

*Qhutbah, Insha Allah, Friday, June 18, 2004*

*Alhamdu lillah, wa ash hadu ala ila ha ill lallah*

*Bismillah hir Rahman nir Rahim*

By the Grace of God, we have been endowed with the faculty of reason. We are the first creatures on earth with a rational brain – a very powerful machine which distinguishes us from all others. However, this increases our responsibilities tremendously. Hence, it is all the more crucial for us to make its full utilization so we could attain the goal highlighted by the Quran.

Religion is not a burden placed on us. [2:286] GOD never burdens a soul beyond its means: to its credit is what it earns, and against it is what it commits. "Our Lord, do not condemn us if we forget or make mistakes. Our Lord, and protect us from blaspheming against You, like those before us have done. Our Lord, protect us from sinning until it becomes too late for us to repent. Pardon us and forgive us. You are our Lord and Master. Grant us victory over the disbelieving people." There are many verses that invite us to study and observe the manifestation of nature to expand our horizons of knowledge, awareness, comprehension and learning.

[6:99] He is the One who sends down from the sky water, whereby we produce all kinds of plants. We produce from the green material multitudes of complex grains, palm trees with hanging clusters, and gardens of grapes, olives and pomegranate; fruits that are similar, yet dissimilar. Note their fruits as they grow and ripen. These are signs for people who believe. [30:22] Among His proofs are the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the variations in your languages and your colors. In these, there are signs for the knowledgeable.

These verses indicate that the Quran appeals to reason, observation, deep thinking, introspection, close reflecting, pondering, study and inductive research. The Quran swept away the days of darkness, ignorance and barbarism. Due to the rationality of submission, people of all colour, creed and race were drawn to its embrace. If you observe the night sky and contemplate on the vast expanse of space, cosmic phenomena and numberless constellations you will, God willing, arrive at the understanding that there is one design, one purpose and One Hand behind it all.

[3:190] In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of night and day, there are signs for those who possess intelligence. [3:191] They remember GOD while standing, sitting, and on their sides, and they reflect upon the creation of the heavens and

the earth: "Our Lord, You did not create all this in vain. Be You glorified. Save us from the retribution of Hell.

As it emanates from a Divine Source, the Quran guides us to try understanding the vast and limitless treasures hidden in the earth and the universe. The Quran divulges the identical proof of the existence of God that science later "discovered" as "nature".

The Quran teaches us to understand Monotheism and the purpose of our creation [30:30] Therefore, you shall devote yourself to the religion of strict monotheism. Such is the natural instinct placed into the people by GOD. Such creation of GOD will never change. This is the perfect religion, but most people do not know.

[2:164] In the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of night and day, the ships that roam the ocean for the benefit of the people, the water that GOD sends down from the sky to revive dead land and to spread in it all kinds of creatures, the manipulation of the winds, and the clouds that are placed between the sky and the earth, there are sufficient proofs for people who understand.

This verse amongst many others clearly reflects the design of the universe and the purpose we are here. [51:56] I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone.

The day and night alternates, the earth has a peculiar shape and a 23.5 degree tilt which both influence a change in the atmosphere, we have weather which also moves the course of the winds and we have rainy or dry weather. Think of the 4 seasons – the withering and blossoming of nature – the changing of colour of the leaves on the trees, the ingress and egress of the tides and God's innumerable and inexhaustible bounties. Nothing is haphazard but a totally controlled and perfectly designed decree and grasp of God. If the earth was tilted at 25 degrees the polar regions would have melted down. This shows profoundly scientific and accurate cosmic engineering by means of mountains to act as stabilizers to balance the earth and prevent frequent earthquakes and so that it goes on rotating and revolving without any catastrophe. [16:15] And He placed stabilizers (mountains) on earth, lest it tumbles with you, as well as rivers and roads, that you may be guided.

Every living soul created by God is incessantly performing its role and duty. At the same time it is coordinating, cooperating, collaborating, co-relating and co-existing with others. Everything moves towards the same goal and to revive life on earth which is a ceaseless process of replacement, substitution and progress.

