

Qhutbah, Insha Allah, Friday, June 20, 2003

Alhamdu lillah, wa ash hadu ala ila ha ill lallah

Bismillah hir Rahman nir Rahim

Insha Allah, this Qhutbah is entitled “There is life on Mars?” Every now and again, the scientific community comes out with statements claiming to have found life on Mars in the form of ice, fossil prints etc. Sometimes, they say that there may have been bacterial life at least 4.5 billion years ago. They are inclined to believe quite strongly that life can exist on Mars or had existed there and has left its imprints on that planet. One way or the other, certified atheists will try their best to perplex confirmed faith and belief of Islam.

The Quran addresses humans and jinns. It is not meant for non humans even on earth let alone other planets. Humans and jinns are taught about the distinction between good and evil, salvation and eternal existence after final accountability. This is what all true monotheistic religions preach about and are preordained for humans and jinns as said before and not for animals, trees and the myriads of living organisms that abound on our planet on land, in the sea and in the air.

The Quran, from the very beginning says [1:2] Praise be to GOD, Lord of the universe. God makes it very clear that there are many worlds other than what we know. Nowhere does God say that beings on other planets may cause a problem for us.

[42:29] Among His proofs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the creatures He spreads in them. He is able to summon them, when He wills. This ayat has a special significance. Pickthall translates the Arabic word “*daaba*” as beasts and not creatures. Yusuf Ali says “*living creatures*” and Mohammed Ali says “*living beings*”. So what are these creatures – obviously they are the angels and the jinns. The jinns can go to the edge of the universe but [37:8] They cannot spy on the High Society; they get bombarded from every side. [55:33] O you jinns and humans, if you can penetrate the outer limits of the heavens and the earth, go ahead and penetrate. You cannot penetrate without authorization.

To understand jinns is difficult because we cannot perceive them with our five senses nor can they be analysed in a laboratory. Some people who know of the Quran claim that they are rationally inclined and that the Quranic description of jinns is symbolical and allegorical. The Quran does use allegory and it is true that Quranic narratives

have a deeper and more esoteric meaning invariably. It would be very difficult for the most articulate person to explain to a blind man the beauty of the Mona Lisa, Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece. However, even if the blind man has a sensory deficiency it does not mean that a magnificent sunset does not exist.

So, the fact remains, that Jinns do exist just like us humans. These so called men of science have not studied the Quran so they do not know about the origin of the jinns, their physical abilities, their habitat, their characteristics and capabilities.

[72:11] "Some of us are righteous, and some are less than righteous; we follow various paths" and have been given a third and final chance by the Most Merciful [51:56] I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone. Some are rational and accountable [72:2] " It guides to righteousness, and we have believed in it; we will never set up any idols beside our Lord. [72:3] " The Most High is our only Lord. He never had a mate, nor a son. [72:4] " It is the foolish among us who used to utter such nonsense about GOD. Their method of creation is different [15:26] We created the human being from aged mud, like the potter's clay. [15:27] As for the jinns, we created them, before that, from blazing fire. We have to beware of them [18:50] We said to the angels, "Fall prostrate before Adam." They fell prostrate, except Satan. He became a jinn, for he disobeyed the order of His Lord. Will you choose him and his descendants as lords instead of Me, even though they are your enemies? What a miserable substitute! [7:27] O children of Adam, do not let the devil dupe you as he did when he caused the eviction of your parents from Paradise, and the removal of their garments to expose their bodies. He and his tribe see you, while you do not see them. We appoint the devils as companions of those who do not believe.

There is nothing imaginary in these descriptions for a person who is not an atheist and who believes like some Christians and Jews that what God, the Creator says, has to be the truth. Thus, jinns are invisible life forms created by God's will just like so many countless and astounding varieties of living beings and organisms many of which we cannot see but exist, nevertheless.

What about "flying saucers" and U.F.O's? Imagine the Great Pyramid of Khufu or Cheops built in circa 2580 BC. Its original height was 480 feet 11 inches now since the loss of its topmost stones or pyramidion, reduced to 449 feet 6 inches. It has a baseline of 756 feet and thus originally covered more than 13 acres. It has been estimated that a work force of 4,000 required 30 years to maneuver into position the 2,300,000 limestone blocks averaging 2 ¾ tons each and some 15 tons, totaling about 7,225,000 tons and a volume of 90,700,000 cubic feet. Think of the quarrying and transporting extremely heavy dressed rocks when even the wheel was not invented. A costing exercise in December 1974, indicated that it would require 405 men 6 years at a cost of \$ 1.13 billion at that time. This isn't even the biggest pyramid, the largest

(and the largest monument ever) being the Quetzalcoatl at Cholula de Rivadabia, 63 miles southeast of Mexico City. It's 177 feet high but about 30 % larger in volume and it covers an area of nearly 45 acres and the pyramid building era there was between the 2nd and 6th centuries AD.

I can only understand these as jinn phenomena. Perhaps, it was the angels at work. Remember God gives us a reason to believe this in the Quran [27:39] One afrit from the jinns said, "I can bring it to you before you stand up. I am powerful enough to do this." [27:40] The one who possessed knowledge from the book said, "I can bring it to you in the blink of your eye." When he saw it settled in front of him, he said, "This is a blessing from my Lord, whereby He tests me, to show whether I am appreciative or unappreciative. Whoever is appreciative is appreciative for his own good, and if one turns unappreciative, then my Lord is in no need for him, Most Honorable."

There was a problem to significantly explain such incredible achievements since early man did not have the required physical and mental capacity and capability. So story writers dreamt up theories of Martians visiting the earth armed with their super powers of body and brain. It is our own inferiority complex which makes us believe that they would be superior to us. If so, why would they come visit a low grade place and not colonize ?

It is not rationalism, but unreasonable refusal to believe in what is beyond ones limited comprehension that begets scepticism.