

1000 Words for RNC

to cover the most necessary words of Risale-i Nur Collection

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INTRODUCTION

Offering remedies befitting to the requirements of the age for both the material and spiritual wounds of our age Risale-i Nur Collection has been translated into more than 50 different languages and targets an ever growing reader mass. Although these translations do not exactly commute the original version (Turkish), it bears much importance for our foreign brothers to benefit from the heavenly radiance and letting non-Turkish speakers to know the truths of faith in Risale-i Nur.

As you can imagine, one of the most important languages for this work to be translated is English. Risale-i Nur Collection, translated by Şükran Vahide who went over the work with a fine tooth comb is an astounding piece of work. Since the translated books are from Risale-i Nur complete works, and that there has been a great effort not to distort the meanings in the Turkish version of Risale-i Nur, the language used in English translations has become extremely complicated and includes many words most people are not familiar with. As a result, reading and comprehending the English version of Risale-i Nur works require a great deal of effort, work and to read the “Nur” very much.

Having the ability to understand and articulate Risale-i Nur and be familiar with the vocabulary is only possible through Risale-i Nur. Therefore, we have prepared this book for the purposes of teaching the non-familiar, yet required-to-be-known words in Risale-i Nur through the Risale-i Nur. During the preparation of this book*, we did not contribute anything from ourselves, we simply applied vocabulary teaching methods to the texts and sentences in Risale-i Nur Collection.

People who read and study this book will hopefully be both familiar with the meanings of most necessary words and their pronunciation. As we are not very familiar with the terminology used in Risale-i Nur, studying the first unit of the book will require a great deal of time and effort. Hopefully, it will become much easier in later units.

May Allah let us understand the meanings of Nur and let us tell them to those who are not aware of them.

*Note:

This work has been designed to show you what kind of a book we are planning to prepare. In order for such a book to be effective, one must accept that it will call for a complicated work and heart and will. Researches, vocabulary items and everything else used in this work are simply examples and may be due to some changes in future. We think that completing this book will take more than one year. You can send your comments, thoughts, suggestions and proposals to 1000wordsforrnc@gmail.com

PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

The main aim of this book is to let those who read the English version of Risale-i Nur comprehend the meanings in the book and strengthen their familiarity with vocabulary items used in them.

- After studying this book carefully, you will be able to,
 - Familiar with 1000 most required vocabulary items used in Risale-i Nur Collection.
 - Familiar with the pronunciation of 1000 most required vocabulary items used in Risale-i Nur Collection.
 - Improve your listening skills on Risale-i Nur Collection .
 - Practice in critical thinking on Risale-i Nur Collection.
 - Increase in the English comprehension rate of Risale-i Nur.
 - Increase your competence and performance on articulation of truths in RNC.

We hope that with constant and proper study, those with an advanced level of English will be able to accomplish the objectives shown above.

CONTENT and GUIDE to STUDY

This book includes methods used to teach the seven main subjects from RNC, divided into sub-titles and selected text and sentences accordingly.

Reading Texts

Reading texts, each located at the beginning of each section, include 7 to 11 bolded- words that are aimed to be taught. You must try to comprehend the reading texts and guess the meanings of bolded/underlined words. You can use the dictionary at the end of the book to learn the vocabulary items you do not know.

Vocabulary Exercises

A. Matching

In this exercise, you are expected to match the underlined words with the meanings.

B. Finding the Words with Similiar Meaning

In this exercise, you are expected to find the similiar meanings for underlined vocabulary items.

C. Fill in the Blanks

In this exercise, you are expected to fill in the blanks in sentences using the vocabulary items you have previously learned.

D. Listening

In this exercise, you are expected to listen to the sound file before starting the exercise while paying attention to underlined vocabulary items in the text. After listening to the file and becoming familiar with the vocabulary items, you are expected to listen to the sentences in listening section and fill in the blanks.

You can access to the sound files in American, British and Australian accents in www.....

Synonyms and Antonyms Boxes

Below each page with a reading text lies a 'synonym and antonym box'. Noting down these words in a small notebook will be most beneficial for you.

Vocabulary Revision

At the end of each chapter, there is an exercise in order to revise the vocabulary items learned so far. These are multiple choice questions and writing the synonyms and antonyms.

Free Reading Passages with their audios (Free R&L)

At the end of each chapter, there are related reading texts and their sound files in 3 different accents. You can access to the sound files in American, British and Australian accents in www.....

