, so named because it reminded astronomers of the Van Gogh painting. It is a halo of light around a star in the Milky Way.



**Fig. 18**

The glowering eyes from 114 million light years away are the swirling cores of two merging galaxies called NGC 2207 and IC 2163 in the distant Canis Major constellation.



**Fig. 19**

The *Trifid Nebula*. A 'stellar nursery', 9,000 light years from here, it is where new stars are being born.



You have just seen the Top 10 Hubble Pictures!!!  
Share this with someone!!!!!! But overlook of the question;  
**“Who could be the designer and maker of such  
countless astoundingly beautiful worlds?” Is it a mere  
accident of nature, or the handicrafts of an All-  
Prevailing Intelligence Being..... Allah?**

## Part II

# PERCEPTION AND UNDERSTANDING ALLAH *Subhana-Hu*

*To Allah belong all things in the Heavens  
and Earth: Verily He is free of all wants –  
worthy of all praises. 31(26)*

## TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING *ALLAH Subhana-Hu*

From the irrefutable evidence of nature, no sane person can deny the reality of Allah. Everything in the Universe is witness to His Supreme Being. But what is He? Where is He? Is He also made of matter and energy like us?

Some of the illustrious prophets (Peace be upon them all) in the past had also asked similar questions. For example, *Ibraheem (Abraham PBUH)* is mentioned in the Holy Quran as requesting Allah to show how He brings the dead to life. The illustrious prophet *Musa (Moses PBUH)* also asked to show him His own self.

Since man's knowledge is restricted, so it will never be possible for us to comprehend His absolute reality fully. As the Holy Quran says, He is absolutely unique in all respects, ***“There is nothing like unto Him” 112(4)***. He is the superset and we are just a tiny subset of His domain. So the Holy Quran says, ***“Vision Comprehends Him not, but He comprehends (all) vision. He is Subtle, all Knowing” 6(104)***. Thus the only way we may know our Creator is through His creation. It is similar to how we develop an instinctive sense of the painter from his paintings and of the author from his writings.

On this subject the guidance revealed in the Holy Quran is very clear. In many *Ayaat* man is advised to reflect into the Universe, to know its Creator. An example is *Ayat* 164 of *Sura Al-Baqarah*,

***Lo! In the creation of the heaven and the earth and in the succession of night and day, and in the ships that speed through***

*the seas with what is of use to man, and in the water which Allah sends down from the sky, thereby giving life to the earth that had been lifeless and causing all kinds of living creation upon it, and in the change of the winds, and in the clouds between the sky and the earth— all these are signs (of Allah) for people who use their reason. 2(164)*

Allah *Subhana-Hu* introduces Himself in the Holy Quran with over one hundred of His qualitative attributes. Though we cannot know Him in person, but we can understand the working of our Creator through His attributes.

## 24

### TIME-SPACE AND ENERGY ATTRIBUTES OF ALLAH *Subhana-Hu*

The most perceptible-by-attribute understanding of Allah *Subhana-Hu* given in the Holy Quran is by the time, space and energy characteristics. In this respect Muhammad (Peace be upon him) made a very enlightening remark. He is reported to have said, “**Do not curse time, for Allah Himself is time**” (*Hadith*). In this context, *Ayat* 3 of *sura Al-Hadid* is most thought provoking,

هُوَ الْأَوَّلُ وَالْآخِرُ وَالظَّاهِرُ وَالْبَاطِنُ ۗ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ ۝

*He is 'The Very First' and 'The Very Last';  
And (He is) 'The Outermost' and 'The  
Innermost'; And He is knower of each and  
everything. 57(3)*

In this *Ayat*, the phrases, 'The Very First' (الأوّل) and 'The Very Last' (الآخر) relate to the time dimension. A personality who at the same moment is, “The First” and

“The Last”, cannot be but the absolute time Himself. Similarly, the attributes 'The Outermost' (الظاهر) and 'The Innermost' (الباطن) relate to the space dimension. The personality which exhibits these two attributes simultaneously can only be the One that encompasses the total space. This deduction is also supported by the often repeated Ayat of the Holy Quran ان الله على كل شئ محيط **“Indeed Allah encompasses each and everything”**.

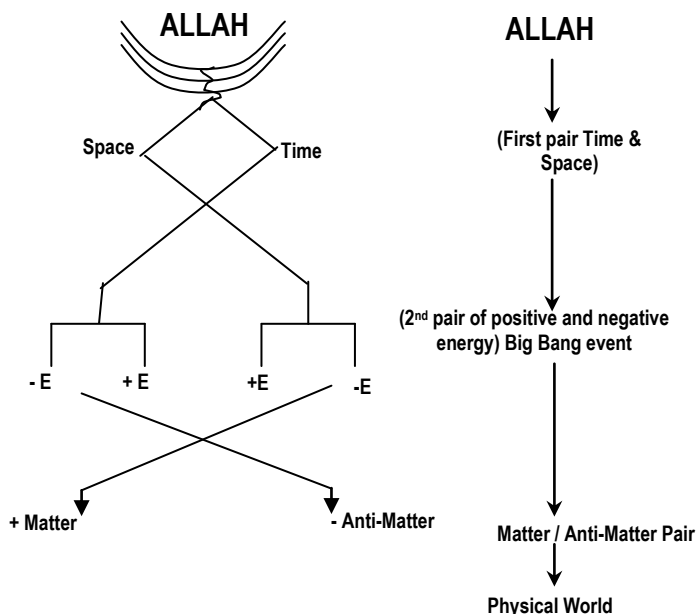
The phrase كل شئ (each and everything) means, there is no exception to this rule. Allah is inside and simultaneously outside everything. From subatomic particles to the entire Universe, everything is a subset to His superset Reality.

**So we may say that time and space are two attributes of Allah Subhana-Hu through which He manifests His grand reality in the physical world. To Him belongs the absolute Time and the absolute Space. They are of Him.**

There is also the law of pairs as given in the Holy Quran which says that Allah Subhana-Hu creates things on the pattern of pairs (sura Yasin, Ayat 36),

***Limitless in His Glory, He who has created pairs in all things, whatever the earth produces, and in your own kind, and in that of which (as yet) they have no knowledge. 36(36)***

In this Ayat use of the phrase all things كل شئ means that there is no exception to this rule. We may say that Big Bang was the revelation of the Singularity of Allah Subhana-Hu through the pair of His Time-Space attributes. That was the grand manifestation of intersection between the metaphysical and the physical worlds.



**Fig. 20**

For example, as per general theory of relativity, gravity is simply a property of space, not a force. Infect Universe on the whole is the property of space-time dynamism. From here the pair of mass and energy was created, interrelated according to the relationship  $E=Mc^2$ , discovered by Einstein in 1904. All this happened suddenly when Allah ordered the Universe, ‘Be’ and it came into being (كن فيكون). The figure 20 is an attempt to represent this great beginning:

This explains the pre-Big Bang Universe and the space-time riddle. We may say that before the Universe came into physical existence, there was a software phase of existence Everything existed in the Design of Allah *Subhana-Hu*. In the Holy Quran it is referred as Umul-Kitab (ام الكتاب). Time and space were also hidden in the personality of the Supreme Creator. With His command, “Be”, He manifested Himself from the pre-Universe state of metaphysical order

into the post-Big Bang physical world. In one of his saying, Muhammad (Peace be upon him) told that in the pre-Universe stage, Allah *Subhana-Hu* was like a hidden treasure; He willed that He should be known, so He decided to create Man and Universe for him. Thus the design basis of the Universe is Man. He is the very reason for it, not the product of it. Here is a lesson for science also, that Man should be the reference and focal point of all research.

## 25

### ENERGY CHARACTERISTICS OF ALLAH *Subhana-Hu*

Besides time and space, the third fundamental characteristic of Allah *Subhana-Hu* is His energy attribute. It is called *Noor* (نور) in the Holy Quran. In *sura An-Noor*, *Ayat* 35, the Holy Quran refers to Him as '*Noor upon Noor*' نور على نور.

In metaphysical terms *Noor* means 'spiritual light'. In the physical world it means light energy. In the physical sense Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is reported to have said that Allah is veiled by seventy layers of His *Noor*. If only one of them is removed, heat of His *Noor* will vaporize the entire world. The Holy Quran tells us about the prophet *Musa* (Peace be upon him), when upon his insistence, Allah *Subhana-Hu* projected some of His glory at a mountain, it exploded. This suggests that Allah *Subhana-Hu* is the infinite source of spiritual as well as the physical energy.

