

BACK COVER

Our Prophet (saas) is a blessed person to whom Allah (God) revealed the Qur'an, the last righteous Book, and made an example to humanity with his moral perfection, taqwa and closeness to Allah. Our Prophet (saas) fulfilled the great responsibility he was given in the best way possible, summoned people to Allah's path and became the one who guided all believers to Allah's path. As is known, All-Mighty Allah supported our Prophet (saas) with many miracles from His Sight. Our purpose in this book is to remind people of some of the miracles Allah granted to our blessed Prophet (saas) He made exemplary to all people with his superior morality, profound faith and all his manners and words. By Allah's leave, throughout his life, our Prophet (saas) showed many miracles to people. Some of these miracles were witnessed only by his followers while some others by a great majority of unbelievers. Some of the miracles of our Prophet (saas) are conveyed in the Qur'an while some others in our Prophet's (saas) sayings and in various explanations of Islamic scholars. Our purpose is to show our blessed Prophet's (saas) miraculous aspects to people and to summon them to make the Qur'an and our Prophet's (saas) Sunnah a guide to themselves.

About the Author

Adnan Oktar, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on faith-related, scientific and political issues. He is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

All of the author's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur'an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as Allah's existence and unity and the Hereafter; and to expose irreligious systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies. His more than 300 works, translated into 63 different languages, enjoy a wide readership across the world.

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

THE MIRACLES OF OUR PROPHET (SAAS)

HARUN YAHYA

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About the Author

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

Harun Yahya's works, translated into 63 different languages, constitute a collection for a total of more than 55,000 pages with 40,000 illustrations. His pen-name is a composite of the names Harun (Aaron) and Yahya (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their peoples' lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the Final Scripture) and Prophet Muhammad (saas), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet [saas]), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of

irreligious ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet (saas), who attained ultimate wisdom and moral perfection, as a sign of his intention to offer the last word.

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

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

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in Allah and gaining deeper insights into their faith. His books' wisdom and sincerity, together with a distinct style that's easy to understand, directly affect anyone who reads them. Those who seriously consider these books, can no longer advocate atheism or any other perverted ideology or materialistic philosophy, since these books are characterized by rapid effectiveness, definite results, and irrefutability. Even if they continue to do so, it will be only a sentimental insistence, since these books refute such ideologies from their very foundations. All contemporary movements of denial are now ideologically defeated, thanks to the books written by Harun Yahya.

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

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

Meanwhile, it would only be a waste of time and energy to propagate other books that create confusion in people's minds, lead them into ideological confusion, and that clearly have no strong and precise effects in removing the doubts in people's hearts, as also verified from previous experience. It is impossible for books devised to emphasize the author's literary power rather than the noble goal of saving people from loss of

faith, to have such a great effect. Those who doubt this can readily see that the sole aim of Harun Yahya's books is to overcome disbelief and to disseminate the Qur'an's moral values. The success and impact of this service are manifested in the readers' conviction.

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

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

To the Reader

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

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

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

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

In these books, unlike some other books, you will not find the author's personal views, explanations based on dubious sources, styles that are unobservant of the respect and reverence due to sacred subjects, nor hopeless, pessimistic arguments that create doubts in the mind and deviations in the heart.

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Introduction

Throughout history, Allah sent messengers to all peoples, showing them how to live a good life in this world and the next. We are told in the Qur'an that this is a wonderful grace and mercy for all believers:

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)

We have only sent you as a mercy to all the worlds. (Surat al-Anbiya': 107)

These messengers were a grace to their communities, for they showed their people the right path, helped them leave the darkness of unbelief and enter into the light of belief, and proclaimed the commands

of our Lord, Who created the universe from nothing. They told people that they could have contentment, peace, and security only by living a good religious life. However, Allah also reveals that "...most people have no faith" (Surat al-Ra'd: 1). Thus, few people embraced faith and appreciated what a great mercy these messengers were for them.

As revealed in the Qur'an, they sincerely desired that people should come to faith: **"But most people, for all your eagerness, are not believers"** (Surah Yusuf: 103). They called their people to truth so that they could receive blessings in both worlds and live good and happy lives. They asked no reward for this. Due to their sincere fear of and respect for Allah and their superior moral character, the messengers dedicated their honorable lives to this goal. All of the ensuing difficulties and trials only increased their faith and dedication. With Allah's help and support, they became examples of courage; with His permission, they always prevailed. Our Lord says:

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

In return for their devotion, faithfulness, patience, sincerity, and trust in Him, Allah imparted a sense of security and contentment to their hearts, gave them material and spiritual strength, and destroyed the unbelievers' traps:

We will certainly help Our messengers and those who believe both in the life of this world and on the Day the witnesses appear. (Surah Ghafir: 51)

O Messenger, transmit what has been sent down to you from your Lord. If you do not, you will not have transmitted His message. Allah will protect you from people. Allah does not guide the unbelievers. (Surat al-Ma'idah: 67)

Allah tells us that He defended our Prophet (saas) against all of the unbelievers' traps:

... when the unbelievers were plotting against you to imprison, kill, or expel you: They were plotting and Allah was planning, but Allah is the Best of Planners. (Surat al-Anfal: 30)

We learn from several verses that Allah protected His messengers in every adversity and anxiety and from every trap. He increased His blessings upon them, provided an escape from every difficulty, increased their courage and strength, lightened their burdens, and strengthened their resolve by reminding them of His mercy.

Our Lord supported some of His messengers by allowing them to perform miracles. These great blessings from Allah had a strong effect on people, strengthened the believers' resolve and faith, and caused many unbelievers to embrace Islam.

The Miracles Granted to the Messengers

Allah enabled His messengers to perform miracles to protect them from the unbelievers' and the hypocrites' traps, to bring people to faith, and for other reasons. In the Qur'an He gives a detailed account of the messengers' lives, the miracles He sent to support their message, and the miracles He allowed them to perform. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saas) and the Prophet Moses (as), the Prophet Abraham (as) and the Prophet Jesus (as) were all blessed messengers to whom Allah granted miracles.

For example, the trap set for the Prophet Abraham (as) was foiled by a miracle:

We said: "Fire, be coolness and peace for Abraham!" (Surat al-Anbiya': 69)

As a result, the unbelievers' trap was destroyed. We will now relate some other miracles.

The miracles that 'the Prophet Jesus (as) showed his people:

Remember when Allah said: " O Jesus, son of Maryam, remember My blessing to you and to your mother when I reinforced you with the Purest Spirit so that you could speak to people in the cradle and when you were fully grown; and when I taught you the Book and Wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel; and when you created a bird-shape out of clay by My permission, and then breathed into it and it became a bird by My permission; and [when you] healed the blind and the leper by My permission; and when you brought forth the dead by My permission; and when I held back the tribe of Israel from you, when you brought them the Clear Signs and the unbelievers among them said: 'This is nothing but downright magic.'" (Surat al-Ma'idah: 110)

... as a messenger to the tribe of Israel, the Prophet Jesus (as) saying: "I have brought you a sign from your Lord. I will create the shape of a bird out of clay for you, breathe into it, and it will be a bird, by Allah's permission. I will heal the blind and the leper, and bring the dead to life, by Allah's permission. I will tell you what you eat and what you store up in your homes. There is a sign for you in that if you are believers." (Surah Al 'Imran: 49)

The Prophet Moses's (as) staff turned into a snake and swallowed those produced by Pharaoh's magicians:

He [Pharaoh] said: "If you have come with a clear sign produce it, if you are telling the truth." So he [Moses] threw down his staff and there it was, unmistakably a snake. (Surat al-A'raf: 106-107)

Throw down what is in your right hand [O Moses]. It will swallow up their handiwork, which is just a magician's trick. Magicians do not prosper wherever they go. (Surah Ta Ha: 69)

The Prophet Moses (as) struck the sea with his staff and its waters parted:

And when the two hosts came into sight of one another, Moses's companions exclaimed: "We will surely be overtaken!" Moses said: "Never! My Lord is with me and will guide me." So We revealed to Moses: "Strike the sea with your staff." And it split in two, each part like a towering cliff. And We brought the others right up to it. We rescued Moses and all those who were with him, and then drowned the rest. (Surat al-Shu'ara': 61-66)

The birds that the Prophet Abraham (as) cut into pieces came back to him alive:

When Abraham said: "My Lord, show me how You bring the dead to life." He asked: "Do you not then have belief?" Abraham replied: "Indeed I do! But so that my heart may be at peace." He said: "Take four birds and train them to yourself. Then put a part of them on each mountain and call to them; they will come

rushing to you. Know that Allah is Almighty, All-Wise." (Surat al-Baqara: 260)

The Prophet Jonah's (as) was miraculously saved after being swallowed by a whale:

Yunus was one of the Messengers. When he ran away to the fully laden ship and cast lots and lost, then the fish devoured him and he was to blame. Had he not been a person who glorified Allah, he would have remained inside its belly until the Day of Resurrection. So We cast him up onto the beach and he was sick. (Surat al-Saffat: 139-145)

The Prophet Zechariah. (as) was told he would have a child in his old age

Then and there Zechariah called on his Lord: "O Lord, grant me by Your favor an upright child. You are the Hearer of Prayer." The angel called out to him while he was standing in prayer in the upper room: "Allah gives you the good news of John, who will come to confirm a Word from Allah, and will be a leader and a celibate, a prophet and one of the just." He asked: "My Lord, how can I possibly have a son when I have reached old age and my wife is barren?" He replied: "It will be so. Allah does whatever He wills." (Surah Al 'Imran: 38-40)

Many other miracles are informed in the Qur'an, all of which happen by the will of Allah Who rules the universe and has infinite power. Every miracle happens at Allah's command and in the way He wills:

We sent messengers before you and gave them wives and children. Nor was any messenger able to bring a sign except by Allah's permission. There is a prescribed limit to every term. (Surat ar-Ra'd: 38)

In Surat al-Ma'idah, it is revealed that the Prophet Jesus (as) performed miracles by Allah's permission:

Remember when Allah said: "O 'Jesus, son of Maryam, remember My blessing to you and to your mother when I reinforced you with the Purest Spirit so that you could speak to people in the cradle and when you were fully grown; and when I taught you the Book and Wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel; and when you created a bird-shape out of clay by My permission, and then

breathed into it and it became a bird by My permission; and healed the blind and the leper by My permission; and when you brought forth the dead by My permission; and when I held back the tribe of Israel from you, when you brought them the clear signs and the unbelievers among them said: 'This is nothing but downright magic.'" (Surat al-Ma'ida: 110)

All of the messengers were blessed individuals who submitted themselves to Allah. They had good moral characters and were examples to the world. Like everyone else, they were helpless and needy in Allah's sight. Allah, Who created the universe from nothing, has absolute power and governance over all things, both living and inanimate. The universe and all creatures in the heavens and on Earth belong to Him, for He, the Lord of the universe, created them all. Everything moves at His command and exists at His pleasure.

Allah feeds all living creatures, provides them with many blessings, brings forth plants and creates their seasons, and brings darkness in the evening and makes the sun a brilliant light. He created all human beings who have ever lived and who are yet to live; all animate and inanimate things owe their existence to Him, and every creature needs Him. He has honored some individuals by choosing them to be His messengers. They also stand in need of Him, act at His command, and perform their miracles only by His will.

We are told in Surat al-Anbiya' of Allah's infinite power:

Everyone in the heavens and on Earth belongs to Him. Those in His presence do not consider themselves too great to worship Him and do not grow tired of it. They glorify Him night and day, never flagging. Or have they taken deities out of the soil who can bring the dead to life? If there had been any deities besides Allah in heaven or Earth, they would both be ruined. Glory be to Allah, Lord of the Throne, beyond what they describe! He will not be questioned about what He does, but they will be questioned. Or have they taken other deities besides Him? Say: "Produce your proof. This is the message of those with me and the message of those before me." But most of them do not know the truth, so they turn away. (Surat al-Anbiya': 19-24)

This book informs the reader about some of the Prophet Muhammad's (saas) miracles. Allah made this blessed individual an example to all people due to his goodness and deep faith, and his every

word and action. With Allah's permission, he performed miracles throughout his life, some of which were witnessed only by the Companions and others of which were seen by great numbers of unbelievers.

An account of some of these miracles has come down to us in the Qur'an; we know of others through the hadiths and the various writings of Islamic scholars. We intend to show the miraculous aspects of this blessed person who was sent as a mercy to the world and to invite our readers to take the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet (saas) as their guide.

The Prophet's (saas) Miracles

As Allah says, He sent our Prophet (saas) as the last prophet to humanity: "... **the Messenger of Allah and the Final Seal of the Prophets**" (Surat al-Ahzab: 40). This blessed man delivered the final revelation and serves as humanity's role model because of his goodness, piety, and closeness to Allah. He is a friend of Allah, and the friend and advocate of believers. Allah tells us that He entrusted our Prophet (saas) with a great responsibility:

We will impose a weighty Word upon you. (Surat al-Muzzammil: 5)

With his powerful faith in Allah, the Prophet (saas) carried out his responsibility perfectly by inviting humanity to follow the Way of Allah and serving as their guide.

The Revelation of the Qur'an

According to Islamic and historical texts, Allah bestowed prophethood upon the Prophet Muhammad (saas) when he was forty years old. But even before that time, certain miraculous events took place. For example, his dreams came true. The hadiths say that these

dreams lasted for about six months. The eminent Islamic scholar Imam al-Bukhari relates:

The commencement of the Divine inspiration to the Messenger of Allah was in the form of good righteous (true) dreams in his sleep. He never had a dream but that it came true like bright daylight. ¹

The hadiths tell us that when he turned forty, he would often go by himself to the Cave of Hira' (Ghar Hira) in Jabal al-Nur (the Mountain of Light), which was located about twelve kilometers from Mecca. During the Ramadan of his third annual retreat, Allah granted the Prophet Muhammad (saas) the rank of prophet by sending Gabriel to reveal some Qur'anic verses to him. The first revelation was given on August 10, 610 CE (Monday night, 21 Ramadan).

This was certainly a wonderful grace from Allah. Our Prophet (saas) was blessed; he was an able, good, and a man of deep faith; had a degree of fear and respect toward Allah; and was worthy of this honor:

... but for a mercy from your Lord. His favor to you is indeed immense. (Surat al-Isra': 87)

You did not expect to be given the Book. It is nothing but a mercy from your Lord... (Surat al-Qasas: 86)

The fact that his dreams came true is one proof that our dear Prophet (saas) was chosen by Allah. Islamic scholars interpret this as meaning that Allah prepared him for this great responsibility while he slept. After these dreams, the Prophet (saas) received the first revelation and was entrusted with guiding humanity to the true path. He continued to do so, with great determination, until he died.

The hadiths relate the miraculous events that occurred before he received the first revelation:

Aisha narrated: The first thing with which the revelation began for the Messenger of Allah was correct dreams in sleep. He never saw a dream but that it came like the breaking of the dawn. He used to go in seclusion to (the cave of) Hira', where he used to worship (Allah alone) continuously for many nights. He used to take provision with him for that (stay) and then like-wise come back to Khadijah to take his food again for another period. Then suddenly the Truth descended upon him while he was in the cave of Hira'. The angel came to him and asked him to read.