Dictionary

In this section there are vocabulary items that may not be known in the reading texts along with their meanings.

Contexts

Chapter 1: Belief in Allah

1. Existence of Allah

- i. Heavens' testimony to Existence of Allah
- ii. Atmosphere's testimony to Existence of Allah
- iii. Globe's testimony to Existence of Allah
- iv. ' testimony to Existence of Allah
- v. ' testimony to Existence of Allah
- vi. ' testimony to Existence of Allah
- vii. ' testimony to Existence of Allah

2. Oneness of Allah

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.....

3. Comparison of belief and unbelief

.....

.....

Free R&L 1

Chapter 2: Belief in Prophets

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Chapter 3: Resurrection and Hereafter

1. Proofs of Resurrection and Hereafter (Great Gathering)

- i. Proof of Dominicality
- ii. Proof of Mercy
- iii. Proof of Wisdom
- iv. Proof of Justice
- v. Proof of Generosity
- vi. Proof of
- vii. Proof of
- viii. Proof of
- ix. Proof of
- x. Proof of

2. Resurrection

3. Eternity of Soul

4. Paradise

5. Hell

6. Worldly Benefits of Resurrection and Hereafter

Free R&L 3

Chapter 4: Belief in Books

Chapter 5: Belief in Angels

Chapter 6: Divine Determining

Chapter 7: Worship

Chapter One

Belief in Allah

Part A: Existence of Allah

The Observations of a Traveler Questioning the Universe Concerning His Maker

- i. Heavens' testimony to Existence of Allah
- ii. Atmosphere's testimony to Existence of Allah
- iii. Globe's testimony to Existence of Allah
- iv. ' testimony to Existence of Allah
- v. ' testimony to Existence of Allah
- vi. ' testimony to Existence of Allah
- vii. ' testimony to Existence of Allah
- viii.
- ix.
- x.
- xi.

Reading passage 1: Heavens' testimony to Existence of Allah

The audio file of this reading text is available on www....

Every voyager who comes to the hospice and the **realm** of this world, opens his eyes and wonders who is the master of this fine **hospice**, which resembles a most generous **banquet**, a most ingenious exhibition, a most impressive camp and training ground, a most amazing and **wondrous** place of recreation, a most profound and wise place of instruction. He asks himself too who is the author of this great book, and who is the monarch of this **lofty** realm. There first presents itself to him the beautiful face of the heavens, inscribed with the gilt lettering of the stars. That face calls him saying, "Look at me, and I shall guide you to what you seek."

He looks then and sees a **manifestation** of dominicality performing various tasks in the heavens: it holds aloft in the heavens, without any supporting pillar, hundreds of thousands of heavenly bodies, some of which are a thousand times heavier than the earth and revolve seventy times faster than a cannon-ball; it causes them to move in harmony and swiftly without colliding with each other; it causes innumerable lamps to burn constantly, without the use of any oil; it **disposes of** these great masses without any disturbance or disorder; it sets sun and moon to work at their respective tasks, without those great bodies ever rebelling; it administers within infinite space -the magnitude of which cannot be measured in figures should they stretch from pole to pole- all that exists, at the same time, with the same strength, in the same fashion, manner and mould, without the least deficiency; it reduces to submissive **obedience** to its law all the aggressive powers inherent in those bodies; it cleanses and lustrates the face of the heavens, removing all the sweepings and refuse of that vast assembly; it causes those bodies to manoeuvre like a disciplined army; and then, making the earth revolve, it shows the **heavens** each night and each year in a different form, like a cinema screen displaying true and imaginative scenes to the audience of creation. **Read the passage to guess the meaning of the bold words.**

A) Match the bold words with their definitions.

Words

Definitions

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---|
| 1.realm (n) | ___ | A: exalted in rank, dignity, or character; eminent,high, sublime |
| 2.hospice (n) | ___ | B: when people or animals do what they are told to do, being loyal to someone |
| 3.banquet (n) | ___ | C: throw something away |
| 4.wondrous (adj) | ___ | D: a house of shelter or rest for pilgrims, strangers, |
| 5.lofty (adj) | ___ | E: It is a country that has a king or queen; a royal domain |
| 6.manifestation (n) | ___ | F: extremely and surprisingly good |
| 7.dispose of (v) | ___ | G: the sky, space surrounding the earth |
| 8.obedience (n) | ___ | H: a large formal meal for many people |
| 9.heaven (n) | ___ | I: The act of demonstrating; display; an indication or sign |

Check your answer before move to second exercises.