There are countless billions of things which still baffle the human mind but God knows it all. We can only try to decipher the reason and objective for which they have been

created. For instance, what happened to the age of the dinosaurs and why did they suddenly disappear? Why did their role on the continents and in the sea end? What role did they play on earth? Surely, they were submitter creatures too and were guilty in the feud in the High Society. [38:69] "I had no knowledge previously, about the feud in the High Society. When did they give place to another species – the human being? The answers are not clearly spelled out in the Quran as it is not a text book of biological sciences. But there are certain enigmatic indications here and there. [30:8] Why do they not reflect on themselves? GOD did not create the heavens and the earth, and everything between them, except for a specific purpose, and for a specific life span. However, most people, with regard to meeting their Lord, are disbelievers.

We have to also understand that whatever God gives us in the Quran is vital for our salvation. There is nothing missing out in the Quran. [6:115] The word of your Lord is complete, in truth and justice. Nothing shall abrogate His words. He is the Hearer, the Omniscient. [6:114] Shall I seek other than GOD as a source of law, when He has revealed to you this book fully detailed? Those who received the scripture recognize that it has been revealed from your Lord, truthfully. You shall not harbor any doubt. Also, we should know that God alone has perfect knowledge. Even the angels admit it. [2:32] They said, "Be You glorified, we have no knowledge, except that which You have taught us. You are the Omniscient, Most Wise."

Scientific and technological research reveals that even the tiny atom and molecules have their value and significance in the progress of life. [10:61] You do not get into any situation, nor do you recite any Quran, nor do you do anything, without us being witnesses thereof as you do it. Not even an atom's weight is out of your Lord's control, be it in the heavens or the earth. Nor is there anything smaller than an atom, or larger, which is not recorded in a profound record.

All the skills and advances that we see around us for fulfilling our needs and comforts, in medicine, telecommunication, aviation, space technology have all been given to us by God to fulfill His Divine Plan. If God had not given us the intelligence and skill to construct ships, airplanes and rockets the natural law of gravity would have destroyed any who would have attempted to sail, fly or explore space. It is a great gift and mercy from God that saves us.

Einstein wrote "God reveals Himself in the harmony that exists in creation". In his estimate "God is subtle, but not malicious, in revealing His secrets to man persistent to discover them". He amongst many others probably had a "yearning towards God". The *Big Bang Theory* of Ralph Adler, Hans Bathe and George Gmow presented in the 80's were based on Einstein's views and affirm the expanding nature of the universe. [21:30] Do the unbelievers not realize that the heaven and the earth used to be one solid mass that we exploded into existence? And from water we made all living things. Would they

believe? [51:47] We constructed the sky with our hands, and we will continue to expand it.

When we study the Quran, we cannot fail to realize the instantaneous process of creation when God says [2:117] The Initiator of the heavens and the earth: to have anything done, He simply says to it, "Be," and it is. [Kun Fayakun] [40:68] He is the only One who controls life and death. To have anything done, He simply says to it, "Be," and it is.

The Quran also tells us in [76:1] Is it not a fact that there was a time when the human being was nothing to be mentioned? This probably has also a scientific basis to it because in the background of modern research done at the prestigious American Universities of Yale, Harvard and Chicago we realize that humans “are an extremely recent species on this planet” rather than of a million years as theorized earlier. We understand that the earth is several billion years old. We appeared by God’s leave only after a long space of time had elapsed.

The findings also established that the entire human race has “a common ancestor” and “the same basic genetic make-up” in spite of the fact that humans have widely different racial and ethnic characteristics. [4:1] O people, observe your Lord; the One who created you from one being, and created from it its mate, then spread from the two many men and women. You shall regard GOD, by whom you swear, and regard the parents. GOD is watching over you. The Quran does not tell us that Eve was created from the thirteenth rib of Adam but that the first human’s mate was created from the same soul. The Quran thus omits the mythical part of Eve’s creation.

There is a perfect reign of law in the universe - [87:1] Glorify the name of your Lord, the Most High. [87:2] He creates and shapes. [87:3] He designs and guides. [87:4] He produces the pasture. God is the super-mind, super-consciousness and super-intelligence who conceived this plan. *Time and space is part of His creation unlike an artist who is outside his canvas.*

God is the Innermost and the Outermost (Batin and Zahir) which means what is manifest and what is hidden. His Divine Command reigns supreme. We have to reconcile the Command of God which brought the creation into being and the creation itself. Submission is precise and devoid of all theological complexities and thus is so accessible to ordinary understanding. The Quran thus has a marvelous power to win its way into the consciousness of humans.