

THE GOLDEN AGE

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INTRODUCTION

The End Times (or the Last Days) may not be a familiar concept to many people. Therefore, we first give a brief explanation of it. The End Times means "the last era." According to Islamic literature, this period of time is close to Doomsday, during which we will witness the prevalence of the Qur'an's morality and widespread adherence to religious values.

Towards the end of this period, all conditions that ensure a peaceful and safe life will be established, and the misery that marked the previous periods will be replaced with wealth, abundance, and justice. All forms of immorality, fraud, and degeneration will end. This is the blessed period, marked by Islamic morality, for which all people of faith have longed for centuries.

The Hadith literature and the works of Muslim scholars contain extensive references to this period. These descriptions indicate that, following great corruption and outrage, Earth will enter upon a period of salvation characterized by bounty and blessings due to the prevalence of true religion. In this period, science, medicine, and technology will advance to a unprecedented degree and provide extensive benefits humanity, and the understanding of art will flourish in an unprecedented way.

During the early phases of the End Times, moral degeneration will become all-pervasive due to the influence of some philosophical systems such as atheism, materialism and racism. Humanity will forget the reason for its existence and thus enter the downward spiral of spiritual purposelessness and moral degeneration. Great disasters will occur one after another. Wars and insurmountable trouble will cause humanity to seek the answer to the question: "Is there a way out?" But Allah will save people from this great turmoil and enable them to enter a blessed period. Actually, such a blessed period applies to each community at all times, provided its members abide by the Qur'an's morality. Allah has always granted great blessings to His servants who, out of their awe and consciousness of Him, comply meticulously with His commands. He causes such people to live in abundance.

What we know about the End Times comes from our Prophet's (saas) words and the works of Muslim scholars. There is no reason to doubt the authenticity of these resources, for the Hadith literature provides detailed descriptions about this period. The facts that such detailed accounts were provided 14 centuries ago and that all these happenings occurred one after another within a particular period of time is a miracle in itself, and thereby removes any misgivings regarding the origin of these words.

Indeed, since Allah gives us some information related to the End Times, such as the global prevalence of the Qur'an's morality or Jesus' second coming to Earth, we have no

reason to doubt its accuracy. In the following verse, Allah gives the good news that the Qur'an's morality will pervade Earth:

Allah has promised those of you who believe and do right actions that He will make them successors in the land, as He made those before them successors, and will firmly establish for them their religion, with which He is pleased, and give them, in place of their fear, security. "They worship Me, not associating anything with Me." Any who are unbelievers after that, such people are deviators. (Surat an-Nur: 55)

Signs That the Qur'an's Values Will Prevail

Many verses refer to the global prevalence of the Qur'an's values in the Golden Age, the latter years of the End Times. These verses have great parallels with our Prophet's (saas) sayings related to the Golden Age. Clearly, this prevalence is a sign of the Golden Age described by our Prophet (saas), for such an event has not occurred yet. Some verses about how this phenomenon will come about are as follows:

Allah has written, "I will be victorious, I and My Messengers." Allah is Most Strong, Almighty. (Surat al-Mujadala: 21)

They desire to extinguish Allah's Light with their mouths, but Allah will perfect His Light, though the unbelievers hate it. He sent His Messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth to exalt it over every other religion, though the idolaters hate it. (Surat as-Saff: 8-9)

They desire to extinguish Allah's Light with their mouths. But Allah refuses to do other than perfect His Light, even though the unbelievers detest it. He sent His Messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth to exalt it over every other religion, even though the idolaters detest it. (Surat at-Tawba: 32-33)

Allah confirms the Truth by His words, even though the evildoers hate it. (Surah Yunus: 82)

Those before them planned, but all planning belongs to Allah. He knows what each soul earns, and the unbelievers will soon know who has the Ultimate Abode. (Surat ar-Ra'd: 42)

We destroyed generations before you when they did wrong. Their Messengers brought them the Clear Signs, but they were never going to have faith. That is how We repay evildoers. Then We appointed you after them to be successors on the earth so We might observe how you would act. (Surah Yunus: 13-14)

The Qur'an relates the following divine law in many of its verses: Those who have a pure faith in Allah and do not ascribe partners to Him will inherit the earth. Some examples are the following:

We wrote down in the Zabur, after the Reminder came: "My righteous servants will inherit the earth." (Surat al-Anbiya': 105)

We will leave you the land to live in after them. That is the reward of those who fear My station and fear My threat. They asked for Allah's victory, and every obdurate tyrant failed. (Surah Ibrahim: 14-15)

Musa said to his people: "Seek help in Allah and be steadfast. Earth belongs to Allah. He bequeaths it to any of His servants He wills. The successful outcome is for those who guard against evil." They said: "We suffered harm before you came to us and after you came to us." He said: "It may well be that your Lord is going to destroy your enemy and make you the successors in the land so that He can see how you behave." (Surat al-A'raf: 128-29)

Rather We hurl truth against falsehood, and it cuts right through falsehood and causes it to vanish! Woe without end to you for what you portray! (Surat al-Anbiya': 18)

THE GOLDEN AGE

Many hadiths indicate the existence of a period when the Qur'an's values will pervade Earth. This period, known as the Golden Age, will last for more than half a century and, in many ways, will resemble the Blessed Period of our Prophet (saas). We call this period the Golden Age due to our Prophet's (saas) Paradise-like depictions of it. It will be marked by the abundance of every type of goods and crops, the establishment of security, justice, peace, and happiness; and the use of advanced technology for humanity's comfort, ease, joy, and peace. No one will be in need, for all goods and services will be available to satisfy all people's material needs. Many hadiths say that "weapons will be silenced," and thus herald a world filled with peace. In the Golden Age, enemy nations will become brothers and sisters and re-establish peace, friendship, and love among their leaders and peoples.

Technology will reach its peak, and people will receive its fullest benefits. Medicine, agriculture, communication, transportation, and industry will undergo remarkable development, and people will continuously witness new discoveries. Each discovery will become an impetus for another and thereby contribute to the overall acceleration of discoveries.

The arts will flourish, and the broad horizons and deep thinking granted by faith in Allah will advance all branches of art. Such a spirit will enable people to produce glamorous works of music, theater, and painting. According to one hadith, people will be so content that they will spend their days with no idea as to how time passes and how one day turns into the next. They will pray to Allah to prolong their lives in order to receive more benefits from these graces. Another Prophetic hadith states that *"the younger ones wish they were grown-ups, while the adults wish they were younger... The good become even more good, and the wicked ones are treated well."*¹

Unprecedented Abundance

The Golden Age will be a period of great abundance, for each individual's material wants will be satisfied according to need. Technology will produce such an abundance of goods that hunger will be eradicated forever and all people will be provided with the necessities of life. Earth's wealth will serve humanity, and new agricultural technologies will lead to an unparalleled increase in crop production. People of faith will receive great rewards for every good deed they do, both in this world and the Hereafter. Bounty and abundance, which will permeate every moment of life, will be a grace that Allah will grant to those who live by the Qur'an's moral code. Every good act they do will turn into

a great fortune. In one verse, Allah describes the great reward all believers will receive when they spend for His good pleasure:

The metaphor of those who spend their wealth in the Way of Allah is that of a grain that produces seven ears: in every ear there are a hundred grains. Allah gives such multiplied increase to whoever He wills. Allah is All-Encompassing, All-Knowing. (Surat al-Baqara: 261)

Many hadiths reveal that there will be an unprecedented abundance of crops and goods, all of which will be distributed without measure:

*During this (period), my ummah (people) will lead a kind of comfortable and carefree life that they have never known before. (The land) will bring forth its yield and will not hold anything back.*²

*In the last of times there will be a khalifa (successor) who will distribute wealth without even counting it.*³

*Then my Ummah, be its members good or wicked, will be blessed with a blessing the like of which they have never heard before. Allah sends them an abundance of rain, the land will produce a great abundance of crops, and possessions will be commonplace.*⁴

*In those years my community will enjoy a time of happiness such as they have never experienced before. Heaven will send down rain upon them in torrents, the earth will not withhold any of its plants, and wealth will be available to all. A man will stand and say, "Give to me, Mahdi!" and he will say, "Take."*⁵

*Both the Ummah's good and wicked members will be blessed with a blessing, **the like of which they have never seen before.** Despite the abundance of rain, not a drop will go to waste. The land will grow fruitful and fertile, without demanding a single seed...*⁶

*The land will emit the treasures within.*⁷

*The land will turn like the silver tray growing vegetation...*⁸

How To Attain Such Bounty

*Someone sowing a measure of wheat will find 700 in return ... A person will scatter a few handfuls of seeds, but will reap 700 handfuls ... Despite an abundance of rain, not a drop will go to waste.*⁹

This hadith refers to an increase in agricultural production that will occur in the End Times by transitioning to modern agriculture, developing new production techniques, improving seed stocks, and using rainwater more efficiently by constructing new dams and ponds.

Indeed in our day, remarkable improvements in technology have increased both the productivity and quality of field crops. As with all other forms of technology, rapid developments, especially in genetics, is causing a revolution in agricultural technology. Without a doubt, this productivity will continue to grow until it reaches its peak in the Golden Age.

The Improvement of Crops

In the End Times, every agricultural development will serve all of humanity. In our own time, only some groups or societies benefit from technology, but in the Golden Age everyone, regardless of their ethnicity, age, gender, or language, will enjoy its benefits. No one will enjoy special privileges, for both rich and poor will have equal access to these services. No one will suffer from poverty or starve, for opulence and welfare will mark this era. Technology will ensure the transition to an agricultural system that secures healthy, tasty, durable, cheap, and abundant yields. Current scientific developments, especially in genetics, already provide hints about the nature of these technological developments and the kind of abundance that they will bring.