Antonyms	Synonms
lofty* lowly	lofty: sublime,
Obedience *disobedience	realm:kingdom
Conceal*manifest	wondrous= <u>wonderful</u> ;remarkable.

B) Choose the word from the list that is closest in meaning to the underlined part of each sentence. Write it in the blank.

Country/elavated/ diner/strange/.....

_____ 1)Khatim Tay is giving a large **banquet** and giving away gifts. You go there and you will receive five hundred kurush in return for your load worth five kurush.

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_____ 3)This worldly **realm** is the field of testing, the abode of service. It is not the place of pleasure, reward, and requital.

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_____ 5) The two men watched the scene. Then they saw in the distance thousands of adorned palaces and **lofty** castle.

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_____ 10) A fly's creation is more **wondrous** than that of an elephant, that indiscriminating creature.

C) Complete each sentence by filling in the blank with the best word or phrase from the box. Change the form of the word if necessary. Use each word or phrase only once.

heaven obedient dispose manifest lofty inanimate wondrous banquet hospice realm delicate

1) The earth and the _____ are connected to one another like two countries under a single government. There are important relations and transactions between them.

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4) Is it at all possible that a beauty of utter perfection should not desire to _____ itself by means of one who will demonstrate and display it?

6) This world is the _____ of wisdom, the realm of service; it is not the realm of reward and recompense. .

10) Although external beings are outwardly _____ and unconscious, they all perform extremely vital, living, and conscious duties and glorification.

Before starting this exercise, **listen to the reading passage from audio file** by paying attention to the pronunciations of bolded vocabulary items.

D) Listen the audio files and fill in the blanks

1) "This land that you see is a maneuvering ground. It is, in addition, an exhibition of his wonderful royal arts. Then again it may be regarded as a temporary **(a)** _____, one devoid of foundations. Do you not see that every day one caravan arrives as another departs and vanishes? It is being constantly emptied and filled. Soon the whole land will be changed; its inhabitants will depart for another and more lasting **(b)** _____. There everyone will be either rewarded or punished in accordance with his services."

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5) The All-Wise Qur'an states clearly that everything, from the _____ to the earth, from the stars to flies, from angels to fishes, and from planets to particles, prostrates, worships, praises and glorifies Almighty God.

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7) Then, too, the fact that, with the exception of man and certain wild animals, all things, from the sun, the moon and earth to the smallest of creatures, perform their functions with the utmost exactitude, do not overstep their bounds by an inch, and observe a universal **(a)** _____ in a spirit of great awe - this shows that they act by the command of a Possessor of great glory and dignity. It is also apparent that the fashion in which all mothers, in the vegetable, animal and human

(b) _____, succour their weak and powerless infants with the delicate nurture of milk, in tender compassion, is a **(c)** _____ of God's all-embracing mercy.

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12) Divine Power has many mirrors, each more subtle and transparent than the last; they vary from **(a)** _____ to air, and air to ether, and ether to the World of Similitudes; from the World of Similitudes to the World of Spirits, and even to time, and to thought. A single word in the mirror of the air becomes millions of words. The Pen of Power writes this mystery of reproduction in truly **(b)** _____ manner. The reflection contains either its identity or its identity together with its nature. The images of dense beings are moving but dead. While the images of a luminous spirit in their own mirrors are living and linked with it; even if they are not **(c)** _____, they are not other than it.

Reading passage 2: Atmosphere's testimony to Existence of Allah

Then that wondrous place of gathering known as space or the atmosphere begins thunderously to proclaim to that traveller come as a guest to the world, "Look at me! You can discover and find through me the object of your search, the one who sent you here!" The traveller looks at the sour but kind face of the atmosphere, and listening to the **awesome** but joyous thunderclaps perceives the following.

The clouds, suspended between the sky and the earth, water the garden of the world in the most wise and merciful **fashion**, furnish the inhabitants of the earth with the water of life, modify the natural heat of life, and hasten to **bestow** aid wherever it is needed. In addition to **fulfilling** these and other duties, the vast clouds, capable of filling the heavens sometimes hide themselves, with their parts retiring to rest so that not a trace can be seen, just like a well-disciplined army showing and hiding itself in accordance with sudden orders.

