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#### (5) The science of arithmetic and astronomy

The third question from Fatwa No. 1591

**Q3:** How can we integrate religion and science when it comes to issues that appear to be contradictory to one another? For example, we know through religion that stars were created for three reasons; beautification of the sky, missiles aimed at devils and guiding signs. But in geography we read that they are a set of celestial bodies that have a special system in their rotation and what we see blazing and falling at night are meteors and shooting stars that exit from a certain gravitation to the gravity of the earth. Therefore, they burn and fall. The falling speed of these shooting stars is 45 miles per second.

**A:** He who revealed the Glorious Qur'an and revealed the Shari'ah of Islam to His Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is Allah the All-Knower, the All-Wise. He created the heavens and the earth and created everything and subdued it to achieve the purpose for which it was created. He knows what he gives of special characteristics and unknown things. Therefore, there is no contradiction between what Allah tells us or legislates and what He has created for His servant. All these things are compatible with each other. Therefore, what Allah says is compatible with scientific facts.

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If a person thinks that there is a contradiction between what Allah says in His Book or what His Prophet (peace be upon him) says in authentically reported Hadiths and between reality, he lacks understanding and knowledge of natural sciences and Shari'ah texts. What is revealed in the Book of Allah concerning stars is an example of this. Allah (may He be Exalted) says: [﴿ Verily, We have](#)

adorned the near heaven with the stars (for beauty). ﴿ And to guard against every rebellious devil. ﴾ ﴿ They cannot listen to the higher group (angels) for they are pelted from every side. ﴾ Outcast, and theirs is a constant (or painful) torment. ﴿ Except such as snatch away something by stealing, and they are pursued by a flaming fire of piercing brightness. ﴾, ﴿ And indeed We have adorned the nearest heaven with lamps, and We have made such lamps (as) missiles to drive away the Shayâtin (devils), and have prepared for them the torment of the blazing Fire. ﴾, ﴿ And indeed, We have put the big stars in the heaven and We beautified it for the beholders. ﴾ And We have guarded it (the near heaven) from every outcast Shaitân (devil). ﴿ Except him (devil) who steals the hearing then he is pursued by a clear flaming fire. ﴾, ﴿ It is He Who has set the stars for you, so that you may guide your course with their help through the darkness of the land and the sea. We have (indeed) explained in detail Our Ayât (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, Revelations, etc.) for a people who know. ﴾ and His saying: ﴿ And landmarks (signposts during the day) and by the stars (during the night), they (mankind) guide themselves. ﴾ The reports mentioned in the authentically reported Sunnah are compatible with the meaning of the texts of the Qur'an.

Whoever studies these texts will find that they are clear in pointing out some of the characteristics and benefits of the stars.

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Nothing in these texts confines the characteristics or benefits of stars to the three things mentioned above. There is nothing that denotes that meteors are confined to shooting stars by which devils are shot especially those who eavesdrop. There is no mention of other meteors whether in confirmation or negation. He who studies the Arabic language and knows its styles and tools used for the sake of confinement can discern these styles.

If natural sciences says that there are stones and celestial bodies scattered in space, that these bodies form groups and every group falls in the range of the gravity of a certain planet and that these stones deviate from the range of the gravity of a certain planet and approach the gravity of another planet, they will quickly fall. If it says that the friction between the surface of this meteor and other objects generates a firing flame and that this phenomena is called a shooting star. It does not contradict the texts of Islamic Shari'ah that only inform us about shooting devils with meteors of these stars. It is possible that this phenomena springs from these two things. Natural sciences do not confine meteors to what falls from planets. Moreover, there is no confinement in Shari'ah texts for meteors to what falls from planets for the sake of stoning devils.

As for the falling stars that were mentioned by the questioner, they are considered falling stars by geographers when they fall to the surface of the earth.

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They do not burn or turn into ashes. Therefore, they are not a type of flaming fire. They are falling stars. The questioner should be sure of his information and understand the affairs of his religion and that of the world. May Allah's Mercy be upon a person who evaluates himself well and does not deal with issues that are higher than their level.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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