Thus the fundamental characteristics by which we may comprehend His Supreme Reality are His time, Space and Energy attributes. Every event in the physical world is a

manifestation of a combination of these three ingredients – they are the essential inputs for any event to occur.

From here we may say that Time-Space Continuum is a very dynamic pair, whose interaction releases energy. Thus production of energy is a function of interaction between time and space, viz  $e = f(ts)$ , being released since Big-Bang and continually added in the Universe, manifesting itself through matter and anti-matter, as per the legendary equation discovered by Einstein,  $E = mc^2$ . This explains the physical reason behind the continuous expansion of the Universe and its eventual contraction and collapse.

## 26

### WHERE DOES HE LIVE?

When you ask some one, “Where is Allah”, he points out his finger up toward sky, as if Allah *Subhana-Hu* resides in some planet in the heavens. You might also have seen paintings in Christian Churches showing Allah floating in heavenly, spaces, sporting a big beard. But He is not like that at all. It is inappropriate to draw His pictures or limit Him to a specific place. If He occupies a place then He is contained by that place which is contrary to His basic attribute of being Omnipresent. However,, to be conscious of the fact that total space itself is one of the attribute of His personality makes it easy to understand that He pervades everything. May it be the fundamental particles of the atom or the entire Universe, He is everywhere; Omnipresent, Omniscient. He is the Outermost and the Innermost and so, He encompasses everything, in and out, from all sides. His being infinite also means that every point in space can claim the honour of being His centre.



## CAN ANY THING HIDE FROM HIM?

From His time-space attributes we can also see that everything exists in Him. Nothing can be outside to Him. You may imagine this by the example of a fish in the ocean: water is in and water is outside of it. Can thus fish ever hide from the water? Similarly, Allah *Subhana-Hu* encompasses everything from inside and outside. Therefore, spatial states of 'here and there', 'up and down', 'far and near' are meaningless in the context of His Presence.

He does not need to travel to reach anywhere, and neither does He need to ask someone else for any information. Nothing at all, not even a single atomic particle can hide from Him. He surrounds each and every particle of matter and photons of energy – all the time, everywhere, from inside as well as outside.

## INSTANTANEOUS CONTROL OF ALLAH *Subhana-Hu*?

You know that Time and space are the two essential ingredients for any physical event to take place. Space provides the accommodation while time provides the duration for the event to occur. Without these inputs nothing can take place. In other words time gives life to the event and space provides housing for its manifestation. As time and space are a subset of the Grand Reality of Allah *Subhana-Hu*, Therefore, nothing can happen without Him. Neither a drop of rain water, nor a leaf from a tree can fall without His leave. He knows our mind and plans, even

before their expression in our brains. Indeed, we cannot even will for anything unless Allah wills.

**29**

## **PRESENT, FUTURE AND THE PAST ARE SAME TO HIM**

Since He Himself is Absolute Time, Therefore, present, future and past are also the one and the same thing to Him. He sees them all at the same time. Moreover, things change and decay with time. Only the 'Time' itself can be immortal. So Allah is Immortal, ever active, neither tires, nor sleeps. He is the Absolute Reality, and everything else is with reference to Him.

**30**

## **WHAT IS HE LIKE?**

The Holy Quran tells, us that there is nothing like unto Him. He is unique in all respects: infinite in His attributes, Indivisible Whole, beyond our comprehension, the grand Singularity, Who encompasses everything. *Sura Al-Ikhlās* of the Holy Quran describes the Personality of Allah *Subhana-Hu* in the following words,

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ لَمْ يَلِدْهُ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝  
وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۝

*Proclaim (O! Man), He is Allah, the 'Ahad' (Alone, One and the only One, the Grand Singularity); He is Allah, the 'Samad' (the Absolute, the Indivisible Whole, the Self Sufficient who depends on*

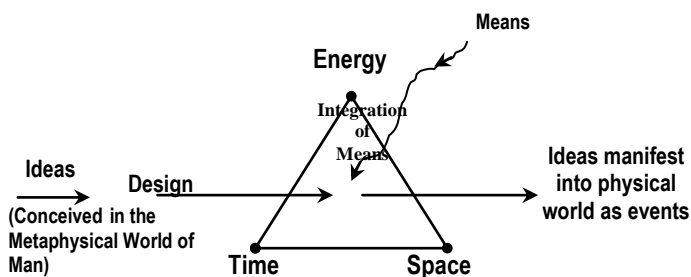
*none, while everything else depends on Him); He begets not, nor is He begotten (He is by Himself only) And there is absolutely none like unto Him (He is unique in all respects). 112(1-4)*

Thus it is absurd to say that He has a son, father or mother or that He saved mankind by sacrificing His own son. Even more absurd is idol worshipping and assigning partners to Him. There is no God besides Him, no power other than His.

## 31

### CREATION OF EVENTS

As described earlier, the physical world is a manifestation and manipulation of the Time, Space and Energy attributes of Allah *Subhana-Hu*. Any event in the Universe is essentially a function of these three attributes, i.e.  $E = f(tse)$ .



**Fig.21: Trio of Time, Space and Energy causes events from ideas**

After the conception of an idea in mind, it is translated into design for implementation. If Allah *Subhana-Hu* wills He provides the required means and the time-space-energy inputs for the event to occur. Since the absolute and

supreme mind is of Allah *Subhana-Hu* only, thus He is the Primal Cause of everything.

*And if all the trees on earth were pens, and all the oceans were ink, with seven oceans behind it to add to (its supply), yet would not the words of Allah (description of His creation be exhausted; Lo! Allah is exalted in power, full of wisdom. 31(27)*

## 32

### RELIGION ACCEPTABLE TO ALLAH *Subhan-Hu*

The propose of religion is to take Man closer to his Creator, appreciate His Glory in the universe, and contribute to the beauty of His creations as much as possible. The name of this religion is Islam, the same which over the ages Allah has been revealing to Mankind through His especially chosen prophets (May peace be upon them). Islam literally means 'Peace': with the aim that mankind may prosper happily in this world and the life Hereafter.

As we can see from the holy Torah, Bible and Quran, the names of some of the more known prophets who appeared the Middle East were *Noha, Idris Ibrahim, Ishmaeel, Ishaq, Yaqub, Yousaf, Moses, Haroon and Jesus* (May peace be upon them). However, Muhammad the last of the messengers of Allah (Peace be upon him) told that there have been about one hundred and twenty-four thousands prophets before him. Every nation on earth had its prophet. Need of the new one arose only when the teachings of the earlier prophet were lost or distorted. When humanity could preserve the Message for good Allah *Subhan-Hu* sent His last Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), and

revealed on him the Book called the Holy Quran. It completes the teachings of all the earlier prophets. Thus Islam is not the invention of Muhammad (Peace be upon him) but consolidation of all the previous religions for all mankind. A Muslim is therefore, as much a believer in Muhammad as in any other prophet (Peace be upon them). To know “what Islam really stands for,” please see the next chapter “The Spirit of Islam”.

## **Part III**

# **THE SPIRIT OF ISLAM**

**Including  
Personality Tests to judge our own  
rating in the Sight of Allah; and to  
know, how much a Muslim am I?**

## INHERITED RELIGIONS

Have you ever thought of “Why I am a Muslim, or a Christian or a Hindu or of any other Faith”? Answer is quite clear “It is because of the parents; for which you had no choice. They had also inherited their faith from their earlier generations. Thus what ever your religion, it is due to inheritance. Can any one then claim superiority on this account? Why should a Just Allah reward or punish some one due to the religion given to him/her at birth?

As for the life, what does the religion promise for it? The prophets had taught it for the spiritual peace, prosperity and eternal happiness of Man. Is it true even now? We must seriously judge wither the faith we profess meets this criteria.

As a matter of fact, all religions over the time have been polluted by the selfish interests of the priestly classes, who tend to pose themselves intermediary between Man and his Allah. Gradually they have become professions for the priests and thus lost the Prophetic spirit. Nevertheless, it does not provide excuse for the believers not to seek for the Truth. In reality, all of us are answerable to our Creator, for our efforts to discover the path leading to Him. If in our normal lives we are so much choosy for everything, then how could we be excused for our non-serious attitude toward the philosophy of life? If Allah exists, and He does, then it should be the most important decision of our life. We must rediscover consciously religion for us, but as declared in the Holy Quran, no one is allowed to impose his/her ideas on others in this matter.