Then, the very instant the command is given to pour down rain, the clouds gather in one hour, or rather in a few minutes; they fill the sky and await further orders from their commander.

Next the traveller looks at the wind in the atmosphere and sees that the air is employed wisely and **generously** in such numerous tasks that it is as if each of the **inanimate** atoms of that unconscious air were hearing and noting the orders coming from that monarch of the universe; without neglecting a single one of them, it performs them in ordered fashion and through the power of the **monarch**. Thereby it gives breath to all beings and conveys to all living things the heat, light, and electricity they need, and transmits sound, as well as aiding in the pollination of plants.

The traveller then looks at the rain and sees that within those **delicate**, glistening sweet drops, sent from a hidden treasury of mercy, there are so many **compassionate** gifts and functions contained that it is as if mercy itself were assuming shape and flowing forth from the **dominical** treasury in the form of drops. It is for this reason that rain has been called "mercy."

Antonyms

Animate* inanimate

synonyms

inanimate=lifeless

Reading passage 3:Globe's testimony to Existence of Allah

Next the globe addresses that thoughtful traveller, now growing accustomed to his reflective journey:

“Why are you wandering through the heavens, through space and the sky? Come, I will make known to you what you are seeking. Look at the functions that I perform and read my pages!” He looks and sees that the globe, like an ecstatic Mevlevi dervish with its twofold **motion**, is tracing out around the field of the **Supreme Gathering** a circle that determines the succession of days, years, and seasons. It is a most magnificent dominical ship, loaded with the hundreds of thousands of different forms of food and equipment needed for all animate beings, floating with the utmost **equilibrium** in the ocean of space and circling the sun.

He then looks at the pages of the earth and sees that each page of each of its chapters proclaims the **Sustainer** of the Earth in thousands of verses. Being unable to read the whole of it, he looks at the page dealing with the creation and deployment of animate beings in the spring, and observes the following:

The forms of the countless members of hundreds of thousands of species emerge, in the **utmost** precision, from a simple material and are then nurtured in most merciful fashion. Then, in **miraculous** manner, wings are given to some of the seeds; they take to flight and are thus dispersed. They are most effectively distributed, most carefully fed and **nurtured**. Countless tasty and delicious forms of food, in the most merciful and tender fashion, are brought forth from dry clay, and from roots, seeds and drops of liquid that differ little among each other. Every spring, a hundred thousand kinds of food and equipment are loaded on it from an unseen **treasury**, as if onto a railway waggon, and are despatched in utmost orderliness to animate beings. The sending to infants of canned milk in those food packages, and pumps of sugared milk in the form of their mothers' affectionate breasts, is in particular such an instance of solicitousness, mercy and wisdom that it immediately establishes itself as a most tender manifestation of the mercy and generosity of the **Merciful** and Compassionate One.

In short: this living page of spring displays a hundred thousand examples and samples of the Supreme Gathering.

Antonyms

synonyms

Reading passage 4: _____' testimony to Existence of Allah

Then that reflective traveller read each page of the **cosmos**, and as he did so his faith, that key to felicity, strengthened; his gnosis, that key to spiritual progress, increased; his belief in God, the source and foundation of all **perfection**, developed one degree more; his joy and pleasure augmented and aroused his eagerness; and while listening to the perfect and convincing lessons given by the sky, by space and the earth, he cried out for more. Then he heard the rapturous invocation of God made by the tumult of the seas and the great rivers, and listened to their sad yet pleasant sounds. In numerous ways they were saying to him: "Look at us, read also our signs!" Looking, our traveller saw the following:

The seas, constantly and vitally surging, merging and pouring forth with an **inclination** to conquest inherent in their very nature, surrounded the earth, and together with the earth, revolved, extremely swiftly, in a circle of twenty-five thousand years in a single year. Yet the seas did not disperse, did not overflow or encroach on the land contiguous to them. They moved and stood still, and were protected by the command and power of a most powerful and magnificent being.

Then looking to the depths of the sea, the traveller saw that apart from the most beautiful, well-**adorned** and symmetrical jewels, there were thousands of different kinds of animal, sustained and ordered, brought to life and caused to die, in so disciplined a fashion, their provision coming from mere sand and salt water, that it established irresistibly the existence of a Powerful and Glorious, a Merciful and **Beauteous Being** administering and giving life to them.

