

WHY DO YOU DECIEVE YOURSELF?

**O man! What has deluded you
in respect of your Noble Lord?
(Qur'an, 82:6)**

HARUN YAHYA

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Abbreviations used:
(saas-sall-Allahu 'alyahi wa sallam): May Allah bless him and
grant him peace (following a reference to Prophet Muhammad)
(as-'alayhi's-salam): Peace be upon him (following a reference
to the prophets)

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To the Reader

A special chapter is assigned to the collapse of the theory of evolution because this theory constitutes the basis of all anti-spiritual philosophies. Since Darwinism rejects the fact of creation – and therefore, Allah's existence – over the last 140 years it has caused many people to abandon their faith or fall into doubt. It is therefore an imperative service, a very important duty to show everyone that this theory is a deception. Since some readers may find the chance to read only one of our books, we think it appropriate to devote a chapter to summarize this subject.

All the author's books explain faith-related issues in light of Qur'anic verses, and invite readers to learn Allah's words and to live by them. All the subjects concerning Allah's verses are explained so as to leave no doubt or room for questions in the reader's mind. The books' sincere, plain, and fluent style ensures that everyone of every age and from every social group can easily understand them. Thanks to their effective, lucid narrative, they can be read at one sitting. Even those who rigorously reject spirituality are influenced by the facts these books document and cannot refute the truthfulness of their contents.

This and all the other books by the author can be read individually, or discussed in a group. Readers eager to profit from the books will find discussion very useful, letting them relate their reflections and experiences to one another.

In addition, it will be a great service to Islam to contribute to the publication and reading of these books, written solely for the pleasure of Allah. The author's books are all extremely convincing. For this reason, to communicate true religion to others, one of the most effective methods is encouraging them to read these books.

We hope the reader will look through the reviews of his other books at the back of this book. His rich source material on faith-related issues is very useful, and a pleasure to read.

In these books, unlike some other books, you will not find the author's personal views, explanations based on dubious sources, styles that are unobservant of the respect and reverence due to sacred subjects, nor

hopeless, pessimistic arguments that create doubts in the mind and deviations in the heart.

About the Author

Now writing under the pen-name of HARUN YAHYA, he was born in Ankara in 1956. Having completed his primary and secondary education in Ankara, he studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, he has published many books on political, scientific, and faith-related issues. Harun Yahya is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

Harun Yahya's works, translated into 41 different languages, constitute a collection for a total of more than 45,000 pages with 30,000 illustrations.

His pen-name is a composite of the names Harun (Aaron) and Yahya (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their people's lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the Final Scripture) and Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet [may Allah bless him and grant him peace]), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of godless ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace), who attained ultimate wisdom and moral perfection, as a sign of his intention to offer the last word.

All of Harun Yahya's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur'an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as Allah's existence and unity and the Hereafter; and to expose godless systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies.

Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership in many countries, from India to America, England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia, Spain to Brazil, Malaysia to Italy, France to Bulgaria and Russia. Some of his books are available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Chinese, Swahili, Hausa, Dhivehi (spoken in Mauritius), Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian), Polish, Malay, Uygur Turkish, Indonesian, Bengali, Danish and Swedish.

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in Allah and gaining deeper insights into their faith. His books' wisdom and sincerity, together with a distinct style that's easy to understand, directly affect anyone who reads them. Those who seriously consider these books, can no longer advocate atheism or

any other perverted ideology or materialistic philosophy, since these books are characterized by rapid effectiveness, definite results, and irrefutability. Even if they continue to do so, it will be only a sentimental insistence, since these books refute such ideologies from their very foundations. All contemporary movements of denial are now ideologically defeated, thanks to the books written by Harun Yahya.

This is no doubt a result of the Qur'an's wisdom and lucidity. The author modestly intends to serve as a means in humanity's search for Allah's right path. No material gain is sought in the publication of these works.

Those who encourage others to read these books, to open their minds and hearts and guide them to become more devoted servants of Allah, render an invaluable service.

Meanwhile, it would only be a waste of time and energy to propagate other books that create confusion in people's minds, lead them into ideological chaos, and that clearly have no strong and precise effects in removing the doubts in people's hearts, as also verified from previous experience. It is impossible for books devised to emphasize the author's literary power rather than the noble goal of saving people from loss of faith, to have such a great effect. Those who doubt this can readily see that the sole aim of Harun Yahya's books is to overcome disbelief and to disseminate the Qur'an's moral values. The success and impact of this service are manifested in the readers' conviction.

One point should be kept in mind: The main reason for the continuing cruelty, conflict, and other ordeals endured by the vast majority of people is the ideological prevalence of disbelief. This can be ended only with the ideological defeat of disbelief and by conveying the wonders of creation and Qur'anic morality so that people can live by it. Considering the state of the world today, leading into a downward spiral of violence, corruption and conflict, clearly this service must be provided speedily and effectively, or it may be too late.

In this effort, the books of Harun Yahya assume a leading role. By the will of Allah, these books will be a means through which people in the twenty-first century will attain the peace, justice, and happiness promised in the Qur'an.

Introduction

The lifestyles and life goals of the millions of people who live in non-religious communities are very similar to one another. Even if they seem different at first glance, they are still really the same at the end of the day because even if the conditions in which they live differ, their desires, passions, ambitions, plans, ideals and aspirations for the life of the world are practically identical.

The years during which a person's character begins to take shape are the childhood years. During these years children live very carefree lives in ignorance of the world. Then they face school life and the teenage years. During these years ambition is limited to the typical desire to have a wide circle of friends, to be popular at school, to wear designer clothes and to put on a show for people. Then school finishes and careers begin. During working life a person tries to better himself in his own profession, make more money and achieve promotion. He devotes all his time and energies to this. At the same time he tries to find and marry a good wife and produce a family. In his own eyes, the only important thing in the world is the establishment of a happy home. In short, he is born, he is educated, he enters working life, he tries to the best of his ability to earn money and respect and later he marries off his children and becomes a grandfather... And he lives with such limited worldly aims and ideals.

The years pass quickly and then all of a sudden, he faces the greatest and most inescapable truth of life. The time of death comes. Whatever his age at the time, he departs from the world.

Until that moment he has thought of death very little or not at all. He has seen a number of people around him die but he has always regarded his own death as something far off. Throughout his life he has failed even to grasp the idea of death because his mind has been so occupied with worldly things that the thought of death has not managed to cross it. For this reason, he is far removed from essential considerations such as Allah's good pleasure and the Garden and the Fire. He has been unable to understand the true purpose of life by reflecting upon such realities. Throughout his time in the world he has pursued aims, plans and ideals very different from those that are really important. He has worked very hard for worldly things but is totally unprepared for the Hereafter.

While in this condition, he meets with death when he least expects it, unprepared and confused like someone who suddenly awakes from sleep.

Feeling regret at last, he wants to turn back but it is now too late. Allah describes the situation of this person and those like him in Surat as-Sajda:

Say: "The Angel of Death, who has been given charge of you, will take you back and then you will be sent back to your Lord." If only you could see the evildoers hanging their heads in shame before their Lord: "Our Lord, we have seen and we have heard, so send us back again and we will act rightly. Truly we now have certainty." (Surat as-Sajda: 11-12)

So, how does a person wind up in this position? How does he manage to avoid reality until the time comes when he feels a regret for which there is no cure? How does he manage to ignore the purpose for which he is placed in the world?

There are various defense mechanisms which people use to ignore the truths of life and to console themselves by doing so. One of these, perhaps the most effective, is self-deception. A person who deceives himself believes he can evade all realities, including death and all responsibilities. In fact self-deception is not a solution. On the contrary, failure to understand the true purpose of existence in this world sets a person on a path that leads straight to Hell. What a person really needs to accomplish is to avoid deceiving himself by ignoring the truth and take the maximum possible advantage of the period that Allah has allotted to him in the world.

Now, think about all this in terms of yourself. Up to now you may have lived along the lines described above. You may have failed to think about the true purpose of life, you may have put aside your responsibilities towards Allah, Who created you, and you may have deceived yourself. If you do not want to meet death suddenly while in this state and to be faced with eternal regret, you should read what this book has to say and think very seriously about it because in this book we point out the matters about which people deceive themselves and the truths which they ignore.

Do not forget that waking up and seeing the truth at the moment of death does nobody any good. Allah has given us a clear warning about this:

Give from what We have provided for you before death comes to one of you and he says, "My Lord, if only You would give me a little more time so that I can give charity and be one of the righteous!" Allah will not give anyone more time, once their time has come. Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat al-Munafiqun: 10-11)

Remembering the Purpose of Creation

If you are in the street, look around you. If you are at home, look through the window. Think, too, about all the places on the face of the Earth which you cannot see at this moment; the oceans, the lakes and the mountains, the millions of people other than those you can see and the millions of living creatures you never encounter in life... Finally, leave the world and think about the universe, a boundless space that accommodates hundreds of millions of galaxies with hundreds of millions of stars, planets, comets and a great many more celestial bodies...

Now listen to your conscience sincerely and think. Why and how do all these creatures and things exist? Living and non-living alike, how do they carry on a harmonious existence together within such a flawless system? What is the divine purpose behind this magnificence in the universe and the superior characteristics which living things – especially human beings – possess? What are all these things, particularly man, the only being with consciousness on the face of the Earth, doing in the world?

We are told the true purpose of creation in the Qur'an which Allah sent down as a guide to His servants. This purpose is to serve our Lord Who created us and allows us to live. Allah describes this purpose in a verse of the Qur'an as follows:

... I only created jinn and man to worship Me. (Surat adh-Dharyat: 56)

So the world with all the features described above, and its seas, lakes, oceans, flowers, trees, mountains and living things, is an environment specially created by Allah to test whether or not people fulfill this obligation. The universe and all the systems in it, stars, planets and other celestial bodies, have been created so that people may see the greatness and boundless mercy of our Lord and praise His power. In the same way, each of the events which a person experiences in life and all the places in which he finds himself are parts of the test which he undergoes in the world. Allah informs us in the following verse of the Qur'an that the purpose of creation and placing people in the world is to test them:

We created man from a mingled drop to test him, and We made him hearing and seeing. (Surat al-Insan: 2)

In this testing environment, a person is responsible for considering Allah's instructions and prohibitions at every moment and acting in such a way as to earn His approval. We are told in the Qur'an that people who reject or evade

this responsibility will be repaid for eternity with the torment of Hell because of their enormous ingratitude for all the blessings Allah provides.

In spite of this most people are strangely insensitive. Forgetting the true purpose of their lives, they find different priorities for themselves and adopt different aims. They struggle for months, even years, for worldly purposes but they do not even want to think about their responsibilities to Allah. They never consider the possibility that the consequence in the Hereafter for irresponsibility in this world is Hell. However, there is not a single person on the face of the Earth who can claim to be unaware of these truths. Allah has shown them to people in every age from that of Prophet Adam (as) onwards. He has sent down the Book that announces Him and teaches how He should be followed and He has sent His prophets. After all this, people cannot plead ignorance. A verse of the Qur'an reminds us of this truth:

Messengers bringing good news and giving warning, so that people will have no argument against Allah after the coming of the messengers. Allah is Almighty, All-Wise. (Surat an-Nisa': 165)

The prophets sent by Allah, the books He has sent down and likewise the advice given to people by the believers are all vehicles for this teaching. Throughout history a great many believers have invited others to join the religion of Allah and have warned them about the Day of Judgment by pointing out the existence of Paradise and Hell.

Aside from these, let us suppose that a person says that he has never heard anything about the true purpose of life, has never been advised of this by anybody and has never read Allah's Book. As we stated at the outset, by thinking about creation and the flawless systems around him, such a person can still realize that these were brought into being by an infinitely powerful Creator for a definite purpose. As a living being who was himself created, he can understand his responsibilities towards our Creator because Allah created people with a conscience which tells them what is right and true. People who evaluate what is around them by listening to the voice of their conscience, can arrive at these truths. A story we are told in the Qur'an about Prophet Ibrahim (as) is an outstanding and enlightening example:

Because of that We showed Ibrahim the dominions of the heavens and the Earth so that he might be one of the people of certainty. When night covered him he saw a star and said, "This is my Lord!" Then when it set he said, "I do not love what sets." Then when he saw the Moon come up he said, "This is my Lord!" Then when it set

he said, "If my Lord does not guide me, I will be one of the misguided people." Then when he saw the Sun come up he said, "This is my Lord! This is greater!" Then when it set he said, "My people, I am free of what you associate with Allah! I have turned my face to Him Who brought the heavens and Earth into being, a pure natural believer. I am not one of the idolaters." (Surat al-An'am: 75-79)

As we can see in the above story, Prophet Ibrahim (as) realized the existence of Allah, the Creator of the heavens and the Earth, and understood the need to serve Him solely by listening to his conscience. We understand from this example that looking at their surroundings through the eyes of the conscience is enough for people to understand their need to serve Allah. However, in spite of this, Allah in His goodness has provided people by various means with detailed information about the purpose of their existence and how they should serve Him. Without doubt this is a sign of Allah's boundless mercy and compassion towards humanity, and a manifestation of His name, Al-Hadi, the Guide showing people the true path. In the world, Allah uses many methods of pointing this out to people and also gives them time to understand these signs.

Despite all this, people, who fail to evaluate with open consciences the signs and the manifest truths they see, make up the majority in the world. Such people exhibit behavior which is completely heedless of these truths even though this behavior will cause them harm in their eternal lives in the Hereafter.

Look around you once again. Children, teenagers, men, women, old people; most of them are going about their daily business as if they will never be faced with death and the Day of Judgment. One is trying to catch the school bus, another is hurrying towards his car to avoid being late for work. One is busy shopping for guests who will arrive in the evening, another making preparations for the arrival of the grandchild who will be born in a few weeks. Of course, these are things that everybody experiences in the normal course of daily life. Obviously they are all extremely commonplace. The problem is that people live through them in a completely heedless mental state and do not stop to think that Allah is with them, that death is coming quickly and that in the presence of Allah they will be called to account for the years during which they forgot our Lord.

So how can people be so blind to these blatant truths in spite of the countless signs of Allah's existence and the many signs of their impotence in His presence? How can they close their eyes to the truth like ostriches burying

their heads in the sand – especially when they will be afflicted with the harm this behavior causes?