***“Let there be no compulsion in religion, as the Truth stands out clear from false hood. Whoever***

*thus rejects evil and believes in Allah has grasped the most Trust worthy hand-hold that never breaks. And Allah hears and knows all things". 2(256)*

## 34

### UNIVERSAL RELIGION

Truth of the matter is that all of us are accountable to Allah for each and every action of our life on earth. Lest we make excuses in the Hereafter that we were caught unaware, Allah *Subhana-Hu* our Creator; also revealed specific criteria of what is right and what is wrong for our best performance. For this purpose He sent His especially chosen teachers called prophets towards every nation on earth. Some of the more well known of them, are: *Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Ismael, Jacob, Moses, and Jesus*, (may peace be upon them all). When humanity had developed enough and could preserve the purity of Message of Allah in writing for good, He sent His last messenger Muhammad (Peace be upon him), to consolidate and complete the teachings of all the earlier prophets for all times to come. This system of life is called Islam. It is not something new the religion invented by Mohammad (Peace be upon him) but completion of the mission of the earlier prophets. Thus a Muslim has to believe in all of them. Each one of them is the Prophet of Islam (May Peace be upon them).

Islam fundamentally is to believe in one Allah, with all His attributes and submit to Him only, with the belief in the life Hereafter, and accountability of our transient earthly sojourn to punish the cruel and to reward the good. Salvation lies in developing our personalities on the pattern of the attributes of Allah *Subhana-Hu*, and mould our lives according to the "Does and Don'ts" of the criteria given by



Him. Thus a true Muslim should not only be a “Man of Allah”, but at his/her own humble pedestal “Allah like Man” the ideal living example of which is the best of mankind, the last Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him). The reward for this is eternal Jannat (Paradise). Those who fail in this test will go to the scorching Hell for punishment and refinement.

The fact that Islam is the continuation of the *Deen* (religion) of the earlier prophets is clarified by the following commandment in *sura Ash-Shu'raa* of the Holy Quran.

***Allah has ordained for you the ‘Deen’ (i.e. way of life) revealed unto you, same which He had commanded unto Noah, and that which He had commanded unto Abraham, and Moses, and Jesus. Therefore you also, establish the (same) Deen (for Allah), and be not divided therein. 42(13)***

All the earlier prophets had foretold of the advent of the last Messenger of Allah and advised their followers to follow him when he comes. He is mentioned in the New and Old Testament, Vedas and books of other religions. (K.S. Rama Krishna Rao, “Muhammad the Prophet of Islam”. Also see *Afzal-ur-Rahman*, Encyclopaedia of Seerat).

Being a Muslim Therefore, means that he/she is as much a believer in Jesus (Peace be upon him) as a Christian is; or in Moses as a true Jew. As for as Islam; is the natural disposition Allah has instilled in man. He says in *sura Ar-Roum*, Ayat 30 of the Holy Quran.

***And so set your face steadfastly towards the Deen (of Allah), turning away from all that is false, to the natural disposition which Allah has instilled into Man, not to allow***

***any change to corrupt what Allah has thus created – This is the right way of life; but most people know not. 30(30)***

Islam is thus the religion most suited to the nature of man and for the peace of his mind. Reward for the one who follows it is immense. It raises him to the spiritual elevation to the height where he truly becomes the “Vicegerent of Allah on Earth” – the very purpose of man’s creation, as revealed in *Ayat* 30 of *sura Al-Baqara*,

***Behold, your Rabb said to the angels, “I will create a vicegerent on earth”. 2(30)***

Islam gives the good tidings that every child is born with this natural potential, and it has come to guide man to raise him/her to this exalted status.

What a tragedy that this beautiful image of Islam has been badly tarnished by its enemies through their false propaganda and misinformation campaigns. However,, even more unfortunate than this is that some of the so called Muslims falsely depict Islam on their own image for the sake of their own vested interests. Added to this is the ignorance of the large majority of the Muslims by-birth about their own religion. Combined together they have made it very difficult for the seekers of truth to receive the Divine light for their salvation. In the following pages an attempt has been made to rediscover the spirit of Islam. If someone can get rid of the inherited prejudices, he/she will be really surprised to see the beauty of Islam for the peace, prosperity and progress of mankind. It is the natural religion for everyone.

## ISLAM MEANS PEACE

A prejudiced mind against Islam may not know that in dictionary the word “Islam” means “Peace”. As a religion it is to give peace to mankind. The word Salam (سلام) is one of the names of Allah also “Peace”. In its basic philosophy, it teaches that Universe is created for Man. Thus it is to serve him; he is not to serve it. As such Man is not to hoard the material goods of life for him but to distribute them to those in need. Also it teaches that he is not the product of Universe but the very reason for it. As all its components are made to help each other, he is made for the “Service to Allah” in the good of His creatures”. In this philosophy, the obligations of the one are the rights of the others. They are of two types:-

1. Obligations to Allah, the Creator (حقوق الله)
2. Obligations to creatures of Allah (حقوق العباد)

In consequence to the fulfilment of these obligations, Islam promises “Peace at all levels”. The code word of a Muslim is (اسلام عليكم) i.e. “peace be upon you”. When two Muslims get together, each one must try to surpass in his/her greetings of “Peace”.

Islam also means “Submission to Allah”. Thus Peace plan of Islam is “Peace through submission to Allah”, the scope of which is very wide. In the least it consists of the following fundamentals:

- To be at peace with your Creator,
- To be at peace with your own self,
- To be at peace with your neighbour, and
- To be at peace with all other creations of Allah

Fig. 22 – shows their integration in the form of a diagram.

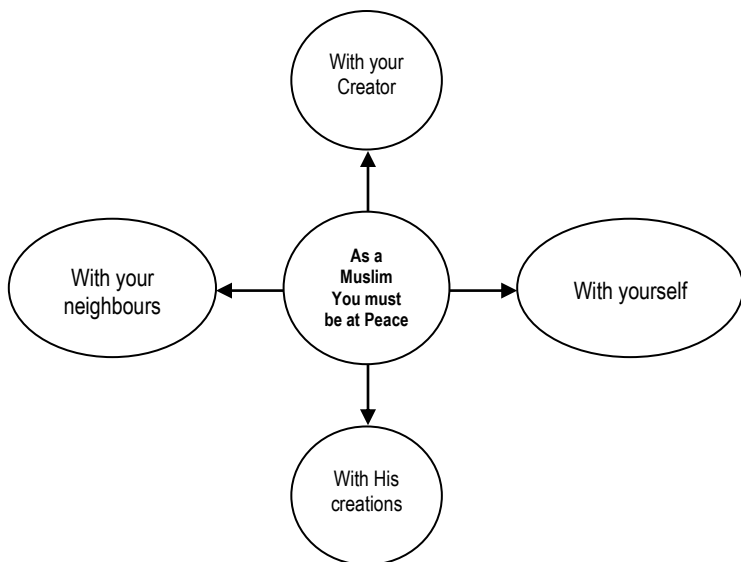
Converse of the word “*Salam*” (سلام) is “*Fasaad*” (فساد) which means, process of disturbing the established peace’, to engage in destabilizing the natural equilibrium established by Allah *Subhana-Hu* on earth. A Muslim is required to promote peace and to oppose, “*Fasaad*” even fight against the mischievous evil forces of exploitation, tyranny, ignorance and greed working to endanger peace. The basic principle is revealed in Ayat 205, *sura Al-Baqra*,

***“Allah does not like Mufsideen”  
(mischievous elements which disturb  
peace)” 2(205).*** It further stresses.  
***“Continuous disturbing of peace is worse  
than a (temporary) fight” 2(217).***

Thus it is obligatory on every believer not only to dissociate himself/herself from all causes which may damage peace but practically to struggle for it. Technically it is called *Jehaad* (جهاد) i.e. the struggle against evil which disturbs peace. It is the highest act of worship, and an essential obligation on every Muslim about which the Holy Quran says in *sura Aal-e-Imran* Ayat 110

***“You are the best of the people, as you come out for  
mankind to establish what is good; and prevent what is  
evil...”***, 3(110).