The traveller then looks at the rivers and sees that the benefits inherent in them, the functions they perform, and their continual replenishment, are inspired by such wisdom and mercy as indisputably to prove that all rivers, springs, streams and great waterways flow forth from the treasury of mercy of the Compassionate One, the Lord of **Glory** and Generosity. They are preserved and dispensed, indeed, in so **extraordinary** a fashion that it is said "Four rivers flow forth from **Paradise**."¹⁴ That is, they transcend by far apparent causes, and flow forth instead from the treasury of a non-material Paradise, from the superabundance of an unseen and inexhaustible source.

Antonyms

synonyms

Reading passage 5: _____' testimony to Existence of Allah

Then the traveller is **summoned**, on his meditative journey, by the mountains and the plains. "Read too our pages," they say. Looking he sees that the universal function and duty of mountains is of such **grandeur** and wisdom as to stupefy the intelligence. The mountains emerge from the earth by the command of their Sustainer, thereby palliating the turmoil, anger, and rancour that arise from disturbances within the earth. As the mountains surge upward, the earth begins to breathe; it is delivered from harmful tremors and upheavals, and its tranquillity as it pursues its duty of rotation is no longer disturbed. In the same way that masts are planted in ships to protect them from turbulence and preserve their balance, so too mountains are set up on the deck of the ship that is the earth, as masts and stores, as is indicated by verses of the Qur'an of **Miraculous Exposition** such as these:

*And the mountains as pegs,*¹⁵ *And We have cast down anchors,*¹⁶ *And the mountains He anchored them.*¹⁷ Then, too, there are stored up and preserved in the mountains all kinds of springs, waters, minerals and other materials needed by animate beings, in so **wise**, skilful, generous and foreseeing a fashion that they prove that they are the storehouses and warehouses and servants of One possessing **infinite** power, One possessing infinite wisdom. Deducing from these two examples the other duties and instances of **wisdom** -as great as mountains- of the mountains and plains, the traveller sees through the general instances of wisdom in them and particularly in regard to the fashion in which all manner of things are stored up in them providentially, the testimony they give and the **Divine unity** they proclaim declaring "*There is no god but He,*" -a declaration as powerful and firm as the mountains and vast and expansive as the plains- and he too says, "I believe in God."

In expression of this meaning, it was said in the Fifth Degree of the First Station:

*There is no god but God, to the Necessity of Whose Existence point all the mountains and plains together with what is in them and upon them, by the testimony of the **sublimity** of the comprehensiveness of the truth of the storing up, administration, dissemination of seed, preservation, and regulation, a truth providential, dominical, vast, general, well-ordered, and perfect, and to be observed.*

Antonyms

synonyms

Reading passage 8: _____' testimony to Existence of Allah

Reading passage 11: _____' testimony to Existence of Allah

Chapter One

Belief in

Allah

Part B: Oneness of Allah

Chapter One

Belief in

Allah

Part C: Comparison Belief and Unbelief

Chapter One Vocabulary Revision

A) Choose the correct option

1) Consider all the beings in the universe; whether living or _____, in perfect order and _____ they all have their worship which is in the form of duties.

a) **Animate/obedience** b) **inanimate/disobedience**

b) c) **animate/disobedience** d) **inanimate/obedience**

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18) Man has been sent to this world as an official and guest, and has been given abilities of great significance. And he has been entrusted with important duties in accordance with those abilities. In order to employ man in _____ those aims and duties, powerful encouragement and severe threats have been made.

a) **Living**

b) **adorning**

c) **fulfilling**

d) **manifesting**

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28) Is it at all possible that the Lord of the _____ should not solve, by means of a messenger, the complex talisman of the aim and purpose of all the changes that take place in the _____, and the riddle contained in the three difficult questions posed by all beings: "What is our origin? What is our destination? What is our purpose?"

a) **wisdom/wisdom**

b) **cosmos/cosmos**

c) **monarch/monarch**

d) **heaven/heaven**

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42) Unbelief is a crime of _____ proportions, deserving of _____ punishment.

a) **finite/infinite**

b) **finite/finite**

c) **infinite/finite**

d) **infinite/infinite**

B) Write the synonyms of words below.

1. Exalted

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4. inanimate

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11. wise

C) Write the antonyms of words below.