Without any doubt this happens with most people not because they cannot understand what they should do, but because they deceive themselves even though their consciences can see what is right. We are using the word "deception" because, as we have said, on this matter these people do not have a problem of ignorance or inability to understand. The problem is the level of commitment of these people to worldly life and their failure to approach realities honestly because of secret or open rejection of the Hereafter. Allah tells us in the Qur'an about the existence of such people as follows:

I will divert from My signs all those who are arrogant in the Earth without any right. If they see every sign, they will not believe in it. If they see the way of right guidance, they will not take it as a way. But if they see the way of error, they will take that as a way. That is because they denied Our signs and paid no attention to them. As for those who denied Our signs and the encounter of the Hereafter, their actions will come to nothing. Will they be repaid except for what they did? (Surat al-A'raf: 146-147)

Those who prefer the life of this world to the Hereafter, and bar access to the way of Allah, seeking in it something crooked; they are greatly misguided. (Surah Ibrahim: 3)

In another verse, Allah speaks of the heedless spiritual state into which these people plunge themselves by deceiving themselves and closing their eyes to the truth:

Mankind's reckoning has drawn very close to them, yet they heedlessly turn away. (Surat al-Anbiya': 1)

It is blatantly obvious that a person will be faced with the Day of Judgment and called to account for his actions during his life in the world. Remaining completely heedless and making no attempt to escape from this heedless attitude is the greatest senselessness and the most unscrupulous behavior. It is Allah's will that in the Hereafter this behavior will be justly repaid. Our Prophet (saas) also reminded people of the existence and nearness of the Hereafter in these words:

Paradise is nearer to any of you than the strap of his shoe, and so is the [Hell] Fire. (Ahmad ibn Hanbal, Volume 1, Number 387; Imam Ibn Kathir, The Life of This World Is Fleeting Enjoyment)

If you do not wish to cause yourself eternal remorse for which there is no comfort, be careful. Do not deceive yourself by devoting yourself to worldly aims. The real purpose of your presence in the world is not for you to have a successful career or become rich or establish a happy home or have children. None of these is the real reason for your existence. Your greatest purpose is to serve Allah and earn His approval, His mercy and entry into His Paradise. Naturally, during their life in the world people may be successful in business, rise to a superior position, marry and have children and grandchildren, or make an effort to accomplish these things, but only on condition that they do not make them the sole aim of their lives in the world, and that they are seeking Allah's approval at the same time. A person who does otherwise will find at his death that everything else loses its meaning and he will realize that serving Allah is the only thing that is really important. Allah relates in a verse of the Qur'an:

It is not your wealth or your children that will bring you near to Us - only in the case of people who believe and act rightly; such people will have a double recompense for what they did. They will be safe from all harm in the high halls of Paradise. (Surah Saba': 37)

In other verses, Allah speaks of the situation of people who deceive themselves in the life of this world with property and opportunities, and forget the purpose of creation and who, as a result, are liable to great suffering in the Hereafter:

[He will say:] "If only death had really been the end! My wealth has been of no use to me. My power has vanished." "Seize him and truss him up. Then roast him in the Blazing Fire." (Surat al-Haqq: 27-31)

Being Sincerely Religious Without Deceiving Yourself

In the previous chapter we began by looking at what is around us, at all the living and non-living things on the face of the Earth and in the universe and as a result of these reflections we arrived at the truth that the purpose of a person's creation is to serve Allah. Let us begin this chapter by pointing out a very important matter.

How old are you now? Let's say you are 30 years old and that we go back in time 30 years and 10 months. You did not yet exist on the face of the Earth and neither was there any sign that you ever would. Later, a sperm came together with an ovary and after a 9-month period of growth you arrived in the world as a baby. That is, you came into existence from nothing. First you were a single cell. Then the cell divided and became two, four, eight, sixteen, thirty-two... Finally, you came to be a living being made up of millions of cells with hands, limbs, eyes, ears, a nose, blood circulation, a respiratory system, and others. Although you were once a single cell, you turned into a thinking, intelligent, seeing and feeling being with information, knowledge and the capacity for pleasure. When you think about it, you can easily understand what an extraordinary process this is.

How, then, did this miracle happen? How was an intelligent creature produced by the combining of two parts, invisible to the naked eye, and how did this creature come into the world as a baby complete in all its parts? The answer to this is given in the following verses:

It is He Who created you from earth, then from a drop of sperm, then from a clot of blood, then He brings you out as infants, then so you may achieve full strength, then so you may become old men - though some of you may die before that time - so that you may reach a predetermined age and so that hopefully you will use your intellect. It is He Who gives life and causes to die. When He decides on something, He just says to it, "Be!" and it is. (Surah Ghafir: 67-68)

In these verses we are reminded that the Creator of all people (including ourselves) and all living creatures is Allah, and when faced with this truth people need to use their intelligence. A person who uses his intelligence will arrive at the real purpose of creation and give himself over to the religion of Allah. He will devote his life to gaining His approval and mercy. In the Qur'an, Allah tells people to stay away from delusions by reflecting on how they were created:

O man! What has deluded you in respect of your Noble Lord? He Who created you and formed you and proportioned you and assembled you in whatever way He willed. Yes indeed! But still you deny the Judgment. Standing over you are guardians, noble, recording, who know what you do. (Surat al-Infitar: 6-12)

However, despite all these truths, man is prone to deluding himself and straying from the true path by means of self-deception, and of wasting his efforts on worthless things. Although every detail of the world is miraculous in the extreme, he is inclined to fail to see and feel this or, by ignoring the voice of his conscience, feign ignorance about what he sees and feels. If a person does not think about the existence and greatness of Allah, and does not use his intelligence, he will be plunged into eternal regret because of his experiences in the world. Because of this, people need to stop deceiving themselves and bear in mind the fact that everything in the world was created for a purpose, that all the good things they possess are given them as a blessing and that they will be called to account for everything they have done on the Day of Judgment.

Sincerity

People with a true and sincere faith neither deceive themselves nor evade the truth on any subject because they have a powerful fear and respect of Allah, and so they strenuously avoid jeopardizing the chances of His approval and neglecting their duties to Him. However, those defined in the Qur'an as "people who have sickness in their hearts" are reluctant in their worship of Allah. Allah points these people out in Surat an-Nisa': 72 by saying: "Among you there are people who hang back." These people know the lifestyle and morality that conform to the Qur'an but they show reluctance in this matter because they are not sincere. They always find excuses for failing to perform their worship. Because they are involved in this constant search for excuses, they come up with false realities which will deceive them or divert them from the truth whatever the situation or circumstances. As Allah tells us in another verse, they "worship Allah right on the edge" and do not devote themselves to Allah as they should. The truth is that they only deceive themselves with their insincere concept of worship. Allah explains this in the Qur'an:

Among the people there are some who say, "We believe in Allah and the Last Day," when they are not believers. They think they deceive Allah and those who believe. They deceive no one but themselves but they are not aware of it. There is a sickness in their hearts and Allah has increased their sickness. They will have a painful punishment on account of their denial. (Surat al-Baqara: 8-10)

Sincerity is fundamental to the religion of Allah. If a person carries out certain forms of worship reluctantly just out of habit or so as not to attract criticism from others around him, he is deceiving only himself, as we are told in the above verses. He cannot expect what he does to have any value in the sight of Allah. In the Qur'an, Allah warns us that acts of worship which are carried out reluctantly will not be accepted:

Nothing prevents what they give from being accepted from them but the fact that they have rejected Allah and His messenger, and that they only come to prayer lethargically, and that they only give reluctantly. (Surat at-Tawba: 54)

Insincere people have endless, inexhaustible excuses for avoiding their responsibilities to Allah and wasting their lives on worldly ambitions. In childhood, during their school years, when they enter working life, while they are enjoying themselves, when they are happy, when they are sad, the whole year round... Under all circumstances they can come up with manufactured reasons for not worshipping and for failing to follow Allah's instructions. In the chapters to come we will illustrate the excuses people put forward with examples from everyday life. What is important is that it should be realized that people are insincere when they make these excuses because there can be no reason whatsoever for people not to carry out Allah's instructions while they are in this life. If a person tries to put forward such an excuse, this just demonstrates his insincerity or lack of conviction.

A person who knows that Allah is with him at every moment, that He sees and hears everything and knows and brings to light all that people try to keep secret, will never attempt any insincerity in serving Him. Such a person knows very well that if he tries to put forward an excuse, Allah is aware of it before it even crosses his lips and that He is aware, too, of the reluctance within a person who is hesitant in his service to Him. He understands that such insincere behavior will not go unpunished, so he also knows that self-deception is no escape but will, on the contrary, cause him great harm. A person like this never strays from seeking Allah's approval under any circumstances because

he has no weakness thanks to his firm faith in Allah. He is unconditionally sincere at all times.

People who have sickness in their hearts do have a weakness in their faith even if they do not deny Allah openly. That is to say, their faith is dependent on certain conditions. They do not hesitate to deviate from their religion the moment it comes into conflict with their own comfort or their own advantage. At other times they try to ease their consciences by carrying out whatever worship comes easily to them.

These people very obviously deceive themselves but they can in no way arrive at an awareness of this. If you do not want to fall into the state of insincerity these people exhibit in the sight of Allah, be careful not to deceive yourself. If your knowledge is not enough, you can get to know our Lord best by reading the Qur'an because in this Book, Allah introduces Himself to His servants. In this way, you will be able to understand Allah's might and become a believer with a complete and sincere faith. However, if you evaluate Allah and His religion from a position of ignorance of the religion, you will fall into errors from which there is no recovery. Do not forget that you will only find salvation when you believe in Allah with a firm faith and serve Him sincerely. This truth is also stated by our Prophet (saas) thus:

Whoever meets Allah, without associating partners with Him, will enter Paradise. (Sahih Muslim)

Faith in the Hereafter

As we have pointed out in previous chapters, a person who spends his life pursuing his own desires and passions, doing worthless deeds and failing to recognize the instructions and prohibitions of Allah does not want to consider that in the Hereafter he will be resurrected, called to account for everything he has done and treated accordingly. Because of this, no matter how much his conscience is aware of the existence of the Hereafter, he prefers to suppress his conscience and deceives himself. This is, for example, one of the reasons people adopt the belief in reincarnation which has become widespread in recent times and according to which people return to the world after death many times, in different places, at different times and with different identities. This is because people who know that in the Hereafter the punishment of Hell awaits them for what they have done, or who at least grant the possibility of this, are made uncomfortable by the fact that on dying they will enter the Hereafter. As a result they joyfully accept such perverted beliefs or ideas, which are completely outside of the truth, even though they are not supported by the slightest evidence.

People who seek to deceive themselves in this way by making themselves believe that there is no Hereafter have existed in every period of history. Indeed, in the Qur'an Allah warns us about the way these people avoid intelligent reasoning and common rationality, simply so as to evade accepting the existence of the Hereafter and coming face to face with its reality. These are some of the relevant verses:

They will say, "Are we to be restored to how we were when we have become perished, worm-eaten bones?" They say, "That will clearly be a losing restoration!" (Surat an-Nazi'at: 10-12)

As we can see from the verses above, people who reject the Hereafter and resurrection are actually aware that the fact that they will be resurrected will not be to their benefit, so as far as possible they try not to let it cross their minds and using sophisticated speech and twisted logic they attempt to cover it up and encourage others to do the same. The Qur'an gives us this example:

He makes likenesses of Us and forgets his own creation, saying, "Who will give life to bones when they are decayed?" Say, "He Who made them in the first place will bring them back to life. He has total knowledge of each created thing." (Surah Ya Sin: 78-79)

People who choose this method of deceiving themselves on the subject of the Hereafter reflect this rationale in all their thinking and behavior. There are no bounds to the excesses of a person who makes himself believe that there will be no Judgment Day after death and no eternal life in Paradise or Hell, because one of the reasons for people to fear and avoid excess is the knowledge that what they do will have its consequences in the Hereafter. By letting go of this belief, they begin to belittle and neglect their responsibilities towards Allah. Only people who believe in the Hereafter can be aware that its repayment for ignoring the truth through self-deception during the life of this world is great pain and suffering.

When you think a little, you can also easily see that everything around you is not the work of chance but exists because of Allah's boundless power, knowledge and control. In addition, as we are told in the verses above, creating the Hereafter is an easy matter for our Lord; and there can be no doubt whatsoever that it conforms to divine justice. Be careful, and do not under any circumstances ignore these truths and try to deceive yourself, because those who do so and avoid facing the truth of the Hereafter will be unable to compensate for their errors there and will live in eternal pain.

Obedience to Satan

The great majority of people do not know the true characteristics of Satan and picture him as an imaginary being according to what they have heard from other people and seen in the movies. So while some people believe Satan has an independent power of his own (surely Allah is beyond this) and grossly exaggerate him, others regard the existence of Satan with scepticism and are unable to accept it. Even if they grant the possibility that he may exist, they do not believe that Satan has any effect on them whatsoever. Neither of these positions are based on any information or evidence but result from ignorant superstition. On this subject, as on all others, we can obtain the most correct and reliable information from the true Book of Allah. As our Prophet (saas) states, "The best word is the word of Allah and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad." (Sunan Ibn Majah, Muqaddima, 7)

As we are told in the Qur'an, first and foremost Satan possesses no independent power. He is a being created by Allah and wholly under His control. Everything which happens in the world does so only because Allah wills it. After being dismissed from Allah's presence, Satan asked Allah to grant him a period until the end of the world. We are told of his dismissal from Allah's presence and the period he was granted as follows:

We created you and then formed you and then We said to the angels, "Prostrate before Adam," and they prostrated - except for Iblis. He was not among those who prostrated. He said, "What prevented you from prostrating when I commanded you to?" He replied, "I am better than him. You created me from fire and You created him from clay." He said, "Descend from Heaven. It is not for you to be arrogant in it. So get out! You are one of the abased." He said, "Grant me a reprieve until the day they are raised up." He said, "You are one of the reprieved." He said, "By Your misguidance of me, I will lie in ambush for them on your straight path. Then I will come at them, from in front of them and behind them, from their right and from their left. You will not find most of them thankful." He said, "Get out of it, reviled and driven out. As for those of them who follow you, I will fill up Hell with every one of you." (Surat al-A'raf: 11-18)

After being condemned to the eternal torment of dismissal from Allah's presence, Satan swore an oath to mislead people into his own perverted ways and began his cunning operations. Allah made Satan's activities a means of distinguishing between His faithful believers and those who did not serve Him. Thus Satan's crafty games, traps and schemes are aimed at every living

person, that is, to everybody who is still undergoing the test of life in this world. Satan will attempt to deceive everybody, without exception. As a result, nobody should regard himself as being immune to Satan's influence. If a person is aware of this, he behaves with care and is able to detect even the smallest of Satan's traps. However, if he regards Satan's influence as something far away, he may very easily fall under this influence. Because of this, Satan cannot influence Allah's sincere servants because they never forget that he will try to divert them from the true path, and so guard themselves carefully against him.

Satan's evil cunning can show itself anywhere. As a result of his wiles, a person may fall into error on any matter he encounters in his everyday life whether he is aware of this or not, and if he is not a sincere believer this influence can take over his entire life so that the outcome is that it drives him straight to Hell. That is exactly Satan's purpose. Satan wants people to rebel against Allah and suffer eternal torment. He never stops chasing them until they enter the Fire. The purpose of all his traps, whether big or small, of his watching and waiting for an opportunity, is to draw people to Hell with himself. In one verse, Allah warns people against the enmity of Satan:

Satan is your enemy so treat him as an enemy. He summons his party so they will be among the people of the searing blaze. (Surah Fatir: 6)

Obviously in this verse Allah informs us about a great danger. From the dawn of humanity to the present, Satan has achieved his purpose with countless people who do not believe in Allah. These verses of the Qur'an tell us so:

Iblis was correct in his assessment of them and they followed him, except for a group of the believers. He had no authority over them except to enable Us to know those who believe in the Hereafter from those who are in doubt about it. Your Lord is the Preserver of all things. (Surah Saba': 20-21)

However, let us note right away that Allah has also told us that Satan's power of deception is very weak (Surat an-Nisa': 76). As we can see from the above verse, it is out of the question for Satan to compel people. He does not have the power to do so. Satan merely speaks to people and those who do not have a sincere faith in Allah and reject the truth of the Hereafter heed his call and harm themselves. We are told in the following verse of the Qur'an that Satan himself will confess:

When the affair is decided Satan will say, "Allah made you a promise, a promise of truth, and I made you a promise but broke my promise. I had no authority over you, except that I called you and you responded to me. Do not, therefore, blame me but blame yourselves. I cannot come to your aid nor you to mine. I reject the way you associated me with Allah before." The wrongdoers will have a painful punishment. (Surah Ibrahim: 22)

Just as Satan's deception is weak, protection against the influence of his harmful wiles is very easy. Allah tells us the ways of escaping this influence:

If an evil impulse from Satan provokes you, seek refuge in Allah. He is All-Hearing, All-Seeing. As for those who fear Allah, when they are bothered by visitors from Satan, they remember and immediately see clearly. (Surat al-A'raf: 200-201)

As we can clearly see in these verses, it is impossible for Satan to have any influence on believers. The way to escape the negative influence of Satan is to take refuge in Allah, the Possessor of infinite power, and to reflect on what He has said in His Book. A person who can think with a clear mind and see the truth without falling into error is extremely careful in the face of Satan's deception and instead of falling into his trap he destroys it with his faith, determination and devotion to Allah.

