



ATHEISM

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An Islamic Perspective

Allah said “We will show them Our Signs in the universe, and in their own selves, until it becomes manifest to them that this (the Qur’ân) is the truth” (Quran ٤١:٥٣).

This pamphlet introduces the Islamic perspective for believing in Allah. It explains the evidence of Allah’s existence through the creation of the universe and through revelation, and clarifies common questions by atheists.

Allah calls on us to acknowledge Him through His signs and has made it our responsibility to ponder and reflect in order to truly acknowledge Him. Some people are receptive to these signs and see Allah’s work all around them, so they believe in Him, while others dismiss everything as random and meaningless. Allah has placed in every person, a natural inclination to believe in Him, but this innate predisposition to believe can either be nurtured or suppressed.



It's important to know that Allah guides people who are sincere and willing to receive guidance. In other words, those who do not want to be guided to the right way will not be guided.

Allah says, “and guides to Himself whoever turns back [to Him]” (Quran 13:27).

Verily, the matter of belief in the existence of Allah requires objectivity and an unbiased attitude, which can be considered to be daring and offensive for some people. However, without this genuine openness and willingness, no amount of information can make someone believe. In fact, Allah warns us that those who approach His signs from a position of pride and arrogance will not benefit from them, but will push forward to find justification for their disbelief.

Therefore, we hope that those who are sincere and genuinely seeking the truth can benefit from this information, and that it helps present the true perspective to understanding Allah.

It is also important to note that: due to the significant differences between Islam and Christianity, many criticisms of Christianity simply do not apply to Islam.

Reasons To Believe

The following are three rational reasons for believing in a creator:

1- Beginning of the Universe :

The first evidence that points to the existence of a Creator relates to understanding the origin of the universe.

Imagine walking in a desert and finding a watch. We know a watch consists of glass, plastic and metal. Glass comes from sand, plastic from oil, and metal extracted from the ground. All these components are found in the desert. Would you believe that the watch formed itself? That the Sun shone, the wind blew, lightning struck, the oil bubbled to the surface and mixed with the sand and metal,

and over millions of years the watch came together by random or natural coincidences?

Allah says “Were they created from nothing, or did they create themselves?” (Quran 52:35-6).

According to modern science, the universe is created and has a beginning. Where did the universe initially come from? Human experience and simple logic tell us that something that has a beginning does not simply come from nothing, nor can something create itself. However, reason indicates that there is a Great, Powerful, and Knowledgeable Creator Who brought the whole universe into existence and created the laws of nature which govern it.

We can also reason that this Creator is timeless and spaceless, because time, space and matter began at the creation of the universe. All of these attributes make up the basic concept of believing in Allah, the Creator of the universe.

Some may ask, "Who created Allah?"

Allah, the Creator, is different to His creation. Unlike the universe and the rest of creation, Allah is eternal, has always existed and has no beginning or end.

2. Perfection of the Universe :

The second evidence for a creator is the order and perfect balance of our complex universe.

Could a large complex universe form by coincidence, without supervision and planning?

All of the features of the universe clearly indicate it to be specially designed to support life, such as the earth's distance from the sun, the thickness of the earth's crust, the speed at which the earth revolves, the percentage of oxygen in the atmosphere, and even the earth's tilt. If these measurements were slightly different to what they currently are, life could not exist.

In the same way that a watch has an intelligent maker to keep accurate time, so too must the earth have a Knowledgeable Maker to keep the accurate circulation of the planets around the Sun. Could this occur by itself?

When we see the order, the precise laws and systems within ourselves and throughout the universe, is it not rational that they have an organizer? This organization leads to the existence of Allah, the One Who brought about this Universe. It should be noted that Islam encourages scientific research and reflection. The role of science helps us describe the many observed patterns that Allah places in His creation and appreciate the extent of His power and wisdom. Advances in scientific discoveries, just like any mechanism or process we find in the natural world, such as the water cycle or gravity, confirms the existence of an organiser and designer, not an argument against Allah.

3. Revelation from Allah :

The third evidence is the word of Allah that He has sent to humankind, and this indicates His existence.

One of the main purposes of the book of Islam, the Quran, is to invite people to reflect and appreciate Allah's creation as a way of believing in Him. Throughout the Quran, Allah calls our attention to His marvelous designs and complexities in the universe and within ourselves, which are sufficient to indicate that the One Who created us is, Wise, Able, Knowledgeable, and has Perfect Attributes. For example, Allah says:

"Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the great ships which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every kind of moving creature,

and His directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and the earth, are signs for a people who use reason.” (Quran 2:164)

Moreover, there are clear proofs that the Quran is the word of Allah.

The Quran

Is free from errors or contradictions.