Genetics has a vast field of application in food production. Thanks to genetics, genes that cause abnormalities in the genetic codes (DNA) of plants can be eliminated, and those that improve plant quality and durability can be identified. Considering that substantial agricultural products can be obtained only from quality raw material, these methods, which ensure the production of plants resistant to salt and temperature extremes, will lead to an agricultural revolution. A plant's level of protein or vitamin can be increased by injecting DNA pieces into its cells. The same method can produce plants that are resistant to pests, herbicides, disease, severe weather conditions, and poor soil. Genetic studies of seeds seek to minimize anything that might harm a seed and support a year-round agricultural industry. The finalization of these studies will bring great prosperity and abundance in agriculture.

In the End Times, the prevailing Qur'anic morality will ensure that everyone will receive their just share of goods. In fact, these goods will be so abundant that everyone will receive all that they ask for, and much more besides. At all times, Allah grants to His servants who display this moral excellence an abundant life and promises them great blessings both in this world and beyond. This is related in Surat an-Nahl:

Anyone who acts rightly, male or female, being a believer, We will give them a good life and recompense them according to the best of what they did. (Surat an-Nahl: 97)

Like genetics, scientific researchers are working to produce fruits and vegetables that can stay fresher longer and field crops that can thrive in extreme climates. Long-term storage and preservation of food, as well as eliminating the factors that cause rot and decay, will be the sign of the abundance that people will experience in the End Times. Recent breakthroughs in technology and new methods (e.g., radiation, high temperature, high pressure, and genetic studies) render bacteria ineffective and thus make months-long food storage possible. Gamma or electron radiation, for instance, reduces or eradicates such disease-producing agents as microbes, bacteria, and nits. Food that is treated according to such methods become durable and carries no risk of food poisoning. Furthermore, processed food can maintain its flavor, freshness, taste, and color in a form very similar to its natural state and never lose its juice. A radiated strawberry can be safely stored in a refrigerator for months, and a potato can be kept for an extended period of time without budding.

Such processes will end waste and ensure the optimum employment of resources. Such technological developments, which are still at a very early stage, have only limited applications today. However, they will be very effective in maintaining the land's abundance in the End Times. People will be able to allocate resources wisely and minimize waste, and farmers will be able to produce huge amounts of long-lasting and quality agricultural products.

In the Golden Age, technology will serve humanity, and its blessings will be allocated evenly among all people regardless of ethnicity, community, and country. Nations that are far from one another, as well as societies of dissimilar cultures, will benefit from these sources evenly, and everyone will enjoy a just administration. Adherence to the Qur'an's morality in its true sense will ensure the maintenance of this Paradise-like order on Earth. The just administration of sincere Muslims, who turn to Allah for every deed they perform, will secure peace and security, as well as continued blessings.

Greening the Deserts

Another sign of the End Time's abundance is the greening of the world's deserts. This development's significance can be better understood if we consider that deserts make up 43 percent of all land. Today, the constant water supply to deserts makes agricultural production possible in even most barren locations. Applying technology to deserts will provide drought-hit countries on the edge of starvation with fertile land.

Computer-monitored irrigation systems that divert water directly to plant roots and prevent even a single drop of water from going to waste will allow agricultural production in deserts. Purifying and then using all forms of water are also important for desert agriculture. Treated flood and sea water will provide ample amounts of water, form the basis of agricultural technology, and be a great gain for the countries' economy. Our Prophet (saas) referred to the productive use of water, as follows:

*Both the good and the evil members of the Ummah will be blessed with a blessing the like of which they will have never heard. **Despite the abundance of rain, not a drop will go waste; the land will become fruitful without a single seed.***¹⁰

The High Cost of Living and Poverty Will End

As the Golden Age will be a time of welfare and great wealth, all people will receive more than they demand. Nothing will be measured or counted. However, the high cost of living and poverty are the main features of the earlier periods of the End Times, for the poor will become poorer while the rich will become richer. This feature is also emphasized in a hadith, as follows: *Poverty will spread.*¹¹

Allah sends starvation and poverty to warn people who are far removed from religion. If such people had faith, they would find relief from the great troubles and hardships that they meet throughout their lives. Indeed, Allah grants great wealth, happiness, and welfare to Muslims who have faith in Him and earnestly serve His cause, while He sends trouble and suffering to unbelievers in return for their disbelief. When people become ungrateful, Allah takes back their blessings and tests them with starvation and fear. One verse mentions this Divine Justice:

Corruption has appeared in both land and sea because of what people's own hands have brought about, so that they may taste something of what they have done, so that hopefully they will turn back. (Surat ar-Rum: 41)

Allah gives the example of Pharaoh and his people, who were subjected to drought and scarcity of crops because of their ungratefulness. Allah tested Pharaoh with drought at a time when he had been enjoying great wealth and possessions:

We seized Pharaoh's people with years of drought and scarcity of fruits so that hopefully they would pay heed. (Surat al-A'raf: 130)

Throughout the Qur'an, Allah calls attention to these attributes of disbelieving societies:

Allah makes an example of a city that was safe and at peace, its provision coming to it plentifully from every side. Then it showed ingratitude for Allah's blessings, so Allah made it wear the robes of hunger and fear for what it did. (Surat an-Nahl: 112)

Allah reveals the real reason why He makes the unbelievers' lives troublesome:

But if anyone turns away from My reminder, his life will be a dark and narrow one ... (Surah Ta-Ha: 124)

Those societies that turned away from Messengers' warnings and insisted upon denial have always encountered great trouble. However, as the verses and hadiths inform us, sincere Muslims are always rewarded with great blessings for their faith. In addition to this, our Prophet (saas) said that his people will live in blessings, especially during the Last Days:

A time will come when a person, with his golden alms in his hand, will go around, finding no one (in need) who is willing to receive the alms.¹²

Then will my Ummah be blessed, the number of animals will increase and the land will bear its fruits.¹³

*Definitely possessions will be in abundance then, **flowing like water**. Yet no one will (condescend) to take any.¹⁴*

Great Advances In Technology

The technological advances of the twentieth century, especially during its last quarter, were without historical precedent. Many technological instruments that were unknown just 100 years ago have become integral parts of our lives. The gap between the technology of the previous century and of today has reached unimaginable dimensions. Current developments provide important signs regarding the technological advances from which people will benefit in the Golden Age.

That age's technological advances will provide great comfort and ease to people's lives. The time spent at home, at one's job, and in school will be comfortable, enjoyable,

and pleasant. Housework, shopping, security systems, heating, ventilation, electricity are just a few of the things that will be monitored by computers. Robots will replace human labor in many areas. In their comfortable armchairs, watching television, people will be able to handle their work through remote-controlled robots. Scientists predict that housework, instrument maintenance, removing of dust at home will be done by robots, some as small as nanochips. By Allah's Will, all of these predictions will come true, and the majority of time-consuming tasks will be accomplished by technological instruments.

Technology will present the beauties of the world to people. Through high-tech television, people will have the privilege to see and enjoy three-dimensional environments and even to participate in recreational activities and games. Virtual reality technology will enhance learning and provide people with valuable life skills.

The extensive use of computers and Internet technologies will bring radical changes to education. Home-schooling will be easier and more involved with the developing virtual reality technologies. More efficient learning systems, which will rely on gaining personal experience through virtual reality technologies or the Internet, will replace the classical education methods, which are based on memorization. Virtual reality is used extensively today in training. For example, environments that may be hazardous in the real world can be simulated quite easily by using virtual reality technology. Thanks to this technology, pilot training, for instance, has become safe. In the Golden Age, these technologies will be applied from business and planning to manufacturing and entertainment, and to many diverse business domains.

The radical changes due to appear in education and training in the Golden Age will benefit entire nations. As is the case with all other times, those people of the Golden Age who live according to the real spirit of the Qur'an's moral teachings will attain all of the beauty, comfort, and ease that they deserve. They will live amidst abundance.

Advances in Transportation

Advances in transportation will offer comfort and security and minimize time loss. New highways and high-tech vehicles will be instrumental in preventing accidents.

The extensive use of underground transportation will eliminate traffic congestion. Electricity, solar energy, or wind power will replace the air polluting fuel oils used in vehicles and thus make cities more livable places.

Supersonic planes, trains, and other high-tech vehicles will offer all the comforts one may need. More importantly, this technology will serve everyone, and not just a particular part of the world's population. All people will have access to the same technology, and discrimination will end.

Advances in Communication

Great advances in communication will provide very rapid communication and information exchange among all people, regardless of location. Satellite-based telecommunication networking, in particular, will provide tremendously rapid communication, and holographic telephones will introduce a new dimension to communication by projecting a life-size holographic image of the person being called.

Computer and Internet Technology in Humanity's Service

Computer technologies will surely play a great role in the abundance of blessings. Today, computers are improving life quality in houses, workplaces, medicine, communication, the arts, and so on. In the Golden Age, these developments will accelerate in the socioeconomic domain on a global basis and bring more comfort to humanity.

In the twentieth century, Internet technology opened a new era by making communication and information sharing almost instantaneous. Learning, reading an international organization's reports, researching in a library, getting news, learning about technological developments and relevant comments now takes only a few minutes. As a result, comprehensive information collection that used to take long years of research can now be done with a minimum of effort.