However, most people do not think that such a danger to them exists. For this reason, they cannot think of taking refuge in Allah when faced with Satan's wiles. Satan approaches these misguided people with guile, and whispers his blandishments in their ears and into their hearts. One of the reasons why some people deceive themselves about the truth is that they listen to these deceptions and blandishments and follow the path to which Satan summons them.

So how can Satan persuade so many people who appear to be intelligent to such unintelligent behavior? In what ways can he cause them to deceive themselves and follow the path that leads to Hell?

In the coming pages, we will explain the situation of those people who succumb to the wiles of Satan and the reasoning they use to deceive themselves, and we will bring to light the shameful position into which these people fall. We will draw attention to the ways in which Satan deceives such people and drives them into Hell, and we will also make it clear to sincere people that they should be careful in the face of his cunning stratagems.

Making Excuses

In order to divert people from the path of Allah, Satan uses many tactics to prevent them from worshipping Allah as He has instructed, and from living the life of moral excellence taught in the Qur'an. One of these tactics is to ensure that people put forward various excuses for not being able to worship. In other words, Satan hands a person excuses that make what he does seem reasonable. For example, to a young person who knows that he has to worship Allah, he whispers that he still has many years ahead of him in which to meet his responsibilities fully but that at the moment, time and circumstances are not suitable because he is away from home all day at work or at school and that his friends may view him with contempt.

If the person does not have a sincere and powerful faith, he is deceived by these whisperings, but Satan is not easily satisfied with this and does not leave the person alone. As we said earlier, he will not leave him until he is in Hell. He persuades the person that what he is doing is reasonable and that he is right in acting this way until finally, the person ends up as one who no longer observes the duties imposed by Allah and who firmly believes he has good reasons for not doing so.

In fact, as we have pointed out before, everybody knows in his conscience that it is necessary to serve Allah, Who created him. However, for reasons presented by Satan as valid, he may at times convince himself that it is not necessary. To put it another way, although his conscience knows what should be done, he deceives himself for various reasons and convinces himself of what is not correct.

In the Qur'an, Allah gives a number of examples of such people who lose their sincerity as a result of Satan's blandishments. Amongst these, we are given examples of people who lived in the time of our Prophet (saas) and had weaknesses in their faith. Under the conditions of the time, a war was in prospect and our Prophet (saas) urged people to fight for what was right according to the instructions of the Qur'an, but those classified by Allah as "people who have sickness in their hearts" put forward all kinds of excuses for not going to war. This is related in the Qur'an as follows:

... They were told, "Come and fight in the way of Allah or at least help defend us." They said, "If we knew how to fight, we would certainly follow you." They were closer to disbelief that day than to faith, saying with their mouths what was not in their hearts. And Allah knows best what they are hiding. (Surah Al 'Imran: 167)

It is blatantly obvious that those people had come under Satan's influence, because in addition to being aware in their consciences of what needed to be done, they had heard the teaching of our Prophet (saas) and knew the religion of Allah well. However, in spite of knowing the truth and continuing to carry out every other act of worship that was incumbent on them, they still fell into Satan's trap. Even though they knew that Muslims needed to be protected, they tried to deceive themselves and other believers by claiming that they did not know.

Another group amongst these people tried to escape by telling our Prophet (saas): "Our wealth and families kept us occupied, so ask forgiveness for us" (Surat al-Fath: 11). This was a statement made under the influence of Satan. This is the only explanation for the complete lack of conscience shown by those who were more preoccupied with their own private concerns while all so many Muslims were in danger of losing their lives.

The people in question knew perfectly well what they needed to do to conform to Allah's instructions and earn His approval. In fact because they knew that they were insincere, they tried to salve their consciences with words by saying that they wanted our Prophet (saas) to ask forgiveness for them. Although they were acting contrary to their consciences, they managed to convince themselves of their own lies to such an extent that they ended up feeling quite at ease with their behavior. In the following verse of the Qur'an, Allah relates the situation of insincere people who feel justified in their avoidance of their religious obligations:

Those who were left behind were glad to stay behind the messenger of Allah. They did not want to strive with their wealth and themselves in the way of Allah. They said, "Do not go out to fight in the heat." Say: "The fire of Hell is much hotter, if they only understood." (Surat at-Tawba: 81)

Satan was able to seduce people with these excuses under the conditions and in the atmosphere of the time of the Prophet (saas), and there can be no doubt that he is trying to do the same thing to people today with different blandishments and different excuses because he is aware of everybody's weaknesses. He can make different plans according to any circumstances and conditions. The people he challenges may be scientists, professors, men of ideas, leaders, common people, artists, in short people of every level of culture and material wealth. Satan knows by which means he should approach all of these people.

The only people Satan cannot influence despite his trying every opportunity to do so are the sincere Muslims, as Allah mentions in the Qur'an. Since they fear Allah and do whatever they can to avoid the Fire, they take very deliberate precautions against Satan's trickery. In addition to this they make the best use of their intelligence, listen to their consciences and rely upon their faith in Allah.

The stratagems and tactics of Satan that we have described above are aimed at everybody. In other words, you, too, are a person in danger of coming under Satan's stealthy influence. This being the case, be sincere in your faith, and do not fall into Satan's trap. Do not forget that Satan is waiting for the opportunity to drag you into the Fire along with himself and is making plans for you. At the first opportunity he will cunningly go into action. Do not give Satan that opportunity. He will whisper every possible excuse in your ear to prevent you from following Allah's path and serving and worshipping Him. Moreover he will try to present his case as very sensible and reasonable. In this way he will try to persuade you by making you deceive yourself.

By listening to your conscience you can easily detect what is happening and protect yourself from the influence of Satan by responding instead to the impulse which directs you to gain Allah's approval. In this world, nothing is more important or urgent than protecting yourself against the fire of Hell, so do not listen to the suggestive persuasions with which Satan encourages you to deceive yourself, because on the Day of Judgment no excuse will be acceptable. As Allah tells us in His Book, He will not accept the presentation of excuses.

This is the truth, so beware! Do not under any circumstances fool yourself by imagining you can offer excuses for not living according to the religion of Allah.

Diversions and Distractions

Another of Satan's tactics is to divert people into empty and purposeless tasks. He paints activities and tasks that have nothing to do with the approval of Allah in pretty colors and makes them appear in an attractive and positive light. A person who falls for this ends up devoting himself entirely to worldly plans, rewards and targets.

While he is diverted by these projects, it does not cross his mind that one day his life in the world will end and that he will be called to account in the presence of Allah. As we stated at the beginning of this book, he wastes his entire life on fleeting ideals such as a higher position, more money and investments and a brighter future. It is obvious what a great mistake it is for a person who does not know where and how he will die and has no guarantee

that he will still be alive from one second to the next, to pursue such fruitless ambitions and calculations.

However, the great majority of people persuade themselves that it is necessary for them to live like this. To console themselves, they opt not to think about any of the things we have said in this book and would rather continue their lives of self-deception. In line with this, they regard every target they set for themselves as the most important thing in the world. For instance, the most important aim of a secretary is not to forget the boss's meetings; of a student, to earn the highest possible marks; of a shop assistant, to sell the most shoes on a given day; of a businessman, to win a major tender; of an athlete, to take the biggest prize in his event; of a singer, to have more people listen to his CDs; of a young girl, to wear the most beautiful dress at a party she is going to; of a high school student, to become the boyfriend of the school's most beautiful girl; of a translator, to find the perfect words; and of a writer, to write the most successful books and articles. Of course, in all these things it is natural for a person to want to do and be the best but as we said at the outset, they are not the most important tasks in a person's life. There is no more important task for a person than earning Allah's good pleasure and becoming a servant of Allah who deserves Paradise.

If a person deceives himself, ignores the truth and believes that his worldly desires are the sole purpose of life, he will suffer great regret when suddenly, he finds himself face to face with death. Up to that moment he has believed that the most important things were his house, business, wife, car, diplomas, friends, family and circle of business acquaintances; but at his first sight of the angel of death he realizes how fleeting they were and that they were just parts of his test in life. Immediately afterwards, with the boundless blessings of the Garden on one side and violent physical and mental torment of the Fire on the other, he suffers an insupportable helplessness and regret when he gives the account of his deeds to Allah.

At that moment all that is important is what he has done to earn Allah's approval; but this person has done nothing of the kind during his life. He has not attempted to gain the approval of Allah. Then he comes to understand with the greatest possible bitterness that all the effort he devoted to the goals for which he grew old and wasted his life, had neither meaning nor importance. The truth is that this is not something he did not know. He knew in his conscience exactly what would become of him but he chose to evade this by deceiving himself. Allah tells us about the position of people like this in the verse:

... Satan made their actions seem good to them and so debarred them from the way, even though they were intelligent people. (Surat al-'Ankabut: 38)

In other words, although they are capable of seeing the truth, these people fall prey to Satan's deceptions and waste their lives on empty tasks.

Allah tells us in these verses that accepting that they have done wrong will do these people no good in the Hereafter:

And your Lord arrives with the angels rank upon rank and that Day Hell is produced, that Day man will remember; but how will the remembrance help him? He will say, "Oh! If only I had prepared in advance for this life of mine!" That Day no one will punish as He punishes and no one will shackle as He shackles. (Surat al-Fajr: 22-26)

In order not to be one of those who says, "if only... " in the Hereafter, think right now about the real purpose of your life and consider to what extent what you are doing serves this purpose. Be careful! Do not deceive yourself into thinking that the empty and purposeless tasks you do are worthwhile. This applies to everything you do, every task you undertake throughout the day. Naturally, you are going to work hard for many different things but your basic purpose in doing all of them should be to earn Allah's approval and His Paradise. If, in any task, you see no likelihood of Allah's approving, and do not believe it will be to your advantage in the Hereafter, give it up. Devote yourself only to tasks that you can see are good and beneficial. Your conscience makes the distinction for you in the best way possible. Listen to your conscience and take heed. Do not let Satan divert you by making valueless and fleeting things seem attractive.

False Promises

In his task of diverting people from the path of Allah, Satan does not stop at making useless tasks seem attractive. He also makes a variety of promises. Allah tells us about Satan's falsehood in this verse:

He [Satan] makes promises to them and fills them with false hopes. But what Satan promises them is nothing but delusion. (Surat an-Nisa': 120)

People who come under the influence of Satan make themselves believe they have long years ahead of them and pursue long-term plans. Behaving as if they will live in this world forever, they lose Allah's approval by devoting

themselves to worldly ambitions such as money, property, rank and position. In another verse, Allah relates that this is another deception of Satan's:

Those who have turned back in their tracks after the guidance became clear to them, it was Satan who talked them into it and filled them with false hopes. (Surah Muhammad: 25)

Every person has wide ranging plans and schemes for thousands of matters according to the situation and circumstances in which he finds himself. Even if the plans of people from different professions, age groups and social strata vary, they are all fundamentally worldly. For example, a businessman's greatest ambition for the future is to own a large factory. After he has achieved factory ownership, his greatest ambition is to be able to market his goods worldwide. Or an artist aims to be well known by everybody in his own country, loved and respected and recognized as a great talent. When he succeeds in this, his next target is to achieve the same thing on a world scale. We can give examples of this type that concern many different people. In the life of the world, these people work day and night to realize their ambitions. They make many sacrifices, suffer many difficulties and struggle to overcome problems and obstacles of all kinds.

But are their lives long enough to achieve what they want? Everybody needs to think about this as a priority because success in none of the plans outlined above is guaranteed. By contrast, it is certain that death comes to everybody. In spite of this, these people make no plans and preparations for the Hereafter. They devote the whole of their lives to the realization of their worldly ambitions. They never even consider that one day death will come and with it all their plans will be abandoned incomplete, because Satan has made them promises as described in the Qur'an, and they waste their lives by allowing themselves to be deceived by these promises.

Instead of chasing long-term targets, a person should live in the way Allah has shown us in the Qur'an, knowing that he is responsible to Allah and will be called to account in His presence on the Day of Judgment. If not, he may find himself excluded from the Garden because of failure to prepare for eternal life and missing the opportunities given to him. A person who wastes himself on worthless tasks during the period that Allah has granted him will suffer great regret in the Hereafter. We are warned of this:

... Did We not let you live long enough for anyone who was going to pay heed to pay heed? (Surah Fatir: 37)

As we are told in the verse above, everybody is granted a period in which to take advice and listen to the voice of his conscience. No matter how much Satan tries to drive him onto the wrong path, a person has the opportunity to ignore his call and follow the path of Allah. The only means of doing this is sincere faith and trust in Allah. In the Qur'an we are told that every effort Satan directs towards people with these characteristics and every promise he makes will prove futile:

[Allah said:] "Stir up any of them you can with your voice and rally against them your cavalry and your infantry and share with them in their children and their wealth and make them promises! The promise of Satan is nothing but delusion. But as for My servants, you will not have any authority over them." Your Lord suffices as a guardian. (Surat al-Isra': 64-65)

Be careful and do not let Satan make you forget the place for which you really need to prepare by having you pursue worldly ambitions and long term plans. Do not deceive yourself by adopting worldly ideals and fleeting ambitions and believing that you are doing something worthwhile. Apply the following instruction of Allah without ever letting it slip your mind at any moment of your life:

You who believe! Fear Allah and let each self look to what it has sent forward for tomorrow. Fear Allah. Allah is aware of what you do. Do not be like those who forgot Allah so He made them forget themselves. Such people are the deviators. (Surat al-Hashr: 18-19)

What Lies Do People Deceive Themselves with?

Satan tries to attract people to his path with a variety of deceptive stratagems, blandishments and promises. By making them forget the purpose of creation, he directs people towards worldly advantages and fleeting ambitions. If a person heeds Satan's call and sets his face against the call of our Lord, it becomes impossible for him to see the truth. Allah has told us about the condition of such people in Surat az-Zukhruf:

If someone shuts his eyes to the remembrance of the All-Merciful, We assign him a satan who becomes his bosom friend - they debar them from the path, yet they still think they are guided - so that, when he reaches Us, he says, "If only there was the distance of the two Easts between you and me!" What an evil companion! It will not

benefit you today, since you did wrong, that you share equally in the punishment. Can you make the dead hear or guide the blind and those who are patently misguided? (Surat az-Zukhruf: 36-40)

As can be seen from the above verses, Allah describes these people as blind and deaf. Of course, this is not physical blindness and deafness. Allah is pointing out that such people are blind and deaf in the spiritual sense and that they ignore the truth because they do not hear His call to the true path. In short, by failing to follow their intelligence and their consciences, these people ignore Allah's instructions and the Day of Judgment, and they believe they are protecting themselves by doing so. The truth is that they are only fooling themselves.

Let us state from the outset that people who deceive themselves are not some small, exceptional minority amongst those on the face of the Earth. As we are told in the Qur'an, "...But most of them do not know the truth, so they turn away" (Surat al-Anbiya': 24). And again, "many people reject the meeting with their Lord" (Surat ar-Rum: 8).

In order to avoid becoming one of the people in question, you should think for yourself one more time and make an effort to avoid being a self deceiver because deceiving yourself by closing your eyes to the truth while you are in the world brings you not benefit, but great harm in the Hereafter.

Those who say: "It didn't occur to me, I didn't know"

If we compare every moment a person experiences in his life to a frame from a film, we can see that there are trillions of frames. Every one of these trillions represents an opportunity which the person is given. Every moment in life is an opportunity to think about the facts and see the truth before the Day of Judgment arrives. Those who use this blessing to their advantage are the people who can understand the real direction of worldly life by thinking about it. People who do not think and live their lives in error cannot take advantage of this opportunity.

Of course, the concept of thinking means different things to different people. What some people regard as thinking is thinking about the future. For them, making plans for the future and investing in it is what thinking is all about. Others see thinking as an accounting for the past. They spend all their time considering what they have gained and lost in the past. Others believe that it is useful to think only about today and not at all about tomorrow. This is their view of life. They live from day to day and have no definite purpose or path to follow. When they get up in the morning they think about what to have for breakfast and when they are going to work they think about how to get there. They think about who to go out for lunch with, what to cook for their guests in the evening and which shares it will be profitable to buy. The next day they wonder whether they will be able to find tickets for the football match or not, or who they should take to the office party. In short, the minds of most people are continually filled with ordinary, superficial, everyday thoughts.