The Prophet replied: "I do not know how to read" (and added:) "The angel caught me (forcefully) and pressed me so hard that I could not

*bear it anymore. He then released me and again asked me to read, and I replied: 'I do not know how to read,' whereupon he caught me again and pressed me a second time until I could not bear it anymore. He then released me and asked me again to read, but again I replied: 'I do not know how to read (or, what shall I read?).' Thereupon he caught me for the third time and pressed me and then released me and said: '**Read: In the Name of your Lord, Who has created, has created humanity from a [blood] clot. Read, and Your Lord is Most Generous, He Who taught by the pen, taught man what he did not know.**' (Surat al-'Alaq: 1-5)" Then Allah's Messenger returned with it... ²*

We are told in the Qur'an about his conversation with Gabriel and the revelation of the Qur'an to him. It is revealed in Surat al-Najm that Gabriel taught the Qur'an to the Prophet (saas):

Your companion is not misguided or misled; nor does he speak from whim. It is nothing but Revelation revealed, taught to him by one immensely strong. (Surat al-Najm: 2-5)

We also learn of the wondrous events that occurred as Gabriel transmitted the Qur'an to the Prophet (saas):

... possessing power and splendor. He [Gabriel] stood there stationary, there on the highest horizon. Then he drew near and hung suspended. He was two bow-lengths away or even closer. Then He [Allah] revealed to His servant what He revealed. His [Muhammad's] heart did not lie about what he saw. What! Do you dispute with him about what he saw? (Surat al-Najm: 6-12)

It is also stated in several other verses that Gabriel, also called the "Purest Spirit" or the "Faithful Spirit," delivered the revelation:

It does not befit Allah to address any human being except by inspiration, or from behind a veil, or He sends a messenger who then reveals by His permission whatever He wills. He is indeed Most High, All-Wise. (Surat al-Shura: 51)

Say: "Anyone who is Jibril's enemy should know that it was he who brought it [the Qur'an] down upon your heart, by Allah's authority, confirming what came before, and as guidance and good news for the believers." (Surat al-Baqarah: 97)

Say: "The Purest Spirit has brought it down from your Lord with truth, to make those who have faith firm, and as guidance and good news for the Muslims." (Surat al-Nahl: 102)

Truly it is revelation sent down by the Lord of all the worlds. The Faithful Spirit brought it down to your heart so you would be one of the Warners. (Surat al-Shu'ara': 192-194)

There is a tradition that the revelations ceased for a while after the first verses had been revealed. The hadiths tell us that when the revelations resumed, the first verses he received were the opening verses of Surat al-Muddaththir. After that, the Prophet (saas) assumed his responsibility of proclaiming the revelation. Later, by a command from Allah, he told people to have faith only in Allah and not to make any creature His equal:

O you who are enveloped in your cloak, arise and warn. Magnify your Lord. (Surat al-Muddaththir: 1-3)

It is also said in Surat al-Shura 194 that revelations were placed in the Prophet's (saas) heart. In addition, Allah caused him to memorize the Qur'an: "We will cause you to recite so that you do not forget" (Surat al-A'la: 6). His ability to memorize the Qur'an in this way was another one of his miracles.

The verses of the Qur'an were rooted in the Prophet's (saas) heart, and he spent his whole life proclaiming them. In Surat al-A'la 8, "**We will ease you to the Easy Way,**" Allah announced that He is the Prophet's (saas) helper and will give him success. Allah tells us that He is the blessed messenger's constant Helper: "**It is Our duty to help the believers**" (Surat al-Rum: 47). He refreshed the Prophet's (saas) heart and created marvellous things in his mind and memory. He tells us that it is He Who enabled the Prophet (saas) to recite and remember all of its verses:

Do not move your tongue trying to hasten it. Its collection and recitation are Our affair. So when We recite it, follow its recitation. Then its explanation is Our concern. (Surat al-Qiyamah: 16-19)

Clearly, Allah placed the Qur'an's verses in his memory in a special way:

High exalted be Allah, the King, the Real! Do not rush ahead with the Qur'an before its revelation to you is complete, and say: "My Lord, increase me in knowledge." (Surah Ta Ha: 114)

With his love and lively faith in Allah, our Prophet (saas) willingly and wholeheartedly obeyed all of His commands. Allah made him powerful

and gave him success, granted him many blessings, and made him special in both worlds.

What Happened While the Prophet (saas) Was Receiving Revelation

Allah tells us that He told our Prophet (saas) to get up in the night and prepare to receive a revelation, a "weighty Word":

O you who are enwrapped in your clothing, stay up at night, except a little, half of it, or a little less, or a little more, and recite the Qur'an distinctly. We will impose a weighty Word upon you. Certainly, rising at night has a stronger effect and is more conducive to concentration. In the daytime, much of your time is taken up by business matters. Remember the Name of your Lord and devote yourself to Him completely. (Surat al-Muzzammil: 1-8)

The hadiths inform us about how extraordinary it is to receive a revelation and of the marvellous spiritual things the Prophet (saas) experienced in his room. We learn that when the revelations came, those who were with him heard a sound like a bee buzzing around his face. Sahih al-Bukhari states:

Aisha narrated: "Al-Harith ibn Hisham asked the Prophet (saas): 'How does the revelation come to you?' He replied: 'In all of that the angel comes to me, sometimes with a voice that resembles the sound of a ringing bell. When this state abandons me, I remember what the angel has said. This type of revelation is the hardest on me. Sometimes the angel comes to me in the shape of a man and talks to me, and I understand and remember what he says.'" ³

Aisha narrated: "I saw the Prophet (saas) receive revelation on a very cold day and noticed the sweat dropping from his forehead." ⁴

Zayd ibn Thabit narrated: "I wrote down Allah's revelations to the Prophet (saas). When the revelation came to him, he felt a great weariness and had beads of sweat like pearls. When the state of revelation ended, he recited and I would write." ⁵

Abu Hurayrah narrated: "When the revelation came from Allah to the Prophet (saas), it was as if he had fainted." ⁶

The Qur'an: Our Prophet's (saas) Greatest Miracle
Our Prophet's (saas) greatest miracle is the Qur'an, which Allah revealed fourteen centuries ago as a guide for humanity and called everyone to obey to attain salvation:

But it is nothing less than a Reminder to all the worlds. (Surat al-Qalam: 52)

Since that time, the Qur'an's language has been easily understandable by people of every era:

We have made the Qur'an easy to remember. (Surat al-Qamar: 22)

At the same time, its excellent and incomparable literary style, as well as the superior wisdom it contains, are definite proofs that it is the Divine word. Many other miraculous aspects also attest that it is the word of Allah. For example, some scientific facts could only be "discovered" with the aid of modern technology; but their essence was revealed in the Qur'an some 1,400 years ago. Since it was impossible to discover these facts scientifically when the Qur'an was being revealed, it is clear that the Qur'an is Allah's word to humanity.

When the Qur'an was revealed in the seventh century, the Arabs had innumerable myths about what we would consider scientific matters. Lacking the technology to investigate the universe and the world of nature, they believed in myths and legends passed down from generation to generation. For example, they thought that the sky was held up by mountains: Earth was flat, and high mountains located on its two sides acted as columns supporting the vault of the heavens. All of these myths were eradicated with the coming of the Qur'an. For example, the verse reading "**Allah is He Who raised up the heavens without any support...**" (Surat al-Ra'd: 2) invalidated that particular superstition.

Important knowledge about this and many other matters unknown at that time are given in the Qur'an. When it was sent down, human beings knew very little about astronomy, physics and biology. And yet it contained important knowledge about the creation of the universe and human beings, the components of the atmosphere, and the balance in nature. (For a detailed discussion, see Harun Yahya, *The Miracles of the Qur'an*, Toronto: Al-Attique Publishers Inc., 2001)

Allah created the universe from nothing and knows all things. The Qur'an, which has a plain and clear style that everyone can understand, was revealed so that people would read and understand it, know the Creator, and know how to serve Him. Allah then elucidated the verses with numerous examples and stories, for **"We have not omitted anything from the Book"** (Surat al-An'am: 38). The Qur'an is perfect and thus contains much detailed knowledge about both worlds, which it explains in wise terms: **"We have sent down to you a Book containing your Reminder. So will you not use your intellect?"** (Surat al-Anbiya': 10).

One of the Qur'an's most important aspects is that its original text has remained intact since its revelation: **"We have sent down the Reminder and We will preserve it"** (Surat al-Hijr: 9). The scriptures revealed before the Qur'an were altered, for various people added, changed, or deleted certain parts. But when a revelation came to our Prophet (saas), Allah miraculously enabled him to memorize it. Immediately afterwards, it was written down by the "recorders of revelation." During Abu Bakr's (ra) reign, the Qur'an became one volume; during Uthman's (ra) reign, copies were made and sent to the major cities of the empire.

The Qur'an Contains Advice For All Humanity

The Qur'an is the last Divine book that was revealed to advise humanity; therefore, its decrees remain valid for all people, regardless of their particular time or location, until the Day of Judgment. The Qur'an shows human beings the right path and reminds them about certain things pertaining to their eternal life. For example:

It is certainly a reminder to you and to your people, and you will be questioned. (Surat al-Zukhruf: 44)

The supreme wisdom it contains, the truth it reveals about the past and the future, and its style that dispels ignorance and unawareness make the Qur'an unique and without equal. Its miraculous character applies to all people who will ever live, and its validity began on the day it was revealed and will continue until the Day of Judgment.

All people are responsible for serving Allah properly. This is possible only if they believe in Him sincerely and are guided by the Qur'an and

the Sunnah of the Prophet (saas). Allah reveals how wonderful the Qur'an is and how important it is to adopt it as one's guide:

If We had sent down this Qur'an to a mountain, you would have seen it humbled, crushed to pieces out of fear of Allah. We make such examples for people so that, hopefully, they will reflect. (Surat al-Hashr: 21)

Everything Has Been Explained in the Qur'an

Allah explains clearly in the Qur'an what is right and wrong, allowed and forbidden. Therefore, it is an easy matter for believers who listen to the voice of their conscience and avoid the selfish promoting of their lower selves to find the truth. The Qur'an contains advice that is full of wisdom. Its wisdom and the goodness enjoined in its verses are clear. Sincere believers whom Allah has put on the right path can understand it without difficulty and implement its truths in their attitudes and ideas, for the Qur'an is "guidance for humanity, with clear signs containing guidance and discrimination" (Surat al-Baqarah: 185).

However, only those who fear and respect Allah, abide by His decrees, submit to Him in their heart, and choose the next world to this one can consider its advice:

We did not send down the Qur'an to you to make you miserable, but only as a reminder for those who have fear [and respect for Allah]. (Surah Ta Ha: 2-3)

This is a major secret of the Qur'an. It does not take a high intellect, a broad culture, or any special ability to understand the Qur'an; it is only necessary to have sincerity. Allah reveals the truth to His sincere servants and brings them to salvation. The Qur'an has been sent to humanity, but is the way to the right path only for those who fear and respect Him and believe in the Last Day:

Those are the signs of the Wise Book - guidance and mercy for those who do good. (Surah Luqman: 2-3)

O humanity, admonition has come to you from your Lord, and also healing for what is in the breasts and guidance and mercy for the believers. (Surah Yunus: 57)

Given the above, we can see that the Qur'an contains advice for everyone and guides the observant and generous Muslims to the right path. As the great Islamic thinker Bediuzzaman Said Nursi said: "*The All-Wise Qur'an is the leader to the aware and the conscious, the guide of jinn and men, the teacher of those attaining to perfection, and instructor of those seeking reality.*"⁷ In order to bring humanity out of its darkness and into the light, Allah revealed the answer to every question to those who seek it in their conscience:

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)

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

This is a manifestation of Allah's mercy toward His servants.

Moreover, Allah lets us know something about Him through the Qur'an. For example, He reveals that He created the universe from nothing, rich beyond need of any being, is beyond defect, knows everything, and sees and hears every secret. Besides this, He revealed why and how human beings were created; what kind of life will win His approval; the existence of the Day of Judgment, Paradise, and Hell; taught human beings how to pray and be good, how to be sound in body and spirit, and what to do in times of difficulty and unexpected situations; and described the various kinds of human character. But He has also revealed far more than just these things, for some verses point to scientific truths and knowledge as well as how to solve personal and social problems. In other words, the Qur'an contains all of the basic knowledge necessary for every moment of a person's life:

In this way We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur'an and have given various warnings in it so that, hopefully, they will have fear of Allah or that it will spur them to remembrance. (Surah Ta Ha: 113)

We have spread throughout this Qur'an all kinds of examples for people, but most people spurn anything but unbelief. (Surat al-Isra': 89)

We have spread throughout this Qur'an all kinds of examples for people, but, more than anything else, humanity is argumentative. (Surat al-Kahf: 54)

Allah tells people to obey His decrees absolutely, to take Him as their only friend and guardian, and that the only purpose of life is to win His approval and mercy and thereby reach Paradise. The only criterion for living is the Qur'an, and the only way to follow is the way of Prophet Muhammad (saas).

Allah, Who was pleased to choose Islam as the religion for His servants, revealed the Qur'an as a guide to which they could refer and made the life of our Prophet (saas) an example for them. All other paths are errant and false, based only on myths, heresy, and opinion. Therefore, people can hope for a reward from Allah only if they take the Qur'an and the Prophet's (saas) Sunnah as their measure of judgment, obey Allah's commands fully by always doing good works to win His approval, and take the Prophet's (saas) moral character as their example.

As Allah revealed in the Qur'an, His words are "**perfect**" and people can only reach the truth by following the Qur'an and the Prophet's (saas) Sunnah, for:

"Am I to desire someone other than Allah as a judge when it is He Who has sent down the Book to you clarifying everything?" Those to whom We have given the Book know it has been sent down from your Lord with truth, so on no account be among the doubters. The Words of your Lord are perfect in truthfulness and justice. No one can change His Words. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing. (Surat al-An'am: 114-115)

The Qur'an's Literary Excellence

Allah proclaims: "We have made the Qur'an easy to remember" (Surat al-Qamar: 22).

In spite of the fact that it has an easily understandable style, it cannot be compared in any way with another book. This is one of Allah's great miracles. Those who doubted, in spite of clear proofs, slandered the Prophet (saas), and so Allah revealed:

Do they say: "He has invented it"? Say: "Then produce a surah like it and call upon anyone you can, besides Allah, if you are telling the truth." (Surah Yunus: 38)

Even though noone could ever achieve this, the unbelievers could mistakenly consider it an easy matter. In Arabia, poetry and literature were highly developed; there were poets and fluent and eloquent individuals who used Arabic very well. As Bediuzzaman Said Nursi said, a tribe's literary people were considered the people's greatest heroes. Given the importance they placed on literature and rhetoric, the Mu'allaqat (seven odes written by seven poets) were suspended in gold letters on the walls of the Ka`bah. ⁸ Some of them were recited to the people on great occasions, such as the trade fair at Ukaz. Even the Bedouins could recite poetry that was just as good as any composed by the urban poets. Whether their poems were metrical or composed in a free style, the people were moved.⁹

So, at a time when eloquence and style were well developed, Allah revealed the Qur'an to our Prophet (saas). It was not long before these literary individuals, even though their inner arrogance and conceit made them persist in their rebelliousness, noticed that the Qur'an was, in literary terms, a miracle.