Fig. 23 – shows the integration of struggle of a Muslim against the evil forces working against the “Peace”.



**Fig. – 22: Peace Plan of Islam**

In the following we shall highlight some of the salient features of this multidimensional approach to Peace. It is most comprehensively explained in the Holy Quran and was practically demonstrated by the Messenger of Allah, (Peace be upon him) and his revered companions as the principal objective of the blessed Islamic rule i.e. “*Khilafat-e-Rashida*” established by them. In the early years of Islam even when the chances of its success seemed bleak, the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) gave the tidings that day was not too far when a young woman wearing her full ornaments will travel all alone from *Sanna* in Yemen to *Makka* in Arabia without any fear. Thus he had set for his people the “peace mission” of Islam. In this mission fundamental priority is to be at Peace with your Creator.

## PEACE WITH OUR CREATOR

To be at peace with our Creator means to believe in Him and be conscious of the fact that He is with us all the time. We should strive to earn His love and pleasure, and to assign no partners to Him. It is to build a staunch, unshakable belief in Allah *Subhana-Hu* with all His attributes. Practically it means total submission to Him; thus obeying His commands in letter and spirit as revealed in the Holy Quran; and moulding one's life according to His attributes demonstrated by the exemplary role model of the last Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him).

It is obligatory on every Muslim to demonstrate his/her resolve of submission to Allah *Subhana-Hu* adopting His attributes and through specific acts of worship. These are the five times a day *Salaat* (prayers), fasting in the month of Ramadan, the compulsory payment of *Zakat* and at least once in lifetime pilgrimage to the House of Allah at *Makkah*, originally built by Prophet Adam (Peace be upon him) and later re-built on its foundation by the Prophet Abraham (Peace be upon him), over 4000 years ago.

Adherence to these practices entitles one to join the club of Islam as its basic member. Spiritual promotions and achievements within it will depend upon how well we do for the rest of the “Peace Plan of Islam”. In the order of priority the foremost duty is to be at peace with your own self.

## PEACE WITH OUR OWN SELVES

The Islamic philosophy, to be at peace with our own conscience relies profoundly on giving peace to others. The fundamental of this is, “wish for others, what we wish for

our own self'. It starts with our own family. In the Holy Quran Allah *Subhana-Hu* says; ***“O’ those who believe, save yourself and your family from the hellfire (Sura Al-Baqra)*** This is achievable through a strong commitment to Islam, by becoming as useful member of the society as possible, becoming a loving and a helping hand for everyone following the example of the prophet of Islam (Peace be upon him), Allah says in the Holy Quran, **He is blessing for all the worlds**, Therefore, his true followers cannot be but blessing for their own society at least.

He/she will never wilfully hurt others, and will be ever ready to cultivate loving and caring relations with everyone, particularly within the family. At the personal level he/she will try to surpass with others in doing the right deeds, maintaining clean thoughts, pleasant disposition and by faithfully adopting the Do’s and the Don’ts of Islam revealed by Allah in the Holy Quran.

In this respect the guidance provided in *sura Al-Asr*, *Ayaat* 1-3 is exceedingly contemplative, ***“I swear by passing time that man by nature is apt to loss, excepting those who believe in Allah, do good deeds, and help each other on the Right Path; And council each other to persevere with patience in the way of Allah”.103(1-3)***

It means that personal belief and good deeds are not enough for our spiritual peace. It also depends upon the fulfilment of our social obligations. Thus a good Muslim must be an active member of the society who stands for the right and helps the needy. He has a caring and sharing personality, dutiful in dealings with others, and takes pleasure giving others more than in getting back from them. He listens to his conscience carefully and let this voice not lost in bewilderment.

## PEACE WITH OUR NEIGHBOUR

To be at peace with his/her neighbour is an intrinsic obligation of every true Muslim. The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) warned, **“You can’t be a Muslim if the honour and property of your neighbour is not safe from you.”** Thus, even aggressive gestures, backbiting, jealousy, and use of abusive language are prohibited. We should always try to be first to say *Assalam-o-Alaikum* i.e. peace be upon you, whenever you meet anyone.

At 107(4-7) in the Holy Quran, Allah *Subhana-Hu* warns the worshippers who are not kind to their neighbours,

*So woe to the worshippers, who are neglectful of their prayers, those who (worship but) to be seen (by others), and refuse (to fulfil) the neighbourly kindness. 107(4-7)*

The neighbourly kindness is to exchange gifts, offering ‘*Salam*’ and giving smile, inviting for meals and attending to neighbourly needs. The prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) also told Muslims, **‘If your neighbour sleeps hungry, or if he is sick and not looked after, your prayers will not be accepted’**. Omar, the Second Caliph of Islam (may Allah be pleased with him) set the standard by declaring, **‘even if a dog dies of hunger at the banks of river Euphrates (a river in Iraq), Omar is responsible in Madinah’**. Thus he established a truly well fare state in the world in accordance with the sprit of Islam.

Looking after the orphans, widows and destitute in the neighbourhood is an obligatory duty of every Muslim. In this connection *sura Al-Ma’oon*, *Ayaat* 1-3 provide a decisive ruling **“Have you seen of him who rejects the**



**Deen (Islam). He is the one who repulses the orphan and cares not for feeding the destitute". 107(1-3)** In view of such fateful imperative, stating the conclusive primacy of caring for the orphans and the destitute amounts tantamount to a rejection of one's *deen*, it is a wonder that the thoughtful of the Muslims can ever dare to contravene this commandment.

The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) defined neighbourhood as comprising of forty homes on all sides, i.e. 160 houses all around. Thus one after the other, all people on earth is each other's neighbours and covered by the neighbourly peace plan of Islam. The general rule about neighbourly behaviour, ordained by the prophet of Allah (Peace be upon him) is, that **"The best of the mankind is the one who is the most useful to them."** So a Muslim must try to be as useful to the people as for as possible, especially to his/her neighbours. In general all beneficial actions, for humanity fall in this category.

## 39

### PEACE WITH NATURE

The Holy Quran teaches man to respect nature and maintain its beauty. Thus it is forbidden in Islam to pollute or spoil the peace of earth. It is emphasized to preserve its equilibrium that Allah *Subhana-Hu* Himself created and to honour the rights of all living beings created by Him to flourish and thrive.

In this respect the first and the foremost requirement of Islam is the maintenance of the earth's environment. Allah *Subhana-Hu* says in the Holy Qur'an, **'Don't spoil it and disturb the equilibrium in the Earth after that it has been set right' 7(85)**. Thus it is the sacred duty enjoined upon every Muslim, to keep the environment clean and not to

upset its inherent equilibrium. That is why in the past, good Muslim scientists refused to invent harmful things, even at the orders of the caliphs.

With respect to nature the fundamental philosophy of Islam as told by the prophet of Allah (Peace be upon him) is that **'The creations of Allah are like His family'** (الخلق عيال الله). Through several of his saying as well as his deeds, the prophet suggested to grow trees and not to needlessly chop and burn plants; to look after the wild and domestic animals. Equally important is to contribute in the cleanliness of public spaces; clearing roads and lanes of obstacles; and not to waste earthly resources. Allah says in the Holy Quran, “He loves those who are clean”

Moreover, it is prohibited to waste resources, even if one owns them in plenty. Prophet of Allah (Peace be upon him) He went so far as to say, **“Don’t waste water even for ablution, though you may be sittings at the banks of a river”**. He taught Muslims to respect nature in the belief that whatever Allah has made on earth is beautiful, and that we owe responsibility to maintain that beauty. He told mankind, **“Allah is beautiful and He loves beauty”**. Thus maintenance of natural beauty, as far as possible, is mandatory on every true Muslim, and to add to its marvellous.