Millions of people on the face of the Earth live out their lives with these and similar thoughts. For them, what they see is what is real and they are not really interested in thinking about deeper matters and going beyond the mundane. However, what we mean by "thinking" here is deep reflection about the purpose of human life, the proofs of the creation around us, the creative

perfection of Allah that is apparent in the universe, about death, the Hereafter and the Day of Judgment. This is where most people are lacking.

Consider this: People are educated for years and become biologists, engineers or doctors, even professors, but they never once think about how they came to be created out of nothing or that they might exist for a definite purpose. They write theses, achieve doctorates, become faculty members or doctors who bring people back to health or lawyers, but they never think at all about why or how they were created or that they are indebted to Allah for their creation. They write books, they take part in TV discussions, they rationalize their opinions and express their views but never once do they allow death and the accounting they will give to Allah to cross their minds. These people are making a grave mistake because death comes to everybody sooner or later and Allah will call everybody to account for their service to Him. Being thoughtless will not do them any good.

Every sane individual has a mind and a conscience capable of thinking about and comprehending the existence of Allah, the purpose of creation and how Allah should be served. The truth is that people who do not think about these matters that are most vital to them are capable of thinking very clearly about other things that affect their worldly lives. For example, on commercial matters they know very well how they should use their money and they think about this at every turn. They can overcome major difficulties in their working lives and manage to come up with detailed responses to every aspect of a problem. When they want something they can make very long-term plans to achieve it and put them into effect step by step. In short, people are capable of thinking very clearly about matters that concern their worldly gains.

For this reason, unless Allah wills it, excuses such as "I didn't think" or "It didn't cross my mind," will not be accepted in the Hereafter.

Every newborn baby enters the world that Allah has created. Wherever a person looks, he encounters a glorious creation, flawless design and systems planned down to the last detail. A person who thinks about what he encounters can easily understand that all these things were created, but a person who is trapped in everyday life and worldly ambitions puts what he sees down to chance and overlooks the truth. If you show such a person a simple picture and ask, "Did this draw itself by chance?" he will reply, "Of course not, there must be an artist who drew it." But this same person avoids thinking about the extraordinary art that surrounds him in nature and why it was created.

In the same way, people avoid considering that the life of the world is temporary and that their real life is the eternal life which begins with their deaths. They see many people die every day but their own deaths do not cross

their minds. They make worldly plans as though they will never die and they make no preparations for the Hereafter.

These people are harming themselves, because it is very easy to think about the purpose of human creation, about the art of Allah that is apparent throughout the universe, about death, the Hereafter and the Day of Judgment. Contrary to what people believe, it is neither confusing nor difficult to think about any of these things. Nor is there any need to carry out lengthy research, receive a comprehensive education or acquire a wide variety of knowledge.

For example, every person with a conscience is drawn towards thinking about Allah's wonderful creation just by virtue of the life sustaining air we breathe every day, the perfect wing structure which enables the birds to fly and the colorful world we see around us. In the same way, it is impossible for a person not to think that one day he will die when he lives in a world where news of death is an everyday occurrence. If a person does not close his ears to the voice of his conscience, does not devote himself to worthless tasks and does not deceive himself with materialistic logic, these deeper reflections will inevitably take root in his mind.

It is necessary, however, for a person to demonstrate willpower in order to think deeply about realities and not fall into error. What should not be forgotten is that everybody has an enemy: Satan. Since Satan does not want people to turn to Allah by reflecting and thereby discerning the truth, he will definitely try to prevent them from doing so. He will start by presenting people with cunning blandishments. Amongst the most effective of these is the lie that they can be exempted from responsibility by not thinking. People who fall for this imagine they can protect themselves by saying, "I didn't know" or "Nobody told me," but they are deceiving themselves.

While people are playing this trick on themselves, Allah, Who is closer to them than their own skin, is aware of everything they do and of their every heedless thought. As a result, a person who avoids seeing his responsibility to Allah is really falling into a trap of his own making. By failing to think, he is only fooling himself. When he goes to the Hereafter, he will see the truths he has been evading and will clearly understand that insincere excuses such as, "I didn't know, it didn't cross my mind, I didn't think about it," are worthless when he is called to account in the presence of Allah.

In a verse of the Qur'an, Allah warns people that the Day of Judgment is, "The Day when the excuses of the wrongdoers will not help them" (Surah Ghafir: 52). We are also informed of this truth in other verses:

On that Day the excuses of those who did wrong will not help them nor will they be able to appease Allah. (Surat ar-Rum: 57)

People who say: "I knew but the time and the conditions were not right"

Allah has sent the Qur'an as a book to guide people. Until the Day of Judgment, all people are held responsible for carrying out the instructions in the Qur'an and fulfilling their duty of worship. Except in the circumstances affirmed by Allah in the Qur'an as exceptional, every human being will give an accounting on the Day of Judgment as to whether or not he performed the religious obligations.

From this point of view, a person who uses a variety of excuses (other than those valid reasons which Allah accepts) for not performing his duty of obedience is deceiving himself. Despite this obvious truth, some people use the circumstances in which they find themselves as an excuse and ignore their responsibility to Allah. They put forward one excuse during their school years, another when they enter working life and yet another when they have children. Since they have no sincere intention of living a religious life, they present various different matters as obstacles to carrying out their duty of worship. Chief amongst these obstacles they present is that the time is not right and conditions not suitable.

In everyday life, people make time for any number of things. Even if they have to make other sacrifices, they will always manage to set aside time, especially when their own benefit is at stake. Moreover, if their circumstances prevent them from carrying out an advantageous task, they are quick to think about the situation and find ways of removing the obstacle. However, people usually do not show the same determination when it comes to observing their acts of worship.

You often meet people around you who present such excuses as, "I want to pray but I can't find the time," "I'm at school and I can't make time for prayers because I have to study," or "This is my summer house, I can't fast here." In the same way, you can also see lots of people who excuse their bad behavior by saying, "I want to be a patient person, but everything happens at once," or "I don't want to get angry but I'm in a very stressful environment."

In reality these people are not approaching the religion of Allah with sincerity because, as we have said before, they are capable of ignoring the time and their circumstances and coming up with all kinds of solutions when they stand to make a material gain, but when the matter in question is the need for them to fulfil their responsibility to Allah, Who created them, they start complaining about difficulties right away.

Let us give a more concrete example to make this easier to understand. If someone receives an offer to set aside one hour a day for a job that pays a lot

of money (let us say ten times his monthly salary), then whatever circumstances he is in, he accepts immediately. This person may be preparing for his university examinations or he may have another very important job to do at the same time. Whatever he may be doing, if necessary he sacrifices his sleep or cuts down on his leisure time but he does not put forward lack of time as a problem. Right away he rearranges his entire schedule to fit in with the well-paid work which has to be done. This is an undeniable truth that applies to most people.

If the person does not show the same determination in earning Allah's approval, this is insincerity and lack of conscience. Above all, the return a person will receive for his prayers is Paradise and the eternal mercy of Allah, a reward that cannot be compared with a few extra dollars received for a job of work.

However, most people are bewitched by the property and money they are striving to acquire, the credit cards they carry, the dollars they save and the houses, cars and fine clothes they enjoy, and they direct themselves to worldly pursuits, setting their religion aside and forgetting about the Hereafter. They deceive themselves by saying, "I don't have time," "I'm very busy," "I have work I need to finish," "I have plans for the future," or "I'll do it later," instead of devoting themselves to the worship which will gain a reward for them in the Hereafter. They do not live according to the superior morality Allah teaches, they do not pray, nor do they fast. They do not give to the needy from the things Allah has given them and they waste their lives in the pursuit of worldly gain.

People who deceive themselves in the belief that the excuses they make will be accepted, and so either do not pursue their worship or put it off, are told what they will meet with in the Hereafter in the following terms:

That Day man will be told what he did and failed to do. In fact, man will be clear proof against himself in spite of any excuses he might offer. (Surat al-Qiyama: 13-15)

So be careful. Do not deceive yourself like these people by making excuses in this world that will be meaningless in the Hereafter. As we are told in the above verses, whatever excuses you make, you really have an intelligence that is capable of understanding that they are not acceptable. If you pursue the desires of the self, you will account for this to Allah, our Lord. No work which you have to do is more urgent or more important than this because your eternal salvation is possible only through Allah's mercy.

Those who claim illness and fatigue

Physical discomfort is one of the excuses people put forward for not following the religion. For example, a person who is unwilling to worship Allah claims to be ill when he is really perfectly healthy. He tries to use this to deceive himself and those around him, and fails to fulfil his responsibilities. Such a person should never forget that Allah knows everything. No human act or thought is a secret from Allah. Allah knows every thought that crosses a person's mind, everything he feels in his heart and everything which is hidden in his subconscious. As the Qur'an tells us: "... Allah knows what your hearts contain" (Surah Al 'Imran: 119).

However, although they are given the opportunity to earn Allah's approval and attain Paradise, people who are far removed from the morality of the Qur'an prefer to set aside their worship using illness as their excuse and follow their own selfish desires. In return for this insincerity, they will receive bitter torment in the Hereafter because the excuses they offer for not carrying out Allah's instructions are dishonest. For people who really do have physical ailments, a number of concessions are provided in the Qur'an. For example, fasting is one of the religious duties which Allah has made compulsory. Consequently, people are obliged to carry out this instruction. In the Qur'an, Allah tells us clearly about situations in which people may be exempt from this form of worship:

[Fasting is prescribed] for a specified number of days. But any of you who are ill or on a journey should fast a number of other days. For those who can [scarcely] afford it, making up for it means feeding a poor man. And if someone does good of his own accord, it is better for him. But that you should fast is better for you, if you only knew. (Surat al-Baqara: 184)

As we can see in this verse, Allah recognizes the situation of travellers and sick people, and eases the task of carrying out the duty of fasting. In the verse's continuation, Allah points out where the greatest blessings lie for the believers. In a later verse, Allah tells us of another relaxation of the fasting rule and reminds us that He always wants ease for His servants:

The month of Ramadan is the one in which the Qur'an was sent down as guidance for humanity, with clear signs containing guidance and discrimination. Any of you who are resident for the month should fast it. But any of you who are ill or on a journey should fast a number of other days. Allah desires ease for you; He does not desire difficulty

for you. You should complete the number of days and proclaim Allah's greatness for the guidance He has given you so that hopefully you will be thankful. (Surat al-Baqara: 185)

As can be seen from this example, there is always an easy way for those who believe sincerely in Allah because the religion of Allah is extremely simple. Allah does not want any difficulties for people who wish to live by His religion. It is Allah Who knows best what will be difficult for people and how to lighten their load, and in the Qur'an He tells us that He will not impose on anybody beyond the limit of his strength:

Allah desires to make things lighter for you. Man was created weak. (Surat an-Nisa': 28)

We do not impose on any self any more than it can stand. With Us there is a Book which speaks the truth. They will not be wronged. (Surat al-Muminun: 62)

Most people behave very ungratefully in the face of Allah's compassion and blessings. Because of their attachment to worldly ambitions, they continually put forward one circumstance after another as excuses for not worshipping as they should. Of course, in doing so they are only deceiving and harming themselves because as we are told in the Qur'an, Allah is in need of nothing:

If you are ungrateful, Allah is rich beyond need of any of you and He is not pleased with ingratitude in His servants. But if you are grateful, He is pleased with you for that. No burden-bearer can bear another's burden. Then you will return to your Lord and He will inform you of what you did. He knows what the heart contains. (Surat az-Zumar: 7)

Be careful; do not deny your position of servitude to Allah and make excuses. Do not even think about such insincerity. Do not forget that Allah knows an insincere excuse before it even crosses a person's mind, and while you are deceiving yourself, if you suddenly meet with the angel of death, you will never be able to return to the world to worship Allah no matter how much you may want to. In the Qur'an, Allah tells us of the regret that will be felt on the Day of Judgment by healthy and able people who avoided worship:

On the Day when legs are bared and they are called on to prostrate, they will not be able to do so. Their eyes will be downcast, darkened by debasement; for they were called on to prostrate when they were in full possession of their faculties. (Surat al-Qalam: 42-43)

**Those who say:
"Allah will forgive me anyway"**

Most people know of Allah's existence and accept it but they do not praise His might as they should. The matter on which they fall into deception is not Allah's existence but His attributes. For example, they believe quite rightly that Allah is very generous, affectionate and compassionate towards His servants but they do not really take on board his attribute of being the Punisher of resistance to the faith and the One Who torments and curses the deniers.

These people who do not praise Allah as they should either have no fear of Allah at all or very little. In terms of the Hereafter, this is very dangerous for them because a person with no fear of Allah who does not believe that he will be punished for what he does can easily commit all kinds of evil acts. Such people may succumb to the perverse idea, which is in no way related to the truth, that although they commit every sin which Allah condemns, He will forgive them anyway. Satan approaches people from this direction and causes them to imagine that they will be forgiven whatever they do.

If we examine them, people in communities which have abandoned religion act on the basis of a distorted point of view and continually go against Allah's instructions and prohibitions. Those people who do not pray or fast, who do not help and protect the needy, who do not share their property because of meanness, who take unfair advantage of other people, who murder, steal and use the property of others fraudulently and who drive those around them into immorality, are the ones who commit these sins with the idea that Allah will forgive them anyway.

The truth is that people who think in such a way have fallen into a great error because although Allah is the One Who accepts repentance and forgives those who repent, at the same time, He is the One Who, with eternal justice, repays everything which is done in the manner it deserves. Of course, those who do evil as well as those who do good will receive the repayment they deserve on the Day of Judgment. The Qur'an tells us this truth:

Or do those who perpetrate evil deeds suppose that We will make them like those who believe and do right actions, so that their lives and deaths will be the same? How bad their judgment is! Allah created the heavens and Earth with truth so that every self might be

repaid for what it earned and they will not be wronged. (Surat al-Jathiyya: 21-22)

Fear a Day when you will be returned to Allah. Then every self will be paid in full for what it earned. They will not be wronged. (Surat al-Baqara: 281)

However, we should point out that naturally, any person can make mistakes during his life and may feel remorse for the wrong things he has done and the mistakes he has made because man is prone to error. Nobody can claim to be perfect. Because of this, while he is in the world a person can repent to Allah in order to be forgiven. Until death, Allah allows everybody the opportunity for repentance; but the Qur'an tells us what kind of repentance is sincere and will be accepted. In the following verses, Allah tells us that sincerity is a condition of repentance:

Allah only accepts the repentance of those who do evil in ignorance and then quickly repent after doing it. Allah turns towards such people. Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise. There is no repentance for people who persist in doing evil until death comes to them and who then say, "Now I repent," nor for people who die unbelievers. We have prepared for them a painful punishment. (Surat an-Nisa': 17-18)

Since this is the case, when a person falls into error he should not regard it as unimportant and think, "Never mind, I'll be forgiven anyway," he should sincerely turn towards our Lord and repent his mistake with the determination to put it right. What is important is for a person to be a sincere and honest servant of Allah. Only in this way can he hope for Allah's forgiveness. Those who do not take refuge in Allah and do not ask for forgiveness, who think that Allah will forgive them anyway, will meet with results which they do not at all expect.

Be careful and do not risk making the mistake, with which Allah will not be pleased, of thinking that He will forgive you whatever happens. Otherwise you will be placing your eternal life in a grave danger of your own making.