As the Internet has overcome all obstacles to sharing accumulated information, all people and nations can have access to it. The ever-developing Internet technologies will have more to offer in the future.

One point deserves a special mention here. At no time in human history has the world witnessed such rapid development. In particular, the twentieth century's technological developments have been unprecedented. Only 100 years ago, no one could have imagined the world in which we live today. Only 15 or 20 years ago, people would have seen the Internet as a very advanced technology that could only be attained maybe after 100 years. Each of these developments indicates that humanity is approaching a very important time. It appears that the Golden Age will be a glorious time when people will benefit from all sorts of technology and thousands of blessings.

Technological Revolution in Energy

The energy age that began with the Industrial Revolution, usually considered to designate the period of 1750-1830 in Britain, reached a defining point with the technological developments of the twentieth century. In the coming 50 years, the world's population is expected to double and energy consumption to triple. Meanwhile, according to the best estimations, available oil reserves will meet humanity's needs for no longer than a century. Natural gas reserves, on the other hand, will be exhausted within a few decades. These facts have led scientists to turn their attention to cheaper and readily available energy sources, such as the sun, wind, and water.

Energy production from non-polluting sources is the major development of the foreseeable future. For instance, wind power will make coastal cities, in particular, less dependent on customary energy supplies and promote economic development by

lessening dependency on foreign supplies and thereby increasing the general welfare. Wind power's non-abating nature and easy-accessibility have encouraged scientists to focus on producing renewable energy from wind.

Solar energy is another potential energy source. On an annual basis, Earth receives an amount of solar energy that amounts to 15,000 times our total current energy consumption. The solar energy received over a 20-day period equals the world's total energy reserves. Therefore, the efficient use of these resources will end our oil dependency.

Advances in Science

Thinking is essential to recognize the wonders and beauties surrounding us. The Qur'an invites people to ponder so as to see the signs of Allah encompassing them. This is the only way to appreciate Allah's superior wisdom and power, which He manifests in living beings. Subtleties concealed in the creation of the heavens, Earth, animals, plants, and human beings deserve our deep thought. In the following verses, Allah invites people to think on these subtleties:

He Who created the seven heavens in layers. You will not find any flaw in the creation of the All-Merciful. Look again—do you see any gaps? (Surat al-Mulk: 3)

Man has only to look at what he was created from. (Surat at-Tariq: 5)

Have they not looked at the camel—how it was created? And at the sky—how it was raised up? And at the mountains—how they were embedded? And at the earth—how it was smoothed out? (Surat al-Ghashiyya: 17-20)

Complying with Allah's commands, which encourage people to think, analyze, and research, will open new scientific horizons. These very developments, which flourish wherever people live according to the real spirit of the Qur'an's moral teachings, will be evident in the Golden Age, a time of unprecedented scientific development.

In the Golden Age, the major factor that will enable such scientific development will be science's purification from some dogmas and erroneous goals. In recent centuries, such bigoted beliefs as materialist philosophy and Darwinism have impeded scientific progress. Many scientists concentrated their efforts on proving entirely mistaken assumptions, and great amounts of effort and time have been wasted. In the Golden Age, the scientific world will embrace the fact that Allah created the universe and everything that it contains. This will allow science to be practiced on sound foundations. Available resources that were used to support Darwin's fantasies or to produce chemical weapons and nuclear bombs will be

channeled to humanity's service in compliance with Allah's consent. Aware that serving humanity will earn Allah's good pleasure, scientists will engage in more fruitful research.

Developments in Genetics

Each development in the Golden Age will lead to great advances in medicine. The discovery of the structure of DNA in the mid-twentieth century opened new horizons in medicine and biology. Similarly, all scientific and technological developments in the Golden Age will add momentum to medical studies, minimize errors, shorten the time required for an accurate diagnosis, and enable patients to receive the optimum treatment.

Genetics, which will be the science of this new century, will be the impetus behind medical advances. Studies on the human DNA code seek to disclose the genetic causes of many diseases. One goal of the Human Genome Project, originally planned to last for 15 years and being worked upon by thousands of scientists from more than eight countries, is to identify the genes in human DNA and thereby uncover its mysteries. Determining the sequences of human DNA's 3 billion chemical base pairs, entering this information in databases, and using the related technologies to serve science will open a new era. The project's primary goals are to protect people against disease by altering the DNA code, predetermining how the body responds to medicines, and ensuring protection by predetermining every human beings' weaknesses. Devising medicines solely for an individual's needs, as well as forming a database of genetic features and a genetic card for a person, are also on the scientists' agenda. As science can progress only as far as Allah wills, we should not be worried about such undertakings, as many people are today. Such research either will succeed and benefit humanity, or fail due to Allah's will.

Thanks to these developments, doctors will be able to detect minute differences of the same diseases and then use individualized treatment procedures or techniques. As a result, people living in the Golden Age will not suffer from maltreatment and feel desperate. Everyone will immediately receive the appropriate medical assistance, for ideal morality and good conduct complies with the duty to help patients and save their lives. In the Golden Age, enhancing an individual's health and quality of life will be of primary importance.

Advances in Medicine

People guided by the Qur'an's values consider human life to be very precious. In a society of believers, therefore, people pay great attention to issues related to human health. Regardless of their status or qualities, anyone, whether rich or poor, young or old,

will receive the treatment he or she deserves. All solutions will be exhausted, and great sacrifices will be made to save a person's life, for according to the Qur'an's values, people receive great rewards for trying to treat and cure those who are sick so that they might have healthier and fuller lives.

So We decreed for the tribe of Israel that if someone kills another person—unless it is in retaliation for someone else or for causing corruption in the earth—it is as if he had murdered all mankind. And if anyone gives life to another person, it is as if he had given life to all mankind. (Surat al-Ma'ida: 32)

In compliance with this verse, Muslims in the Golden Age will make serious efforts to develop and implement workable strategies to promote quality health care for all and to ensure that patients receive optimal care.

Advances in City Planning

In the twenty-first century, scientists will strive to spread the use of more efficient technology further afield.

One of today's primary goals is to use computer technology to assist people with basic day-to-day tasks, tasks that are otherwise unrelated to technology and thus minimize the labor force. Many technological devices, thought to be limited to science fiction movies only, have already been incorporated into our lives and started to offer comfort. Maintaining cities by making use of computer technology, which will change the faces of cities today immensely, will be instrumental in monitoring infrastructure systems; handling urgent help needs, traffic, and city planning; and improving security and health services. People will not waste time by waiting in lines to receive public services, for all sorts of administrative information related to a person will be available in computers.

Thanks to earthquake-resistant technologies, buildings will be able to survive severe earthquakes. Now, a single intense jolt can reduce an entire city to heaps of rubble. In the Golden Age, however, both the construction systems and materials will, by Allah's Will, help buildings withstand intense shakes. In this way, technology will ensure people's security and make it easier for them to cope with urgent situations.

Due to changes in energy resources, every city will become an energy-generating unit. In this context, they will rely heavily on wind and solar power, and especially upon solar reactors for purifying drinking water, and generating electricity and heat. These renewable energy sources will meet all of humanity's needs and reduce energy transportation between different cities and countries. Coastal cities will obtain their energy from water or wind, thereby ending their problems related to environmental pollution. In cities, people will grow

all kinds of food through hydroponics (growing plants without soil) and aquaponics (growing plants in water).

Furthermore, there will be great improvements in the way cities look. Their cleaning and ordering will be maintained via computers, and their appearance will change, for greening the cities will become a policy. The congestion, pollution, and chaos dominating our contemporary urban areas results from our distance from the Qur'an's concept of morality. When people adhere to the Qur'an, they seek to establish an environment similar to that of Paradise. They always think about how to improve and better their surroundings, and thank Allah for the great comfort, relief, and beauty He has granted. In return, they receive more of the beauties that Allah promises to His servants who give thanks:

And when your Lord announced: "If you are grateful, I will certainly give you increase, but if you are ungrateful, My punishment is severe." (Surah Ibrahim: 7)

In another verse, Allah warns the people of `Imran, who lived in a very beautiful city:

"Eat of your Lord's provision and give thanks to Him: a bountiful land and a forgiving Lord." (Surah Saba: 15)

The Arts in the Golden Age

In the Golden Age, the bounty, abundance, wealth, beauty, arts, and improvements will mark every instant of life. People will always meet beauty and, like the moral excellence they display, the places in which they live, as well as their gardens, home decorations, clothes, music, entertainment, artworks, paintings, and conversations, will become more beautiful. Consequently, people will experience all of the beauties that Allah mentions in the Qur'an. In one verse, Allah states that the faithful believers will be given a beautiful life in this world:

What is with you runs out, but what is with Allah goes on forever. Those who were steadfast will be recompensed according to the best of what they did. Anyone who acts rightly, male or female, being a believer, We will give them a good life and recompense them according to the best of what they did. (Surat al-Nahl: 96-97)

The Qur'an calls attention to the fact that the environment of those who abide by Allah's commands will be transformed into a kind of "Abode of

Peace." Allah also gives the good news that He will reward people for their fine morality, and give a better life in this world and an infinite life in the Hereafter.