1. compassionate

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6. manifest

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13 . perfect

The Twenty-Second Word

[This Word consists of Two Stations]

First Station

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

*So God sets forth parables for men, so that they may bear [them] in mind.¹ * Such are the similitudes which we propound to men that they may reflect.²*

One time two men were washing in a pool. Under some extraordinary influence they lost their senses and when they opened their eyes, they saw that it had transported them to a strange land. It was such that with its perfect order it was like a country, or rather a town, or a palace. They looked around themselves in complete bewilderment: if it was looked at in one way, a vast world was apparent; if in another, a well-ordered country; and if in another, a fine town. And if it was looked at in still another way, it was a palace which comprised a truly magnificent world. Travelling around this strange world, they observed it and saw that creatures of one sort were speaking in a fashion, but they did not understand their language. Nevertheless, it was understood from their signs that they were performing important works and duties.

One of the two men said to his friend: "This strange world must have someone to regulate it, and this orderly country must have a lord, and this fine town, an owner, and this finely made palace, a master builder. We must try to know him, for it is understood that the one who brought us here was he. If we do not recognize him, who will help us? What can we await from these impotent creatures whose language we do not know and who do not heed us? Moreover, surely one who makes a vast world in the form of a country, town, and palace, and fills it from top to bottom with wonderful things, and embellishes it with every sort of adornment, and decks it out

with instructive miracles wants something from us and from those that come here. We must get to know him and find out what he wants."

The other man said: "I do not believe it, that there is a person such as the one you speak of, and that he governs this whole world on his own."

His friend replied to him: "If we do not recognize him and remain indifferent towards him, there is no advantage in it at all, and if it is harmful, its harm will be immense. Whereas if we try to recognize him, there is little hardship involved, and if there is benefit, it will be great. Therefore, it is in no way sensible to remain indifferent towards him."

The foolish man said: "I consider all my ease and enjoyment to lie in not thinking of him. Also, I am not going to bother with things that make no sense to me. All these things are the confused objects of chance, they are happening by themselves. What is it to me?"

His intelligent friend replied: "This obstinacy of yours will push me, and a lot of others, into disaster. It sometimes happens that a whole country is laid waste because of one ill-mannered person."

So the foolish man turned to him and said: "Either prove to me decisively that this large country has a single lord and a single maker, or leave me alone."

His friend replied: "Your obstinacy has reached the degree of lunacy, and you will be the cause of some disaster being visited on us. So I shall show you twelve proofs demonstrating that this world which is like a palace, and country which is like town, has a single maker and that it is only he who runs and administers everything. He is completely free of all deficiency. This maker, who does not appear to us, sees us and everything, and hears our words. All his works are miracles and marvels. All these creatures whom we see but whose tongues we do not understand are his officials."

1. Qur'an, 14:25.

2. Qur'an, 59:21.

FIRST PROOF

A hidden hand is working within all these works. For something which has not even an ounce of strength,³ something as small as a seed, is raising a load of thousands of pounds. And something that does not have even a particle of consciousness⁴ is performing extremely wise and purposeful works. That means they are not working by themselves, but that a hidden possessor of power is causing them to work. If they were independent, it would necessitate all the works which we see everywhere in this land being miracles and everything to be a wonder-working marvel. And that is nonsense.

SECOND PROOF

Come, look carefully at the things which adorn all these plains, fields, and dwellings! There are marks on each telling of that hidden one. Simply, each gives news of Him like a seal or stamp. Look in front of your eyes: what does He make from one ounce of cotton?⁵ See how many rolls of cloth, fine linen, and flowered material have come out of it. See how many sugared delights and round sweets are being made. If thousands of people like us were to clothe themselves in them and eat them, they would still be sufficient. And look! He has taken a handful of iron, water, earth, coal, copper, silver, and gold, and made some flesh⁶ out of them. Look at that and see! O foolish one! These works are particular to such a one that all this land together with all its parts is under his miraculous power and is submissive to his every wish.

THIRD PROOF

Come, look at these mobile works of art!⁷ Each has been fashioned in such a way that it is simply a miniature sample of the huge palace. Whatever there is in the palace, it is found in these tiny mobile machines. Is it at all possible that someone other than the palace's maker could come and include the wondrous palace in a tiny machine? Also, is it at all possible that although he has included a whole world in a machine the size of a box, there could be anything in it that was purposeless or could be attributed to chance? That means that however many skilfully fashioned machines you can see, each is like a seal of that hidden one. Rather, each is like a herald or proclamation. Through their tongues of disposition they are saying: "We are the art of One Who can make this entire world of ours as easily and simply as He created us."