Those who think they are going to Paradise whatever happens

In communities that have abandoned a religious way of life, another of the matters on which people deceive themselves is the idea that they have the right to enter the Garden. Although the great majority of these people accept

that there is life after death, since they do not lead religious lives, they have the false belief that they will definitely go to Paradise. How people arrive at such an opinion we do not know, but when comparing themselves with others, most of them see only their good points and so they think that they are good people in general and that as a result they have a right to enter Paradise. What is most surprising is that these people form the concept of "goodness" not according to the Qur'an but according to their own ignorant criteria. They choose not the way of life and the morality which Allah will approve but the lifestyle and morality approved by the society in which they live, and as a result of their misguided standards they fool themselves into imagining that they are bound for Paradise.

There is no doubt, of course, that hoping that Allah will grant one admission to Paradise is a good thing, and wanting this is something to be encouraged. However, the most important indication that such a desire is sincere is when a person behaves consistently with entry into Paradise, displaying fear of Allah and seeking refuge in Him throughout his life. Living a life which Allah will not approve and not fulfilling your obligations to Him while still claiming that you will go to Paradise, is not only extremely insincere but also pure self-deception.

According to this thinking, a person can neglect his obligations to Allah and waste countless opportunities on his own selfish desires and passions, and then automatically take his place amongst the sincere and right acting believers, sharing with them all the bounties which Allah has prepared for them in Paradise. This kind of reasoning shows that the person knows nothing about the Qur'an at all. Someone who understands the truths contained in the verses of the Qur'an knows very well that it is impossible to be saved on the basis of such misconceptions which arise out of people's susceptibility to self-deception.

When someone becomes aware of and reflects on the Fire as it is described in the Qur'an, he cannot bring himself to contemplate spending even a single moment there. He fights strenuously not only against going to the Fire but against going anywhere near it because Hell is a place filled with unimaginable suffering, pain and torment. As described in the Qur'an, the torment of Hell is so violent as to make people wish they no longer existed:

When they are flung into a narrow place in it, shackled together in chains, they will cry out there for destruction. (Surat al-Furqan: 13)

They will call out, "Malik, let your Lord put an end to us!" He will say, "You will stay the way you are." (Surat az-Zukhruf: 77)

People who do not praise Allah and recognize His attributes as they should cannot appreciate the horror of the Fire which He has prepared for unbelievers. This brings about in them a heedlessness. So much so that instead of acting on the basis of fear of Hell and the desire to escape it they are prepared to contemplate going to Hell for a time for certain acts they have committed. This point of view is very widespread in society. People who transgress Allah's commands and prohibitions in favor of their own selfish desires and passions hold the belief that they will serve out their punishment in Hell and then go on to Paradise. They think that they can do whatever they want in the life of the world and that they will then be punished in Hell for a while before being forgiven. In fact, there is no guarantee of such a thing for anybody, unless Allah wills it.

The Fire is a place of eternal torment and any person who does not live according to Allah's commands may be condemned to this torment for eternity. People who imagine that after a time they will be released from the Fire and do not fear Allah as they should are people who do not consider or understand His justice. In fact, Allah speaks of people who act on this superstitious belief and what they will suffer in the Qur'an:

They say, "The Fire will only touch us for a number of days." Say, "Have you made a contract with Allah - then Allah will not break His contract - or are you rather saying about Allah what you do not know?" No indeed! Those who accumulate bad actions and are surrounded by their mistakes, such people are the Companions of the Fire, remaining in it timelessly, for ever; whereas those who believe and do right actions, such people are the Companions of the Garden, remaining in it timelessly, for ever. (Surat al-Baqara: 80-82)

Also the following:

That is because they say, "The Fire will only touch us for a number of days." Their inventions have deluded them in their religion. (Surah Al 'Imran: 24)

As the above verses relate, only Allah knows who will suffer what torment and how long a person will remain in the Fire. The hopelessness and helplessness which will be experienced by people who say during their lives, "I'll serve my time and come out," and deceive themselves with their own arrogant and erroneous mentality, is described by Allah in the following verses:

... He will say, "The Fire is your home. You will be in it timelessly, for ever, except as Allah wills. Your Lord is All-Wise, All-Knowing." (Surat al-An'am: 128)

But as for those who are deviators, their refuge is the Fire. Every time that they want to get out, they are put straight back into it again and they are told, "Taste the punishment of the Fire, which you denied." (Surat as-Sajda: 20)

They will want to get out of the Fire but they will not be able to. They will have an everlasting punishment. (Surat al-Ma'ida: 37)

If you do not want to be one of the people referred to in the above verses, think again about this subject and whatever you do, do not give way to the unfounded belief that you will go to Paradise whatever happens or that you will serve out your punishment and be released from Hell. Judge yourself not according to groundless criteria but according to the verses of the Qur'an. In the Qur'an, Allah tells us in detail what kind of person you should be in order to deserve Paradise. Do not forget that nobody's entry into Paradise is guaranteed. On the contrary, everybody is being tested in the life of the world and everyone is in danger of going to Hell. The Qur'an points out to us that even Allah's most sincere and conscientious prophets prayed to Him on this matter:

[Yusuf said,] "My Lord, You have granted power to me on Earth and taught me the true meaning of events. Originator of the heavens and Earth, You are my friend in this world and the next. So take me as a Muslim at my death and join me to the people who are righteous." (Surah Yusuf: 101)

In this situation, nobody should deceive himself – nobody will be able to enter the gates of Paradise so long as he does not bow down and deliver himself to Allah and does not earn the approval of our Lord. In a verse of the Qur'an, Allah shows us that this is impossible with the following very clear example:

As for those who deny Our signs and are arrogant regarding them, the Gates of Heaven will not be opened for them, and they will

not enter the Garden until a camel goes through a needle's eye. That is how We repay the evildoers. (Surat al-A'raf: 40)

People who say: "I was just doing the same as everybody else"

In a number of matters in which people fall into error, collective psychology has a great influence. Especially in communities which lack religion, "following the herd" comes to be the norm even when it is mistaken or bad. Even though he knows in his conscience what is right, under the influence of crowd psychology a person silences his conscience with the incorrect idea that so many people can't be wrong and so goes along with the majority. In fact, the majority view is no yardstick on any matter. The only guide by which people can separate right from wrong is the Qur'an, which was sent down for this purpose. Those who accept and conform to criteria other than those of the Qur'an fall into very grave errors. In the Qur'an, Allah warns us very clearly on the matter of going along with the majority:

If you obeyed most of those on Earth, they would misguide you from Allah's way. They follow nothing but conjecture. They are only guessing. (Surat al-An'am: 116)

Underlying the principle of conforming to the majority is the bankrupt idea that if everybody is agreed on something it is essential to go along with it. That is, a person is afraid of being criticized or condemned or isolated by others if he does not abandon what he knows to be right to go along with the majority. This is a mentality which is very widespread amongst all people, whether they are young or old. There are people who, solely for this reason, fail to observe their obligations of worship and ignore the approval of Allah throughout their lives for the sake of the approval of the majority. A person does not have to calculate what others think and then act accordingly. With the Qur'an Allah frees people from dependence of all types. A person is accountable only to Allah and will be called to account only as to whether or not he believed in and conformed to the Qur'an.

The fact is that everybody knows this truth very well but many people deceive themselves by putting forward the excuse of going along with the majority and thinking that they can deceive those around them. However, when they enter the Hereafter they will find that the large community of people they went along with cannot save them just as they cannot save themselves. Allah tells us about the state of such people in the Qur'an:

No indeed! If he does not desist, We will grab him by the forelock, a lying, sinful forelock. Let him call his attendants; We will

call the Guards of Hell! No indeed! Do not obey him, but prostrate and draw near. (Surat al-'Alaq: 15-19)

A person in this position has ignored the approval of Allah in order to fit in with those around him and has never considered that he will come face to face with the Day of Judgment. Now he will go to the Fire along with the irreligious majority to whom he attached great importance and for whose approval he neglected Allah. This being the case, do not deceive yourself and distance yourself from the faith by making the excuse of going along with the majority. Never abandon what you know from the Qur'an to be right, and live by what is right even if you do so alone. Do not forget that the determination you show in gaining Allah's approval will be the means for you to live eternally in the shelter of His great mercy.

**Those who say:
"I am following scientific progress"**

Another of the factors which drive people to neglect their religion is the existence of scientists who fall into the error of rejecting Allah and the Day of Judgment.

The age in which we live is one in which science has made major advances and in which, from the scientific point of view, we are encountering things which have never previously been experienced in history. With the opportunities provided by science and technology, we are observing the order and design in the universe, realizing the flawlessness of the systems created by Allah, getting to know more closely a large number of truths about the way living creatures were created and discovering the miracles of the Qur'an one by one.

However, there are also people who use science for their own worldly benefit and try to use it to support their opposition to religion. These people present themselves as scientists but they use science not to research and discover the facts but to bolster their own ideologies. They ignore the flawless creation in the universe and living things and their miraculous characteristics, and put forward the false claim that everything came into existence by itself and by chance. Their purpose is to reject the existence of Allah and make their communities reject it too. By this means they want to create communities made up of separate individuals in which nobody feels responsibility for anybody else and in which immorality of every type becomes widespread.

The vast majority of people are easily influenced by those scientists who are merely determined to spread their own ideas. Scientists are regarded as those best qualified to make the best assessments on every subject. This is

however a wrong assumption. Of course, there are valuable scientists who use science for its true purpose and whose knowledge we can benefit from on a great many matters. However, in scientific circles there are people outside this category who pervert and conceal the facts and mislead others for their own worldly advantage. For this reason, scientists, like everybody else, should not be judged solely according to their scientific credentials or the number of their qualifications, but according to whether they use the knowledge they possess in accordance with the purpose of their creation, and live in the manner which Allah approves. This is the correct approach for a person who believes in Allah.

As we said earlier, Allah states in the Qur'an that conformity to the majority is harmful and that it is the majority which persists in its resistance to the faith. Since this is the case, a person should not accept the word of others without investigating and learning the details, and should reach the correct conclusion by relying on his own intelligence and conscience. In the following verse of the Qur'an, Allah points this out to us: "Do not pursue what you have no knowledge of. Hearing, sight and hearts will all be questioned" (Surat al-Isra': 36). So accepting and following the word of others right away is nothing but self-deception.

A person is responsible for conforming to what is right as Allah instructs and for advising others to do so. This is the truth, and putting forward excuses in an attempt to deceive yourself and those around you can bring no benefit in the Hereafter. In the Qur'an, Allah warns us that there will always be people who invite others to unbelief and make promises on this matter, and points out that such people and those who follow them will meet with suffering:

Those who disbelieve say to those who believe, "Follow our way and we will bear the weight of your mistakes." They will not bear the weight of a single one of their mistakes. Truly they are liars. They will bear their own burdens and other burdens together with their own. On the Day of Resurrection they will be questioned about what they invented. (Surat al-'Ankabut: 12-13)

The End Awaiting Those Who Deceive Themselves

At the beginning of this book we said that Prophet Ibrahim (as) realized the existence and greatness of Allah and immediately understood the necessity of serving Him through the use of his own conscience, without having to be taught. You should know that everybody has the same conscience. What distinguishes people regarded as having no conscience from those whose conscience is strongly developed is that the former close their

eyes and stop up their ears against what they know to be true, while the latter do not.

People who heed the voice of their conscience at every moment like Prophet Ibrahim (as), a prophet praised by Allah in the Qur'an, lead beautiful and tranquil lives because such people possess the spiritual ease which comes with conformity to what is right and hoping for a fine reward in the Hereafter. The exact opposite is true of people who do not heed their consciences. These people suffer the secret pain, the hidden torment of the conscience, of knowing that their failure to conform to what is right and true will bring them serious punishment in the Hereafter. Wherever they go, whatever they do, this pain never lets them alone. Even if they own the biggest fortune in the world and travel around from one country to another, they are never spared this spiritual pressure.

The truth is that this tormented conscience is a warning from Allah to these people to turn back from their wrongdoing. For this reason, to the faithful it is a great blessing because it encourages people to come to their senses, repent and correct their behavior. However, for people who have abandoned religion and sincerity, it is torture in the full sense of the word. Although they know the reason for this torment they experience, they ignore its cause instead of taking steps to rectify it. As a result of the tension brought about by this contradiction in their lives, they can never be truly happy and at peace.

So, as we said at the beginning of this book, people who deceive themselves by ignoring and refusing to understand the truth even though they know it, live their entire lives in spiritual torment. While their consciences are under this spiritual pressure and suffering this torment, they try to ease their discomfort with artificial pleasures, but they can never succeed because the only way of easing a tormented conscience is to repent and submit to Allah.

If, instead of listening to your conscience, you too deceive yourself with various excuses and follow your own selfish desires and passions, you too will experience an inner torment against which you can never defend yourself. However, the gravest consequence of this form of self-deception is that the pains you suffer are not solely limited to the life of this world because Allah tells us that people who deceive themselves in the life of this world and ignore the Day of Judgment will be met with great pain and sorrow in the Hereafter. In fact in the Qur'an, the Day of Judgment is referred to as the "Day of Profit and Loss":

On the Day He gathers you for the Day of Gathering - that is the Day of Profit and Loss. As for those who believe in Allah and act rightly, We will erase their bad actions from them and admit them

into Gardens with rivers flowing under them, remaining in them timelessly, for ever and ever. That is the great victory! But as for those who are unbelievers and deny Our signs they are the Companions of the Fire, remaining in it timelessly, for ever. What an evil destination! (Surat at-Taghabun: 9-10)

The "loss" described in the verses begins with the unbeliever's death and continues with their resurrection and calling to account after which they find their true home by being sent to Hell. The Qur'an tells us of some of the things which people who are deceived by Satan's promises and who deceive themselves with excuses in the life of the world will encounter in Hell:

The throes of death come revealing the truth. That is what you were trying to evade! The Trumpet will be blown. That is the Day of the Threat. Every self will come together with a driver and a witness: "You were heedless of this so We have stripped you of your covering and today your sight is sharp."

His inseparable comrade will say, "This is what I have ready for you." "Hurl into Hell every obdurate disbeliever, impeder of good, doubt-causing aggressor, who set up another deity together with Allah. Hurl him into the terrible punishment." His inseparable comrade will say, "Our Lord, I did not make him overstep the limits. He was, in any case, far astray." He will say, "Do not argue in My presence when I gave you advance warning of the Threat. My word, once given, is not subject to change and I do not wrong My servants." On the Day He says to Hell, "Are you full?" it will ask, "Are there no more to come?" (Surah Qaf: 19-30)

The Advantages of Sincerity Over Self-Deception

Throughout eternity a person is tested only once and this period of testing is made up, on average, of six or seven decades. A person's behavior during this testing period determines the form of his eternal life. If someone spends this brief but extremely important period in self-deception, he fails the test. The truth is this: By deceiving himself, a person can neither change the truth nor evade his responsibility. On the contrary, running away from the truth works only against the person himself. At every moment when he silences his conscience and tries to comfort himself with all kinds of illusory excuses and rationalizations, he is really suffering a terrible loss. Unless Allah wills it, the return for this lack of intelligence will be a sorrow which can never be relieved.

Since this is the case, there is no need for self-deception. It is sufficient to carry out one's duty of serving Allah with very clear knowledge and care. This is possible if the person heeds the voice of his conscience and conforms to Allah's Book. For a sincere believer, there is no other way. The finest and most beneficial way for a person is to be constantly aware that each moment brings him a little closer to death and the Day of Judgment, and that every act and every thought which crosses his mind is known to Allah.

Know that this is the way which leads to sincerity towards Allah and that it is actually the simplest. After a little thought and a clear decision, a person can live his entire life in the clarity of knowledge which that decision brings. Once he gains this clarity of knowledge, it will not allow him to do himself any serious damage by deceiving himself.

Do not forget that deceiving yourself is like playing with fire. While a person is enjoying himself and devoting himself wholly to worldly things, he may at any moment find angels at his side who have come to take his life. Will he be able to continue the same game and the same deception when the angels, as a verse of the Qur'an has it, "pluck out harshly"?