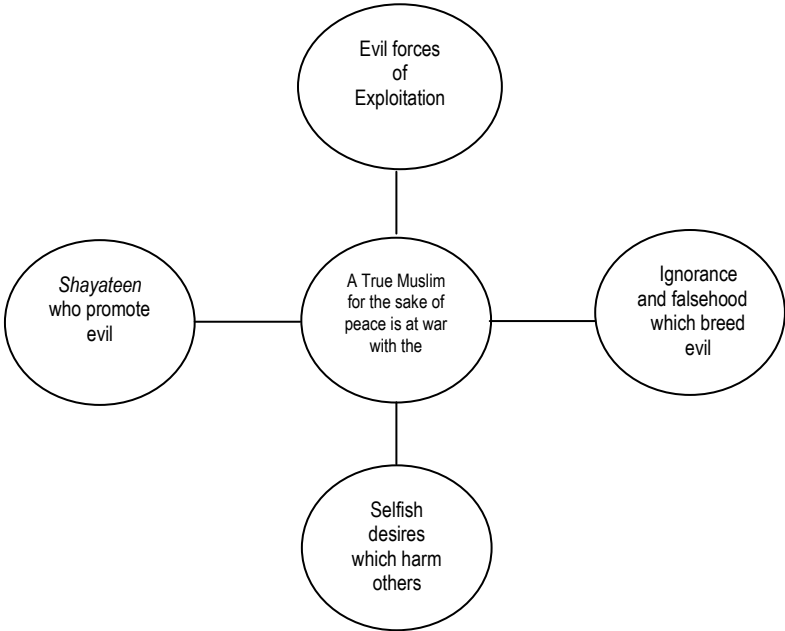
## 40

### TO BE AT WAR WITH THE EVIL

To establish peace, Islamic approach is very pragmatic and practical. Whereas every believer in Islam is duty bound to promote peace, it is also obligatory on him/her to protect it from the evil forces which try to disrupt it. Thus he/she must fight against all forms of exploitations and oppression. Indeed accomplishing good is not possible without the struggle against evil. A true Muslim will not let evil flourish and take over the goodness. They are

fundamentally ordained to oppose the forces of exploitation by all possible means: till to the finish, as Allah orders in the Holy Quran. ***“Fight them till the end of mischief”***.8(39). In Islam tolerance of evil is synonymous to participating in it.

General principle is pointed out in *Ayat 75 of sura An-Nisa* ***“And why should you not fight in the cause of Allah and of those who being weak, are ill treated (and oppressed)? Men, women and children whose cry is “Our Lord (Rabb)! Rescue us from this town whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from You, the one who will protect (us); And send for us from You who will help (us)”***. 4(75)



**Fig. 23: Struggle to Fight against evil i.e. *Jehaad* Plan of Islam**

## SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY OF ISLAM

Once the peace is established spiritual development starts rapidly in the peaceful environment. Then the mankind has time, opportunity and mood to achieve the higher goals of life. In this respect the action plan of the life of a Muslim rests upon Islam's philosophy of unity of the fundamental realities; and equality of mankind. This is:-

1. Oneness of Allah, that there is no god but Him only, without any partners, father or son etc. There is nothing like unto Him.
2. Finality of the institution of Prophet-hood, that Mohammad is the last of the Messengers of Allah, representing all the earlier prophets to mankind (Peace be upon them).
3. Authenticity of the Message of Allah, that the Holy Quran is the exactly preserved last revealed book of Allah, integrating the fundamental teachings of all the previous prophets.
4. Unity of the purpose of life, i.e. to serve the Creator and His creatures
5. Equality of mankind that all human beings are brothers and sisters, as the progeny of Adam and Eve (PBUT)

Belief in the unity of Allah *Subhana-Hu* leads to the liberation from all false gods. This is the starting point in our journey to the highest realities of Islam which we cannot comprehend otherwise. Belief in the unity of the institution of Prophet-hood and unity of the Message of

Allah ends confusion, clarifies the visions and opens before Man the Right Path leading to Jannat (Paradise).

Belief in the unity of Mankind focuses on the commonality in people; all being the progeny of Adam (Peace be upon him). As such all are equal in terms of human rights. Any claims of superiority on the basis of colour, clan or race are spurious. The last Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) taught that mankind is like the family of Allah, each one being the honoured member of this family, so respect each other. We must therefore, concentrate on the singular purpose of life that is service to our Creator and goodness to His creatures faithfully.

The pragmatic fulfilment of this philosophy rests upon the unconditional declaration of the creed of Islam, a statement called the *kalama-e-tayyaba* (كلمه طيبه).

لا اله الا الله محمد الرسول الله

**“There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.”**

The declaration of this fundamental formulation of Islam entails making the following three commitments:

- Proclamation of '*la ilaha*', (لا اله) 'there is no god', is liberation from all types of servitude, defiance of the physical as well as the spiritual false deities, greedy and miserly behaviour and the renunciation of previously held false beliefs, notions, customs, traditions and philosophies, inconsistent with Islam.
- Proclamation of '*ill-al-Allah*', (الا لله) 'Except Allah' is the spiritual as well as the mental resolution to obey and serve only Allah, to glorify His name and mould our lives in accordance with His revelations, i.e. the Holy Quran.

- By proclaiming '*Muhammad Ur-Rasool-Allah*' (محمد الرسول الله) (Peace be upon him), we deposit our faith in Muhammad, the last prophet of Allah, as the supreme leader of all mankind, guide, teacher and the role model in all spheres of life, as the human expression of the true of Allah on earth for the guidance of mankind.

The one who believes in this philosophy sincerely and tries to mould his/her life accordingly, his/her all activities and pursuits will be acts of worship in the way of Allah. There is nothing secular for him/her. It is all sacred. In their spiritual journey they aim to qualify for the proud title of being 'The Vicegerent of Allah on Earth'.

## 42

### A TRUE MUSLIM THE VICEGERENT OF ALLAH *Subhana-Hu*

In the eyes of Islam Man is the most important creation of Allah throughout the Universe. He is more honourable, more than the angels. It teaches that man is not some insignificant accidental product of Universe, but is the exclusive reason for its creation. He is the actual design basis of Universe and everything in it. As a general principal Allah says in the Holy Quran, "***Indeed, We have bestowed mankind with honour...***"17(70) **ولقد كرّمنا بنى آدم**. Thus all mankind, irrespective of their belief, race or clan, as human beings, are honourable in the Sight of Allah *Subhana-Hu*. When they accept Islam and submit wholeheartedly to Allah, they become His Vicegerents.

Qualification for becoming the Vicegerent of Allah on Earth, demands that believers must aim to develop their personalities in accordance to the attributes of Allah *Subhana-Hu* Himself. **He is not only to be the Man of**

Allah, but at his own humble level to become the embodiment of His attributes, (اسماء الحسنة) (the beautiful names of Allah). In this respect, the ideal example is of Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him). He asked **believers to mould their personalities in accordance with the attributes of Allah. He said** **تخلقوا بالخلق الله**. The degree of our closeness to Him will depend upon the extent to which we colour ourselves in the Colour of Allah. It is being ordered in *sura Al-Baqra Ayat* (138) of the Holy Quran;

***“(Take) Hue of Allah! And what will be better hue (to life) than that of Allah’s (Hue). And (Muslim) truly submit to Him only”. 2(138)***

A Muslim in the Hue of Allah is the pride of His creations, truly successful and respectable in this life and in the life Hereafter. For him/her there is no fear and no tension (ولا خوف اليهم ولا هم يحزنون). Through the process of continuous self analysis he/she is always on the upward spiritual more. The Messenger of Allah has warned; a Muslim whose tomorrow is the same as of today is at loss. Thus they should keep analyzing themselves to know their progress the way to Allah.

## 43

### **PERSONALITY TEST, IN THE ATTRIBUTES OF ALLAH *Subhan-Hu***

As said already the goal for believers must be to adopt the attributes of Allah *Subhana-Hu* as much as possible and mould their personalities accordingly. The more you represent the attributes of Allah, the nearer you will be to Him: the following questionnaire is designed to Judge by yourself where you stand in the qualities of Allah.

You may rate yourself out of the maximum ten marks assigned to each attribute given below. Consider that the ideal human being (PBUH) scored full marks. You may repeat this test off and on, with the aim to improve next time. 25% score may be assumed pass percentage.