Allah calls to the Abode of Peace and guides whom He wills to a straight path. Those who do good will have the best and more! Neither dust nor debasement will darken their faces. They are the Companions of Paradise, remaining in it timelessly, forever. (Surah Yunus: 25-26)

The Arts in an Environment Permeated by Qur'anic Morality

We can imagine the daily life, arts, economy, and social life that will exist in the Golden Age, for the Qur'an prescribes an understanding that comprises every instant of life. This understanding is based on doing good works that will find favor in Allah's sight, and adopting the best, most accurate, and rational conduct. This Qur'anic understanding and the wisdom it offers will cause a heretofore unprecedented and superior understanding of arts to flourish.

In our day, the majority of people involved in different branches of the arts consider art as a materialistic profession that will earn them fame and a high standard of living. Most of the time, they make art not for art's sake but for money. Their sense of art is driven by a concern for profit or fame rather than following their own inspiration. For this reason, they undertake no serious effort and feel no need to expand their horizons to produce novel works of art, for they only desire immediate material returns. However, the telling attribute of an artist is his or her ability to think freely and deeply, and thereby produce unique works.

Meanwhile, even if an artist is committed to produce quality works and succeeds in doing so, those responsible for the business part of this undertaking fail to support his or her endeavor, for such works may not be profitable in the prevailing market conditions. In our day, instead of appreciating a work's artistry, meaning, aesthetics, and quality, many art galleries present productions that lack taste, artistry, quality, and meaning.

The Golden Age will eliminate such views, for material concerns that corrupt artistic values will disappear when everyone receives their share from the prevailing abundance and welfare. This free state of mind will allow artists to devote all their attention to displaying their talents in a peaceful atmosphere. People will realize that art is a divine beauty, and finally will give all types of art their due attention. Inspired by the beauties that they see in Allah's creation, artists will produce remarkable works. The Qur'an's values and the wealth of senses that these values bring will generate in people the will to produce ingenious works.

Another reason for this flourishing of the arts will be the abandonment of any tendency to portray hideousness, which is a popular tendency today. The penetration of nihilist and pessimistic beliefs into society, along with the prevalence of materialist

philosophy, accounts for this tendency. Hideousness is valued, and productions introduced under the guise of art cause people to drift toward pessimism, tension, and depression. The themes of such art is often death, pain, hate, loneliness, purposelessness, and meaninglessness. This situation is a natural consequence of the chaos and destruction inflicted by unbelief on the human soul. In the End Times, all of these psychological disorders will disappear, and humanity will experience the joy, happiness, and security brought about by the Qur'an's values. This will, in turn, transform the arts into an endeavor that depict beauty rather than hideousness.

Being Inspired by the Surrounding Beauties

Recognizing the subtleties, taking pleasure in them, and presenting them to others in a form that causes delight underlies the essence of the arts. These features owe their existence to the Qur'an's values. In the Qur'an, Allah commands people to examine every thing, ponder over it, and see the divine purposes behind all events. One of the verses by which Allah summons people to ponder is as follows:

Have they not looked at the sky above them: how We structured it and made it beautiful and how there are no fissures in it? And the land: how We stretched it out and cast firmly embedded mountains onto it and caused luxuriant plants of every kind to grow in it, an instruction and a reminder for every devotee turning to Allah. And We sent down blessed water from the sky and made gardens grow by it and grain for harvesting and soaring date-palms with layered spathes. (Surah Qaf: 6-10)

Everything stated in this verse is encountered frequently by people in their daily lives. However, only the believers who strive to see the divine purposes in these things can see the beauty in them. A strawberry's color, a rose's odor, a banana's flawless packaging, the heavens adorned with stars—all of these mean a lot to the faithful. Art is one way to express these beauties and then interpret and incorporate them effectively into our daily lives. Various branches of art, such as painting, music, or decoration, convey the joy inspired by such beauties to the human soul.

In the Golden Age, every living thing and each incident will stir great joy in people's hearts and, accordingly, manifest itself in artworks, city planning, construction, landscaping, and so on. Artists who see the world through the outlook endowed by the Qur'an's teachings will amaze the world with their masterpieces. Their innovative works will be unique and invigorate people's lives.

The Example of Prophet Sulayman (as)

The Qur'an provides a detailed account about aesthetics. Prophet Sulayman (as), who had a superior understanding of art, is a good example of the Muslims' aesthetic understanding. From the Qur'anic accounts, we understand that art, aesthetics, and beauty pervaded Prophet Sulayman (as)'s palace. Its floor, which was the first thing to catch people's attention, gave the impression of water, for it was made of glass. The sight of such a transparent floor appeals to the human soul and gives relief. It is also exciting, since it is unique. Indeed, the impact of the palace's splendor on the Queen of Saba is related in the Qur'an as follows:

But what she worshipped besides Allah impeded her. She was from an unbelieving people. She was told: "Enter the courtyard." But when she saw it, she supposed it to be a pool and bared her legs. He said: "It is a courtyard paved with glass." She said: "My Lord, I have wronged myself, but I have submitted with Sulayman to the Lord of all the worlds." (Surat an-Naml: 43-44)

The Qur'an provides further details about Prophet Sulayman (as)'s life. One verse calls our attention to why he enjoyed wealth, power, and magnificence, which are blessings from Allah:

And he said: "Truly do I love the love of good, with a view to the glory of my Lord." (Surah Sad: 32)

Another verse informs us that he made his people produce various works of art:

They made for him anything that he wished: high arches and statues, huge dishes like cisterns, great built-in cooking vats. "Work, family of Dawud, in thankfulness!" But very few of My servants are thankful. (Surah Saba: 13)

These works of art convey his elegant understanding of art. Today, only one wall of this temple known as Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem remains, but as the Qur'an and historical documents and accounts reveal, it was once a magnificent palace. In the Qur'an, Allah commands Muslims to take lessons from the Prophets' lives and moral excellence. In this sense, what the Qur'an tells us about Prophet Sulayman (as) is very precious, for it exemplifies the kind of innovations Muslims can make in art and aesthetics, and how they can embellish Earth with superb works of art. In the Golden Age, there will be people who adhere to the Qur'an and, in compliance with Allah's commands, take lessons from its accounts of the Prophets' lives. In this sense also, the Golden Age will have parallels with Prophet Sulayman's (as) period.

Advances in the Arts

The Qur'an gives a detailed account of such a society's life. Those who comply with the Qur'an's commands can readily recognize the right and beautiful and eliminate what is undesirable, since they are guided by their conscience and reason. Consequently, those who have based their morality on the Qur'an's teachings will render invaluable services in the arts, music, theatre, and literature.

As the above examples suggest, Allah provides all believers with the understanding of aesthetics, art, and beauty, both in Paradise and in daily life. In the Qur'anic sense, art cannot be confined to music, literature, and painting, for art fills every field of life with its own vigor. Believers display their understanding of the arts in a number of ways; speaking beautifully, being witty and humorous, being able to use the tone of voice in a fine manner, having a taste for clothes, home decoration, landscaping, cooking tasteful dishes that also look pleasing to the eye, preparing aesthetic tables, showing affection and love, sincerely expressing the affection felt for children, for instance, or likewise, displaying respect and love to an elderly person or hosting visitors.

The Golden Age will be a period when people will strive to engage in art and present beauty to other people with their works of art, looks, conversations, and conduct.

Advances in Cinema, Theater and Music

People need to broaden their horizons in order to understand the Golden Age's superior and unique arts. Most contemporary works of art either lack creative power or are imitations, for most people make no effort to think and produce new ideas. Meanwhile, any novelty is imitated and thus quickly loses its originality.

Monotony also manifests itself in music-making. For instance, a song's performance is limited to certain instruments, while a musical work may have many variations. Being resistant to true innovation, narrow-mindedness and competition underlie this lack of ingenuity. People tend to imitate popular works, since they prefer fame and material gain over aesthetic values. For this reason, despite belonging to different genres, the identical rhythms, melodies, and lyrics are repeated.

This is also why innovative theater plays are not produced. For centuries, the same plays are repeated with minor alterations. The characters' conversations, answers and behaviors become so similar that a regular theater-goer almost knows them by heart. The actors' actions, voices of tone, style, and way of addressing are far from natural.

However, in the Golden Age, everyone will learn how to take pleasure from the surrounding beauties and will strive for perfection. Its welfare will enable artists to

produce amazing works of art. In music and other branches of art, various and unique works will be produced. Perfectly original video clips and forms of entertainment will make every instant of life more enjoyable and vivid.

Some contemporary artists produce fine works of art. But due to the reasons mentioned above, they are few in number and thus their works are accessible to only a mere handful of people. In the Golden Age, however, these works will be available to the public.

These are only a few of the Golden Age's unique advances. In an environment where people comply strictly with the Qur'an's commands, the believers' lives will become perfect. In the following verse, Allah informs us that the only reason why people remain deprived of blessings is unbelief:

Were it not that mankind might all become one community, We would have given those who reject the All-Merciful silver roofs to their houses, silver stairways to ascend, silver doors to their houses, silver couches on which to recline, and gold ornaments. (Surat az-Zukhruf: 33-35)

The Golden Age's Paradise-like Environment

In the Qur'an, Allah informs us that the believers' real abode is Paradise. Consequently, the aesthetic understanding of a person who lives by the Qur'an's morality is also shaped according to Paradise's standards. As their real home is Paradise, the way for the believers to beautify this world is to turn it into a place that reminds them of Paradise.

The believers' longing for Paradise urges them to transform their surroundings into Paradise-like places. Paradise, no doubt, abounds with works of art beyond our imagination. It is a place of images and beauties of such perfection that they are unlikely to be attained in this world. Still, the Qur'an's outlook urges us to use all of Earth's available resources to turn our planet into an image of Paradise.