Will he be able to say, "How well I have done. Throughout my life in the world I have eaten, drunk, traveled, enjoyed myself and ignored my responsibilities and my duty of obedience"? Of course not. This is an idea which would not occur even to the most heedless person. On the contrary, at that moment he will experience indescribable panic and terror, and that is just the beginning. When he enters the gates of Hell this terror and remorse will be unbearable, and he will suffer eternal torment.

This is a truth which should not be neglected even for only a moment. Allah points this out in the Qur'an and describes the remorse and helplessness of the ones who deceive themselves as follows:

Turn to your Lord and submit to Him before punishment comes upon you, for then you cannot be helped. Follow the best that has been sent down to you from your Lord before the punishment comes upon you suddenly when you are not expecting it; lest anyone should say, "Alas for me for neglecting what Allah was due, and being one of the scoffers!" or lest they should say, "If only Allah had guided me, I would have had fear of Allah," or lest he should say, when he sees the punishment, "If only I could have another chance so that I could be a good-doer!" (Surat az-Zumar: 54-58)

The Deception of Evolution

Darwinism, in other words the theory of evolution, was put forward with the aim of denying the fact of creation, but is in truth nothing but failed, unscientific nonsense. This theory, which claims that life emerged by chance from inanimate matter, was invalidated by the scientific evidence of clear "design" in the universe and in living things. In this way, science confirmed the fact that Allah created the universe and the living things in it. The propaganda carried out today in order to keep the theory of evolution alive is based solely on the distortion of the scientific facts, biased interpretation, and lies and falsehoods disguised as science.

Yet this propaganda cannot conceal the truth. The fact that the theory of evolution is the greatest deception in the history of science has been expressed more and more in the scientific world over the last 20-30 years. Research carried out after the 1980s in particular has revealed that the claims of Darwinism are totally unfounded, something that has been stated by a large number of scientists. In the United States in particular, many scientists from such different fields as biology, biochemistry and paleontology recognize the invalidity of Darwinism and employ the fact of creation to account for the origin of life.

We have examined the collapse of the theory of evolution and the proofs of creation in great scientific detail in many of our works, and are still continuing to do so. Given the enormous importance of this subject, it will be of great benefit to summarize it here.

The Scientific Collapse of Darwinism

Although this doctrine goes back as far as ancient Greece, the theory of evolution was advanced extensively in the nineteenth century. The most important development that made it the top topic of the world of science was Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, published in 1859. In this book, he denied that Allah created different living species on Earth separately, for he claimed that all living beings had a common ancestor and had diversified over time through small changes. Darwin's theory was not based on any concrete scientific finding; as he also accepted, it was just an "assumption." Moreover, as Darwin confessed in the long chapter of his book titled "Difficulties on Theory," the theory failed in the face of many critical questions.

Darwin invested all of his hopes in new scientific discoveries, which he expected to solve these difficulties. However, contrary to his expectations, scientific findings expanded the dimensions of these difficulties. The defeat of Darwinism in the face of science can be reviewed under three basic topics:

- 1) The theory cannot explain how life originated on Earth.

2) No scientific finding shows that the "evolutionary mechanisms" proposed by the theory have any evolutionary power at all.

3) The fossil record proves the exact opposite of what the theory suggests.

In this section, we will examine these three basic points in general outlines:

The First Insurmountable Step: The Origin of Life

The theory of evolution posits that all living species evolved from a single living cell that emerged on the primitive Earth 3.8 billion years ago. How a single cell could generate millions of complex living species and, if such an evolution really occurred, why traces of it cannot be observed in the fossil record are some of the questions that the theory cannot answer. However, first and foremost, we need to ask: How did this "first cell" originate?

Since the theory of evolution denies creation and any kind of supernatural intervention, it maintains that the "first cell" originated coincidentally within the laws of nature, without any design, plan or arrangement. According to the theory, inanimate matter must have produced a living cell as a result of coincidences. Such a claim, however, is inconsistent with the most unassailable rules of biology.

"Life Comes From Life"

In his book, Darwin never referred to the origin of life. The primitive understanding of science in his time rested on the assumption that living beings had a very simple structure. Since medieval times, spontaneous generation, which asserts that non-living materials came together to form living organisms, had been widely accepted. It was commonly believed that insects came into being from food leftovers, and mice from wheat. Interesting experiments were conducted to prove this theory. Some wheat was placed on a dirty piece of cloth, and it was believed that mice would originate from it after a while.

Similarly, maggots developing in rotting meat was assumed to be evidence of spontaneous generation. However, it was later understood that worms did not appear on meat spontaneously, but were carried there by flies in the form of larvae, invisible to the naked eye.

Even when Darwin wrote *The Origin of Species*, the belief that bacteria could come into existence from non-living matter was widely accepted in the world of science.

However, five years after the publication of Darwin's book, Louis Pasteur announced his results after long studies and experiments, that disproved spontaneous generation, a cornerstone of Darwin's theory. In his triumphal lecture at the Sorbonne in 1864, Pasteur said: "Never will the doctrine of spontaneous generation recover from the mortal blow struck by this simple experiment."¹

For a long time, advocates of the theory of evolution resisted these findings. However, as the development of science unraveled the complex structure of the cell of a living being, the idea that life could come into being coincidentally faced an even greater impasse.

Inconclusive Efforts of the Twentieth Century

The first evolutionist who took up the subject of the origin of life in the twentieth century was the renowned Russian biologist Alexander Oparin. With various theses he advanced in the 1930s, he tried to prove that a living cell could originate by coincidence. These studies, however, were doomed to failure, and Oparin had to make the following confession:

Unfortunately, however, the problem of the origin of the cell is perhaps the most obscure point in the whole study of the evolution of organisms.²

Evolutionist followers of Oparin tried to carry out experiments to solve this problem. The best known experiment was carried out by the American chemist Stanley Miller in 1953. Combining the gases he alleged to have existed in the primordial Earth's atmosphere in an experiment set-up, and adding energy to the mixture, Miller synthesized several organic molecules (amino acids) present in the structure of proteins.

Barely a few years had passed before it was revealed that this experiment, which was then presented as an important step in the name of evolution, was invalid, for the atmosphere used in the experiment was very different from the real Earth conditions.³

After a long silence, Miller confessed that the atmosphere medium he used was unrealistic.⁴

All the evolutionists' efforts throughout the twentieth century to explain the origin of life ended in failure. The geochemist Jeffrey Bada, from the San Diego Scripps Institute accepts this fact in an article published in Earth magazine in 1998:

Today as we leave the twentieth century, we still face the biggest unsolved problem that we had when we entered the twentieth century: How did life originate on Earth?⁵

The Complex Structure of Life

The primary reason why the theory of evolution ended up in such a great impasse regarding the origin of life is that even those living organisms deemed to be the simplest have incredibly complex structures. The cell of a living thing is more complex than all of our man-made technological products. Today, even in the most developed laboratories of the world, a living cell cannot be produced by bringing organic chemicals together.

The conditions required for the formation of a cell are too great in quantity to be explained away by coincidences. The probability of proteins, the building blocks of a cell, being synthesized coincidentally, is 1 in 10950 for an average protein made up of 500 amino acids. In mathematics, a probability smaller than 1 over 1050 is considered to be impossible in practical terms.

The DNA molecule, which is located in the nucleus of a cell and which stores genetic information, is an incredible databank. If the information coded in DNA were written down, it would make a giant library consisting of an estimated 900 volumes of encyclopedias consisting of 500 pages each.

A very interesting dilemma emerges at this point: DNA can replicate itself only with the help of some specialized proteins (enzymes). However, the synthesis of these enzymes can be realized only by the information coded in DNA. As they both depend on each other, they have to exist at the same time for replication. This brings the scenario that life originated by itself to a deadlock. Prof. Leslie Orgel, an evolutionist of repute from the University of San Diego, California, confesses this fact in the September 1994 issue of the Scientific American magazine:

It is extremely improbable that proteins and nucleic acids, both of which are structurally complex, arose spontaneously in the same place at the same time. Yet it also seems impossible to have one without the other. And so, at first glance, one might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means.⁶

No doubt, if it is impossible for life to have originated from natural causes, then it has to be accepted that life was "created" in a supernatural way. This fact explicitly invalidates the theory of evolution, whose main purpose is to deny creation.

Imaginary Mechanism of Evolution

The second important point that negates Darwin's theory is that both concepts put forward by the theory as "evolutionary mechanisms" were understood to have, in reality, no evolutionary power.

Darwin based his evolution allegation entirely on the mechanism of "natural selection." The importance he placed on this mechanism was evident in the name of his book: *The Origin of Species, By Means of Natural Selection...*

Natural selection holds that those living things that are stronger and more suited to the natural conditions of their habitats will survive in the struggle for life. For example, in a deer herd under the threat of attack by wild animals, those that can run faster will survive. Therefore, the deer herd will be comprised of faster and stronger individuals. However, unquestionably, this mechanism will not cause deer to evolve and transform themselves into another living species, for instance, horses.

Therefore, the mechanism of natural selection has no evolutionary power. Darwin was also aware of this fact and had to state this in his book *The Origin of Species*:

Natural selection can do nothing until favourable individual differences or variations occur.⁷

Lamarck's Impact

So, how could these "favorable variations" occur? Darwin tried to answer this question from the standpoint of the primitive understanding of science at that time. According to the French biologist Chevalier de Lamarck (1744-1829), who lived before Darwin, living creatures passed on the traits they acquired during their lifetime to the next generation. He asserted that these traits, which accumulated from one generation to another, caused new species to be formed. For instance, he claimed that giraffes evolved from antelopes; as they struggled to eat the leaves of high trees, their necks were extended from generation to generation.

Darwin also gave similar examples. In his book *The Origin of Species*, for instance, he said that some bears going into water to find food transformed themselves into whales over time.⁸

However, the laws of inheritance discovered by Gregor Mendel (1822-84) and verified by the science of genetics, which flourished in the twentieth century, utterly demolished the legend that acquired traits were passed on to subsequent generations. Thus, natural selection fell out of favor as an evolutionary mechanism.

Neo-Darwinism and Mutations

In order to find a solution, Darwinists advanced the "Modern Synthetic Theory," or as it is more commonly known, Neo-Darwinism, at the end of the 1930s. Neo-Darwinism added mutations, which are distortions formed in the

genes of living beings due to such external factors as radiation or replication errors, as the "cause of favorable variations" in addition to natural mutation.

Today, the model that stands for evolution in the world is Neo-Darwinism. The theory maintains that millions of living beings formed as a result of a process whereby numerous complex organs of these organisms (e.g., ears, eyes, lungs, and wings) underwent "mutations," that is, genetic disorders. Yet, there is an outright scientific fact that totally undermines this theory: Mutations do not cause living beings to develop; on the contrary, they are always harmful.

The reason for this is very simple: DNA has a very complex structure, and random effects can only harm it. The American geneticist B. G. Ranganathan explains this as follows:

First, genuine mutations are very rare in nature. Secondly, most mutations are harmful since they are random, rather than orderly changes in the structure of genes; any random change in a highly ordered system will be for the worse, not for the better. For example, if an earthquake were to shake a highly ordered structure such as a building, there would be a random change in the framework of the building which, in all probability, would not be an improvement.⁹

Not surprisingly, no mutation example, which is useful, that is, which is observed to develop the genetic code, has been observed so far. All mutations have proved to be harmful. It was understood that mutation, which is presented as an "evolutionary mechanism," is actually a genetic occurrence that harms living things, and leaves them disabled. (The most common effect of mutation on human beings is cancer.) Of course, a destructive mechanism cannot be an "evolutionary mechanism." Natural selection, on the other hand, "can do nothing by itself," as Darwin also accepted. This fact shows us that there is no "evolutionary mechanism" in nature. Since no evolutionary mechanism exists, no such any imaginary process called "evolution" could have taken place.

The Fossil Record: No Sign of Intermediate Forms

The clearest evidence that the scenario suggested by the theory of evolution did not take place is the fossil record.

According to this theory, every living species has sprung from a predecessor. A previously existing species turned into something else over time and all species have come into being in this way. In other words, this transformation proceeds gradually over millions of years.

Had this been the case, numerous intermediary species should have existed and lived within this long transformation period.

For instance, some half-fish/half-reptiles should have lived in the past which had acquired some reptilian traits in addition to the fish traits they already had. Or there should have existed some reptile-birds, which acquired some bird traits in addition to the reptilian traits they already had. Since these would be in a transitional phase, they should be disabled, defective, crippled living beings. Evolutionists refer to these imaginary creatures, which they believe to have lived in the past, as "transitional forms."

If such animals ever really existed, there should be millions and even billions of them in number and variety. More importantly, the remains of these strange creatures should be present in the fossil record. In *The Origin of Species*, Darwin explained:

If my theory be true, numberless intermediate varieties, linking most closely all of the species of the same group together must assuredly have existed... Consequently, evidence of their former existence could be found only amongst fossil remains.¹⁰

Darwin's Hopes Shattered

However, although evolutionists have been making strenuous efforts to find fossils since the middle of the nineteenth century all over the world, no transitional forms have yet been uncovered. All of the fossils, contrary to the evolutionists' expectations, show that life appeared on Earth all of a sudden and fully-formed.

One famous British paleontologist, Derek V. Ager, admits this fact, even though he is an evolutionist:

The point emerges that if we examine the fossil record in detail, whether at the level of orders or of species, we find—over and over again—not gradual evolution, but the sudden explosion of one group at the expense of another.¹¹

This means that in the fossil record, all living species suddenly emerge as fully formed, without any intermediate forms in between. This is just the opposite of Darwin's assumptions. Also, this is very strong evidence that all living things are created. The only explanation of a living species emerging suddenly and complete in every detail without any evolutionary ancestor is that it was created. This fact is admitted also by the widely known evolutionist biologist Douglas Futuyma:

Creation and evolution, between them, exhaust the possible explanations for the origin of living things. Organisms either appeared on the earth fully developed or they did not. If they did not, they must have developed from pre-existing species by some process of modification. If they did appear in a fully

developed state, they must indeed have been created by some omnipotent intelligence.¹²

Fossils show that living beings emerged fully developed and in a perfect state on the Earth. That means that "the origin of species," contrary to Darwin's supposition, is not evolution, but creation.

The Tale of Human Evolution

The subject most often brought up by advocates of the theory of evolution is the subject of the origin of man. The Darwinist claim holds that modern man evolved from ape-like creatures. During this alleged evolutionary process, which is supposed to have started 4-5 million years ago, some "transitional forms" between modern man and his ancestors are supposed to have existed. According to this completely imaginary scenario, four basic "categories" are listed:

1. Australopithecus
2. Homo habilis
3. Homo erectus
4. Homo sapiens

Evolutionists call man's so-called first ape-like ancestors Australopithecus, which means "South African ape." These living beings are actually nothing but an old ape species that has become extinct. Extensive research done on various Australopithecus specimens by two world famous anatomists from England and the USA, namely, Lord Solly Zuckerman and Prof. Charles Oxnard, shows that these apes belonged to an ordinary ape species that became extinct and bore no resemblance to humans.¹³

Evolutionists classify the next stage of human evolution as "homo," that is "man." According to their claim, the living beings in the Homo series are more developed than Australopithecus. Evolutionists devise a fanciful evolution scheme by arranging different fossils of these creatures in a particular order. This scheme is imaginary because it has never been proved that there is an evolutionary relation between these different classes. Ernst Mayr, one of the twentieth century's most important evolutionists, contends in his book *One Long Argument* that "particularly historical [puzzles] such as the origin of life or of Homo sapiens, are extremely difficult and may even resist a final, satisfying explanation."¹⁴

By outlining the link chain as Australopithecus > Homo habilis > Homo erectus > Homo sapiens, evolutionists imply that each of these species is one another's ancestor. However, recent findings of paleoanthropologists have revealed that Australopithecus, Homo habilis, and Homo erectus lived at different parts of the world at the same time.¹⁵

Moreover, a certain segment of humans classified as *Homo erectus* have lived up until very modern times. *Homo sapiens neandarthals* and *Homo sapiens sapiens* (modern man) co-existed in the same region.¹⁶

This situation apparently indicates the invalidity of the claim that they are ancestors of one another. Stephen Jay Gould explained this deadlock of the theory of evolution, although he was himself one of the leading advocates of evolution in the twentieth century:

What has become of our ladder if there are three coexisting lineages of hominids (*A. africanus*, the robust australopithecines, and *H. habilis*), none clearly derived from another? Moreover, none of the three display any evolutionary trends during their tenure on earth.¹⁷

Put briefly, the scenario of human evolution, which is "upheld" with the help of various drawings of some "half ape, half human" creatures appearing in the media and course books, that is, frankly, by means of propaganda, is nothing but a tale with no scientific foundation.