The Qur'an includes incidents that are means of guidance for people, allows people to recognize their own lower selves, gives information about the past and the future. Its richness is infinite and incomparable. In fact, this miracle is so great that Allah told the Prophet (saas) to proclaim to those who were too arrogant to listen to it:

Say: "If both humanity and jinn banded together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could never produce anything like it, even if they backed each other up." We have spread throughout this Qur'an all kinds of examples for people, but most people spurn anything but unbelief. (Surat al-Isra': 88-89)

Or do they say: "He has invented it"? Say: "Then produce ten invented surahs like this and call upon anyone you can besides Allah, if you are telling the truth." If they do not respond to you, then know that it has been sent down with Allah's knowledge and that there is no deity but Him. So will you not become believers? (Surah Hud: 13-14)

Do they say: "He has invented it"? Say: "Then produce a surah like it and call on anyone you can besides Allah, if you are telling the truth." No, the fact is that they have denied something that their knowledge does not embrace and the meaning of which has not yet reached them. In the same way,

those before them also denied the truth. See the final fate of those who do wrong! (Surah Yunus: 38-39)

Unbelievers remain weak and powerless in relation to the Qur'an's excellence. No one has ever produced anything like it, and no one ever will. All the unbelievers' traps and ruses designed to discredit the Prophet (saas) and prevent him from delivering his message were, as a blessing from Allah, rendered ineffective.

From the literary point of view, with the Qur'an, our Prophet (saas) gave the wisest response to his people's powerful and elaborate rhetoric, to their most famous poets and finest orators. Besides this, he proved himself superior to all literary people. No doubt this was one of the effects of the Qur'an's incomparable literary quality and wisdom. In response to the verses that the Prophet (saas) recited, the Meccan polytheists were amazed. But in spite of their own certainty about them, some of them rebelled because of their pride:

If you have doubts about what We have sent down to Our servant, produce another surah equal to it and call your witnesses, besides Allah, if you are telling the truth. If you do not do that - and you will not do it - then fear the Fire whose fuel is people and stones, made ready for the unbelievers. (Surat al-Baqarah: 23-24)

The great scholar Bediuzzaman Said Nursi interprets these verses in this way:

When the Qur'an came, it challenged at the same time the experts in these four fields. First, it made the people of eloquence bow down before it. They all listened to it with amazement. Second, it stunned the poets and orators so that they bit their fingers in astonishment. Their most beautiful poems written in gold were given a blow, and the famous Seven Poems that were placed on the walls of the Ka`bah as an object of pride were brought down. Third, it also silenced the soothsayers and magicians, made them forget about their discoveries of hidden knowledge, resulted in the expulsion of the jinn from the heavens, and brought the process of divination to a certain end. Fourth, it rescued from myth and fabrications those who were cognisant of the events of bygone times and the facts of cosmology, teaching them the real story of past events and the illuminating knowledge of the facts of creation. Thus did those four groups bow down before the Qur'an in astonishment and respect and become its students. None of them ever dared dispute with a single verse of it. ¹⁰

The revelation of an extraordinary book to the Prophet (saas), who had lived among them all his life, amazed the arrogant people and led them to hate him without cause. As a result, they did their best to harm him in every possible way. Although they saw that he was good both in his life and moral character, they conspired against him:

They are surprised that a warner should come to them from among themselves. The unbelievers say: "This is a lying magician." (Surah Sad: 4)

Do people find it so surprising that We should reveal to a man among them: "Warn humanity." The unbelievers exclaim: "This is downright magic!" (Surah Yunus: 2)

Those who slandered this good and blessed man were personal witnesses to his moral superiority. With their own eyes they saw the Prophet Muhammad's (saas) faithfulness to his promises, loyalty, justice, honesty, truthfulness, kindness to orphans and those in need, generosity, and interest in others. His excellent character and moral qualities always caught everyone's attention, and he was everyone's most trusted, beloved, and respected friend.

Our Prophet's (saas) moral character could not be denied or ignored. His moral character, as described in the Qur'an, was pleasing to Allah, Who made him an example and guide to all people. According to Islamic sources, Nadr ibn al-Haris attempted to harm the Prophet (saas) with his words; later on, he met with the idolaters' leaders and told them:

O Qurayshis, I swear that today you have encountered something that has never befallen you before. **From early childhood, Muhammad was your most beloved, the greatest speaker of truth, and the one who achieved the greatest respect.** When he was older and brought Allah's Book, you said that he was a magician. I swear that he is not a magician. We have seen many magicians and how they breathe on knots. You then called him a seer. I swear that neither is he a seer. How many seers have we seen and witnessed their speech? You called him a poet. I swear that he is not a poet. How many poems have we learned and seen their metre? You called him crazy. I swear that he is not crazy. Are there any signs of fainting, nonsense, or fits in him? O Qurayshis think well and decide...

OUR PROPHET'S (SAAS) EXCELLENT CHARACTER

The prophet Muhammad (saas) is a blessed man and greatly honored in Allah's sight. Allah sent him to guide everyone to the right and made him great in the world; he had the kind of moral character that made him the most trustworthy of all human beings, and he was an example to others in his honesty. He was a messenger of Allah whose godliness, good moral character, and disposition were exemplary. His compassion, politeness, subtle understanding, trust in Allah, and patient determination make him a guide for all Muslims.

Ibrahim ibn Muhammad (ra), a grandson of Ali ibn Abu Talib (ra), relates the following information:

Whenever Ali described the Messenger of Allah's (saas) noble features, he used to say: "He was the most generous and the most truthful person. He was the most kind-hearted person. Any person who saw him would suddenly become awed. Anyone who came into close contact with him and knew his excellent character loved him. The one who described him said: 'I have not seen anyone like him before him or after him.'" ¹²

In his community, our Prophet (saas) was known as al-Amin (the Trustworthy). His face shed a noble light that convinced everyone who saw it of his honesty. Those who listened to their conscience while speaking with him understood that he was special; they saw many proofs that he was a prophet. He was intelligent and insightful and, due to his excellent character, even the hypocrites asked him to solve their disputes.

Ibn Sa'd gave the following account, which he received from Ibn Asakir (ra), concerning the virtues and goodness that the Companions continually saw in our Prophet (saas):

The Prophet (saas) grew as the best among people in terms of honesty, the most beautiful in character, the most perfect in social relations, the most generous in neighborliness, the most forward in gentleness and security, the truest spoken, and the one who attached the greatest importance to courtesy and good manners. He got on well with all. For that reason they called him al-Amin – the truest and most trustworthy. ¹³

Ibn Sa`d related the following from ibn Hashim (ra):

During the Days of Ignorance, everyone asked the Prophet of Allah to resolve disputes. ¹⁴

Ya`qub ibn Sufyan (ra) and al-Bayhaqi (ra) received the following from Ibn Shihab (ra):

When the Quraysh rebuilt the Ka`bah, they began to argue who would lay the Black Stone (in its original position). Each tribe wished to lay it. Then they said: "Whoever comes from that road, let's appoint him to judge among us." The first to approach was Prophet Muhammad (saas), who was then still a young man. (According to reliable sources, he was thirty-five.) They appointed him arbiter. He said: "Bring a ground cloth." A ground cloth was brought. "Now put the stone on it together," he said. After the stone was placed on the cloth, he said: "Let the eldest man of each tribe come and hold one end of the cloth." They carried the stone to its place in that manner. He then went up and installed the stone he had taken from them. As he grew older, he attracted the love and respect of all. Because of the fame his honesty won him, he was known as al-Amin, the most trustworthy. This was before the revelation had descended upon him. ¹⁵

Our Prophet (saas) spent his life guiding people to the right path, teaching his Companions and talking with the unbelievers in an attempt to direct them to the right way. As a result, simple Bedouins became good human beings shining with the light of faith. This was a great miracle. Besides his own moral goodness, our Prophet (saas) manifested many kinds of miraculous qualities that were witnessed not only by the Companions, but also by many unbelievers. His miracles were divine proofs to the believers and a means to faith and the right path.

Given that he worked for twenty-three years, fought many battles, dealt with wicked and angry people, and was always in the vanguard of the struggle, it is miraculous that nothing untoward happened to him and that he was not murdered. His extraordinary determination and heroism increased all of his Companions' enthusiasm. It is also miraculous that he was able to plant the roots of the fear of and respect for Allah in his enemies' hearts and to defeat the unbelievers every time. Allah helped him in battle with angels and unseen armies, and so he could scatter hostile armies that were far larger and more powerful than his own:

Yes indeed! But if you are steadfast and have taqwa and they come upon you suddenly, your Lord will reinforce you with five

thousand angels, clearly identified. Allah only did this for it to be good news for you and so that your hearts might be set at rest by it (help comes from no one but Allah, the Almighty, the All-Wise) (Surah Al 'Imran: 125-26)

Our Prophet (saas) proclaimed Islam very effectively and with determination. As a result, he endured great suffering. Even when he was offered a treasure to stop spreading Islam, he rejected this and many similar proposals. Always paramount in his mind was winning Allah's approval and working for the Muslims and Islam. He always hoped for Allah's help and believed that, with His help, he and the believers would eventually prevail. So, he was always under Allah's protection and never suffered any harm from the unbelievers:

You will have a wage that never fails. Indeed, you are truly vast in character. (Surat al-Qalam: 3-4)

Truly it is the speech of a noble Messenger, possessing great strength, securely placed with the Lord of the Throne, obeyed there, trustworthy. Your companion is not crazy. He [Muhammad] saw him on the clear horizon. Nor is he miserly with the Unseen. (Surat at-Takwir: 19-24)

The great Islamic scholar Imam al-Ghazzali gives an account of the Prophet's excellent moral character, based on the hadiths collected by al-Tirmidhi, al-Tabarani, Imam al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim, Imam Ahmad, Sunan Abu Dawud, and Ibn Majah:

The Prophet was the most patient of men, the bravest, the best judge, and one who pardoned most. He was the most charitable of men. He did not store up the provisions of his family members that Allah was pleased to give him for more than a year. What remained in excess, he used to give in sadaqah. He used to give away in sadaqah to those who begged anything of him, even out of his stored-up provisions.

He used to speak the truth, even though it sometimes caused trouble both to himself and his Companions. He used to accept invitations to weddings, visit the sick and the diseased, and attend funerals. He was the most modest, without pride; his speech was most eloquent, without lengthiness. His constitution was the most beautiful.

He even used to go to distant places to visit the sick, ... sit with the poor and destitute, eat with them, honor those possessing nobility, and advise them to do good deeds and show kindness to relatives. He did

not treat anyone harshly and accepted the excuses offered to him. He joked, but spoke the truth.

He held innocent sport and play as lawful, played with his wives and held races with them. He did not belittle the poor for their poverty nor show respect to the wealthy for their riches. He used to call people to Allah.¹⁶

Our Prophet's (saas) Illiteracy

The Prophet Muhammad (saas) was the illiterate prophet whose coming was foretold in the Torah and the Gospel. When he began relaying the Qur'an to humanity, and until the end of his life, he could neither read nor write. This was one of the most important indications that he was a prophet.

Although they knew that our Prophet (saas) was illiterate, the unbelievers accused him of writing it himself. In response, Allah revealed:

Accordingly We have revealed to you a Spirit by Our command. You had no idea of what the Book was, nor faith. Nonetheless, We have made it a Light by which We guide those of Our servants whom We will. Truly, you are guiding to a Straight Path. (Surat as-Shura: 52)

Were it not for Allah's favor to you ... Allah has sent down the Book and Wisdom to you and taught you what you did not know before. Allah's favor to you is indeed immense. (Surat al-Nisa': 113)

The Prophet relayed the Qur'an to humanity, always stating that it was "a revelation from Allah." He mentioned this fact constantly and reminded the people that they had known him for years before Allah blessed him with prophethood:

Say: "Had Allah so wished, I would not have recited it to you. Nor would He have made it known to you. I lived among you for many years before it came. Will you not use your intellect?" (Surah Yunus: 16)

Despite his illiteracy, our Prophet (saas) delivered his religious message very effectively. He knew what was contained in the Old and New Testaments, and Allah gave him knowledge from other holy books and of long-ago societies. During his life, our Prophet (saas) manifested

many other wonders. Imam al-Ghazzali writes about the miraculous proofs in his illiteracy:

The character and conduct of the Prophet, his actions, his habits, management of affairs, his treatment of the different classes of people, his showing the straight path to them, his wonderful answers to different difficult and subtle questions, his untiring efforts for the good of people, his good guidance regarding the open laws of Shari'ah; all these matters lead one to the conclusion that these were beyond the power of a man without the help of an unseen hand. It is impossible on the part of a hypocrite or a liar. The people testified on seeing his constitution and qualifications that he was a great truthful man sent by Allah.

Allah gave him these qualities though he was untaught and had no education and lived always among illiterate Arabs. Being untaught, an orphan and weak, how did he acquire such good character and conduct, such knowledge about Allah without worldly or other-worldly education? His true and correct knowledge about the earlier prophets, peace be upon them, shows that he is a true messenger of Allah, because he knew these truths by revelations. How could he know what was beyond man unless he received revelation?¹⁷

The People of the Book knew for certain that the messenger whose coming was predicted in the Old and New Testaments would be illiterate. But the unbelievers spread the lie that our Prophet (saas) wrote the Qur'an himself, regardless of the ensuing inconsistencies in their words. Conflicting dates and differences in how a story is told will certainly come to the surface. Our Prophet (saas), who spoke with eloquence and wisdom, was the most honest, moderate, knowledgeable, and well-mannered man in his community. His intelligence and insight won the admiration and trust of everyone.

Although he did not read the Old or the New Testament, he knew their contents and decrees, as well as the history of past societies, thanks to Allah's revelations. All of those who knew him were aware of this. Our Prophet (saas) had never gone to school to receive an education. Thus, the wisdom contained in the message he preached to his fellow Meccans and others is only one of the miraculous aspects of this blessed person:

You never recited any Book before it, nor did you write one down with your right hand. If you had, the purveyors of

falsehood would have voiced their doubts. (Surat al-'Ankabut: 48)

The famous Islamic scholar Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti interprets this verse as follows:

You did not read a book before this, in other words before the Qur'an. You did not write it with your own hand. Had that been so, had you been literate, the adherents of superstitions would have harbored doubts about you and would have said: "The prophet described in the Torah could not read and write." ¹⁸

Although everything was so obvious, the unbelievers attacked him, told all sorts of lies about him, and said that he was a human being just like themselves:

Their hearts are distracted. Those who do wrong confer together secretly, asking: "Is this man anything but a human being like yourselves? Do you succumb to magic with your eyes wide open?" Say: "My Lord knows what is said in heaven and Earth. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing." Furthermore, they say: "A muddled jumble of dreams!" and "He has invented it!" and "He is a poet!" (Surat al-Anbiya': 3-5)

But our Prophet (saas) asked for Allah's help and forgiveness, followed His Way, and obeyed His commands:

When Our Clear Signs are recited to them, those who do not expect to meet Us say: "Bring a Qur'an other than this one, or change it." Say (O Muhammad): "It is not for me to change it of my own accord. I follow nothing except what is revealed to me. I fear, were I to disobey my Lord, the punishment of a Dreadful Day." (Surah Yunus: 15)

The *Encyclopedia of Seerah* tells how the great knowledge that Allah gave to the Prophet Muhammad (saas) is proof that he was His messenger:

The Prophet Muhammad (saas) was untaught; he could not read or write. Throughout his life the members of the family he grew up in, those close to him, and the people of Mecca never saw him touch a book nor hold a pen. Therefore, the Qur'an, the sea of knowledge revealed to him, is a unique miracle. That is because the text contains treasures of information such as the main subject matter of all previous divine scriptures, stories of previous prophets, religions and their beliefs, ancient history, civilisation, culture and economics, politics and moral values. ... The way that, despite being untaught himself, he appeared before the unbelievers with a Book is in any case the greatest proof of his prophethood. ¹⁹

Some Jewish scholars recognize our Prophet (saas)

Jews and Christians, described in the Qur'an as "People of the Book," have some certain corruptions in their beliefs and practices. However, they still follow a religion sent down by Allah. Allah says that the Qur'an was sent down to confirm other holy books:

Believe in what I have sent down, confirming what is with you. Do not be the first to reject it, and do not sell My Signs for a paltry price. Have fear and consciousness of Me alone. (Surat al-Baqarah: 41)

Allah reveals in another verse that some Jewish scholars knew the Qur'an:

It is certainly in the scriptures of the previous peoples. Is it not, indeed, a Sign for them that the scholars of the tribe of Israel have knowledge of it? (Surat al-Shu'ara':196-97)

In his work *Al-Asas fi al-Tafsir*, the famous Qur'anic commentator Imam Said Hawa states:

It is certain that the Qur'an existed in earlier books. In other words, it is referred to in earlier scriptures, or the senses it contains were transmitted by the prophets of other communities and were present in their books in the manner revealed by Allah, as can be seen in Divine texts.