First of all, the believers manifest the Qur'anic understanding of cleanliness in their immediate surroundings. In the Golden Age, all places (e.g., highways, places of worship, recreational places, workplaces, and houses) will be very clean. In one verse, Allah commands them to **"purify your clothes. Shun all filth."** (Surat al-Muddathtir: 4-5) In compliance with this verse, their clothes will be perfectly clean and the necessary cleansers will be available to everyone so that cleaning one's clothes will become an easy task.

Keeping the environment clean also will be a very important issue. Environmental and air pollution will no longer be a threat to city dwellers. Public places will provide all forms of comfort to people. For example, both hot and cold water will be available in places of worship and everyone will have easy access to public transportation. People will no longer have unpleasant experiences in crowded, airless public places, for innovative systems and technology will make such places only a distant memory.

People will have vivid social lives. Recreational places will be designed to provide comfort and will be very clean. Places where young people gather will be free of harmful foods and drinks, and human health will be the primary concern.

People will be encouraged to love animals, there will be parks in which people can see all sorts of animals. Furthermore, such wild animals as cheetahs, lions, and leopards will be domesticated. Dangerous animals, such as scorpions or snakes, will no longer pose a threat to humanity, for their poisons will be eliminated through biological methods. In one of his sayings, our Prophet (saas) called attention to this favorable environment:

A person will let his sheep and animals out to pasture. They will go and, being in the midst of crops, will not bite a single ear of corn. Snakes and scorpions will harm no one, and wild animals will be on the doorway, causing no harm.¹⁵

People will long for Paradise and hope for Allah's good pleasure, which will enable them to enter Paradise. Consequently, they will do their best to produce works of art

similar to those in Paradise or to imitate the beauty and aesthetics of Paradise. Allah depicts Paradise's environment as follows:

And [He] will reward them for their steadfastness with a garden [in Paradise] and with silk. Reclining in it on couches, they will experience there neither burning sun nor bitter cold. Its shading branches will droop down over them, its ripe fruit hanging ready to be picked. Vessels of silver and goblets of pure crystal will be passed round among them, crystalline silver—they have measured them very exactly. They will be given there a cup to drink mixed with the warmth of ginger. In it there is a flowing spring called Salsabil. Ageless youths will circulate among them, serving them. Seeing them, you would think them scattered pearls. And when you look, it is there that you will see a Bliss and a Realm Magnificent. (Surat al-Insan: 12-20)

Allah will present countless blessings and beauties to the believers in Paradise. In return for their moral excellence and efforts to spread the Qur'an's morality, they will be rewarded with a blissful and glorious life. With the verse, **"And when you look, it is that there you will see a Bliss and a Realm Magnificent" (Surat al-Insan: 20)**, Allah informs Muslims about the magnificence of Paradise.

Allah provides a detailed account of Paradise's blessings, such as mansions built in gardens, food, shade, clothes of striking colors, jewels, and thousands of other things of which the believers are unaware. This world's blessings are only imitations of those in Paradise. However, in this world Allah may well present blessings beyond one's imagination. Indeed, Allah informs us that Paradise's blessings are similar to those in this world:

Give the good news to those who believe and do right actions that they will have gardens [in Paradise] with rivers flowing under them. When they are given fruit there as provision, they will say: "This is what we were given before." But they were only given a simulation of it. They will have there spouses of perfect purity and will remain there timelessly, forever. (Surat al-Baqara: 25)

The Golden Age will be the time when Allah will grant the most glorious beauties and blessings to people. To form an accurate image of this period, look at the verses that depict Paradise.

Artistry in Paradise Rivers and Springs

What is the example [i.e. description] of Paradise promised to the righteous like? It has rivers flowing under it, and its foodstuffs and cool shade never fail. That is the final fate of those who have done their duty. But the final fate of the unbelievers is the Fire. (Surat ar-Ra'd: 35)

The heedful will be amid gardens and springs: "Enter them in peace, in complete security!" We will strip away any rancor in their hearts—brothers [and sisters], resting on couches face-to-face. (Surat al-Hijr: 45-47)

An image of Paradise that is promised to the righteous: In it there are rivers of water that will never spoil, rivers of milk whose taste will never change, and rivers of wine that are delightful to all who drink it, and rivers of honey of undiluted purity. In it they will have fruit of every kind and forgiveness from their Lord. Is that like those who will be in the Fire timelessly, forever, with boiling water to drink, which lacerates their bowels? (Surah Muhammad: 15)

Gushing Springs

In it is a gushing spring. (Surat al-Ghashiyya: 12)

In them [two other gardens] are two gushing springs. (Surat ar-Rahman: 66)

High-Ceilinged Halls and Lofty Chambers

She was told: "Enter the courtyard." But when she saw it, she supposed it to be a pool and bared her legs. He said: "It is a courtyard paved with glass." She said: "My Lord, I have wronged myself, but I have submitted with Sulayman to the Lord of all the worlds." (Surat an-Naml: 44)

But those who heed their Lord will have high-ceilinged halls, and more such halls built one above the other, and rivers flowing under them. That is Allah's promise. Allah does not break His promise. (Surat az-Zumar: 20)

As for those who believe and do right actions, We will lodge them lofty chambers in Paradise, with rivers flowing under them, remaining in them timelessly, for ever. How excellent is the reward of those who do (good)! (Surat al-Ankabut: 58)

Fine Dwellings

Allah has promised male and female believers gardens with rivers flowing under them, remaining in them timelessly, forever, and fine dwellings in the Gardens of Eden. And Allah's good pleasure is even greater. That is the great victory. (Surat at-Tawba: 72)

The Highest Paradise

Such people will be repaid for their steadfastness with the Highest Paradise, where they will meet with welcome and "Peace." (Surat al-Furqan: 75)

Gardens

And We gave Sulayman power over the wind—a month's journey in the morning and a month in the afternoon. And We made a fount of molten brass flow out for him. And some of the jinn worked in front of him by his Lord's permission. And if a single one of them deviates at all from Our command, We let him taste the punishment of the Searing Blaze. They made for him anything he wished: high arches and statues, huge dishes like cisterns, great built-in cooking vats. "Work, family of Dawud, in thankfulness!" But very few of My servants are thankful. Then when We decreed that he should die, nothing divulged his death to them except the worm that ate his staff; so that when he fell down, it was made clear to the jinn that if they had truly had knowledge of the Unseen, they need not have stayed there suffering humiliating punishment. There was also a sign for Saba in their dwelling place: two gardens—one to the right and one to the left. "Eat of your Lord's provision and give thanks to Him: a bountiful land and a forgiving Lord." (Surah Saba: 12-15)

We place in it gardens of dates and grapes, and cause springs to gush out in it, so they may eat its fruits—they did not do it themselves. So will they not be thankful? (Surah Ya Sin: 34-35)

How many gardens and fountains they left behind, and ripe crops and noble residences. (Surat ad-Dukhan:24-25)

Cool Pavilions

Dark-eyed (women), secluded in cool pavilions. (Surat ar-Rahman: 72)

Couches

Reclining in it on couches, they will experience there neither burning sun nor bitter cold. (Surat al-Insan: 13)

The Companions of Paradise are busy enjoying themselves today, they and their wives reclining on couches in the shade. They will have fruits there and whatever they request. (Surah Ya Sin: 55-57)

They will recline on couches ranged in rows, and We will marry them to dark-eyed maidens. (Surat at-Tur: 20)

The truly good will be in perfect Bliss on couches, gazing in wonder. (Surat al-Mutaffifin: 22-23)

We will strip away any rancor in their hearts—brothers [and sisters], resting on couches face-to-face. (Surat al-Hijr: 47)

They will have Gardens of Eden with rivers flowing under them. They will be adorned in them with bracelets made of gold and wear green garments made of the finest silk and rich brocade, reclining there on couches under canopies. What an excellent reward! What a wonderful repose! (Surat al-Kahf: 31)

They and their wives reclining on couches in the shade. (Surah Ya Sin: 56)

[In it are] raised-up couches. (Surat al-Ghashiyya: 13)

Those are the Ones Brought Near in Gardens of Delight. A large group of the earlier people but few of the later ones. On sumptuous woven couches, reclining on them face to face. (Surat al-Waqi'a: 11-16)

They will be reclining on couches lined with rich brocade, the fruits of the gardens hanging close to hand. (Surat ar-Rahman: 54)

Cups

Sweet fruits and high honor in Gardens of Delight on couches face-to-face; a cup from a flowing spring passing round among them, as white as driven snow, delicious to those who drink, which has no headache in it and does not leave them stupefied. (Surat as-Saffat: 42-47)

Carrying goblets and decanters and a cup from a flowing spring. (Surat al-Waqi'a: 18-19)

The truly good will drink from a cup mixed with the coolness of camphor. (Surat al-Insan: 5)

**They will be given there a cup to drink mixed with the warmth of ginger.
(Surat al-Insan: 17)**

Platters, Goblets, and Decanters

Platters and cups of gold will be passed around among them, and they will have there all that their hearts desire and all in which their eyes find delight. You will remain in it timelessly, forever. (Surat az-Zukhruf: 71)

Carrying goblets and decanters and a cup from a flowing spring. (Surat al-Waqi'a: 18-19)

Silver Roofs and Doors

Were it not that mankind might all become one community, We would have given those who reject the All-Merciful silver roofs to their houses, silver stairways and silver doors to their houses, silver couches on which to recline, and gold ornaments. All that is merely the trappings of the life of the world. But the Hereafter, with your Lord, is for those who do their duty. (Surat az-Zukhruf: 33-35)