S. No	Question	Max. Score	Your Score
1	Allah embodies Absolute Kindness and Mercy: So a true Muslim must always be kind and merciful.	10	
2	Allah is the Absolute Love: So a true Muslim must possess a loving personality.	10	
3	Allah is the Supreme Creator: A true Muslim must also be continuously engaged in creative activities.	10	
4	Allah is the Absolute Giver: Thus a Muslim must also possess a benevolent hand.	10	
5	Allah is the Ultimate Source of Goodness: So a believer must also endeavour to attain excellence in his pursuits of life.	10	
6	Allah is the Ever-forgiving and the Most Tolerant: So a true Muslim must also be forgiving and tolerant.	10	
7	Allah is All-Knowing: So a true Muslim must also be keen to develop knowledge throughout life.	10	
8	Allah is All-Wise: So the believer must also exhibit wisdom and a balanced personality.	10	
9	Allah is the Ever Seeing, Ever Listening: Like Him a Muslim, at his own humble human level, must also keep his eyes and ears open, be a keen observer and a good listener.	10	
10	Allah is the Absolutely Just: So a true Muslim must always be just and fair in all	10	



	his conduct and undertakings.		
11	Allah is the Most Honourable: A true believer in Allah <i>Subhana-Hu</i> must also be self respecting and honourable and never let himself to be disgraceful.	10	
12	Allah is the Absolute Helper. So a Muslim must also be a helping hand, be considerate, caring and sharing nature.	10	
13	Allah is the Absolute Sustainer and Nourisher of everything: Thus a true Muslim must also be mindful of the needs of others and be ready to feed the hungry.	10	
14	Allah loves cleanliness: So a Muslim must also always remain in a state of physical and spiritual purity, avoiding of contamination.	10	
15	Allah hates transgressors and oppressors: So a believer must also oppose oppression and transgression within his/her power.	10	
16	Allah hates the proud and arrogant: So a true Muslim must remain humane and humble, and treat other people with respect without exhibiting a midget of pride.	10	
17	Allah hates liars: So a true Muslim must be truthful always.	10	
18	Allah hates the miserly: So will a Muslim be generous and magnanimous and ever prepared to spend large heartedly in Allah's way.	10	
19	Allah hates those who preach what they do not do themselves: So a true Muslim disdain hypocrisy and practice what he/she says.	10	
20	Allah hates wastage: So a true Muslim must avoid wasting resources, and be not a spendthrift.	10	
21	Allah is the Most Beneficent: So a true Muslim must also try to be as beneficial as	10	

	possible towards all creations of Allah.		
22	Allah is the Originator and Inventor of everything: So the believer must also be dynamic, thoughtful and courageous in trying out new ideas and in creating new projects.	10	
23	Allah is Peace: So a believer must also be peaceful, avoid quarrels and always endeavour and contribute in promoting peace in society.	10	
24	Allah loves the trustworthy and those who fulfil their pledges. Therefore, a true Muslim must also always fulfil his word and be trustworthy, and honour the promises.	10	
25	Allah loves those who remain steadfast against <i>Kufr</i> (disbelief): So a believer will never compromise on Islam and hates <i>Kufr</i> .	10	
26	Allah is the Most Tolerant and the Most Patient. So a true Muslim must be patient and tolerant.	10	
27	Allah is all powerful, so a true Muslim must not be weak either. He must manage resources to attain power.	10	
28	Allah is ever active, never slumbers, so a true Muslim must also be active and vigilant.	10	
29	Allah is the most Generous and Giver, so a true Muslim must be generous and not miser.	10	
30	Allah is the best friend of the believers, so as a true Muslim you must base your strong bonds of friendship with good Muslims.	10	
31	Allah is the Absolute Saviour, and Protector, so a good Muslim must take good care of safety and security of things under his responsibility.	10	

32	Allah is full of blessings and favours everyone, So a good Muslim must also be useful to others always.	10	
33	Allah is the Most Forgiving, so a good Muslim must also and overlook mistakes of others.	10	
34	Allah is the Absolute Manager so a good Muslim should also be good in management of resources.	10	
35	Allah is the Best Provider of everything, from the beginning to the end, so a good Muslim must also look after diligently the needs of things in his care.	10	
36	Allah is the Master of Time, so a good Muslim must be good in time management	10	
37	Allah is the Quickest in Reckoning and accounting; so a good Muslim must be quick and vigilant in keeping up-to-date account of everything under his control.	10	
38	Allah is the Best Keeper of secrets, so a good Muslim also be good in keeping secrets.	10	
39	Allah is the Best in appreciating the goodness, and Best to Reward, so a good Muslim must also be generous in appreciation and rewarding the work of others.	10	
40	Allah is independents all of needs, so a good Muslim must also limit his needs as less as possible and do not depend on others.	10	
41	Allah is the best Judge, so a Muslim must also be good in Judgement.	10	
42	Allah is All Overpowering, so a true Muslim must exert and never accept the hegemony of others.	10	
43	Allah takes care of everything and meets everyone's needs, so a true Muslim must	10	

	look after the needs of people depending upon him.		
44	Allah uplifts and develops everyone so a Muslim must also do everything to develop his people.	10	
45	Allah is Absolute Peace so a true Muslim must be a symbol of peace for everyone in his contact and supervision.	10	
46	Allah controls the hearts of everyone, so a true Muslim must also be capable to win the hearts of other.	10	
47	Allah is the Absolute Enforcer of His decision, so a good Muslim should also be capable enough to be listened and obeyed.	10	
48	Everything surrenders to Allah, so a true Muslim must be in control of things under his jurisdiction.	10	
49	Allah surrounds everything, so a good Muslim must also make his presence felt in his sphere of influence and should not be detached from his surroundings.	10	
50	Allah is the light of all the heavens and earth by which everything finds its way of life, so a true Muslim must also be the source of wisdom and guidance for the people around.	10	
51	Allah is the most thorough and the best in planning, so a true Muslim must also be a good planner.	10	
52	Allah is the Best of Helpers for everything, so a good Muslim should also be helpful to others.	10	
53	Allah listens to the prayers and responds to their supplications, so the true Muslim, must also respond to the requests of everyone patiently with a positive attitude.	10	
54	Allah listens to everyone, so a good Muslim must be a good listener.	10	

55	Allah punishes the wrongdoers for their evils, so a true Muslim also deal strictly with the guilty.	10	
<b>Total score of self analysis</b>		<b>550</b>	

In conclusion, we may say that a true Muslim does not only belong to Allah, he represents Him on earth. He embodies His attributes and thus at his/her own humble level must endeavour to be like Him. Those who strive good their aim become the pride of the universe and a source of blessing for every thing. In return, the creatures of the environment salute them, the angels of Allah pray for them and Allah Himself showers His pleasures on them. As a community they are the best of the human beings living under the guidance of the Holy Quran. Some of the most important traits of their personalities are given below.

## 44

### THE MAN OF THE HOLY QURAN

Endeavour of a true Muslim is to become the “Man of the Holy Quran” about whom Allah says in it:-

*(Muslims are) such they as remember Allah, standing sitting, and reclining; and in contemplation reflect into the creation of the heaven and the earth. 3(191)*

As already quoted the prophet (Peace be upon him) is reported to have said that, **a Muslim whose today is the same as was his yesterday is a loser.** Thus a Muslim should be highly dynamic. Every new day of his/her life must be better than the day before. If a believer stands still, remains dormant, this is an indication that something is lacking in his understanding of Islam. To become the

Vicegerent of Allah on earth a true Muslim must have an active personality, always engaged in the following three pursuits;-

1. *Zikr* (ذکر) Constant remembrance of Allah
2. *Fikr* (فکر) Understanding the working of Allah
3. *Taskheer* (تسخیر) Conquest of Nature

These qualities are essential for the continuous upward development in the physical as well the spiritual worlds of man. Allah *Subhana-Hu* showers His blessings upon those who endeavour in these pursuits. In the following we shall explain them briefly.