...Moderate and honest Jewish scholars know that the Tawrah, Psalms, and Gospel contain the contents of the Qur'an; that every element in it is the truth from Allah; and that this is the last book and the last prophet of whom the earlier scriptures speak. ²⁰

Jewish and Christian scholars therefore immediately recognized the Prophet Muhammad (saas) as the foretold illiterate prophet (no matter how much they did not want to accept this truth). Allah states in the Qur'an that the People of the Book will recognize our Prophet (saas) as they know their own children, but that some will rebel in spite of this and that those who do not believe in him will be disappointed:

Those We have given the Book recognize it as they recognize their own sons. Yet a group of them knowingly conceal the truth. (Surat al-Baqarah: 146)

Those to whom We have given the Book recognize it as they recognize their own children. As for those who have lost their own selves, they have no belief. (Surat al-An'am: 20)

Allah warns the Israelites in Surat al-Baqarah:

O tribe of Israel, remember the blessing I conferred on you. Honor My contract and I will honor your contract. Have fear and respect of Me alone. Have belief in what I have sent down, confirming what is with you. Do not be the first to reject it, and do not sell My Signs for a paltry price. Have fear and taqwa of Me alone. Do not mix up truth with falsehood and knowingly hide the truth. (Surat al-Baqarah: 40-42)

The only way that our Prophet (saas) could have known of these blessings and the vows they had made to Allah was if the Lord had told him. When the Prophet Muhammad (saas) recited these verses, the wise men of the Israelites recognized him as the messenger for whom they had been waiting. The People of the Book knew who he was and that he spoke the truth due to his way of life and moral character. Allah relates in the Qur'an:

Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, 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 him, honor 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)

The famous Islamic scholar Omer Nasuhi Bilmen interprets this verse as follows:

This verse reveals that those possessed of the most distinguished qualities, the best deeds and excellences in this world and the Hereafter, are the followers of the Khatam al-Anbiya' (the Last Prophet): those who follow the Prophet Muhammad (saas)- to whom the Divine Book, in which the knowledge of the past and future are contained, was revealed, though he read nothing from anyone and wrote nothing - achieve the honor of being of his community. He is referred to by name or by his characteristics in the Tawrah and the Gospel. There can be no doubt that he is present in name and in his characteristics in these books. If such were not written in those books, would the Prophet Muhammad (saas) claim to be [referred to] and thus give grounds for his

rejection? He is such a great Prophet that he commands and advises those whom he calls to faith, all humanity, to respect and honor the commands of Allah, to acquire proper belief and morality, and to show affection to creatures (and he forbids the wrong).²¹

As we can see, the fact that his coming and the qualities of this blessed person were foretold to the People of the Book is another of the miracles associated with him. Those Jews and Christians who, with faith and common sense, used their conscience to consider what they saw have confirmed this evident truth.

SOME OF THE MIRACLES IN THE LIFE OF OUR PROPHET (SAAS)

There were many miracles in our Prophet's (saas) life, such as the Qur'an (the greatest miracle), his excellent moral character, and his actions and sayings. He proclaimed the Qur'an as a guide to the right path and reached all of his people, from the least civilized Bedouins to highly civilized people. This was also one of Allah's miracles. He communicated the morality of Islam most effectively. Through him, people who used to bury their daughters alive turned into merciful and compassionate human beings, and people who used to worship idols made with their own hands came to believe in the oneness of Allah.

Many of these miracles are related in the Qur'an and the hadiths. Among them the following:

His ascension into heavens (Mi`raj)

The Prophet Muhammad's (saas) ascension is one of the greatest miracles. Surat al-Isra' and Surat al-Najm relate his miraculous night journey to the Masjid al-Aqsa and his ascension to the "lote tree of the utmost boundary" (*sidrat al-muntaha*).

In Arabic, *isra'* means "night journey" or "night walk." In the first verse of Surat al-Isra', Almighty Allah tells us of our dear Prophet's miraculous journey:

Glory be to Him Who took His servant on a journey by night from the Masjid al-Haram to the Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, in order to show him some of Our Signs. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing. (Surat al-Isra': 1)

The word *aqsa* means "far" or "farthest." The Masjid al-Haram is located in Mecca; the Masjid al-Aqsa is located in Jerusalem. The distance between them is about 1,235 kilometres (767 miles). Our Prophet (saas) was transported from Mecca to Jerusalem. The great Islamic scholar Ibn Kathir says that at least twenty-five Companions heard the story from our Prophet (saas) but that this number could have been as high as forty-five. The accounts reported by Anas ibn Malik, Abu Hurayrah, Abu Sa'id al-Khudri, Malik ibn Sa'sa, Abu Zarr al-Ghaffari, Abdullah ibn Abbas, Abdullah ibn Mas'ud, and Umm Hani are considered the most reliable. According to them, while our Prophet (saas) was sleeping in his niece's (Umm Hani Abi Talib) house, Gabriel appeared to him, put him on a horse called Buraq, and took him to the Masjid al-Aqsa, where he ascended. The hadiths contain a great deal of detailed information about what he saw during this event, such as his conversations with earlier prophets and his glimpses of Paradise and Hell.

According to Islamic texts, the Meccan unbelievers doubted this miracle because of their weak intellects and so tried to find out if his words were true. Due to this unseemly attitude, the Lord humiliated them and turned their ridicule against them:

They asked: "Will you describe the Masjid al-Aqsa to us?" Some of them had been there and seen it. The Prophet (saas) related: "I began describing the mosque. In describing some places, I fell into doubt. At this, the mosque was brought and placed in front of the house of 'Iqal or 'Aqil. I looked at it and began describing it." After the Prophet's address they exclaimed: "As for the description, by Allah, he was correct!" ²²

He also said:

"I remember being in al-Hijr, and the Qurayshis were asking me about my Night Journey. They asked me things about Bayt al-Maqdis of which I was not sure ... Then Allah raised it up for me to see, and there was nothing they asked me about that I could not tell them." ²³

Before this event, the Prophet Muhammad (saas) had never gone to the Masjid al-Aqsa, so it was a great miracle and mercy from Allah that he could answer all of these questions. This miracle increased the believers' enthusiasm and eagerness and strengthened their bond with our Prophet (saas); some of the unbelievers, however, persisted in their rebellion. They went to Abu Bakr and, after making groundless accusations about our Prophet (saas), asked if he believed this story and if he would continue to believe in our Prophet (saas). He replied: "If he said it, then I believe him, yes." For his loyalty, our Prophet (saas) gave him the title al-Siddiq (the Faithful).

The hadiths also tell us that our Prophet (saas) gave them one more miraculous sign that they could not deny:

*They asked him: "What is your proof?" The Prophet replied: "I encountered a caravan belonging to Quraysh. It was at such-and-such a place. The caravan was frightened by us and changed course. There was a black and a white sack on one camel in the caravan; that particular camel cried out and then collapsed." When the caravan returned, they asked what had happened and were told of the events, just as the Prophet (saas) had said.*²⁴

Both his description of the Masjid al-Aqsa and of the caravan were great miracles of Allah's mercy. Allah informs us in the Qur'an of some of the verses about his ascent to the "lote tree of the final limit":

He saw him again another time by the Lote-tree of the Final Limit, beside which is the Garden of Refuge, when that which covered the Lote-tree covered it. His eye did not waver, nor did he look away. He saw some of the Greatest Signs of his Lord. (Surat al-Najm: 13-18)

This great miracle is an important proof from the Lord to the unbelievers. Every single miracle that the Lord allowed our Prophet (saas) to perform was created by Allah's will; none of them depended upon a cause. And, they all strengthened the believers' faith.

Our Prophet (saas) split the Moon in two

Another miracle occurred when our Prophet (saas) split the Moon in two. Allah mentions this extraordinary event in the Qur'an, and many hadiths tell us about it:

The Hour has drawn near and the Moon has split. If they see a Sign, they turn away, exclaiming: "There is no end to this witchcraft!" They have denied the truth and followed their whims and desires. But everything has its time. (Surat al-Qamar: 1-3)

The splitting of the Moon (wa inshaqqa al-qamar) consists of the words "splitting" and "Moon." "Splitting" comes from the basic Arabic root meaning "to divide, gum, the appearance of a plant after the soil has been ploughed." In this sense, it means "to be divided, to be cut into pieces, to be separated." *The Encyclopaedia of Seerah* contains a compilation of all of the related hadiths. In summary, they say:

It was an evening on the 14th day of the lunar month, five years before the hijra (immigration) to Madinah. At that time, the new-born Moon was divided in two. One part went toward a hill opposite; the second part in the other direction. It was only a second. Then the two parts of the Moon joined up again. At that time, the Prophet (saas) was in Mina. He addressed those who were there, saying: "Look and witness!" The unbelievers suggested that he had bewitched them, for which reason their eyes had not seen accurately. Others present there said: "Muhammad (saas) could have bewitched us, but not those not here. Wait a little, and let's ask those who come this way if they saw such an occurrence." Those coming from outside agreed that they had witnessed this. (Afzalur Rahman, Encyclopaedia of Seerah, 164.)

This story is included in the works of such great hadith scholars as Imam al-Bukhari, Muslim, al-Tirmidhi, Ahmad ibn Hanbal, Abu Dawud, al-Hakim, al-Bayhaqi, and Abu Nu`aym.²⁵ Some of these hadiths are as follows:

Abdullah ibn Mas`ud (said): We were with the Messenger of Allah at Mina when the Moon was split in two. One part was behind the mountain and the other one was on this side of the mountain. He said to us: "Bear witness to this."²⁶

Abdullah ibn Mas`ud reported that the Moon was split in two parts during the Messenger of Allah's lifetime. The mountain covered one of its parts and one part of it was above the mountain, and he said: "Bear witness to this."²⁷

During the lifetime of the Messenger of Allah, the Moon was split in two; one part remained over the mountain, and the other part went beyond the mountain. On that, he said: "Witness this miracle."²⁸

The hadiths state that this miracle occurred in Mecca. They also relate that the Meccans wanted him to perform this miracle:

The people of Mecca asked the Messenger of Allah to show them signs (miracles), and he showed them the splitting of the Moon twice.²⁹

According to the story, the Prophet Muhammad (saas) did as they asked, but they continued to deny the truth of his message and embrace Islam:

If they see a Sign they turn away, saying: "There is no end to this witchcraft!" They have denied the truth and followed their whims and desires. But everything has its time. (Surat al-Qamar: 2-3)

The unbelievers could say nothing in the face of such a great miracle and accused our Prophet (saas) of bewitching them. After they saw the Moon split with their own eyes, they should have realized that he was a true prophet. But because of their arrogance, desires, and passions, they did not accept the Qur'an. This attitude is common among all unbelievers. No matter what miracle they witness, they say:

Our eyesight is befuddled! Or, rather, we have been put under a spell! (Surat al-Hijr: 15)

Bediuzzaman Said Nursi mentions the splitting of the Moon in his *The Letters*. He relates that many Companions witnessed it and that the unbelievers were rendered totally powerless in the face of this event:

Among his greatest miracles, a certain and mutawatir one, is the splitting of the Moon. This miracle was related through various channels, to the degree of tawatur and by the foremost Companions, among them Ibn Mas`ud, Ibn Abbas, Ibn Umar, Ali, Anas, and Hudhayfa (ra). Moreover, Allah stated in the Qur'an this supreme miracle to the whole world: **"The Hour has drawn near and the Moon has split."** (Surat al-Qamar: 1).

Even the stubborn unbelievers could not deny this verse; all they could say was: "It is magic!" Thus, even the unbelievers were certain that it had occurred. ³⁰

Bediuzzaman says that one of reasons behind our Prophet's (saas) miracles was to expose the difference between a tyrant like Abu Jahl and a good man like Abu Bakr. In his *The Letters*, he says:

Miracles take place in order to prove the claim of prophethood and to convince deniers, but not to force them to believe. This miracle was needed to convince those who had already heard of the prophethood of Muhammad. To let it be seen from other parts of the world, or to demonstrate it in an undeniably obvious way, therefore, would have been contrary both to the wisdom of the All-Wise Creator and to the purpose of humanity's function in the universe, which is to open the way for the mind without disabling the free will. If the All-Wise Creator had, in accordance with the whims of materialist philosophers, left the Moon in the same condition for a few hours to show it to the entire world, and if this fact had thereby been recorded by all historians, it would have been treated among other astronomical incidents, without being restricted to the messengership of Muhammad and without being considered a proof of his prophethood. Or, it would have been such an obvious miracle that it would have forced minds to believe and deprived them of free will. As a consequence, coal and diamonds (or Abu Jahl and Abu Bakr) would have been the same and the purpose of humanity's function in the universe would have been lost... ³¹

Like all other bodies and beings in the universe, the Moon lies in the Lord's power; it can be seen if He wills and how He wills it to be seen. As Allah informs in the Qur'an, whatever He commands to happen happens:

His command when He desires a thing is just to say to it, "Be!" and it is. (Surah Ya Sin: 82)

All this shows that Allah has placed His Messenger, the Prophet Muhammad (saas), above all other human beings; revealed His last holy book to him, and, in His mercy, empowered him to perform miracles to soften people's hearts as a way of bringing them to faith. Some people have embraced Islam to save their lives in the next world; others have lost their eternal life by persisting in their rebellion. The words that Allah spoke to our Prophet (saas) have always turned out to be true.

THE EFFICACY OF OUR PROPHET'S (SAAS) PRAYERS

The Lord graced our Prophet (saas) with incomparable blessings. Our Prophet (saas) showed his Companions many miracles, one of which was the efficacy of his prayers.