Exquisite Cushions, Quilts, and Rugs

[In them are sweet, lovely maidens] reclining on green quilts and exquisite rugs. (Surat ar-Rahman: 76)

[It it are] lined-up cushions, and spread-out rugs. (Surat al-Ghashiyya: 15-16)

The Most Beautiful Garments

[In them they will] wear green garments made of the finest silk and rich brocade, reclining there on couches under canopies. What an excellent reward! What a wonderful repose! (Surat al-Kahf: 31)

[Allah will admit those who believe and do right actions into gardens] where their clothing will be of silk. (Surat al-Hajj: 23)

Gold, Silk, Pearls, and All Sorts of Jewels

They will have Gardens of Eden with rivers flowing under them. They will be adorned in them with bracelets made of gold... (Surat al-Kahf: 31)

But Allah will admit those who believe and do right actions into gardens with rivers flowing under them, where they will be adorned with gold bracelets and pearls... (Surat al-Hajj: 23)

A large group of the earlier people, but few of the later ones. On sumptuous woven couches, reclining on them face-to-face. There will circulate among them ageless youths carrying goblets and decanters and a cup from a flowing spring—it does not give them any headache nor does it leave them stupefied. And any fruit they specify and any bird-meat they desire. And dark-eyed maidens like hidden pearls. As recompense for what they did. They will hear no prattling in it nor any word of wrong. All that is said is: "Peace. Peace." And the Companions of the Right: what of the Companions of the Right? Amid thornless lote-trees, fruit-laden acacias, wide-spreading shade, outpouring water, and fruits in abundance never failing, unrestricted. And on elevated couches. (Surat al-Waqi'a: 13-34)

Wearing fine silk and rich brocade, face-to-face with one another. (Surat ad-Dukhan: 53)

Gold and Silver Bracelets

But Allah will admit those who believe and do right actions into gardens with rivers flowing under them, where they will be adorned with gold bracelets and pearls, and where their clothing will be of silk. (Surat al-Hajj: 23)

They will enter Gardens of Eden, where they will be adorned with gold bracelets and pearls, and where their clothing will be of silk. (Surah Fatir: 33)

They will have Gardens of Eden with rivers flowing under them. They will be adorned in them with bracelets made of gold and wear green garments made of the finest silk and rich brocade, reclining there on couches under canopies. What an excellent reward! What a wonderful repose! (Surat al-Kahf: 31)

They will wear green garments of fine silk and rich brocade. They will be adorned with silver bracelets. And their Lord will give them a pure draught to drink. (Surat al-Insan: 21)

All Sorts of Desirable Fruits

And any fruit that they specify. (Surat al-Waqi'a: 21)

They will call there for fruit of every kind, in complete security. (Surat ad-Dukhan: 55)

... fruits in abundance. (Surat al-Waqi`a: 32)

Those who do their duty will have a good Homecoming: Gardens of Eden, whose gates will be open to them, where they will recline, calling for plentiful fruit and drink. (Surah Sad: 49-51)

We will supply them with any kind of fruit and meat that they desire. (Surat at-Tur: 22)

... sweet fruits and high honor. (Surat as-Saffat: 42)

In them are fruits and date-palms and pomegranates. (Surat ar-Rahman: 68)

Amid thornless lote-trees and fruit-laden acacias. (Surat al-Waqi`a: 28-29)

They will have fruits there and whatever they request. (Surah Ya-Sin: 57)

The Fruits of the Gardens Hanging Close to Hand

Its shading branches will droop down over them, its ripe fruit hanging ready to be picked. (Surat al-Insan: 14)

They will be reclining on couches lined with rich brocade, the fruits of the gardens hanging close to hand. (Surat ar-Rahman: 54)

Its ripe fruit hanging close to hand. (Surat al-Haqqa: 23)

Non-failing Foodstuff

What is the example [i.e. description] of Paradise promised to the righteous like? It has rivers flowing under it, and its foodstuffs and cool shade never fail. That is the final fate of those who have done their duty. But the final fate of the unbelievers is the Fire. (Surat ar-Ra'd: 35)

Delicious Drinks

... A cup from a flowing spring passing round among them, as white as driven snow, delicious to those who drink, which has no headache in it and does not leave them stupefied. (Surat as-Saffat: 45-47)

They will pass round there a drinking cup to one another with no foolish talk and no wrong action in it. (Surat at-Tur: 23)

The truly good will drink from a cup mixed with the coolness of camphor, a spring from which Allah's servants will drink, making it gush forth at will abundantly. (Surat al-Insan: 5-6)

And a cup from a flowing spring—it does not give them any headache nor does it leave them stupefied. (Surat al-Waqi'a:19-20)

Non-Spoiling Blessings

An image of Paradise that is promised to the heedful. In it there are rivers of water that will never spoil, rivers of milk whose taste will never change,

rivers of wine that are delightful to all who drink it, and rivers of honey of undiluted purity. In it they will have fruit of every kind and forgiveness from their Lord. Is that like those who will be in the Fire timelessly, forever, with boiling water to drink, which lacerates their bowels? (Surah Muhammad: 15)

The Beauties Resulting from Living by the Qu'ran's Morality

In order to understand the beauties that people will enjoy in a society ruled by Qur'an's values, one needs to analyze the corruption found in societies that follow other values. In such societies, people are vulnerable to all forms of immorality. Devout believers avoid immorality because they heed and are conscious of Allah, acknowledge that He knows whatever they try to conceal, and are aware that they will have to account for their deeds on the Day of Judgment. Thus, they do not engage in any immoral behavior, commit fraud or murder, take bribes, and so on.

But the unbelievers can indulge in such vices with ease. Since they have no fear or awareness of Allah, they have no motive to acquire a good attitude and thoughts or to urge themselves to follow their conscience. In an unbelieving society, all forms of immorality can be considered legitimate depending on the conditions because its people have arrogated to themselves the power to decide what is right and what is wrong. However, the believers never swerve from justice, tolerance, patience, honesty, and moral excellence. Allah describes such people as follows:

Those who fulfill Allah's contract and do not break their agreement; those who join what Allah has commanded to be joined, stand in awe of their Lord, and fear an evil Reckoning; those who are steadfast in seeking the face of their Lord, establish prayer, give from the provision We have given them, both secretly and openly, and stave off evil with good—they will have the Ultimate Abode. (Surat ar-Ra'd: 20-22)

The pervasive spread of immorality and degradation is the most telling attribute in societies that are far from the Qur'an's morality. In such societies, family and business life, politics, and human relations undergo rapid degeneration, for a life devoid of fear and consciousness of Allah sees no rules or limits. In this kind of life, the self's pleasures and ambitions see no limits.

A natural consequence of degeneration, namely, the degeneration of the family structure, which is the basic unit of all societies, is the destruction of society as a whole. Feelings of respect, love, and compassion are replaced by selfish desires; people start to pursue nothing but their own interests and violate others' rights. Nobody helps the needy, and the well-off seek only to hoard all they can, and harbor no humane values.

In a society made up of believers, however, helping people or making sacrifices display a believer's morality, which is praised by and recommended in the Qur'an. Muslims give to the needy and, in return, expect only Allah's reward:

Those who recite the Book of Allah, establish prayer, and give of what We have provided for them, secretly and openly, hope for a transaction that will not prove profitless. (Surah Fatir: 29)

In societies that are far removed from the Qur'an's morality, nobody thinks about the good, comfort, security, and health of anybody else. Selfish desires guide people's decisions, for the goal is always to earn and possess more. Such people feign ignorance about what is going around them, and it never occurs to them that they should try not to be so wasteful or to help those who are starving or facing other difficulties. When they make unjust gains or attempt to achieve wealth through plunder, they see the plight of those who suffer from the consequences of this process, and yet are not moved by such people's misery. People treat one another well only if they can perceive that it is somehow in their interest to do so.

Failure to embrace the Qur'an's values accounts for theft, bribery, suicide, abuse, and social injustice, for only people endowed with such values behave justly under all circumstances, constantly do good deeds, and seek Allah's good pleasure and the eternal life of the Hereafter. Furthermore, in a society made up of such morally excellent people, justice penetrates every sphere of life.

In this blessed period that is coming closer, there will be morally excellent people who will exercise justice, live by the letter and the spirit of the Qur'an's values, and communicate them to people. One factor that will secure the prevailing peace, security, and comfort of the Golden Age is the moral excellence displayed by Muslims. Abundance, blessings, and wealth will reach their peak level. With a subtle understanding of justice, everyone will be treated equally, and no one's wants and needs will be neglected.

Justice in the Golden Age

According to our Prophet (saas), before the Golden Age a great degeneration and injustice will prevail in society. Theft and fraud will grow, people will not seek to meet the needs of the needy, and only a small group of people will enjoy the benefits of affluence. But during the Golden Age, when the Qur'an's morality will prevail, every strata will benefit equally from justice, security, and peace. In such a secure environment, people will not commit any form of fraud, wickedness, and unlawful acts. The following sayings are only a few that describe the justice unique to the End Times:

*Earth will be filled with equity and justice, just as it was previously filled with oppression and tyranny.*¹⁶

*... There will be no injustice or oppression under his [the Mahdi's] rule.*¹⁷

*The earth fills with justice.*¹⁸

*He [the Mahdi] will distribute wealth evenly among people. His justice will permeate everywhere. Earth, replete with violence and wickedness, will overflow with justice upon his arrival.*¹⁹

*During the time of Mahdi, justice will prevail to such an extent that every possession taken by force will be returned to his owner; furthermore, some other person's thing, even if it rests within one's teeth, will be given back to its owner... Security will permeate all over Earth and even a few ladies will be able to fulfil their hajj without the company of men.*²⁰

Allah Commands Justice

O you who believe, be upholders of justice, bearing witness for Allah alone, even against yourselves or your parents and relatives. Whether they are rich or poor, Allah is well able to look after them. Do not follow your own desires and deviate from the truth. If you twist or turn away, Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat an-Nisa': 135)

As this verse maintains, Allah commands the believers to be just under all circumstances. For this reason, when the Qur'an's morality prevails, they will exercise justice in its true sense. Their system will ensure that all people take advantage of all benefits and will receive what they request, and that everyone will be protected and guarded. For this reason, people will no longer have an attitude that does not comply with the Qur'an's morality, and injustice and violence will disappear completely.