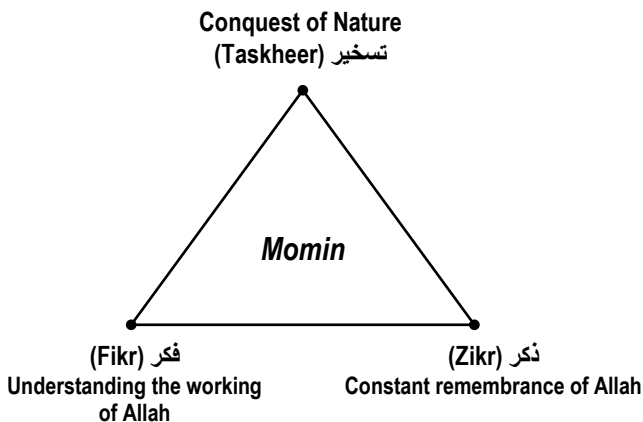


Fig. 24: Qualities essential for continuous upward development

**Zikr (ذکر)** means to always be conscious of the presence of Allah *Subhana-Hu*, and obey Him in all walks of life. On this, Muslims are commanded in the Holy Qur'an; **“O! You who believe! Remember Allah in your remembrance always” 33(41)**. In *sura Al-Muzammil*, believers are asked, **“Remember and Glorify the Name of your Rabb with full devotion”**. 73(8)

This does not mean mechanical repetition of His Holy Name, but to live by keeping Him always in your thoughts. Every look in the Universe should inspire one about its Supreme Creator. Thus speechless he/she says in the heart, ***“We have no words to describe your Glory, no hearts to comprehend your praises. Indeed there is no god but you alone, You are the greatest.....”***

***Fikr (فكر)*** means the exploration and understanding of the working of Allah *Subhan-Hu*. He loves those who explore deep in His works. In this regard the Holy Quran says, ***“Worst of all Creatures are those who pass by signs of Allah, thoughtlessly.”*** Those who do not contemplate in the creations of Allah are condemned in the Holy Quran, and are rated lower than animals. It says ***“They have hearts (mind) where with they understand not, eyes with which they see not, and ears where with they hear not. They are like cattle’s – may be worse. They are heedless ignorant. 7(179)*** Thus in the Quranic philosophy without *Fikr* one does not qualify even to be called a “Man”.

*Rasool*-Allah (Peace be upon him) described ‘*Fikr*’ as the highest act of worship. He said, ***“An hour spent in the contemplation of creations of Allah is better than the whole night spent standing in prayers”.***

Indeed, we may see from the Holy Quran that one of the essential characters of a believer must be to reflect into the Universe and everything in it. Allah says; ***“Indeed the heavens and earth there are signs for the believers” 45(3), “And in your own creation, and the life Allah creates on earth, there are signs for the staunch believers” 45(4); And in the changeover of day and night, and the livelihood which Allah sends down from the heavens and that with which earth becomes living after it is dead, and***

*in the blowing of winds there are signs for the wise people 45(5),*

These and many more *Ayaat* of the Holy Quran prove that faith is not complete without serious contemplating in the creatures of Allah. Thus scientific research and being abreast of knowledge of general science is must for every true believer.

**Taskheer (تسخير)** It refers to the conquest of nature, to put it to use for the good of mankind. Allah *Subhana-Hu* says in the Holy Qur'an, "***And He has subjected to you, as from Him, all that is in the heaven and on earth. Behold, in that are signs indeed for those who reflect into them thoughtfully***" 45(13). The same theme is repeatedly stressed in the Holy Quran in its various *Ayaat*. The message is that everything in nature is made by Allah to serve you, and His pleasure lies in that you put them to your service.

Thus, integrated personality of a true Muslim represents a mystic's love for Allah, a scientist's insight for the creations of Allah, and an engineer's approach to mould the bounties of nature for the benefit of mankind.

Early Muslims were greatly inspired by these teachings of the Holy Quran; consequently, in less than a hundred years they developed a civilization which was hungry for knowledge. With their qualities of "*Zikr, Fikr* and *Taskheer*" they served as the benevolent super power on earth for more than seven hundred years, till they lost that spirit of Islam. Then Europe took over from them but limited to the spirit of *Fikr* and *Taskheer* only, they have reached where they are, Alas! They missed the spirit of *Zikr* and consequently have missed the development in the spiritual domain.



## OPPOSING QUALITIES

The qualities apposite to *Zikr*, *Fikr* and *Taskheer* are:-

1. Self pride and the Pride in the inherited ignorance. (جهالت)
2. Greed and self centeredness (ذاتی مفاد)
3. Escapism from responsibilities (فرار)

These qualities pull down the Man to animal level, offering greatest resistance to the spiritual as well as the material development of man.

Alas! Today most of the Muslims are enslaved by their self interest, rotten social customs, and ill perceived religions priorities. These are the gods which most people worship today. Whereas Islam teaches the rejection of these evils, being the instrument of devil to mislead people away from their Creator. To escape falling in the pit of devil, Islam gives great importance to the continuous self analysis and improvement accordingly. For his purpose in the following is given a personality test to assess your rating in Islam.

## SELF ANALYSIS, HOW MUCH A MUSLIM AM I?

**Where do I stand in my Islam?** Lest you come to know of it after your death, it requires regular self analysis. Here is a self-assessment questionnaire based upon the selections from the Holy Quran<sup>6</sup>. It should help you to evaluate yourself as a Muslim; and thus improve upon your own score.

If your answer is “yes”, then evaluate your own rating positively out of the maximum allocated marks against each point. For reference consider the ideal Human Being (Peace be upon him) with full marks.

If answer to any question is “No”, then give yourself negative marks accordingly.

Now go ahead with your self evaluation.

Below 20%	Poor
30 %	Average
50 %	Good
60 %	Very good
70 %	Excellent
80 %	Marvelous
90 %	Wonderful

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6 Sheik Abdul Rauf, “The VISION – selection form the Holy Quran” page (326 – 336) Allem Publications 133-C Westridge-I Rawalpindi – Pakistan.

S. No	Question	Max. Marks Positive or Negative	Your assessment + / -
1.	You believe firmly and sincerely in Allah as the one and the only one God, Creator and Sustainer of the universe.	20	
2.	You believe in the Quran as the last Revelation of Allah persevered exactly as revealed to mould your life accordingly.	20	
3.	You study Quran regularly and try to understand it.	20	
4.	Fully believing in <i>Kalima Tayyeba</i> , you accept Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) as the Last Prophet, the best of mankind and the ideal role model for you.	20	
5.	You are proud of your being Muslim.	15	
6.	You firmly believe in the life after death and the Day of Judgment that you will be held answerable to the Almighty for your deeds.	20	
7.	You believe in the hidden existences such as angles, writing of deeds, Resurrection, Hell, Paradise etc.,	15	
8.	You believe in pre-destiny, that your life is in the Hand of Allah.	10	
9.	You do not indulge in adultery.	20	
10.	You do not indulge in drinking.	20	
11.	You do not indulge in gambling.	20	
12.	You earn your livelihood by lawful means only.	20	

13.	You do not indulge in corrupt practices.	15	
14.	You are regular in your daily Prayers.	15	
15.	You fast in the month of <i>Ramdhan</i> .	15	
16	You make sure that members of your household also observe prayers regularly.	10	
17.	You strictly pay <i>Zakat</i> (Mandatory Alms), where applicable.	20	
18.	You perform Hajj (pilgrimage) if you can afford.	15	
19.	That martyrdom in the way of Allah is highly meritorious, and yearns for <i>Jehaad</i> for the sake of Allah.	10	
20.	You believe usury unlawful.	20	
21.	You avoid usury as much as possible.	10	
22.	You enjoin good and forbid evil.	15	
23.	You never deceive others.	15	
24.	You are always fair and honest.	15	
25.	You treat your parents well and with respect.	15	
26.	You look after needs of your parents carefully.	15	
27.	You believe that all mankind is equal.	10	
28.	You treat people with respect.	10	
29.	You live peacefully with your neighbours.	15	
30.	You give gifts and are generous in lending articles of ordinary use to others.	10	

31.	You treat your poor relatives well.	15	
32.	You care to arrange boarding and lodging for the destitute orphans, prisoners, the wayfarer, the poor, the needy etc., fearing Allah as far as possible.	15	
33.	You always speak the truth.	20	
34.	You always keep your promises.	20	
35.	You always try to remain punctual.	10	
36.	You do not say things which you do not practice yourself.	15	
37.	You avoid suspecting people's motives, prying in their affairs.	15	
38.	You do not indulge in backbiting.	20	
39.	You never betray any trust.	20	
40.	You are honest in your dealing always.	15	
41.	You decide every matter justly even if it may adversely affect you.	15	
42.	You bear true witness and never advocate the cause of cheats and criminals.	15	
43.	You take due care in matters of measurements and weight, etc.	15	
44.	You are straightforward in your dealings.	10	
45.	You hate hypocrisy.	15	
46.	Before making or accepting a recommendation, you make sure that it will not hurt the rights of anybody.	10	
47.	You are always affectionate and patient with your wife.	10	