Has been preserved, word-for-word, since its revelation in its original Arabic language, unlike other scriptures.

The Quran is memorised cover-to-cover by millions of people.

Has a simple, pure and universal message, which appeals to Man’s intellect and inherent beliefs about Almighty Allah.

Is over 1400 years old with many scientific facts that were unknown to people of that time and have only been discovered recently by scientists;

examples include: water being the origin of all living things (Quran 21:30); the expanding universe (Quran 51:47); and the individual orbits of the sun and moon (Quran 21:33).

- Contains many historical facts that were unknown to the people of that time as well as numerous predictions, which have happened exactly like the Prophet, peace be upon him, has foretold.
- The Quran has a deep and moving effect on people.
- Was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) who was known to be illiterate, yet contains a unique style of language that is universally known as the pinnacle of Arabic eloquence and linguistic beauty.

The most rational explanation for the many unique and miraculous aspects of the Quran is that it can only be from Allah.





1-Why did Allah create us?

Everyone would acknowledge that our body parts, such as our eyes, ears, brains and hearts, have a purpose. Wouldn't it then make sense that the individual, as a whole, also has a purpose?

Allah, the All Wise, did not create us to simply wander aimlessly or only to fulfil our basic instincts and desires. Rather, Allah describes this life as a test. Every person is being tested as to who will choose to acknowledge Allah and follow His guidance.

Allah says: Verily, We have created man from Nutfah (drops) of mixed semen (sexual discharge of man and woman), in order to try him: so We made him hearer and seer. Verily, We showed him the way, whether he be grateful or ungrateful. Quran (V7:Γ-Ψ)

For many, the underlying issue is not really about believing in Allah, but about the implications of believing in Him. It would mean being held to account and judged for one's actions. This could be by going against one's desires which may be inconvenient for the lives they want to lead.

Therefore, the test in this life is surrendering to the commands of Allah, following His religion, seeking what makes Him pleased with us, and not following our own whims, desires, pride and ego.

Does Allah need to test us?

Allah is not in need of anything - He does not need to create anything and does not need to test anyone.

He does not benefit from our obedience and is not affected by our disobedience. Rather, it is part of His infinite wisdom that He created us and gave us the opportunity to believe in Him. What is important is that we live in this life, know, and believe in Him voluntarily for eternal bliss, or we disbelieve in Him for eternal misery.

Do we really have a choice ?

The fact that Allah knows our choices does not make it any less voluntary. Although Allah wants people to believe in Him, He does not force anyone. If Allah willed, He could guide all of humankind, as He has power over everything. But in His Wisdom, He has created us with the ability to choose and made us accountable for our choices. However, despite giving us the will to choose between belief and disbelief, Allah is not necessarily pleased with everything that He allows to occur.

“Why doesn't Allah reveal Himself to His creation?”

In Allah's wisdom, He has chosen to make Himself known through His signs. This is part of the test of this life.

He has made it our responsibility to use our intellects to acknowledge Him. This means that only those who are sincere, humble and searching for the truth will acknowledge and believe in Him.

Why is there suffering in the world?"

The fact that different people are tested in different ways through various trials, does not disprove the existence of Allah nor contradict an all-powerful God.

Rather, the good as well as the bad that Allah permits to occur, constitutes our test on earth. We cannot control what happens to us, but we can control how we react, which is what we are judged upon. This world is volatile and temporary, however, the full justice in the hereafter, which is everlasting, will more than compensate for any injustices or misfortunes in this life.



Why does Allah punish people?

No one can disagree with the concept of punishment, which is necessary for justice. Allah has created us with the ability to choose between the way of guidance or the way of misguidance, and in turn, be accountable.

Those who sincerely strive to obey Allah will earn Allah's mercy and enter paradise. However, those who are careless about their purpose in life and deny Allah, have ultimately made their own choice and will be held to account. No one can blame Allah because He did not create people to punish them, on the contrary, He intends ease and mercy for them; however, they freely chose the way of misguidance. The fact that Allah knows our choices does not make our actions any less voluntary and does not absolve us from responsibility.

Islam is a practical religion that encourages a balance between hope in Allah's mercy and fear of His punishment – both of which are required to lead a positive and humble life. Allah is the Most Merciful but also the Most Just. If there was no day of Judgement, it would contradict the perfect justice of Allah, and life would be unfair.

Conclusion

Are we only here for 80 or so years, and that's it, everything will end? Or is there more to life?

Are we just advanced apes with no ultimate purpose? Are we material beings with only physical needs or do we also have spiritual needs?

For those who are genuine and still undecided about Allah, our advice is to sincerely ask for the following:

“O Allah, please guide me to believing in You, and fill my heart with certainty of Your Oneness.” You might be surprised by the results!

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