In the Golden Age, people will comply scrupulously with each Qur'anic verse and thereby bring about a Paradise-like environment of peace and security. One of the most telling attributes of a Muslim living in such an environment is his or her commitment to uphold justice under all circumstances, provide justice to others, and never to swerve from it. In such a society, the believers will maintain justice at every instant of life. No one will be allowed to live in misery or be subjected to injustice, for all people will receive a just recompense for their work, and no one will need to suffer to make ends meet. Everyone will be asked to accomplish things in line with his or her own ability and will be provided with all kinds of opportunities. Allah commands His believing servants to rule with justice. Some of the related verses are as follows:

Allah commands justice, doing good, and giving to relatives. And He forbids indecency, doing wrong, and tyranny. He warns you so that hopefully you will pay heed. (Surat an-Nahl: 90)

Allah commands you to return to their owners the things that you hold on trust and, when you judge between people, to judge with justice. How excellent is what Allah exhorts you to do! Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing. (Surat an-Nisa': 58)

Among those We have created there is a community who guide by the Truth and act justly according to it. (Surat al-A`raf: 181)

O you who believe, show integrity for the sake of Allah, bearing witness with justice. Do not let hatred for a people incite you into not being just. Be just. That is closer to heedfulness... (Surat al-Ma'ida: 8)

At present, we can see clearly the existence of great injustice and an unequal allocation of resources. Images of children starving to death or of people murdering one another for a loaf of bread bring to mind social justice. That the wealth of the 200 richest people amounts to the wealth of 2.5 billion fellow human beings is the most explicit indication of the prevailing unjust system. When there are so many people in need, many affluent people still strive to hoard even more goods to add to their fortunes. Money spent only for pleasure and debauchery, or for no purpose at all, may well become the way out for hundreds of thousands of people dying of hunger. However, some miserly people still turn their faces away from those who are suffering. In the Qur'an, Allah describes these people as follows:

No indeed! You do not honor orphans or urge the feeding of the poor; you devour inheritance with voracious appetites and have an insatiable love of wealth. (Surat al-Fajr: 17-20)

Such moral corruption is the result of being selfish and losing the feelings of cooperation and solidarity. In this case, the only solution is to establish the Qur'an's morality throughout society, for those people who display its morality are just, compassionate, and seek to help those in need. Only through the existence of such morally excellent people can this Earth be filled with justice, abundance, and blessings.

Some Qur'anic verses regarding the establishment of social justice on Earth are as follows:

You will not attain true goodness until you give of what you love. Whatever you give away, Allah knows it. (Surah Al 'Imran: 92)

As for those who hoard up gold and silver and do not spend it in the Way of Allah, give them the news of a painful punishment. (Surat at-Tawba: 34)

O you who believe, give away some of the good things you have earned and some of what the land produces for you. And do not aim toward the defective therefrom, spending [from that] while you would not take it [yourself] except with closed eyes. Know that Allah is Rich Beyond Need, Praiseworthy. (Surat al-Baqara: 267)

If you give your alms in public, that is good. But if you conceal it and give it to the poor, that is better for you, and We will erase some of your bad actions from you. Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat al-Baqara: 271)

Those who are steadfast in seeking the face of their Lord, and establish prayer and give from the provision We have given them, secretly and openly, and stave off evil with good, it is they who will have the Ultimate Abode. (Surat ar-Ra'd: 22)

Those who give in times of both ease and hardship, those who control their rage and pardon other people—Allah loves the good-doers. (Surah Al 'Imran: 134)

[Charity is] for the poor who are held back in the Way of Allah, unable to travel in the land. The ignorant consider them rich because of their reticence. You will know them by their mark. They do not ask from people insistently. Whatever good you give away, Allah knows it. (Surat al-Baqara: 273)

If someone is in difficult circumstances, there should be a deferral until things are easier. But making a free gift of it would be better for you, if you only knew. (Surat al-Baqara: 280)

They give food, despite their love for it, to the poor and orphans and captives [saying]: “We feed you only out of desire for the Face of Allah. We do not want any repayment from you or any thanks.” (Surat al-Insan: 8-9)

Have you seen him who denies the religion? He is the one who harshly rebuffs the orphan and does not urge the feeding of the poor. (Surat al-Ma'un: 1-3)

And how is it with you that you do not give in the Way of Allah, when the inheritance of the heavens and Earth belongs to Allah? Those of you who gave and fought before the Victory are not the same as those who gave and fought afterward. They [the former] are higher in rank. But to each of them Allah has promised the Best. Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat al-Hadid: 10)

The Golden Age will be a blessed period during which people will comply scrupulously with Allah's commands, and, as a result, justice, self-sacrifice, and charity will prevail. In this blessed period, the rich will not hesitate to give to the needy, and everyone will think of the good and comfort of others. This spirit of sharing will make everyone enjoy the same level of welfare and will solve many age-old problems, such as poverty and hunger.

Social Life and Respect for the State

In the Golden Age, the arts and technology will flourish and develop to heretofore unimagined extents. In addition, social life will be markedly peaceful. Allah will present a previously unknown level of beauty to the life of people of faith who turn to His religion, for, as stated in the Qur'an, He promises good to His servants who comply with the Qur'an's morality:

Allah calls to the Abode of Peace and guides whom He wills to a straight path. Those who do good will have the best and more! Neither dust nor debasement will darken their faces. They are the Companions of Paradise, remaining in it timelessly, forever. (Surah Yunus: 25-26)

In the Golden Age, "the Abode of Peace" promised to those who "do good" will be present in its true sense. The most important element that ensures such a life will be strict adherence to the Qur'an's morality.

How will this peace and tranquility be secured?

As we know, respect, obedience, and confidence engender social peace and tranquility. In the Qur'an, obedience is featured and encouraged as an ideal moral attribute. In many verses, Allah commands Muslims to be obedient. Consequently, the social life of a community that embodies the Qur'an's morality is simultaneously an environment in which people show the greatest respect and obedience to the state.

In addition, Allah forbids people from committing corruption. There are many verses related to this command:

Eat and drink of Allah's provision, and do not go about the land corrupting it. (Surat al-Baqara: 60)

Whenever he holds the upperhand, he goes about the land corrupting it, destroying [people's] crops and animals. Allah does not love corruption. (Surat al-Baqara: 205)

Do not corrupt the land after it has been put right. Call on Him fearfully and eagerly. Allah's mercy is close to the good-doers. (Surat al-A'raf: 56)

Give full measure and full weight. Do not diminish people's goods. Do not cause corruption in the land after it has been put right. That is better for you if you are believers. Do not lie in wait on every pathway, threatening people, barring those who believe from [entering] the Way of Allah, desiring to make it crooked. Remember when you were few and He increased your number: see the final fate of the corrupters! (Surat al-A'raf: 85-86)

But as for those who break Allah's contract after it has been agreed, sever what Allah has commanded to be joined, and cause corruption in the land, the curse will be upon them. They will have the Evil Abode. (Surat ar-Ra'd: 25)

Seek the abode of the Hereafter with what Allah has given you, without forgetting your portion of the world. And do good, as Allah has been good to you. And do not seek to cause corruption in the land. Allah does not love corrupters. (Surat al-Qasas: 77)

In compliance with these verses, sincere Muslims strictly avoid causing any corruption and instigating chaos and conflict. In a peaceful, stable, and tolerant manner, they always seek peaceful solutions to problems.

Life in the Golden Age also will be characterized by peace. People will display the trust and respect they feel for the state by obeying its agencies. People will no longer pose difficulties or fight against police or other security forces. On the contrary, with their tolerant and kind attitude, those who live by the Qur'an's morality will always side with the security forces and thereby help them to accomplish their tasks. The presence of such people will eradicate anarchy, terror, chaos, enmity, and violence. As a result, humanity will attain a Paradise-like environment, the like of which has never been seen before. Conflict, fighting, and disagreement will be things of the past. On the streets, people will feel secure and will be able to go anywhere—even at night.

Our Prophet (saas) stressed in his sayings that there will be no bloodshed in that period and that peace will prevail:

*In this time, one is not awoken from sleep and not a drop of blood is shed.*²¹

*In this time, neither a man will be awoken from sleep, nor will a person's nose bleed.*²²

Moreover, the self-possessed and obedient attitude of these morally excellent people will make it easy to administer the country. The absence of such vices as greed for material values and mundane troubles (e.g., striving to make a living) will put an end to theft and fraud. Violent outbreaks will not happen, and the pursuit for truth and research will occupy people's minds. In the absence of anarchy, terror, corruption, crime, murder, fraud, and so many other evil deeds, countries will prosper.