His prayers for rain were answered

Like all other prophets, our Prophet (saas) had an intimate bond with Allah; he was a sincere servant with deep faith and intense fear of and respect for Allah. The Lord granted his prayers, which enabled his Companions and others around him to witness miracles. For example, *Sahih Bukhari* and *Sahih Muslim* relate the following from Anas (ra):

A man entered the mosque on Friday while the Prophet was addressing the people. The man said: "O Messenger of Allah, our wealth has been destroyed and we have no transport to the market place. Pray for rain for us." The Prophet raised his hands and said: "O Allah, give us rain. O Allah, give us rain. O Allah, give us rain." By Allah, at that time there were no clouds in the sky and there was no house or building between us and the mountain. From behind the mountain came a cloud looking like a shield. By the time it reached the middle of the sky, it burst and started to rain. ³²

Here are some other relevant hadiths:

Narrated Sharik bin 'Abdullah bin Abi Namir:

I heard Anas ibn Malik say: "One Friday a person entered the main mosque through the gate facing the pulpit while the Messenger of Allah was delivering the khutbah. He stood in front of the Messenger of Allah and said: 'O Messenger of Allah, the livestock are dying and the roads are cut off. Please pray to Allah for rain.' Anas added: 'The Messenger of Allah raised both his hands and said: "O Allah, bless us with rain. O Allah, bless us with rain. O Allah, bless us with rain."' Anas added: 'By Allah, we could not see any trace of cloud in the sky and there was no building or house between us and (the mountains of) Sila.' Anas added: 'A heavy cloud like a shield appeared from behind it (i.e., Sila' Mountain). When it came in the middle of the sky, it spread and then rained.'" ³³

Yahya related to me from Malik from Sharik ibn Abdullah ibn Abi Namir that Anas ibn Malik said: "A man came to the Messenger of Allah (saas) and said: 'O Messenger of Allah, our animals are dying and our camels are too weak to travel. Please pray to Allah [for us].' The Messenger of Allah (saas) did so, and it rained on us from one jumu`ah to the next." ³⁴

Narrated Anas:

A man entered the mosque on Friday while the Prophet was addressing the people. He said: "O Messenger of Allah, our wealth has been destroyed and we have no transport to the market place. Pray for rain for us." The Prophet raised his hands and said: "O Allah, give us rain. O Allah, give us rain. O Allah, give us rain." By Allah, at that time there

were no clouds in the sky and there was no house or building between the mountain and us. From behind the mountain came a cloud looking like a shield. By the time it reached the middle of the sky, it burst and started to rain. ³⁵

Companions who received our Prophet's (saas) prayers and remained young

Allah says in the Qur'an that our Prophet (saas) was very attached to the believers: **"A Messenger has come to you from among yourselves. Your suffering is distressing to him, he is deeply concerned for you, and he is gentle and merciful to the believers" (Surat al-Tawba: 128).** In the hadiths, he made many recommendations about their health, security, and faith, all the while approaching them with mercy and compassion. One result of this love and attachment was that he prayed for many things on their behalf. Allah states in the Qur'an:

... pray for them. Your prayers bring relief to them. Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing. (Surat al-Tawba: 103)

Thus, his prayers for believers brought them rest and peace of mind. Similarly, the hadiths say that he prayed for long life for his Companions and that these prayers were answered. Some of these Companions are mentioned by name:

Ibn Abi Shaybah related from Abu Nu`aym and Ibn al-Asakir: He caused the Prophet to drink milk. The Prophet prayed to Him: "O Allah, may He make the most of his youth." ³⁶

Other hadiths mention how his prayers made some of the Companions continue to look young even when they were quite old. Those Companions for whom he prayed for long lives lived for 100 years. ³⁷ He stroked the head of another Companion and prayed: "O Allah, make him beautiful and make that beauty long-lasting." That Companion's face remained young and handsome until he died. ³⁸

The granting of our Prophet's (saas) prayers for blessing

Our Prophet (saas) was interested in his Companions' problems and did what he could to help them. By the will of Allah, his prayers for them always resulted in blessings and healing. There are many examples of this in the hadiths, several of which are given here:

Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim relate from Anas: The Prophet said: "O Allah, give him (i.e., Anas) property and children and bless him." Thus I am one of the richest Ansaris and have had numerous children. ³⁹

The Prophet said to 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn 'Awf: "May Allah make you plentiful." Ibn Sa'd and al-Bayhaqi relate this from another source and add: 'Abd ar-Rahman said: "I have become so wealthy that whichever stone I raise I know I will find either gold or silver." ⁴⁰

The Prophet prayed for al-Bara'qi. He reached such a level in commerce that he knew that even if he sold soil he would earn from it. ⁴¹

Abu 'Uqayl said that when his grandfather 'Abdullah ibn Hisham went to the market to buy wheat, he met Ibn al-Zubayr and Ibn 'Umar, who said: "Be our partner, because the Prophet prayed for plenty for you." At that, he shared his wheat with them. Yet his camel load never grew less due to this abundance. He returned home with it. ⁴²

ALLAH'S MIRACULOUS PROTECTION OF OUR PROPHET (SAAS)

All the prophets have very sensitive consciences, which they use to keep people on the true path by urging them to be good and avoid evil. By leading all people they come into contact with to follow the right path, the prophets work for their salvation in the world to come. They want to bring people to awareness, hoping to direct them toward the kind of moral life that will please Allah. Sometimes, during the course of this honorable struggle, prophets have been subjected to accusations and all kinds of threats from unbelievers, hypocrites, and idolaters. But even under such circumstances they continued to deliver their message with patience, goodness, kindness, and humility.

Like all other prophets, our Prophet (saas) was subjected to physical and verbal abuse because of the truth of his message. In fact, for many years he lived under the pressure of death threats. Both he and the Companions were boycotted for a long time by the communities in which they lived. But all of these apparent adversities enabled them to attain a good life in both worlds. Those whose faith is sincere and who trust in the

Lord are never daunted by such adversities; on the contrary, they see these difficulties as a way to draw close to Allah and to win His favor.

Before he began to proclaim Islam, our Prophet (saas) was called al-Amin (the Trustworthy), because his people entrusted their possessions to him and often chose him to settle their disputes. They always praised his goodness and justice. Since he was wise, forward-thinking, insightful, and always meticulous in everything he did, everyone who saw him was immediately aware of his special qualities. But when he began to call them to Islam and to renounce their idols, they nevertheless targeted him. As Allah relates in the Qur'an, this happened to the earlier messengers as well:

They said: "O Salih, we had great hopes in you before this happened. Do you forbid us to worship what our fathers worshipped? We have grave doubts about what you are calling us to." (Surah Hud: 62)

They said: "O Shu'ayb, do your prayers instruct you that we should abandon what our fathers worshipped or stop doing whatever we want to with our wealth? You are clearly the forbearing, the rightly-guided!" (Surah Hud: 87)

He asked: "What was this past affair of yours when you solicited Yusuf?" Then they exclaimed: "Allah forbid! We know no bad of him." The governor's wife then said: "The truth has now emerged. Indeed I tried to seduce him then, and he has simply told the honest truth. (Surah Yusuf: 51)

The people's hostile reaction to our Prophet's (saas) call to justice and truth, as Allah tells in the Qur'an, consisted of making groundless accusations: "They say: 'You, to whom the Reminder has been sent down, are clearly crazy. Why do you not bring angels to us if you are telling the truth?'" (Surat al-Hijr: 6-7). Although subjected to many other forms of abuse, he continued his battle of ideas with the unbelievers and proclaimed the Qur'an's moral teachings. But these truths only produced resentment and anger, for the majority of his people opposed him. Shortly afterwards, he was forced to move from Mecca to Madinah.

While he was among a dangerous and pagan people, our Prophet (saas) proclaimed Islam, taught those who followed him, and engaged in a difficult struggle. From time to time, this turned into open warfare. At that time, some of the Jews persisted in their rebellious and hostile attitude toward our Prophet (saas). But he took an interest in them too.

Some of the Christians also tried to make things difficult for our Prophet (saas) and set traps to harm him.

While our Prophet (saas) was engaged in this struggle, the hypocrites were busy providing the unbelievers with information that could be used in their secret campaign against him. Out of envy they nurtured their resentment and anger. They showed their insincerity by approaching our Prophet (saas) and talking with him, despite their resentment. Other unbelievers listened to his words and sought to place difficulties in his way:

The unbelievers all but strike you down with their evil looks when they hear the Reminder and say: "He is quite crazy." (Surat al-Qalam: 51)

We can see from the foregoing that our Prophet (saas), even though he faced death threats from the unbelievers and lived among hypocrites, continued to proclaim Islam and tried to guide them to the right path. Prominent unbelievers set traps and tried to kill him. One of the Lord's greatest miracles was that our dear Prophet (saas) was not harmed during these years, for:

Allah will protect you from people. Allah does not guide the unbelievers. (Surat al-Ma'ida: 67)

This promise of Allah was fulfilled by many miracles, one of them being that all unbelievers, idolaters, and hypocrites, not to mention his other enemies, could not harm him. Their plots and traps were always foiled. And, even though the idolaters and unbelievers often met him on the battlefield, our Lord always protected him so that he could fulfil his mission. His enemies never defeated him. On the contrary, they became vile and despicable while he became more physically strong and healthy, more joyful, and more filled with light and beauty. Allah protected our Prophet (saas) with His mercy and gave him great power and majesty, both physically and spiritually. The deceptions of the unbelievers and the hypocrites were turned back upon them, and our Prophet (saas) continued his struggle safely under the protection of Allah's mercy.

The unbelievers could not kill our Prophet (saas)

Our Prophet's (saas) call to justice and truth caused those who benefited from injustice and oppression, along with those who feared

losing their position and rank, to oppose him and his followers in order to retain the value of their worldly acquisitions. Due to their arrogance, they continued to worship their idols and refused to compromise the superstitions in which they believed. Instead, they met together to discuss how they could either make our Prophet (saas) give up his religion or kill him:

When the unbelievers were plotting to imprison, kill, or expel you: they were plotting and Allah was planning, but Allah is the Best of Planners. (Surat an-Anfal: 30)

In other words, the Lord makes things work out for the best and protected our Prophet (saas) from all harm: "...their scheming will not harm you in any way. Allah encompasses what they do" (Surah Al 'Imran: 120).

Allah also promised that no one would do any physical or spiritual harm to him:

Were it not for Allah's favor to you and His mercy, a group of them would almost have managed to mislead you. But they mislead no one but themselves and do not harm you in any way. Allah has sent down the Book and Wisdom to you and taught you what you did not know before. Allah's favor to you is indeed immense. (Surat an-Nisa': 113)

They are people who listen to lies and consume ill-gotten gains. If they come to you, either judge between them or turn away from them. If you turn away from them, they cannot harm you in any way. But if you do judge, judge between them justly. Allah loves the just. (Surat al-Ma'ida: 42)

The hadiths say that his opponents did their best to persuade our Prophet (saas) to abandon proclaiming his moral message. They offered him what they thought was most valuable: wealth and status. Allah relates the following in the Qur'an:

They wish that you would conciliate with them, then they too would be conciliating. (Surat al-Qalam: 9)

In spite of all offers, material and otherwise, our Prophet (saas) persevered and ignored the many threats he received. In *Musnad*, Ibn Abi Shaybah relates Utbah's unseemly offer to our Prophet (saas): "*If you want money, we will collect enough money for you so that you will be the richest of us. If you want leadership, we will take you as our leader and*

*never decide on any matter without your approval. If you want a kingdom, we will crown you king over us..."*⁴³

Our Prophet (saas) put winning Allah's approval above everything else; the only reward he wanted was Allah's mercy and to attain Paradise. No worldly offer of wealth or position could deter him. Allah had already granted him victory and abundant possessions in this world, and there was no doubt that the reward waiting for him in Paradise would be even greater. Many prominent unbelievers tried to persuade him to abandon his mission; when they failed, they resorted to treachery and plans involving his exile, arrest, and even murder. Islamic sources relate these events:

According to Ibn Ishaq, the Qurayshi leaders met and consulted each other: "You know what degree this individual has come to." At this they began discussing. One of them said: "Let's imprison him somewhere, letting him speak to nobody, and let's keep him there until he dies! Let's give him just enough food to keep him alive!..."

But there were objections to this proposal. Such an initiative could lead to chaos. One of them said: "Let's not imprison him; let's remove him from Mecca." But this was also regarded as inappropriate, because "Muhammad (saas) would go to any Arab tribe, bind them to him with fair words, cause them to follow him and have his revenge on us ..." At this Abu Jahl said: "There is no alternative to killing Muhammad." ⁴⁴

Even though the Meccan polytheists had everything that they needed to implement their plots, they were still unsuccessful; Allah protected our blessed Prophet (saas). The hadiths inform us that armed strong young men had been assembled from all the tribes to kill him; many other volunteers came to kill him with swords. It is a great miracle that our Prophet (saas) was not killed and his enemies' traps were always foiled.

Our brave and heroic Prophet (saas) fought in open battle and personally faced with the enemy many times. Although he fought in the front ranks, he was not killed and, by a miracle of Allah, returned from battle unharmed. Despite all the dangers he faced, he nevertheless fulfilled his calling.

Ibn Hanbal, at-Tabarani, and Abu Nu`aym relate that:

I saw the Prophet (saas). A man was brought before him. "This man wanted to kill you," they said. At this, the Prophet said: "Do not fear. Do

*not fear. Even if you had wished, Allah would not have let you trouble me."*⁴⁵

Knowing that he was under Allah's protection on the battlefield, our Prophet (saas) put himself completely in His hands and thus served as an example to all believers. Fearing no one but Allah, he was a courageous and patient man who had an excellent moral character. His readiness for self-sacrifice, especially when he got up early and left the house to place the believers in the best locations for a coming battle, made him a fine example for all people:

Remember when you left your family early in the day to position the believers in their battle stations. Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing. (Surah Al 'Imran: 121)

Even when he was the target of his enemies and his life was in danger, our Prophet (saas) personally saw to it that the believers were safe. He constantly encouraged them and stirred their enthusiasm to greater heights.

Allah informs us in the Qur'an that **"the legions of the heavens and Earth belong to Allah. Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise"** (Surat al-Fath: 4). Since the unbelievers did not appreciate His infinite power as they should have, they dared to lift their hand against our Prophet (saas). In return, Allah caused all of their traps to fail or backfire: **"They plotted and Allah planned. But Allah is the Best of Planners"** (Surah Al 'Imran: 54). The unbelievers witnessed for themselves the Messenger of Allah's (saas) goodness and excellent moral character, but did not let go of their hostility. Unaware that Allah heard them and saw what they were doing, they continued to plot. However, even they eventually came to realize that themselves had fallen into the biggest trap of all:

They concocted their plots, but their plots were with Allah, even if they were such as to make the mountains vanish. (Surah Ibrahim: 46)

Abu Jahl, our Prophet's (saas) greatest enemy, missed no opportunity to try to kill him. Imam al-Bukhari relates the following information from Ibn Abbas:

*Abu Jahl said: "If I see Muhammad praying at the Ka`bah, I will tread on his neck." When the Prophet (saas) heard of this, he replied: "If he does so, the angels will snatch him away."*⁴⁶

Ibn Ishaq relates the following about Ibn Abbas:

Abu Jahl, carrying a very heavy stone with the intent of fulfilling his oath [to kill the Prophet (saas)], staggered as he approached the Prophet (saas), who was humbly absorbed in prayer. Before Abu Jahl was able to get close enough to the Prophet (saas), he turned back in deathly fright. His hand had started to wither on the stone, whereupon he dropped it and ran as fast as he could. Some Qurayshis rushed toward him and asked what had come over him. He told them he had seen a terrifying camel with a tremendously large head, enormous shoulders, and a fearsome set of teeth that looked as if it was about to devour him if he continued. Later on, the Prophet (saas) told his Companions that the camel was none other than Gabriel and that if Abu Jahl had persisted, he would indeed have seized him. ⁴⁷

As our Prophet (saas) was always under Allah's protection, all traps laid against him were turned aside so that Allah's promise was always fulfilled. Believing that Allah had created apparently difficult situations and that He would bring everything to the best conclusion, our Prophet (saas) continued to proclaim Islam without suffering any harm. Due to his deep trust in Allah and endurance, the Lord gave him the strength to prevail.