Lord Solly Zuckerman, one of the most famous and respected scientists in the U.K., who carried out research on this subject for years and studied *Australopithecus* fossils for 15 years, finally concluded, despite being an evolutionist himself, that there is, in fact, no such family tree branching out from ape-like creatures to man.

Zuckerman also made an interesting "spectrum of science" ranging from those he considered scientific to those he considered unscientific. According to Zuckerman's spectrum, the most "scientific"—that is, depending on concrete data—fields of science are chemistry and physics. After them come the biological sciences and then the social sciences. At the far end of the spectrum, which is the part considered to be most "unscientific," are "extra-sensory perception"—concepts such as telepathy and sixth sense—and finally "human evolution." Zuckerman explains his reasoning:

We then move right off the register of objective truth into those fields of presumed biological science, like extrasensory perception or the interpretation of man's fossil history, where to the faithful [evolutionist] anything is possible—and where the ardent believer [in evolution] is sometimes able to believe several contradictory things at the same time.¹⁸

The tale of human evolution boils down to nothing but the prejudiced interpretations of some fossils unearthed by certain people, who blindly adhere to their theory.

Darwinian Formula!

Besides all the technical evidence we have dealt with so far, let us now for once, examine what kind of a superstition the evolutionists have with an example so simple as to be understood even by children:

The theory of evolution asserts that life is formed by chance. According to this claim, lifeless and unconscious atoms came together to form the cell and then they somehow formed other living things, including man. Let us think about that. When we bring together the elements that are the building-blocks of life such as carbon, phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium, only a heap is formed. No matter what treatments it undergoes, this atomic heap cannot form even a single living being. If you like, let us formulate an "experiment" on this subject and let us examine on the behalf of evolutionists what they really claim without pronouncing loudly under the name "Darwinian formula":

Let evolutionists put plenty of materials present in the composition of living things such as phosphorus, nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, iron, and magnesium into big barrels. Moreover, let them add in these barrels any material that does not exist under normal conditions, but they think as necessary. Let them add in this mixture as many amino acids and as many proteins—a single one of which has a formation probability of 10-950—as they like. Let them expose these mixtures to as much heat and moisture as they like. Let them stir these with whatever technologically developed device they like. Let them put the foremost scientists beside these barrels. Let these experts wait in turn beside these barrels for billions, and even trillions of years. Let them be free to use all kinds of conditions they believe to be necessary for a human's formation. No matter what they do, they cannot produce from these barrels a human, say a professor that examines his cell structure under the electron microscope. They cannot produce giraffes, lions, bees, canaries, horses, dolphins, roses, orchids, lilies, carnations, bananas, oranges, apples, dates, tomatoes, melons, watermelons, figs, olives, grapes, peaches, peafowls, pheasants, multicoloured butterflies, or millions of other living beings such as these. Indeed, they could not obtain even a single cell of any one of them.

Briefly, unconscious atoms cannot form the cell by coming together. They cannot take a new decision and divide this cell into two, then take other decisions and create the professors who first invent the electron microscope and then examine their own cell structure under that microscope. Matter is an unconscious, lifeless heap, and it comes to life with Allah's superior creation.

The theory of evolution, which claims the opposite, is a total fallacy completely contrary to reason. Thinking even a little bit on the claims of evolutionists discloses this reality, just as in the above example.

Technology in the Eye and the Ear

Another subject that remains unanswered by evolutionary theory is the excellent quality of perception in the eye and the ear.

Before passing on to the subject of the eye, let us briefly answer the question of how we see. Light rays coming from an object fall oppositely on the eye's retina. Here, these light rays are transmitted into electric signals by cells and reach a tiny spot at the back of the brain, the "center of vision." These electric signals are perceived in this center as an image after a series of processes. With this technical background, let us do some thinking.

The brain is insulated from light. That means that its inside is completely dark, and that no light reaches the place where it is located. Thus, the "center of vision" is never touched by light and may even be the darkest place you have ever known. However, you observe a luminous, bright world in this pitch darkness.

The image formed in the eye is so sharp and distinct that even the technology of the twentieth century has not been able to attain it. For instance, look at the book you are reading, your hands with which you are holding it, and then lift your head and look around you. Have you ever seen such a sharp and distinct image as this one at any other place? Even the most developed television screen produced by the greatest television producer in the world cannot provide such a sharp image for you. This is a three-dimensional, colored, and extremely sharp image. For more than 100 years, thousands of engineers have been trying to achieve this sharpness. Factories, huge premises were established, much research has been done, plans and designs have been made for this purpose. Again, look at a TV screen and the book you hold in your hands. You will see that there is a big difference in sharpness and distinction. Moreover, the TV screen shows you a two-dimensional image, whereas with your eyes, you watch a three-dimensional perspective with depth.

For many years, tens of thousands of engineers have tried to make a three-dimensional TV and achieve the vision quality of the eye. Yes, they have made a three-dimensional television system, but it is not possible to watch it without putting on special 3-D glasses; moreover, it is only an artificial three-dimension. The background is more blurred, the foreground appears like a paper setting. Never has it been possible to produce a sharp and distinct vision like that of the eye. In both the camera and the television, there is a loss of image quality.

Evolutionists claim that the mechanism producing this sharp and distinct image has been formed by chance. Now, if somebody told you that the television in your room was formed as a result of chance, that all of its atoms

just happened to come together and make up this device that produces an image, what would you think? How can atoms do what thousands of people cannot?

If a device producing a more primitive image than the eye could not have been formed by chance, then it is very evident that the eye and the image seen by the eye could not have been formed by chance. The same situation applies to the ear. The outer ear picks up the available sounds by the auricle and directs them to the middle ear, the middle ear transmits the sound vibrations by intensifying them, and the inner ear sends these vibrations to the brain by translating them into electric signals. Just as with the eye, the act of hearing finalizes in the center of hearing in the brain.

The situation in the eye is also true for the ear. That is, the brain is insulated from sound just as it is from light. It does not let any sound in. Therefore, no matter how noisy is the outside, the inside of the brain is completely silent. Nevertheless, the sharpest sounds are perceived in the brain. In your completely silent brain, you listen to symphonies, and hear all of the noises in a crowded place. However, were the sound level in your brain measured by a precise device at that moment, complete silence would be found to be prevailing there.

As is the case with imagery, decades of effort have been spent in trying to generate and reproduce sound that is faithful to the original. The results of these efforts are sound recorders, high-fidelity systems, and systems for sensing sound. Despite all of this technology and the thousands of engineers and experts who have been working on this endeavor, no sound has yet been obtained that has the same sharpness and clarity as the sound perceived by the ear. Think of the highest-quality hi-fi systems produced by the largest company in the music industry. Even in these devices, when sound is recorded some of it is lost; or when you turn on a hi-fi you always hear a hissing sound before the music starts. However, the sounds that are the products of the human body's technology are extremely sharp and clear. A human ear never perceives a sound accompanied by a hissing sound or with atmospherics as does a hi-fi; rather, it perceives sound exactly as it is, sharp and clear. This is the way it has been since the creation of man.

So far, no man-made visual or recording apparatus has been as sensitive and successful in perceiving sensory data as are the eye and the ear. However, as far as seeing and hearing are concerned, a far greater truth lies beyond all this.

To Whom Does the Consciousness That Sees and Hears within the Brain Belong?

Who watches an alluring world in the brain, listens to symphonies and the twittering of birds, and smells the rose?

The stimulations coming from a person's eyes, ears, and nose travel to the brain as electro-chemical nerve impulses. In biology, physiology, and biochemistry books, you can find many details about how this image forms in the brain. However, you will never come across the most important fact: Who perceives these electro-chemical nerve impulses as images, sounds, odors, and sensory events in the brain? There is a consciousness in the brain that perceives all this without feeling any need for an eye, an ear, and a nose. To whom does this consciousness belong? Of course it does not belong to the nerves, the fat layer, and neurons comprising the brain. This is why Darwinist-materialists, who believe that everything is comprised of matter, cannot answer these questions.

For this consciousness is the spirit created by Allah, which needs neither the eye to watch the images nor the ear to hear the sounds. Furthermore, it does not need the brain to think.

Everyone who reads this explicit and scientific fact should ponder on Almighty Allah, and fear and seek refuge in Him, for He squeezes the entire universe in a pitch-dark place of a few cubic centimeters in a three-dimensional, colored, shadowy, and luminous form.

A Materialist Faith

The information we have presented so far shows us that the theory of evolution is incompatible with scientific findings. The theory's claim regarding the origin of life is inconsistent with science, the evolutionary mechanisms it proposes have no evolutionary power, and fossils demonstrate that the required intermediate forms have never existed. So, it certainly follows that the theory of evolution should be pushed aside as an unscientific idea. This is how many ideas, such as the Earth-centered universe model, have been taken out of the agenda of science throughout history.

However, the theory of evolution is kept on the agenda of science. Some people even try to represent criticisms directed against it as an "attack on science." Why?

The reason is that this theory is an indispensable dogmatic belief for some circles. These circles are blindly devoted to materialist philosophy and adopt Darwinism because it is the only materialist explanation that can be put forward to explain the workings of nature.

Interestingly enough, they also confess this fact from time to time. A well-known geneticist and an outspoken evolutionist, Richard C. Lewontin from Harvard University, confesses that he is "first and foremost a materialist and then a scientist":

It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, so we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.¹⁹

These are explicit statements that Darwinism is a dogma kept alive just for the sake of adherence to materialism. This dogma maintains that there is no being save matter. Therefore, it argues that inanimate, unconscious matter created life. It insists that millions of different living species (e.g., birds, fish, giraffes, tigers, insects, trees, flowers, whales, and human beings) originated as a result of the interactions between matter such as pouring rain, lightning flashes, and so on, out of inanimate matter. This is a precept contrary both to reason and science. Yet Darwinists continue to defend it just so as "not to allow a Divine Foot in the door."

Anyone who does not look at the origin of living beings with a materialist prejudice will see this evident truth: All living beings are works of a Creator, Who is All-Powerful, All-Wise, and All-Knowing. This Creator is Allah, Who created the whole universe from non-existence, designed it in the most perfect form, and fashioned all living beings.

The Theory of Evolution: The Most Potent Spell in the World

Anyone free of prejudice and the influence of any particular ideology, who uses only his or her reason and logic, will clearly understand that belief in the theory of evolution, which brings to mind the superstitions of societies with no knowledge of science or civilization, is quite impossible.

As explained above, those who believe in the theory of evolution think that a few atoms and molecules thrown into a huge vat could produce thinking, reasoning professors and university students; such scientists as Einstein and Galileo; such artists as Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and Luciano Pavarotti; as well as antelopes, lemon trees, and carnations. Moreover, as the scientists and professors who believe in this nonsense are educated people, it is quite justifiable to speak of this theory as "the most potent spell in history." Never before has any other belief or idea so taken away peoples' powers of reason,

refused to allow them to think intelligently and logically, and hidden the truth from them as if they had been blindfolded. This is an even worse and unbelievable blindness than the Egyptians worshipping the Sun God Ra, totem worship in some parts of Africa, the people of Saba worshipping the Sun, the tribe of Prophet Ibrahim (as) worshipping idols they had made with their own hands, or the people of Prophet Musa (as) worshipping the Golden Calf.

In fact, Allah has pointed to this lack of reason in the Qur'an. In many verses, He reveals that some peoples' minds will be closed and that they will be powerless to see the truth. Some of these verses are as follows:

As for those who do not believe, it makes no difference to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe. Allah has sealed up their hearts and hearing and over their eyes is a blindfold. They will have a terrible punishment. (Surat al-Baqara: 6-7)

... They have hearts with which they do not understand. They have eyes with which they do not see. They have ears with which they do not hear. Such people are like cattle. No, they are even further astray! They are the unaware. (Surat al-A`raf: 179)

Even if We opened up to them a door into heaven, and they spent the day ascending through it, they would only say: "Our eyesight is befuddled! Or rather we have been put under a spell!" (Surat al-Hijr: 14-15)

Words cannot express just how astonishing it is that this spell should hold such a wide community in thrall, keep people from the truth, and not be broken for 150 years. It is understandable that one or a few people might believe in impossible scenarios and claims full of stupidity and illogicality. However, "magic" is the only possible explanation for people from all over the world believing that unconscious and lifeless atoms suddenly decided to come together and form a universe that functions with a flawless system of organization, discipline, reason, and consciousness; a planet named Earth with all of its features so perfectly suited to life; and living things full of countless complex systems.

In fact, the Qur'an relates the incident of Prophet Musa (as) and Pharaoh to show that some people who support atheistic philosophies actually influence others by magic. When Pharaoh was told about the true religion, he told Prophet Musa (as) to meet with his own magicians. When Musa (as) did so, he told them to demonstrate their abilities first. The verses continue:

He said: "You throw." And when they threw, they cast a spell on the people's eyes and caused them to feel great fear of them. They produced an extremely powerful magic. (Surat al-A`raf: 116)

As we have seen, Pharaoh's magicians were able to deceive everyone, apart from Musa (as) and those who believed in him. However, his evidence broke the spell, or "swallowed up what they had forged," as the verse puts it:

We revealed to Musa, "Throw down your staff." And it immediately swallowed up what they had forged. So the Truth took place and what they did was shown to be false. (Surat al-A`raf: 117-118)

As we can see, when people realized that a spell had been cast upon them and that what they saw was just an illusion, Pharaoh's magicians lost all credibility. In the present day too, unless those who, under the influence of a similar spell, believe in these ridiculous claims under their scientific disguise and spend their lives defending them, abandon their superstitious beliefs, they also will be humiliated when the full truth emerges and the spell is broken. In fact, world-renowned British writer and philosopher Malcolm Muggeridge also stated this:

I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books in the future. Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.²⁰

That future is not far off: On the contrary, people will soon see that "chance" is not a deity, and will look back on the theory of evolution as the worst deceit and the most terrible spell in the world. That spell is already rapidly beginning to be lifted from the shoulders of people all over the world. Many people who see its true face are wondering with amazement how they could ever have been taken in by it.

**They said, "Glory be to You!
We have no knowledge except what
You have taught us. You are
the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."
(Surat al-Baqara, 32)**

NOTES

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ALSO BY HARUN YAHYA

Many people think that Darwin's Theory of Evolution is a proven fact. Contrary to this conventional wisdom, recent developments in science completely disprove the theory. This book clarifies the scientific collapse of the theory of evolution in a way that is detailed but easy to understand. Anyone who wants to learn about the origin of living things, including mankind, needs to read this book.

How was matter and time created from nothingness? What does the Big Bang theory signify about the creation of the universe? What is the parallelism between Einstein's Theory of Relativity and the Qur'anic verses? All of these questions are answered in this book. If you want to learn the truths about space, matter, time and fate, read this book.

Fascism and communism, which made humanity suffer dark times, are fed from the same source, on the grounds of which they can attract masses to their side. This source is the materialist philosophy and its adaptation to nature, which is Darwinism. The acknowledgement of the scientific invalidity of this theory will bring about the end of all these detrimental ideologies.

This book gets into detail on the issue of origins and makes a comprehensive and technical refutation of Darwinist theory. As it is mentioned in the book, anyone who still defends the theory of evolution has to come into terms with this book and face its challenge. Otherwise, he will de facto accept that his allegiance to the theory of evolution is a non-scientific approach but a materialistic dogma.