This contemporary, civilized, and rational Islamic model, which will prevail during the Golden Age, will guide the Islamic world. The walls of bigotry surrounding Islam for centuries will collapse, and the original religion will resurface in all of its purity. Societies abiding by the Qur'an's morality will solve their internal social problems and become role models for other societies.

Religion Will Be Restored to Its Original State

Another news revealed by the Hadith literature regarding the End Times is that the original religion will no longer be misunderstood. In the Golden Age, all heretical misunderstandings that entered Islam after our Prophet (saas) will be eliminated, and the original religion will be restored: *"Just as in the case of the Prophet, the requirements of the religion will be fulfilled."*²³

After the death of our Prophet (saas) and his Companions, history records that unrelated heresies and forms of worship were introduced into the original religion, and that countless hadiths and judgments, most of which have survived to our day, were fabricated and attributed to our Prophet (saas). Despite the best efforts of true Muslims to eliminate these fabrications, many practices done in the name of Islam today are not based upon the Qur'an.

As the Qur'an is the only source that can distinguish between the correct and mistaken practices, only its guidance can expose and remove these fabricated heresies. This way, the true religion will resurface.

Today, many people embrace the understanding of Islam that they inherited from their ancestors as the true religion. Both some pious people and those who oppose Islam consider this understanding to be the true Islam. However, in many respects this understanding of religion contradicts with the Islam described in the Qur'an. This traditional understanding is comprised of baseless myths and countless bigoted beliefs and rituals. This religion's adherents base their knowledge of religion on myths and stories, rather than on the Qur'an.

The fact that many people considered to be pious by the public are unaware of the Qur'an's verses reveals this perversion. Rather than adopting the Qur'an as their guide, they adhere to the rituals of a particular tradition. As a result, they are far removed from such concerns as pondering the verses of the Qur'an and trying to understand their divine purposes. They drift further from the Qur'an and become suffocated in details. However, in an environment where the Qur'an is disregarded, no one can know and live by Islam in its true sense. Indeed, as the Qur'an informs us, on the Day of Judgment our Prophet (saas) will say that his people have treated the Qur'an as a forsaken thing:

The Messenger says: "My Lord, my people treat this Qur'an as something to be ignored." (Surat al-Furqan: 30)

Allah warns those who turn away from the Qur'an as follows:

In this way We give you news of what has gone before, and We have given you a reminder direct from Us. Those who turn away from it will bear a heavy burden on the Day of Rising, remaining in it timelessly, forever. What an evil load they will bear on the Day of Rising! (Surah Ta Ha: 99-101)

The main reason why many people remain far from religion is the presentation of Islam in this perverted form. Most people notice that this religion, which is based on various traditions, harbors irrational elements and countless contradictions, and so wait for the facts to surface. In the End Times, Allah will restore the religion to its original state and make the Qur'an's morality prevail. When this times comes, He will remove all deviations that hinder people from living by His religion, and will purify Islam from all heresies, false beliefs, and forms of worship. :

*... He [the Mahdi] will practise the religion just as in the time of Our Prophet. **He will eliminate the sects from the face of the earth. No sect except for the original true religion will remain..24***

In our own time, Muslims fail to agree even on some fundamental issues. Contrary to this situation, Allah commands Muslims not to disagree about issues concerning their religion:

This faith of yours is a single faith and I am your Lord, so heed Me. But they disagreed and split up, dividing into sects, each party exulting in what it had. (Surat al-Mu'minun: 52-53)

Those who divide the Qur'an into little pieces. (Surat al-Hijr: 91)

He has laid down the same religion for you as He enjoined on Nuh: that which We have revealed to you and which We enjoined on Ibrahim, Musa, and `Isa: "Establish the religion and do not make divisions in it." What you call the idolaters to follow is very hard for them. Allah chooses for Himself anyone He wills, and guides to Himself those who turn to Him. (Surat ash-Shura: 13)

That is because Allah has sent down the Book with truth, and those who differ from the Book are entrenched in hostility. (Surat al-Baqara: 176)

In the Qur'an, Allah says that Islam is an easy religion to live by and that its commands are clear and easy. The Qur'an lays down what is right and what is wrong, as well as what kind of attitudes and behaviors lead one to Paradise or Hell. The fact that the Qur'an contains the basic knowledge that people may need at any time is stressed in many verses:

We have not omitted anything from the Book—then they will be gathered to their Lord. (Surat al-An`am: 38)

We have sent down the Book to you, making all things clear and as guidance and mercy and good news for the Muslims. (Surat an-Nahl: 89)

In this way We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur'an, and have diversified therein the warnings so that hopefully they will avoid sin or it will spur them into remembrance. (Surah Ta Ha: 113)

We have given all kinds of examples to people in this Qur'an, so that hopefully they will pay heed. (Surat az-Zumar: 27)

Allah warns those who proclaim their own laws on behalf of religion as follows:

O you who believe, do not make unlawful the good things Allah has made lawful for you, and do not overstep the limits. Allah does not love people who overstep the limits. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 87)

Do not say about what your lying tongues describe: "This is lawful and this is unlawful," inventing lies against Allah. Those who invent lies against Allah are not successful. (Surat an-Nahl, 116)

Those who make what Allah has provided for them unlawful, inventing lies against Allah, such people are lost. They are misguided. They are not guided. (Surat al-An`am: 140)

In another verse, Allah makes it clear that Islam is easy to live by:

He has chosen you, and has imposed no difficulties on you in religion. (Surat al-Hajj: 78)

On no soul does Allah place a burden greater than it can bear. (Surat al-Baqara: 286)

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

Allah does not want to make things difficult for you, but He does want to purify you and to perfect His blessing upon you so that hopefully you will be thankful. (Surat al-Ma'ida: 6)

The verses below reveal that one of the reasons why Prophet Muhammad (saas) was sent was to relieve people of their heavy loads and chains:

Those who follow the Messenger, the Umami, whom they find written down with them in the Torah and the Gospel, commanding them to do right and forbidding them to do wrong, making good things lawful for them and bad things unlawful for them, relieving them of their heavy loads and the chains that were around them. Those who believe in him, honor him, and help him, and follow the Light that has been sent down with him, they are the ones who are successful. (Surat al-A'raf: 157)

Allah showed great kindness to the believers when He sent a Messenger to them from among themselves to recite His Signs to them, purify them, and teach them the Book and Wisdom, even though before that they were clearly misguided. (Surah Al'Imran: 164)

The true religion is truly easy. Our Prophet (saas) also stated many times that religion must not be presented as difficult:

Make things easy for the people, and do not make it difficult for them. Make them calm (with glad tidings), and do not repulse (them).²⁵

Allah did not commission me for clerical duties. The more pleasing thing in the sight of Allah is to choose the easy way of Allah's Oneness.²⁶

Avoid exaggeration while practicing your religion. The ones preceding you perished for this reason.²⁷

The Golden Age will be a time when people will truly live by Allah's religion. Sincere Muslims will restore the religion to its original state.

CONCLUSION

As we have seen throughout this book, Allah describes the beauties in Paradise that will be presented to those Muslims who comply with the Qur'an's morality while living in this world. Beautiful mansions with rivers flowing under them, constantly flowing springs, villas, foods and drinks, and jewels will be granted to them in return for their moral excellence. Paradise is the eternal life that Muslims always long to attain:

“Enter Paradise, you and your wives, delighting in your joy.” Platters and cups of gold will be passed around among them, and they will have there all that their hearts desire and in which their eyes find delight. You will remain in it timelessly, forever. That is Paradise you will inherit for what you did. There will be many fruits in it for you to eat. (Surat az-Zukhruf: 70-73)

The Golden Age is such a beautiful life granted to Muslims in this world. This period is, as our Prophet (saas) said, an image of Paradise. It is a blessing from Allah. With its abundance, as well as its peaceful and comfortable environment, it is a period that every servant of faith who devotes his or her life to Allah would like to attain, and a great reward.

For all Muslims, it is no doubt a great honor to be given the good news of this period.

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 concept of intelligent design to account for the origin of life. This "intelligent design" is a scientific expression of the fact that Allah created all living things.

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 of the 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."²⁸

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 in 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.*²⁹

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.³⁰

After a long silence, Miller confessed that the atmosphere medium he used was unrealistic.³¹

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?*³²

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 10^{950} for an average protein made up of 500 amino acids. In mathematics, a probability smaller than 1 over 10^{50} 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.*³³

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 Mechanisms 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.*³⁴

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.³⁵

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 1930's. 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.*³⁶

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.*³⁷

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.*³⁸

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.*³⁹

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.⁴⁰

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."⁴¹

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.⁴²

Moreover, a certain segment of humans classified as *Homo erectus* have lived up until very modern times. *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis* and *Homo sapiens sapiens* (modern man) co-existed in the same region.⁴³

This situation apparently indicates the invalidity of the claim that they are ancestors of one another. A paleontologist from Harvard University, Stephen Jay Gould, explains this deadlock of the theory of evolution, although he is an evolutionist himself:

*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.*⁴⁴

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.⁴⁵

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.

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 was 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 a 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.⁴⁶

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 is 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 the Prophet Musa (as) worshipping the Golden Calf.

In fact, Allah has pointed to this lack of reason in the Qur'an. In many verse, He reveals in many verses 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 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 to meet with his own magicians. When Musa 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 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: 117-119)

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, Malcolm Muggeridge, an atheist philosopher and supporter of evolution, admitted he was worried by just that prospect:

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.⁴⁷

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)**

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