The miracles in the cave

According to documents from Islamic and historical sources, the Prophet (saas) left his home on 27 Safar, fourteen years after Allah had bestowed prophethood upon him, and went to Abu Bakr's (ra) house. Later, they left Mecca together. Our Prophet (saas) knew that his enemies would first look for him on the northern road to Madinah. Therefore, they took the southern road leading to Yemen. After walking about 6 kilometres (5 miles), they came to the Thawr Mountain, which was high as well as difficult and dangerous to climb. They hid in a cave located in the mountain known as Athal. ⁴⁸

In the meantime, the Quraysh blocked all of the roads and stationed armed men to control them. Men on foot and mounts combed the mountain slopes and valleys, searching for footprints. When they came right up to the cave's mouth, the Prophet Muhammad (saas) put his whole trust in Allah:

If you do not help him, Allah did help him when the unbelievers drove him out and there were two of them in the cave. He said

to his companion: "Do not be despondent, Allah is with us." Then Allah sent down His serenity upon him and reinforced him with troops you could not see. He made the word of the unbelievers undermost. (Surat at-Tawba: 40)

Allah tells in the Qur'an that our Prophet (saas) submitted to Allah and was resigned to his fate. But the Lord assisted him, in return for his excellent moral character and trust, by granting him physical health and strength and a sense of security and well-being in his heart.

Many people might consider such a dangerous situation superficially, without feeling the anxiety of that moment, for those who are not targets cannot know such anxiety. For example, those who have never been pursued by an enemy cannot know the wakeful vigilance of our Prophet (saas) as he hid in mortal danger in the cave. It is very important for everyone with faith to think carefully about this situation in order to appreciate properly our Prophet's (saas) great self-sacrifice, patience, and wisdom.

But, as in other situations throughout his life, here too Allah miraculously delivered our Prophet (saas). When the Meccans finally reached the cave's mouth, they saw a spider's web at its entrance and that pigeons had made their nests and laid eggs there. So, thinking that no one was inside, they began to look elsewhere. Indeed, when we think of it, such an undisturbed spider's web could have been taken as a sign that no one was inside, for anyone entering it would have broken the web. The same is true with the pigeons. Certainly this was a miracle of Allah, the all-powerful ruler of all things, Who caused the spider to weave its web and placed the pigeons at the cave's entrance. Nothing happened to our Prophet (saas) or Abu Bakr (ra).

Another miracle is how Allah supported him with invisible armies and gave him a sense of inner security and well-being. According to the commentaries, the armies put under the command of the Prophet Muhammad (saas) consisted of angels. Indeed on the last part of Surat at-Tawba it is stated: **"Then Allah sent down His serenity upon him and reinforced him with troops you could not see. He made the word of the unbelievers' undermost. It is the word of Allah that is uppermost. Allah is mighty and all-wise."** In the *Tafsir of Jalalayn*, this miracle is interpreted as follows:

Allah says "if you do not help him," that is, it does not matter if you did not help Prophet Muhammad (saas), for Allah helped him, just as he

helped him when "the unbelievers drove him out, the second of two." This refers to the year when the polytheists intended to kill the Prophet (saas), so he escaped from them, along with his Companion Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (ra). They concealed themselves in the cave of Thawr for three nights, with the enemy prowling around in great numbers, fruitlessly searching for them. This was when Abu Bakr (ra) felt afraid, lest the unbelievers would find and harm them. However, the Prophet (saas) was certain of Allah's protection and support, and so reassured Abu Bakr (ra).

On the authority of Anas (ra), Imam Ahmad reported that Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (ra) said: "I was with the Prophet (saas) in the cave and, on seeing the traces of the pagans, said: 'O Messenger of Allah, if one of them should lift his foot, he will see us.' He replied: 'What do you think? For two (people), the third (of whom) is Allah?'" Al-Bukhari and Muslim also reported the same hadith.

Therefore Allah says, "then Allah sent his sakina upon him" that is, He sent His peace, tranquillity, and support upon His Messenger (saas) and "supported him with forces you saw not": angels. As for the verse "and made the word of the unbelievers while it was the Word of Allah that became uppermost," Ibn Abbas said: "The word of the unbeliever refers to associating partners with Allah, while the word of Allah refers to 'La ilaha illa Allah.'" ⁴⁹

The Lord helped our Prophet (saas) with many miracles, defended him with angels, comforted his heart, and prevented his enemies from harming him. Allah protects, defends, and watches; He is the best of helpers and all power belongs to Him.

Our Prophet (saas) accomplished everything with Allah's help:

If they intend to deceive you, Allah is enough for you. He supported you with His help and with the believers. (Surat al-Anfal: 62)

But if you support one another against him, Allah is his Protector, and so are Gabriel and every right-acting believer. Furthermore, angels also will come to his support. (Surat al-Tahrim: 4)

Allah will certainly help those who help Him - Allah is All-Strong, Almighty. (Surat al-Hajj: 40)

... and so that Allah may help you greatly. (Surat al-Fath: 40)

... and other things you love: support from Allah and imminent victory. Give good news to the believers. (Surat as-Saff: 13)

The unbelievers did not properly understand our Prophet's (saas) superiority and so were unable to appreciate that He is the sole Ruler over everything. They were very wrong to think that our Prophet (saas) could be defeated while under Allah's protection. Thus, they entered a struggle that could only result in their defeat:

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

Allah reveals another verse that no one can harm our Prophet (saas) and that Allah, Gabriel, angels, and sincere believers are his friends, helpers, and supporters:

**If the two of you would only turn to
Allah, for your hearts clearly
deviated ... But if you support one
another against him, Allah is his
Protector and so are Gabriel and every
right-acting believer. Furthermore,
angels also will come to his support.
(Surat al-Tahrim: 4)**

**The Lord protects and supports our
Prophet (saas) with angels**

The Qur'an's moral teachings require that Muslims avoid war and conflict, remove misunderstanding through discussion, and behave in a conciliatory manner. According to the Qur'an, war should be resorted to only when it is unavoidable, meaning that it is an undesired necessity that should be organized by designated persons and within specific moral limits. Muslims must seek peace and understanding whenever they encounter difficulties; however, they are required to fight to defend themselves if attacked.

Allah tells us in the Qur'an that corruption is the cause of war and that Allah does not love corruption:

**Each time they kindle the fire of war, Allah extinguishes it. They
rush about the land corrupting it. Allah does not love
corrupters. (Surat al-Ma'idah: 64)**

When we look at our Prophet's (saas) life, we see that he resorted to war only when it was necessary for self-defence.

The revelation of the Qur'an lasted for twenty-three years. For the first thirteen years, Muslims lived as a minority and oppressed religious community among the non-Muslim Meccans. Many of them were physically tortured, some were killed, and others had their houses and possessions plundered. All of them were constantly subjected to insults and threats. In spite of this, they remained non-violent and always tried to make peace with their enemies. Finally, when the pressure became unbearable, the Muslims moved to Yathrib (later Madinah) and set up their own city-state.

At those times when war was unavoidable, the Lord assisted our Prophet (saas) with many miracles, among them sending angels to give the Muslims victory over superior enemy forces:

Allah helped you at Badr when you were weak, so fear [and respect] Him, so that, hopefully, you will be thankful. (Surah Al 'Imran: 123)

Although the sincere Muslims were far fewer than their enemies, they fought in the field with great courage behind our Prophet (saas) and, with Allah's support, won great victories. Allah tells us in the Qur'an that He supported them with angels and announced that the angels would help them:

And when you asked the believers: "Is it not enough for you that your Lord reinforced you with three thousand angels, sent down?" Yes indeed! But if you are steadfast and have fear of [and respect for] Allah and they come upon you suddenly, your Lord will reinforce you with five thousand angels, clearly identified. Allah only did this for it to be good news for you, so that your hearts might be set at rest by it (help comes from no one but Allah, the Almighty, the All-Wise), and so that He might cut off or crush a group of unbelievers they might be turned back in defeat. (Surah Al 'Imran: 124-27)

In other words, He sent the good news of angels' assistance to satisfy the Muslims' hearts. Of course, this was the only reason Allah needed. If He wills, He can defeat unbelievers with a single blow or drive them into the depths of the earth within minutes or seconds. Allah states in the Qur'an that many unbelievers perished in an unexpected moment due to a single sound, cyclone, or sudden disaster or that they were

confused and buried beneath the ground. Of course, Allah has the power to do all of these things. It was good news for our Prophet (saas) and his community that the Lord gave them such a glorious and miraculous victory. Many Muslim interpreters and scholars have spoken of these things, among them the great scholar Omer Nashuhi Bilmen, who writes:

The army of Islam, venturing war with the polytheists of the Quraysh, advanced towards the River Badr The Prophet (saas) showed the places where the ones from the enemy's army would be killed, and this came about and was a great miracle. Eventually the army of Qureysh came to the Badr and seized it. But the next day it rained. The Companions had plenty of water, and their distress was thus overcome. They then descended onto the battlefield; the enemy forces were three times more numerous than the Muslims, but still they were afraid, and the fighting began. Since the Muslims appreciated the spiritual value of jihad and martyrdom, they threw themselves without fear, joyfully, into the fray. At this point Omar's freedman "Mahca" was killed. "Mahca is the lord of martyrs," said the Prophet.⁵⁰

Our Prophet (saas) prayed:

"O Lord, grant me the victory You promised," fell into a light slumber, and immediately awoke smiling. He addressed Abu Bakr, who was by his side: "Glad tidings, Abu Bakr. Gabriel and a great number of angels have come to our assistance." He then donned his armor and left the tent. Some Muslim warriors were concerned at the numbers of the more numerous enemy army who would take part in the fighting. At this, the glad tidings were imparted that help would come to the Muslims from the presence of Allah by means of angels. According to the account, at that moment a powerful wind blew up and nobody could see anything. This was a sign that Gabriel and a great number of the angels had come to the battlefield. Those angels were riding white horses. They appeared in the guise of white and yellow human beings and physically participated in the battle of Badr.

***During this battle, first 1,000, then 2,000, and then 3,000 angels came to assist the Muslims. Their numbers finally reached 5,000 in total.*⁵¹**

Allah tells in other verses that He sent angels to help the Muslims:

Remember when you called on your Lord for help and He responded to you: "I will reinforce you with a thousand angels, riding rank after rank." Allah only did this to give you good news and so that your hearts would be at rest. Victory comes

from no one but Allah. Allah is Almighty, All-Wise. And when He overcame you with sleep, making you feel secure, He sent water from heaven to purify you and remove satan's taint from you, and to fortify your hearts and make your feet firm. (Surat al-Anfal: 9-11)

In his commentary, Imam Sabuni describes the angels' assistance as follows:

Through the hadith that He would assist with 1,000 consecutive angels, Allah revealed that He had heeded his prayer. Commentators say this: According to the hadith, Gabriel sent down 500 angels and fought with them on the army's right wing. Mika'il also sent down 500 angels and fought on the army's left wing. Apart from Badr, it has not been possible to determine in which battles the angels fought. In other battles, they descended to make the number of Muslims look greater, but they did not fight.

Allah's helping you with angels is solely to give you glad tidings of victory. He helped so that you could find contentment with this victory. In fact, victory is only in the sight of Almighty Allah. Trust in His help; do not trust in your own strength and arms. Allah is victorious and cannot be defeated. Whatever His wisdom requires, that is what He does.

Remember that Allah brought you sleep from His own presence as an element of security. This is a miracle of the Prophet (saas), because at the moment of fear, sleep weighed on all. Ali (ra) says: "On the day of Badr, there was no horse other than Miqdat. I saw that everyone, apart from the Prophet (saas), was sleeping." Ibn Kathir says: "In order for the believers' hearts to be at peace with His help, they were as if asleep during the battle's most violent moment. This is another blessing granted by Allah. What happened was that during the battle of Badr, the Muslims were without water. At this, Allah caused such a rain to descend on them that water flowed from the valleys."⁵²

Another miracle was our Prophet's (saas) ability to reconcile the hearts of believers who took part in various struggles. By His word, it happened that people coming from different cities and communities, and even mutual enemies, came together to work for a common goal and to win Allah's approval. In many verses, Allah stated the good news of His help and support for all devout believers:

If they intend to deceive you, Allah is enough for you. He supported you with His help and with the believers, and unified their hearts. Even if you had spent everything on Earth, you

could not have unified their hearts. But Allah has unified them. He is Almighty, All-Wise. O Prophet, Allah is enough for you and for the believers who follow you. (Surat al-Anfal: 62-64)

With Allah's help, our Prophet (saas) and the believers, despite their weakness, defeated numerous armies of the unbelievers. Despite the Meccans' numerical strength and technical advantages, Allah enabled the believers to rout them.

Allah granted another miracle during this event:

O Prophet, spur on the believers to fight. If there are twenty of you who are steadfast, they will overcome two hundred; and if there are a hundred of you [who are steadfast], they will overcome a thousand of those who are unbelievers because they are people who do not understand. Now Allah has made it lighter on you, knowing there is weakness in you. If there are a hundred of you who are steadfast, they will overcome two hundred; and if there are a thousand of you [who are steadfast], they will overcome two thousand with Allah's permission. Allah is with the steadfast. (Surat al-Anfal: 65-66)

In another verse, Allah reveals that He sent invisible armies to punish the Meccan polytheists.

Then Allah sent down His serenity on His Messenger and on the believers, sent down troops you could not see, and punished the unbelievers. That is how the unbelievers are repaid. (Surat at-Tawba: 26)

While Allah helped the Muslims with miracles, He also punished their enemies for their ongoing cruelty and oppression toward those Muslims still in Mecca.

In his commentary, Ibn Kathir includes a story of those who lived at this time:

On the authority of Abu Hurayrah (ra), Imam Muslim reported that the Prophet (saas) said: "I have been helped by having terror (instilled in the hearts of my enemies), and I have been given words (of wisdom) that are concise though comprehensive in meaning."⁵³

Another commentator relates that the unbelievers' traps and ruses will be foiled by the believers' patience:

After Almighty Allah had forbidden us to take non-Muslims as our protectors and friends and told us why, He promised that He would foil all of the unbelievers' traps and snares as long as we had fear of [and

respect for] Him and were patient. There were two situations in when He acted as the believers' guardian: on the Day of Uhud and the Day of Badr. On these two days, Almighty Allah foiled the enemies' traps and snares on account of the believers' patience and fear of [and respect for] Him. The proof of this assertion lies in the fact that steadfastness and fear of [and respect for] Allah are mentioned in the preceding verse: "But if you are steadfast and fear [and respect] Allah, their scheming will not harm you in any way." ⁵⁴

The apparent small numbers of
enemy soldiers

By a miracle of Allah, the believers were victorious. However, this was not due to their superior numbers; rather, it was due to the intelligence, insight, wisdom, and fine moral character with which Allah had blessed our Prophet (saas). Allah says that He sometimes intimidated the unbelievers by showing them that the believers were far more numerous and powerful:

There was a sign for you in the two parties that met face to face, one party fighting in the Way of Allah and the other consisting of unbelievers. You saw them as twice their number with your own eyes. Allah reinforces with His help whoever He wills. There is instruction in that for people of insight. (Surah Al 'Imran: 13)

The *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* explains this verse as follows:

Certainly there is a lesson for you, for war, in the two groups that met at Badr. One battled on the path of Allah, in obedience to Him: the Prophet (saas) and his Companions, 313 people, together with two horses, six suits of armor, and eight swords. Most were on foot. The other group was the unbelievers. The Muslims' numbers were seen to be, in external appearance, twice as great as those of the unbelievers, who numbered up to 1,000 soldiers. Allah assisted the Muslims, although they were outnumbered. Allah assists and strengthens whom He wills. Certainly there is a lesson for those with insight in these two things. Are you a people who will not learn from them and will not have faith? ⁵⁵

Ibn Kathir comments:

"They saw them with their own eyes as twice their number," meaning: the unbelievers saw the Muslims during the battle of Badr as twice their number, and Allah makes that a cause for the Muslim's victory over

them. This is Ibn Jarir's interpretation, based on the authority of some scholars...