48.	You try to 'remember' Allah's Holy Name while engaged in worldly preoccupations so that He always remains in your heart.	15	
49.	You invoke Praises and Salutations on the Holy Prophet regularly and frequently.	15	
50.	Instead of speculating about the nature of Almighty Allah, you ponder over His creations and adore Him from the core of your heart.	15	
51.	You try to mould yourself according to the attributes of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)	20	
52.	Your role model in life is your Prophet (PBUH)	15	
53.	You are very particular about the cleanliness of your body and dress.	10	
54.	You are modest and kind to others always!	10	
55.	You do not make non-believers your friends.	10	
56.	You hate show off.	10	
57.	You love modesty and avoid lewdness.	15	
58.	You make sure that Islamic teachings of your children are not neglected.	15	
59.	You see that your children over 12 years pray regularly.	15	
60.	You are aware that Heaven lies under the mother's feet, and treat your mother with utmost care and kindness.	15	
61.	You pay due rights to your wife.	10	

62.	You train and enjoin on your children to earn their living by lawful means only.	10	
63.	As a woman when going outdoors you always use an outer covering around you to cover your beauty and adornments. As a man you keep your eyes down not to follow women.	10	
64.	You are happy with Allah for your destiny.	10	
65.	You always put your best efforts in everything.	15	
66.	You believe that compared to eternal life, your life in this world is like a drop in the ocean and you assign priorities accordingly.	10	
67.	You start everything “in the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful” whatever you do.	10	
68.	You believe that you should get reward in proportion to your efforts only.	10	
69.	You are straightforward in your speech, and do not mingle with words.	10	
70.	You realize that amassing wealth gold and silver will entail painful chastisement.	15	
71.	You do not indulge in hoarding.	10	
72.	You are gentle in the use of power.	10	
73.	You are always considerate to others.	10	
74.	You are neither niggardly, nor extravagant in spending.	15	
75.	You ask for permission and salute the inmates before entering other people’s houses.	10	

76.	You try to be the first in saluting others.	10	
77.	You take proper care that you eat only lawful food earned lawfully.	15	
78.	You are not jealous of other people's superiority or prosperity.	15	
79.	In pursuit of earning a living, you are moderate.	10	
80.	As a seller, you do not dispose of defective goods without informing the buyer of their shortcoming.	15	
81.	You choose for others whatever you like for yourself.	10	
82.	You avoid passing on anything based on hearsay and rumour without properly investigating it.	10	
83.	You conduct yourself in a manner that your spouse considers you to be the best companion or at-least a good partner.	15	
84.	You treat your guest with generosity and respects.	10	
85.	You help your wife in the household duties.	10	
86.	You admit as much right of your spouse on you as you claim on him/her.	10	
87.	You ignore and overlook your spouse mistakes and shortcomings.	10	
88.	You respect the relatives of your spouse.	10	
89.	You limit your household expenditure to your lawful income.	10	
90.	You worship Allah as though you are seeing Him in front of you and if that is not possible then at least you are aware that He is watching you.	15	



91.	You are always offering thanks to Allah for His blessings on you and for His Forgiveness.	10	
92.	You listen to the Quran with apt attention while it is recited.	15	
93.	You try your best to act upon the Holy Book and <i>Sunnah</i> of the Prophet of Allah (PBUH)	20	
94.	You are constantly aware that Allah is watching your thoughts and deeds.	10	
95.	You try to remember death as much as possible and regret your ill deeds.	15	
96.	Take full care that you do not hurt other people's feelings.	20	
97.	You discard what is doubtful and adopt such a thing which is free from doubt.	10	
98.	You believe that if there is a gain, it is from Allah, but for loss it is due to your own misdeeds.	10	
99.	You do not allow fear of poverty as a hurdle in the way of charity.	10	
100.	You give Charity for Allah's pleasure and give the best in His way.	10	
101.	You do not show off while spending in the way of Allah.	10	
102.	You are contented with what have you got.	10	
103.	You give great importance to have right "Intention" and guard purity of thoughts.	20	
104.	You always try to acquire knowledge of Islam.	20	
105.	You do not accept anything without ascertaining that it is lawful.	15	
106.	You try to forgive people, and tolerate their mistakes.	15	

107.	You do not speak ill of others except when you have been wronged.	15	
108.	You say nothing of which you have no knowledge.	10	
109.	You always try control while in anger.	15	
110.	You eat when you are hungry, and leave while there is still some appetite.	10	
111.	On doing evil you are repentant.	10	
112.	You answer harsh words with politeness.	10	
113.	You take care and share with other people what you like for yourself.	15	
114.	You do not exceed limits while you avenge.	15	
115.	You do not waste time after pleasures and indulgence in useless pursuits.	15	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	

## 46

### A MOMENT TO PAUSE AND PRAY

Unfortunately, a majority of the present day Muslims have become a cause of disgrace for the great ideals of Islam. Whereas the *Deen* of Islam is the quintessence of peace, progress and prosperity for mankind, many of its followers represent a living picture to the contrary. The reason why Muslims have earned disgrace and humiliation is for their neglecting the teachings of the Holy Quran. The modern West has ascended the heights of technological development by adopting the grand traditions of Islamic civilization. Only if the Westerners adopted the spiritual heritage of Islam as well, its belief system, modesty and piety they could claim to be the true believers. Alas!

Currently Islam is clouded by the ignorance of its followers, and the prejudice of its foes. Nevertheless, for the sake of peace, prosperity and happiness of the whole world, today more than ever before, there is acute need to return to the true spirit of Islam. So let us pray to Allah for His help, and strive earnestly for its realization.

*O, Allah! O, Rabb of the Universe, the Most Loving, the Most Kind and the Most Merciful: In the name of your last Messenger, Muhammad (Peace be upon him), we humbly implore;*

*Guide us on the right path of Islam, the religion of all your prophets, the path of those on whom you have showered your blessings. And give us the courage to change what is undesirable; and strength to get over our failures.*

*Forgive us our shortcomings; save us from doubt; and keep us away from the path of those who have gone astray and earned your wrath.*

*Increase us in wisdom and knowledge; and show us the reality of things as they are, and bestow upon us the clear understanding of Your Revelation;*

*Fill our hearts with Your love, grant us understanding of Your creations and enable us to put them to use for the purpose you have made them for.*

*Make us beneficial for others, as it has been told by Your Messenger, the best among us is the one most beneficial to Your creations.*

*Bestow us with a helping hand; a sharing nature and caring attitude. Your Prophet (Peace be upon him) had said, "The upper hand is better than the lower one"; Please Allah! Grant us that upper hand; with a caring heart and means to help others.*

*Give us a contended heart with the courage to override our self interests, and strength to sacrifice for others what we desire for ourselves.*

*Grant us the good of this world and the good of the world hereafter; and save us from the fire of greed, jealousy and enmity amongst ourselves and make life easy for us.*

*Please Allah! Whatever little good we may do, multiply it with your Grace. And at our turn grant us a welcome death, and take us to Your special Jannat, among Your special servants; pleased with You, and You are pleased with them.*

*Ameen, O, Sustainer of the Worlds, Ameen! We submit to You, and to You alone.*

## **TAHRIK-E-NOOR**

### **To Spread the Light of Allah in the World**

*Propagation of Aslam is an obligatory duty (فرض) of every Muslim, as commanded by Allah Subhan-Hu in the Holy Quran ,sura Al-Raad, ayat 40 فانما عليك البلاغ و علينا (الحساب) “So upon you is to propagate and upon Us is to reckon”.* Tahrik-e-Noor aims to carryout this duty by means of knowledge based activities including the publication and distribution of effective literatures on Islam with sound arguments, widely. The Holy Quran Research Foundation (HQRF) is working on this mission since 1987, and offers to share this responsibility with you by providing its highly informative, effective and impressive publications at the much discounted rates. We also urge you to sponsor the publication and free distribution of such literature to spread the awareness about the true spirit of Islam in our younger generations, as well the interested people of other religions. At this juncture of history when secularism is bent upon destroying the spiritual civilization of Man it will be the greatest service to humanity

*Please join “Tahrik-e-Noor to spread the light of Allah in the world. Write us about your ideas and programs and type of cooperation you can sender in the discharge of this duty.Let us join minds and hands to spread the Light of Allah in the world.*

*Sultan Bashir Mahmood (S.I.)*

*Founder President*

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