3. This alludes to seeds, which bear trees on their heads.

4. This indicates delicate plants like the grapevine, which themselves cannot climb or bear the weight of fruits, so throwing their delicate arms around other plants or trees and winding themselves around them, they load themselves onto them.

5. This indicates a seed. For example, a poppy seed like an atom, the kernel of an apricot stone, and a tiny melon seed, produce from the treasury of mercy woven leaves finer than broadcloth, flowers whiter than linen, and fruits sweeter than sugar and more delicate and delicious than sweets and preserves, and they offer them to us.

6. This indicates the creation of animal bodies from the elements, and living creatures from sperm.

7. This alludes to animals and humans. For since animals are tiny indexes of the world, and man is a miniature sample of the universe, whatever there is in the world, a sample of it is in man.

FOURTH PROOF

O my stubborn friend! Come, I shall show you something even stranger. Look! All these works and things in this land have changed and are changing. They do not stop in any one state. Note carefully that each of these lifeless bodies and unfeeling boxes has taken on the form of being absolutely dominant. Quite simply it is as though each rules all the others. Look at this machine next to us;⁸ it is as though issuing commands; all the necessities and substances necessary for its adornment and functioning come hastening to it from distant places. Look over there: that lifeless body⁹ is as though beckoning; it makes the largest bodies serve it and work in its own workplace. Make further analogies in the same way.

Simply, everything subjugates to itself all the beings in this world. If you do not accept the existence of that hidden one, you have to attribute all his skills, arts, and perfections in the stones, earth, animals, and creatures resembling man everywhere in this land to the things themselves. In place of a single wonder-working being, which your mind deems unlikely, you have to accept millions like him, who are both opposed to one another, and similar, and one within the other, so they do not cause confusion everywhere and the order be spoiled. Whereas if two fingers meddle in a country, they cause confusion. For if there are two headmen in a village, or two governors in a town, or two kings in a country, the result is chaos. So what about an infinite, absolute ruler?

FIFTH PROOF

O my sceptical friend! Come, look carefully at the inscriptions of this vast palace, look at all the adornments of the town, see the ordering of this whole land, and reflect on all the works of art in this world! See! If these inscriptions are not worked by the pen of one hidden who possesses infinite miracles and skills, and are attributed to unconscious causes, to blind chance and deaf nature, then every stone and every plant in this land has to be an inscriber so wondrous it can write a thousand books in every letter and include millions of works of art in a single inscription. Because look at the inscription on these stones;¹⁰ in each are the inscriptions of all the palace, and the laws ordering all the town, and the programmes for organizing the whole country. That means that it is as wonderful to make these inscriptions as to make the whole country. In which case, all the inscriptions, all the works of art, are proclamations of that hidden one, and seals of his.

Since a letter cannot exist without showing the one who wrote it, and an artistic inscription cannot exist without making known its inscriber, how is it that an inscriber who writes a huge book in a single letter and inscribes a thousand inscriptions in a single inscription, should not be known through his writing and through his inscribing?

8. The machine indicates fruit-bearing trees. For they bear on their slender branches hundreds of workbenches and factories, and weave, adorn, and cook wonderful leaves, flowers and fruits, and stretch them out to us. And majestic trees like the pine and the cedar, even, set up their workbenches on dry rock, and work.

9. This alludes to grains, seeds, and the eggs of flies. For example, a fly leaves its eggs on the leaves of the elm. Suddenly the huge tree turns its leaves into a mother's womb and a cradle for the eggs, and into a store full of a food like honey. Simply, in that way the tree, which is not fruit-producing, produces fruits bearing spirits.

10. This alludes to man, the fruit of the tree of creation, and to the fruit which bears its tree's programme and index. For whatever the pen of power has written in the great book of the universe, it has written its summary in man's nature. And whatever the pen of Divine Determining has written in a tree the size of a mountain, it has also included it in its fruit the size of a finger nail.

Chapter Two

Belief in Prophets

Chapter Four

Belief in Books

Chapter Seven

Worship

Dictionary

aloft :

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Banquet:

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cannon-ball:

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Answer Key