It seems that Allah lessened the apparent number of unbelievers in the Muslims' eyes and made the Muslims appear as few in the unbelievers' eyes when they met each other at the battle of Badr ... As for the unbelievers, they saw the Muslims as twice their number so that fear and panic would overwhelm them. This is exemplified in Allah's saying: "They saw them with their own eyes as twice their number," meaning: they saw 2,000 Muslim soldiers with their own eyes, as a support from Allah. For this reason, Allah says: "But Allah supports with His victory whom He wills. Verily, in this is a lesson for those who have eyes." In other words, He strengthens the believers and humiliates the unbelievers. ⁵⁶

Allah states in many verses that Allah assists those believers who depend on Him totally in times of difficulty and distress, and that He will provide a way out of apparently hopeless situations:

Whoever fears [and respects] Allah - He will give him a way out and provide for him from where he does not expect. Whoever trusts Allah - He will be enough for him. Allah always achieves His aim. Allah has appointed a measure for all things. (Surat al-Talaq: 2-3)

Sometimes both unbelievers and believers see each other as less numerous than they really are. There is a reason for this miracle: when the Muslims saw that the unbelievers were fewer in number than they were, it gave them strength and improved their morale. And when the unbelievers saw the Muslim army, already less in number than theirs, as even smaller, they became careless and were led to think that they would be victorious. Given that in the world of causes no army can appear less numerous than it is, this can only be a miraculous manifestation of Allah's assistance:

Remember when Allah showed them to you in your dream as only a few. If He had shown you them as many, you would have lost heart and quarrelled about the matter; but Allah saved you. He knows what your hearts contain. Remember when Allah made you see them as few when you met them, and also made you seem few in their eyes. This was so that Allah could settle a matter whose result was preordained. All matters return to Allah. (Surat al-Anfal: 43-44)

In his commentary, al-Sabuni writes:

*O community of believers, remember when you were at war. In order to increase your courage, Allah made you think the enemy was fewer in number than it actually was. He also showed you thus to their eyes, so they would make no preparations for the battle. This impression was formed during a state of wakefulness, not of sleep. Ibn Mas`ud says that the enemy was shown to our eyes to be so few in numbers before the battle of Badr that I asked: "What do you think, are there about 100 of them?" That was before the battle began. When it started, Allah gave the unbelievers the impression that the faithful were many in number. The unbelievers were stunned and seized by fear. Their strength was broken, and they saw things for which they were not prepared. This is one of Allah's great miracles in the battle. ... He gave the believers courage against the unbelievers so that they would wage war and so that He would help His own army and defeat the superstitious [people] and their army. In this way, His word would be superior and the unbelievers' word would be inferior. All works return to Allah. Allah operates in them as He wills. Nobody can overturn what He has stipulated. He is Almighty and the Lord of wisdom."*⁵⁷

Ibn Kathir interprets the same verse as follows:

Allah's verse, **"And when you met (the unbelievers' army), He showed them to you as few in your eyes,"** shows His mercy and kindness toward His believing servants. He made the Muslims view the Qurayshi polytheists, in their eyes, as few, in order to encourage them to attack the unbelievers. On the authority of Abdullah Ibn Mas`ud, Abu Ishaq al-Sabi'i said: "Allah showed the Quraishi army to us as few, in our eyes, to the point that I asked a man who was by my side: 'They are seventy, aren't they?' He said: 'No, they are 100.' We then took a man from the Qurayshi army and asked him about their number. He said: 'We were 1,000 fighters.'..."

Allah had excited the state of enmity between the Muslims and the unbelievers, and made each party appear less in the eyes of the other so that they would not fear the battle. However, when the two armies actually met, Allah supported the Muslims with 1,000 angels so that the unbelievers would see the Muslims as twice their actual number. As Allah says: **"There was a sign for you in the two armies that met (in the Battle of Badr): one army fighting in the Cause of Allah, and another unbelieving, whom they saw as twice their number, clearly, with their very eyes. Thus Allah supports with His**

Victory whom He wills. Verily, in this is a lesson for those who understand." (Surah Al 'Imran: 13) ⁵⁸

Another miracle at this time was the Muslims' lack of fear and hesitancy. Allah informs us in the Qur'an that unbelievers had many powerful soldiers on their side and tried to oppress the Muslim minority. In this situation, the believers turned in sincerity to Allah and placed themselves in His hands. As a result, they were abundantly blessed and had a safe return:

... those to whom people said: "The people have gathered against you, so fear them." But that merely increased their belief and they said: "Allah is enough for us and the Best of Guardians." So they returned with blessings and bounty from Allah, and no evil touched them. They pursued the pleasure of Allah. Allah's favor is indeed immense. (Surah Al 'Imran: 173-74)

Those who always trusted in Allah completely and placed themselves in His hands lived according to the Qur'an's moral teachings and sought to win His approval in everything they did. In return, Allah gave them a sense of security and well-being and, even in the most difficult circumstances, caused them to live a good life and attain great wealth from the spoils of war.

OUR PROPHET'S (SAAS) KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNSEEN

Only Allah knows the Unseen, defined as what happened in the past and what will happen in the future:

The keys of the Unseen are in His possession. No one knows them but Him. He knows everything in the land and sea. No leaf falls without His knowing it. There is no seed in the darkness of the soil and nothing moist or dry that is not in a Clear Book. (Surat al-An'am: 59)

Allah created time and taught the concept to human beings; however, He exists apart from it. All knowledge is hidden and preserved in Allah's presence; everything that happens anywhere in creation is contained in His knowledge and is under His control. He knows the secret of everything. Certainly it was a miracle that our Prophet (saas) knew the Unseen to the extent that the Lord willed:

He is the Knower of the Unseen and does not divulge His Unseen to anyone - except a Messenger with whom He is well pleased, and then He posts sentinels before him and behind him. (Surat al-Jinn: 26-27)

One of these chosen messengers was our prophet Muhammad (saas); another one was the Prophet Joseph (as). While in prison, The Prophet Joseph (as) told two friends about Allah's existence:

He said: "No meal to feed you will arrive before I have informed you what they [your dreams] mean. That is part of what my Lord taught me. For I have left the religion of a people who clearly have no belief in Allah and do not believe in the world to come. (Surah Yusuf: 37)

This miracle of knowledge was supplemented by the knowledge of dream interpretation. According to Allah's will, the Prophet Joseph (as) saw some future events. The Prophet Jesus (as) also had this type of knowledge:

... as a Messenger to the tribe of Israel, (who will declare): "I have brought you a Sign from your Lord. I will create the shape of a bird out of clay for you, breathe into it, and it will be a bird by Allah's permission. I will heal the blind and the leper, and bring the dead to life, by Allah's permission. I will tell you what you eat and what you store up in your homes. There is a Sign for you in that if you are believers. (Surah Al 'Imran: 49)

As Allah states in the above verse, the Prophet Jesus (as) knew what people had eaten and what they were secretly storing. Allah states in the Qur'an that the Prophet Jesus (as) announced that a prophet named *Ahmad* would come after him (Surat as-Saff: 6). The Lord told our

Prophet (saas) many secret things, among them events of the past and the future:

This is news of the Unseen that We reveal to you. You were not with them [Joseph's brothers] when they decided what to do and devised their scheme. (Surah Yusuf: 102)

Our Prophet (saas) did not know of these hidden things; rather, he only relayed the knowledge of the Unseen, which pointed to past and future events, to the extent that Allah willed. This was yet another miracle that the Lord bestowed upon him, and yet another proof that he was a true prophet. In addition to informing us of this, Allah also states his humility and submission:

Say: "I possess no power to help or harm myself, except as Allah wills. If I had had knowledge of the Unseen, I would have sought to gain much good and no evil would have touched me. I am only a warner and a bringer of good news to people who believe." (Surat al-A'raf: 188)

The Prophet Muhammad (saas) received such knowledge from the Qur'an and from the special revelations given to him. Allah gave knowledge about many things belonging to the Unseen that no one else could know. This enabled him to predict the good news of victory to Muslims in difficult situations and thus to encourage them. And all that he predicted came true, one after the other.

Our Prophet (saas) announced 1,400 years ago many things that have happened during our own times. Al-Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawud, al-Tirmidhi, al-Nasa'i, Ibn Majah, and others agree that this knowledge concerning the Unseen related in the hadiths is true. Thus, they have already occurred or will occur in the future. People are witnesses to these miracles.

The Unseen: Our Prophet's (saas) Miracle

Ever since he began to proclaim the Qur'an, unbelievers accused our Prophet (saas) of lying. They doubted whatever he said to them and did not want to believe him. But it was clear from just looking at his life and his face that he was an honest and trustworthy man. Throughout his life,

everyone called him al-Amin (the Trustworthy); many of them also called him a liar so that they would not have to follow the true path to which he was calling them.

Those people who made one cruel accusation after another ignored the fact that a person cannot lie every moment of his life and live according to those lies. Besides, our Prophet (saas) prayed day and night, was very patient, had a superior moral character, and was a blessing to the world. He was more aware than those around him, went into battle with great courage, and even while fighting in the front lines would speak about divine truths.

Our Prophet (saas) lived in the best possible way and was always an example for believers. He taught people to give alms and gave everything away he owned to win Allah's approval. He taught patience, self-sacrifice, true love and friendship, and lived these fine moral qualities perfectly. He urged people to be merciful and forgiving, and behaved in just this manner throughout his life. When the unbelievers accused our Prophet (saas), they should have thought about these things:

A person cannot lie without ceasing for his whole life. A person cannot live in harmony with thousands of consistent verses and lie throughout his life while being devoted to those same verses. Why would a person establish such a pattern? Why would he endanger his own life to tell others about the world to come and show them the right path? Would it be possible for such lies to be so meaningful? Would it be possible for everything he said to be so perfectly literary and contain some mathematical codes? Could everything he said for twenty-three years be so literary, mathematical, and in harmony with science; so perfectly meaningful, giving answers to all people's questions, and containing all of the rules needed for a harmonious social life? Certainly a liar could not avoid one day being caught in a lie. However, everything our Prophet (saas) said came true, as many Muslims and non-Muslims witnessed.

Certainly, the miracles given to all of the prophets were important. But many people witnessed some of our Prophet's (saas) miracles, and this makes him different from the other prophets. For example, when the Prophet Jesus (as) raised someone from the dead or cured a disease, only those present saw the miracle; only Pharaoh and the Israelites saw the Prophet Moses's (as) miracles. But when our Prophet (saas) said that

the believers would go to war and be victorious, all of the people saw that both the war and the victory occurred. Thousands of people witnessed these miracles.

The Byzantines' Victory

At the beginning of Surat al-Rum, Allah says that the Byzantine Empire suffered a defeat but that it would soon be victorious again:

Alif, Lam, Mim. have been defeated in the lowest land, but after their defeat they will be victorious within three to nine years. The affair is Allah's from beginning to end. On that day, the believers will rejoice. (Surat al-Rum: 1-4)

The pagan Persians defeated the Christian Byzantines in 613-14, and these verses were sent down about seven years later. However, at that time the Byzantines suffered so many losses that it was hard enough for them to survive, let alone be victorious. In 613, the Persians defeated them at Antioch and then conquered Damascus, Cilicia, Tarsus, Armenia, and Jerusalem. The loss of Jerusalem in 614 and the destruction of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre were particularly hard blows for the Byzantines.⁵⁹

In addition to the Persians, the Avars, Slavs, and Lombards were also threatening Byzantium. The Avars held some of Constantinople's outskirts and, in order to pay the army, Emperor Heraclius had the churches' gold, silver, and other adornments, as well as bronze statues, melted down to produce new coins. Many governors rebelled, and it came to the point where the empire was about to be torn apart. The Persians invaded Byzantine-held Mesopotamia and went on to occupy Cilicia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, and Armenia.⁶⁰

In short, everyone was waiting for Byzantine Empire to collapse. But at this very time, Surat al-Rum was revealed and proclaimed that the Byzantines would be victorious before nine years had passed. The unbelievers thought that this would never happen. But it did, for in 622 Heraclius invaded Armenia and defeated the Persians in several battles.⁶¹ In December 627, both sides fought a huge battle near the ruins of Nineveh (fifty kilometres east of the River Tigris). Here, the Byzantines defeated the Persians and, some months later, forced them to sign a treaty that required them to restore Byzantium's lost territory to it.⁶²The

Byzantine victory was complete when Jerusalem was returned and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre once again came under Christian control.⁶³ So, the victory that Allah had revealed and our Prophet (saas) had proclaimed occurred miraculously, as Allah says in the verse, within three to nine years.

These verses are also miraculous because the facts of the area's geography could not have been known at that time. For example, Allah says in the third verse that the Byzantines were defeated at the lowest region of Earth. This Arabic expression *adna al-ard* is interpreted as "a nearby place" in many translations. However, this is a figurative interpretation. *Adna*, derived from *dani* (low), means "the lowest"; *ard* means "the world." Therefore, *adna al-ard* means "the lowest place on Earth."

Some Qur'anic interpreters, bearing in mind that the area is close to the Arabs, prefer to use "nearest." But the word's real meaning relates to a major geological fact: the world's lowest place is the Dead Sea, which is 399 meters below sea level.⁶⁴ The most difficult thing about this defeat was, as we said, the loss of Jerusalem, the symbol of Christianity located near the Dead Sea. Calculating the Dead Sea's elevation is possible only with modern measuring devices. Thus, our Prophet (saas) could not have known this fact. This knowledge is another proof that the Qur'an is Allah's word and that He granted a great miracle to our Prophet (saas).

Mecca's Conquest

Allah has confirmed His Messenger's vision with truth: "You will enter the Masjid al-Haram in safety, Allah willing, shaving your heads and cutting your hair without any fear." He knew what you did not know and ordained, in place of this, an imminent victory. (Surat al-Fath: 27)

In Mecca, our Prophet (saas) dreamed that he saw believers going safely into the Masjid al-Haram and circumambulating the Ka'bah. He announced this good news to the believers, for those who had moved from Mecca to Madinah with him could not, at that time, return to Mecca.

As a help and support to him, Allah revealed Surat al-Fath 27, in which He said that the dream was true and that, if He willed, the believers could enter Mecca. Indeed, a while later and as it was predicted in the verse, the Muslims entered the Masjid al-Haram after the Treaty of

Hudaibiyah and the subsequent capture of Mecca. In this way, Allah demonstrated that the good news He inspired in our Prophet (saas) was true.

Al-Bukhari tells this story from Abu Musa about Mecca's fall:

The Prophet said: "I dreamed that I waved a sword and that it broke in the middle. That symbolized the casualties that the believers suffered on the Day of Uhud. Then I waved the sword again, and it became better than it had ever been before. That symbolized the opening (of Mecca to Islam), which Allah brought about, and the gathering of the believers." ⁶⁵

However, if we look at Surat al-Fath 27, we see that another city will fall before Mecca. According to the Qur'an, Muslims first took Khaybar's castle, which had been a Jewish stronghold, and then took Mecca. *Tafsir al-Jalalayn* explains this verse as follows:

In the year of Hudaibiyah before setting out, the Messenger of Allah dreamed that he and his Companions were entering Mecca and shaving and cutting their hair. He told his Companions about this, and they rejoiced. So when they went out with him and the unbelievers blocked them at Hudaibiyah and they returned, it was hard for them. Some of the hypocrites fell into doubt. But then it was revealed: "**[He knew what you did not know and ordained, in place of this,] an imminent victory,**" which was the opening of Khaybar to Islam. And the dream came true the very next year. ⁶⁶

Eight years after leaving it, our Prophet (saas) returned to Mecca to conquer it. When he gave this good news to the believers, the situation was not at all favorable. In fact, the Meccans seemed determined not to allow the believers in, because they still doubted our Prophet's (saas) words. But he trusted in Allah, ignored what the people might say, and related it to thousands of people who witnessed this miracle.