When a person examines his own body or any other living thing in nature, the world or the whole universe, in it he sees a great design, art, plan and intelligence. All this is evidence proving Allah's being, unit, and eternal power. For Men of Understanding .is also available in Indonesian, German, French, Urdu and Russian.

Today, science has proven that the universe was created from nothing with a Big Bang. Everything from the nuclear reactions in

stars to the chemical properties of a carbon atom or a water molecule, is created in a glorious harmony. This is the exalted and flawless creation of Allah.

People who are oppressed, who are tortured to death, those who cannot afford even a loaf of bread, women, children, and old people who are expelled from their homes because of their religion... Eventually, there is only one solution to the injustice, chaos, hunger, and oppression: the values of the Qur'an.

Many societies that rebelled against the will of God or regarded His messengers as enemies were wiped off the face of the earth completely... Perished Nations examines these penalties as revealed in the verses of the Quran and in light of archaeological discoveries.

When you read this book, you will see that Darwin's theory has absolutely broken down, just as he feared it would. A thorough examination of the feathers of a bird, or the wing structure of a fly reveal amazingly complex designs. And these designs indicate that they are created flawlessly by God.

This book is a summons to think. A summons to ponder over the universe and living beings and see how they have been created flawlessly.

In this book you will find explanations about eternity, timelessness and spacelessness that you will never have encountered anywhere else and you will be confronted by the reality that eternity has already begun.

When the events of "sickness" and "recovering" take place, our bodies become a battleground in which a bitter struggle is taking place. The body however has a mechanism that combats them. This system proves that the human body is the outcome of a unique design that has been planned with a great wisdom and skill.

The plan, design, and delicate balance existing in our bodies and reaching into even the remotest corners of the universe must surely have a superior Creator. Man is unable to see his Creator yet he can nevertheless grasp His existence, strength, and wisdom by means of his intellect.

Never plead ignorance of God's evident existence, that you will not stay so long in this world, of the reality of death, that the Qur'an is the Book of truth, that you will give account for your deeds, of the voice of your conscience that always invites you to righteousness.

The world is a temporary place specially created by God to test man. Each and every attraction existing in the world eventually wears out, becomes corrupt, decays and finally disappears. This book leads man to ponder the real place to which he belongs, namely the hereafter.

Scientific progress makes it clear that living beings have an extremely complex structure and an order that is too perfect to have come into being by accident. In this book, the unique creation of God is once again disclosed for all to see.

The way to examine the universe and all the beings therein and to discover God's art of creation and announce it to humanity is "science". Therefore, religion adopts science as a way to reach the details of God's creation. This book is about this close link between science and religion.

Colours, patterns, spots even lines of each living being existing in nature have a meaning. An attentive eye would immediately recognise that not only the living beings, but also everything in nature are just as they should be.

The information hidden inside DNA controls the thousands of different events that take place in the cells of the human body and in the functioning of its systems. In the same way that every book has a writer and owner, so does the information in DNA: and that Creator is our Lord God, the All-Wise.

These millimeter-sized animals have an excellent ability for organization and specialization that is not to be matched by any other being on earth. These aspects of ants create in one a great admiration for God's superior power and unmatched creation.

This book maintains that the source of the scourge of terrorism does not come from a divine religion, and that there is no room for terrorism in Islam.

This book deals with how the theory of evolution is invalidated by scientific findings and experiments in a concise and simple language.

The theory of evolution has been on the agenda for 150 years, deeply affecting numerous peoples' outlook on life. It imposes on them the lie that they are an "animal species" that came into being as a result of coincidences. In this book, commonly asked questions about the theory of evolution and evolutionary claims on these issues are answered.

Just as a tiny key opens a huge door, this book will open new horizons for its readers. Relating the amazing and admirable features of spiders known by few people, this book reveals the excellence and perfection inherent in God's creation.

The purpose of this book is to display the miraculous features of plants and hence to make people see "the creation miracle" in things - they often encounter in the flow of their daily lives and sidestep.

The content of this book is an extremely important truth:"All events, people, buildings, cities, cars, places, which are a part of our life in this world, in short, everything we see, hold, touch, smell, taste and hear, are actually illusions and sensations that form in our brain."

This book reveals what a serious threat romanticism poses to societies and individuals, and shows how easy it is to eliminate this danger.

Fascism is an ideology that has brought great disasters to humanity. The main purpose of the book is to present various fascist tendencies which appear under different methods and guises, and expose their real origins and objectives.

The unprecedented style and the superior wisdom inherent in the Qur'an is conclusive evidence confirming that it is the Word of God. In this book, in addition to the scientific miracles of the Qur'an, you will also find messages regarding the future.

Everything that constitutes our life is a totality of perceptions received by our soul. In the book, which consists of a conversation between four people, the prejudices that prevent people from understanding this great truth are removed, and the misconceptions they have are explained.

A person who examines any corner of the universe sees a flawless plan incorporating both order and design. Everywhere in the universe there prevails an admirable glory. This glory is the superior and matchless artistry of God, Who creates everything.

God, in the Qur'an, calls the culture of people who are not subject to the religion of God "ignorance." The purpose of this book is to take this comparison further, displaying the extent of the "crude understanding" of ignorant societies.

There are questions about religion that people seek answers to and hope to be enlightened in the best way. In these booklets, you will find the most accurate answers to all the questions you seek answers for and learn your responsibilities towards your Creator.

Moses is the prophet whose life is most narrated in the Qur'an. This book provides a thorough examination into the life of the Prophet Moses (as) in the light of the Qur'anic verses.

This book presents the philosophy of freemasonry, and provides a detailed account of how this philosophy infiltrated first into the West, and then into other civilizations of the world. The main theme can be summed up as "the history of the war that freemasonry waged against religion."

In the Qur'an, God tells people many secrets. For people who learn these secrets of the Qur'an, however, the life of this world is very easy, and full of joy and excitement. This book deals with the subjects God related to people as a secret.

God creates every word one utters, and every event one experiences, from the moment one is born into this world. For a believer who understands this fact, uninterrupted joy of faith

becomes an unchanging quality of life. The fate decreed by God is flawless.

This book, based on the verses of the Qur'an, makes a detailed depiction of the moment of death, the day of judgement, and the penalties in hell, and it sounds a warning about the great danger facing us.

This book is a summons to those who want goodness to prevail: it calls on them to do goodness and to form an alliance with other good people like themselves.

Based on the information conveyed in the Qur'an, this book gives an account of God's attributes, our purpose in this world, what we have to do to fulfill this purpose.

The purpose of this book is to present the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) in all the aspects of his character, show how superior a community made up of individuals who emulate his character will be, and call people to the way of the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh).

In the Qur'an, there is an explicit reference to the "second coming of the Jesus to the world" which is heralded in a hadith. The realisation of some information revealed in the Qur'an about Jesus can only be possible by Jesus' second coming...

The most serious mistake a man makes is not pondering. It is not possible to find the truth unless one thinks about basic questions such as "How and why am I here?", "Who created me?", or "Where am I going?."

The Qur'an has been revealed to us so that we may read and ponder. The Basic Concepts of the Qur'an is a useful resource prepared as a guide to thinking.

This book introduces the real concept of conscience that is related in the Qur'an and draws our attention to the kind of understanding, thought, and wisdom that a truly conscientious person has.

This book includes Internet pages of Islamic organizations, and various universities, where you can find Harun Yahya's works, and reviews written by various scholars, together with an account of the reactions from the fairs and conferences that have presented the author's works.

In order for justice to reign on the Earth, a morality that will make people leave their own interests aside in favor of justice is needed. This morality is the Qur'anic morality that God teaches and commands us.

That people do not adopt the moral values of the Qur'an and submit to God underlie the personal and social depression, pain, fears and lack of confidence that is widely experienced today. This book explains the detriments that disbelief gives to people.

A study that examines and seeks to remind us of the basic moral principles of the Qur'an, particularly those that are most likely to be forgotten or neglected at times. This book is also available in Bengoli.

In this book, all ideologies based on disbelief are referred to as "the religions of irreligion." That is simply because these ideologies have in time evolved to become religions with a complete system of beliefs, practices, and rules for conducting one's daily life.

Some of the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (saas) have to do with the signs of the last day. In this book, the signs of the last day are examined in the light of the verses and the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (saas).

Devil has found allies for himself in every age. The anti-Christ, who will emerge as the greatest negative power in the end times, is one of them. The purpose of this book is to portray the anti-Christ in all its features as described in the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (saas).

One of the principal deceptions that impel people into delinquency is the fact that they constantly forget the basic facts of life. This book summons man to remember facts that his soul prompts him to forget.

The Qur'an has been sent down as a book easily understandable by everyone. In this book, the reasons why those people misinterpret the Qur'an are examined and some examples of the objections they make are reviewed and answered.

The purpose of this book is to warn people against the day on which they will say "If only we did not rebel against God. If only we listened to the messengers..." and therefore feel deep regret.

A believer who decides to live for the cause of God must abandon all the idols of the society of ignorance. Devoted to God is a summons to overthrow these idols for good.

This book is about the enthusiasm of believers that keeps growing until the end of their lives. The main aim of the book is to increase the enthusiasm of believers showing them what a great blessing enthusiasm is, and how it enhances the power of believers.

This book, based on the verses of the Qur'an, makes a detailed depiction of the moment of death, the day of judgement, and the penalties in hell, and it sounds a warning about the great danger facing us.

This is a book you will read with pleasure and as it makes explicitly clear why the theory of evolution is the greatest aberration in the history of science.

Have you ever thought about the vast dimensions of the universe we live in? As you read this book, you will see that our universe and all the living things therein are created in the most perfect way by our Creator, God. This children's book is also available in Russian.

Children! Have you ever asked yourself questions like these: How did our earth come into existence? Where were you before you were born? How did oceans, trees, animals appear on earth? Who was the first human being? In this book you will find the true answers to these questions.

Dear children, while reading this book, you will see how God has created all the creatures in the most beautiful way and how every one of them show us His endless beauty, power and knowledge.

Omar meets his friend, honeybee, in a trip to a forest. The honeybee tells him how they build honeycombs, what kind of an order there is in their hive, and many other things. At the end of this visit, Omar learns that it is our Lord, God, Who taught honeybees everything they know.

This booklet, includes summaries of all the works of Harun Yahya. Anyone who reads these books seriously and carefully will soon gain a deep insight into the true nature of the world he lives in.

Dear kids, while reading this book you will see how God has created all the creatures in the most beautiful way and how every one of them show us His endless beauty, power and knowledge. The World of Animals is also available in French and Russian.

What do you think about ants? Do you know about their abilities and intelligent behavior? Do you know why Omar is fascinated by the little world of the ants? If you want to learn the answers to these questions, read this book.

When you read this book you will learn a great deal about beavers. You will learn that Karim's new friends build intricate constructions with innate skills. And finally, you will learn that it is God, Who endowed them with these skills.

Children, the wide world you enter as you read this book is one of enormous concern to you. You may not have realized it so far, but trillions of workers are currently working on your behalf in this giant world. You will learn how these workers in your body, the wide world in question, are cells, far too small to be visible to the naked eye.

Countless species live on the earth, some of which you will be familiar with, and others not. Each one of these creatures, from the dogs or cats which you come across every day, to the wild animals living in the jungle, have wonderful features and fascinating abilities. All of these are a reflection of God's infinite power and artistry. In this

book, you will read about the interesting features and amazing accomplishments of these wonderful creatures.

A person having fear of God naturally shows mercy for His servants and treats them kindly. Yet it is essential to distinguish between the concept of mercy, as conceived by people of ignorance, and the mercy described in the Qur'an. This book was written for that purpose.

Some religious people think that the theory of evolution is a scientific fact and look for a "middle way" between this theory and belief in God. However, in truth, the ideological framework behind the theory consists of anti-religious thought put forward to strengthen atheism. This book is aimed at offering a response to those Muslims who try to find common ground between the theory of evolution and the fact of creation, and who even try to find evidence for the theory in the Qur'an.

The creation of man, who is endowed with a highly complicated body structure, from a drop of water, comes about through an extraordinary course of development. This development certainly does not happen as the result of an idle process, and random coincidences, but is a conscious act of creation. This book is about the details of the "miracle in man's creation".

The adjective "perfected" (kamil) carries the meaning inclusive, entire and complete. The "perfected faith" discussed in this book represents the highest level of maturity and depth of faith a person can never attain.

This book gives an insight into some good moral aspects of the Karma philosophy which are in agreement with the Koran, as well as its twisted views which conflict with human reason and conscience. The book also explains why following God's way and living by the Qur'an is the only way to real happiness, peace, and security.

The main purpose of this book is to fully reveal the plight of oppressed Muslims across the world, and to invite people of conscience to think on this reality and look for solutions. The expected spring is, by the will of God, to come soon.

This book maintains that only love, tolerance and peace can eradicate terrorism and reveals, with quotations from the Qur'an, the New Testament and the Torah, that terrorism is a form of savagery condemned by all divine religions. With examples from history, the book demonstrates that the only way to fight terrorism is to embrace the sentiments fostered by the values of religion, such as love, compassion, forgiveness, tolerance and justice.

Being a true servant of God and conducting one's life in the light of the Qur'an require a sound knowledge of the Qur'an. This book is prepared for those who aim to attain the good pleasure, mercy, and Paradise of God.

Are you aware of the beauties that are presented by the Qur'an for human life? Have you ever thought about the benefits a person and society have when they follow the commandments of the Qur'an? With this book, you will also recognise the beauties presented by the Qur'an for life.

This book has been prepared to demonstrate that the Qur'an is the word of God, it is a guide and a reminder, it addresses everyone in the world, and its pronouncements are valid for all times, right from the time of its revelation. It is therefore the most important source everyone must refer to. For man to be guided to the truth, it is imperative that he know Islam and comprehend the verses of the Qur'an.

This book is about sincerity, an important characteristic of believers which makes deeds worthy and meaningful in God's sight. Sincerity (ikhlas) is doing everything simply because God ordered it, without expecting any personal benefit in return. In the Qur'an, God gives the good tidings of paradise to His sincere servants.

Man is a being to which God has granted the faculty of thinking. Yet a majority of people fail to employ this faculty as they should... The purpose of this book is to summon people to think in the way they should and to guide them in their efforts to think. This book is also available in Indonesian.

In a body that is made up of atoms, you breathe in air, eat food, and drink liquids that are all composed of atoms. In this book, the implausibility of the spontaneous formation of an atom, the building-block of everything, living or non-living, is related and the flawless nature of God's creation is demonstrated.

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The works of Harun Yahya are also produced in the form of documentary films and audio cassettes. In addition to English, some of these products are also available in English, Arabic, German, and Russian.

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The lifestyles and life goals of the millions of people who live in non-religious communities are very similar to one another. The years pass quickly and then all of a sudden, they face the greatest and most inescapable truth of life: The time of death comes. However, until that moment, they have thought of death very little or not at all. They have been unable to understand the true purpose of life by reflecting upon such realities. While in this condition, they meet with death when they least expect it, unprepared for the Hereafter.

There are various mechanisms people use to ignore the truths of life and to console themselves by doing so. One of these, perhaps the most effective, is self-deception. A person who deceives himself believes he can evade all realities including death and all responsibilities. In fact self-deception is not a solution. What a person really needs to accomplish is to avoid deceiving himself by ignoring the truth, and to take the maximum possible advantage of the period that Allah has allotted to him in the world.

Do not forget that waking up and seeing the truth at the moment of death does nobody any good.

About the Author

The author, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. He studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University, and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on political, faith-related and scientific issues. Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in helping many to return their faith in Allah, and, in many others, to gain a deeper insight into their faith. Harun Yahya's books appeal to all kinds of readers, regardless of their age, race, or nationality, for they focus on one objective: to broaden the reader's perspective by encouraging him or her to think about a number of critical issues, such as the existence of Allah and His unity, and to live by the values He prescribed for them.