Other news from the unseen revealed by our Prophet (saas)

Egypt's conquest:

Abu Dharr reported that the Messenger of Allah (saas) said: "**You will soon conquer Egypt**, and that is a land in which the *qirat* ⁶⁷ is named. So when you conquer it, treat its inhabitants well." ⁶⁸ When he announced this good news, Egypt was still governed by the Byzantines.

In addition, the Muslims were not yet very strong. But this prediction came true during Umar's (ra) caliphate, when Amr ibn al-As conquered it in 641.⁶⁹

Conquering the lands held by Byzantium and Persia

"Khosrow will die and there will be no Khosrow after him. Caesar will die and there will be no Caesar after him, but you will distribute their treasures in the way of Allah." ⁷⁰

Kisra was the word used for the ancient Persian kings, and *Qaysar* was the designation of the Byzantine emperor. When our Prophet (saas) announced this good news, the Muslims were not in a position, as regards their military strength and economic and political organization, to achieve such a major victory. Besides, at that time, Persia and Byzantium were the region's strongest states. However, during Umar's (ca) caliphate, Byzantine was defeated and no other *Kisra* emerged.

Before the death of Heraclius, the Caesar of the time, in 641, his treasury passed into Muslims' hands as the Muslim armies began to conquer Byzantium's major centers during the reigns of the four rightly guided caliphs. For example, under Abu Bakr (ra), Jordan, Palestine, Damascus, Jerusalem, Syria, Egypt, and other lands were taken.

In 1453, the Ottoman sultan Fatih Sultan Mehmet (Mehmed the Conqueror) conquered Constantinople and, following Byzantium's fall, the title of *Qaysar* was no longer used. Thus, the Prophet's (saas) predictions turned out to be true.

Our Prophet's (saas) announcement of Kisra's death

Throughout his life, our Prophet (saas) called rulers and administrators to Islam by sending messengers and letters to them. Historical sources tell us that some of them heeded the call immediately and that others refused to do so and allied themselves with his enemies. Our Prophet (saas) invited Perviz ibn Hurmuz, the *kisra* at that time, by sending Abdullah ibn Hudhayfah to him as a messenger. But Ibn Hurmuz

refused to embrace Islam and, in fact, displayed hostility toward the Muslims. He even went so far as to send two messengers to tell the Muslims to submit to him.

Our Prophet (saas) first invited these two messengers to accept Islam. Then he left them, saying that he would inform them of his decision the next day.⁷¹ At that time, he told the messengers what Allah had revealed to him: "Allah will send many tribulations to Khosrow by means of his son Shireveyh, who will kill him in such-and-such a month, on such-and-such a night, at such-and-such an hour."⁷² He also told them: "Tell Khosrow that my religion and my empire will reach far beyond his kingdom. And tell him: "Enter Islam, and I will confirm you in what you have and appoint you king over the people of Yemen."⁷³

The ambassadors then returned to Yemen and described what had happened. Badhan was impressed and said: "*We will see what happens next. If what he said is true, then he is the Prophet whom Allah has sent.*"⁷⁴ He then turned to his men and asked what they thought of our Prophet (saas). The ambassadors, who had been greatly impressed by him, said: "*We never saw a ruler more majestic, more fearless, and less guarded than him. He walked humbly among the people.*"

Badhan waited for a while to see if our Prophet's (saas) words about the kisra had come true. After some time had passed, he announced that he was certain that our Prophet (saas) had been sent by Allah. According to the hadiths and other historical documents, shortly Badhan received a letter written by Shivereyh: "*I killed Khosrow. When this letter reaches you, take the people's oath of allegiance in my name. Regarding what Khosrow wrote to you, wait and do nothing until there is a new command from me.*"⁷⁵

When Badhan and his men worked it out, they realized that the Prophet (saas) had told the truth.⁷⁶ He believed after this great miracle and accepted Islam. He was followed by the Yemeni Abna.⁷⁷ Badhan became the first governor appointed by the Prophet (saas) and the first Persian governor to be a Muslim.⁷⁸

**Our Prophet (saas) knew of events that
no
one else knew about**

Allah tells us about a miraculous event involving one of the Prophet's (saas) wives. Once, he told a secret to one of them, and one of them told the secret to someone else. After Allah told him about this, he told that particular wife that he knew what she had done. When she asked who had told him, he replied that Allah had informed him:

The Prophet confided a certain matter to one of his wives. But when she divulged it [to other wives], Allah disclosed that to him. So, he communicated part of it and withheld part of it. When he told her of it, she asked: "Who told you of this?" He replied: "The All-Knowing and All-Aware informed me of it." (Surat al-Tahrim: 3)

By Allah's grace, our Prophet (saas) had great knowledge, for Allah told him things that no other person could know. The incident related above was just one of many miracles. Elsewhere, Allah informs our Prophet (saas) of people's hidden sides, as well as their secret thoughts and actions, and of how he is to act and what he is to say:

Then He sent down to you, after the distress, security and a restful sleep overtaking a group of you, whereas another group became prey to anxious thoughts, thinking other than the truth about Allah - thoughts belonging to the Time of Ignorance - asking: "Do we have any say in the affair at all?" Say: "The affair belongs entirely to Allah." They are concealing things inside themselves that they do not disclose to you, saying: "If we had only had a say in the affair, none of us would have been killed here in this place." Tell [them]: "Even if you had been inside your homes, those people for whom killing was decreed would have gone out to their place of death," so that Allah might test what is in your breasts and purge what is in your hearts. Allah knows the contents of your hearts. (Surah Al 'Imran: 154)

They have the word "obedience!" on their tongues, but when they leave your presence a group of them spend the night plotting to do other than what you say. Allah is recording their nocturnal plotting. So let them be and put your trust in Allah. Allah suffices as a Guardian. (Surat al-Nisa': 81)

Those Arabs who remained behind will say to you: "Our wealth and families kept us occupied, so ask forgiveness for us." They say with their tongues what is not in their hearts. Ask [them]: "Who can control Allah for you in any way, whether He wills

harm or benefit for you?" Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat al-Fath: 11)

As for those who have set up a mosque, causing harm and out of unbelief, to create division between the believers and in readiness for those who previously made war on Allah and His Messenger, they will swear: "We only desired the best." But Allah bears witness that they are truly liars. Do not ever stand in it. A mosque founded on fear of [and respect for] Allah from the first day has a greater right for you to stand in it. In it there are people who love to purify themselves. Allah loves those who purify themselves. (Surat al-Tawba: 107-08)

Allah says in the Qur'an that He revealed knowledge of the Unseen to our Prophet (saas), such as the hypocrites' lies, traps, and hidden true intentions. The hypocrites presented themselves in the best possible light, but, by Allah's will, our Prophet (saas) could recognize their real character from their faces. This was indeed a great miracle. No one who sees a person performing many acts of worship, acting and speaking like a Muslim, calling himself as a Muslim, and even going to war alongside our Prophet (saas) could ever realize that such a person is actually a hypocrite. The Companions tell stories of how he could recognize these people through what Allah told him. Allah reveals this ability in the Qur'an:

If We willed, We would show them to you and you would know them by their mark and ambivalent speech. Allah knows your actions. (Surah Muhammad: 30)

Our Prophet (saas) gave answers before anyone asked the questions

Allah reveals in the Qur'an that the Prophet Jesus (as) told people what they had eaten and had stored up (Surah Al 'Imran: 49) and that the Prophet Joseph (as) said that **"no meal to feed you will arrive before I have informed you what they [the dreams] mean"** (Surah Yusuf: 37). As our Prophet (saas) said, he could miraculously answer a question before it was asked and could know a person's inner thoughts. For example, he told his Companions what cities would be conquered

and when.⁷⁹ The hadiths also state that he knew when people were going to come home and who was going to enter a room. When a person returned late from somewhere, our Prophet (saas) could tell him the reason why he was late.⁸⁰ Our Prophet (saas) immediately knew when wicked thoughts passed through an unbeliever's mind and those who thought ill of Muslims.⁸¹

The hadiths contain hundreds of such examples. For example, our Prophet (saas) answered a question that Abu Sufyan ibn al-Harith (ra) had been pondering:

*Abu Sufyan would sit in a corner of the mosque. One day the Prophet (saas) left his house, wrapped up in his cloak. From where he was sitting, Abu Sufyan said: "I wonder how he was victorious." The Prophet (saas) approached him, tapped him on the back, and said: "I defeated you with Allah's help." Abu Sufyan said: "I bear witness that you are the Messenger of Allah."*⁸²

One hadith about Wabisa (ra) shows how our Prophet (saas) could understand and answer a person's silent question:

Wabisah ibn Ma`bad said: I came to the Messenger of Allah, and he said: "You have come to ask about devoutness (*birr*)?" I replied: "Yes." He said: "Ask your heart for a judgment. Devoutness is that toward which the self is tranquil and toward which the heart is tranquil. Impiety (*ithm*) is that which becomes agitated in the self and it goes agitatedly to and fro in the breast even though people repeatedly give you a judgment [as to a matter's permissibility]." ⁸³

The hadiths also tell us that he knew a person's question before it was even asked. For example:

*Abu'd-Darda was worshipping an idol. Abdullah ibn Rawahah and Abu Salamah went and broke it. When Abu'd-Darda came and saw the idol in that state, he could not refrain from asking [it]: "Aren't you ashamed? Couldn't you have defended yourself?" Later he came to the Prophet (saas). Ibn Rawahah saw him on the way and said: "This is Abu'd-Darda. He must have come to look for us!" The Prophet said: "No, he is coming to embrace Islam. My Lord promised that he would become a Muslim."*⁸⁴

All of the above examples show that our Prophet (saas), by Allah's will, performed many miracles. With this excellent moral character, consciousness of Allah, and deep faith, sincerity, and trust in Him, he was an example to all Muslims. Through these miracles, he strengthened and encouraged the believers.

Our Prophet (saas) predicted his own death

Another of our blessed Prophet's (saas) miracles was that all of his predictions came true (or will come true) in time. One of the events he predicted was his own death.

*The Messenger of Allah (saas) looked at us and said: "You suggest that I shall be the last to die. Be warned, I shall die before all of you! You will die after me."*⁸⁵

Narrated 'Uqbah ibn 'Amir (ra):

*The Prophet went out and offered the funeral prayer for the martyrs of the (battle of) Uhud. He then ascended the minbar and said: "I will precede you (in death), and I am a witness against you, and - by Allah! - I am at this moment gazing upon my pond. I have been given the keys of the treasures of Earth" - or "the treasures of Earth" - "and - by Allah! - I do not fear that you will become idolaters after me, but I fear that you will compete for them [the treasures]."*⁸⁶

In another hadith, our Prophet (saas) reveals that he is going to die:

*Abu Muwyahibah narrated: The Messenger of Allah called for me in the middle of the night and said to me: "O Abu Muwayhibah, I have been ordered to pray for forgiveness for the people of Baqi' [graveyard], so come with me." So I went with him. When he stood among them, he said: "Peace be upon you, O dwellers of the graves. May the situation you are in be more comfortable than the situation the people are in, for tribulations have approached like dark patches of night, one following another, and each one is worse than the one before it." Then he drew near to me and said: "O Abu Muwayhibah, I have been given the keys to the treasures of the world and to lasting life in it, followed by the Garden. I was given a choice between this and the meeting with my Lord and the Garden, so I chose the meeting with my Lord."*⁸⁷

Our Prophet (saas) gave many details about his death, and this greatly increased and deepened the believers' faith. For example:

*I was born on a Monday. The revelation began on a Monday. I migrated [to Madinah] on a Monday, and shall die on a Monday.*⁸⁸

Ibn Hanbal and al-Bayhaqi relate from Ibn Abbas (ra):

Ibn Abbas narrated: "The Prophet (saas) was born on a Monday, became a prophet on a Monday, migrated from Mecca on a Monday, and entered

Madinah on a Monday. Mecca was opened [to Islam] on a Monday, and he died on a Monday."⁸⁹

In some of the hadiths, he revealed where he would die:

The place to which I migrated and where I shall lie – where I shall be buried when I die – is Madinah. ⁹⁰*Madinah is where I emigrated. I shall die there and there be raised up.* ⁹¹

Our Prophet (saas) announced the Companion's martyrdom

As a miracle from Allah, our Prophet (saas) announced when his Companions would die long before they did so. In these hadiths, he said that some would be martyred and revealed where they would die. Those Muslims who saw these predictions fulfilled saw the outcome as joyous. Every one of these hadiths is a miracle that Allah granted to our Prophet (saas), whom He chose and exalted above all worlds:

Umar's (ra) martyrdom

Narrated Anas ibn Malik: The Prophet (saas) once climbed Uhud mountain with Abu Bakr, 'Umar, and 'Uthman. The mountain shook. The Prophet said (to the mountain):

"Be firm, Uhud! For on you there are no more than a Prophet, a Siddiq, two martyrs." ⁹²

The books of the Sunnah tell us that one day the Prophet (saas) was sitting at the well of `Aris, with Abu Musa al-Ash`ari acting as his gatekeeper. Abu Bakr al-Siddiq came and asked permission to see him, and the Messenger (saas) said: "Let him in, and give him the glad tidings of Paradise." Then `Umar came, and he said: "Let him in, and give him the glad tidings of Paradise." Then `Uthman came, and he said: "Let him in, and give him the glad tidings of Paradise because of an affliction that will befall him." (Reported by al-Bukhari, Muslim, and al-Tirmidhi, Jami` al-Usul, 8/562, no. 6372.)

Uthman's (ra) martyrdom

Ibn 'Adi and Ibn 'Asakir narrated from Anas, who said: "The Messenger of Allah said: "O Uthman, you will be given the caliphate after

me, but the hypocrites will want you to renounce it. Do not renounce, it but fast on that day so that you break your fast with me." ⁹³

Al-Tabarani and al-Bayhaqi narrated from Zayd ibn Arqam, who said: The Prophet (saas) sent me out, saying: "Go and see Abu Bakr. You will find him sitting inside his house wrapped up in his cloak with his legs drawn up. Give him the glad tidings of the Garden. Then go to the mountain until you find 'Umar riding a donkey and his tall frame looming in the distance. Give him the glad tidings of the Garden. Then go to 'Uthman, whom you will find in the market selling and buying, and give him the glad tidings of the Garden after a harrowing ordeal." I went and found them as the Messenger of Allah had said, and I told them. ⁹⁴

Al-Tabarani narrated from Zayd ibn Thabit, who said that he heard the Prophet (saas) say: "Uthman passed by me while one of the angels was with me, and the latter said: 'This is a martyr whose people will kill him. We are shy of him.'" ⁹⁵

Ali's (ra) martyrdom

Al-Hakim (who declared it sound) and Abu Nu`aym narrated from 'Ammar ibn Yasir that the Prophet said to 'Ali: "The most grievous of all people is he that shall strike you here," indicating his temple, "until blood soaks this," indicating his beard. ⁹⁶

Al-Tabarani and Abu Nu`aym narrated from Jabir ibn Samurah, who said: The Messenger of Allah said to 'Ali: "You will be given leadership and the caliphate; and truly, this will be dyed red with this," meaning his beard with [the blood from] his head. ⁹⁷

Al-Hakim narrated from Anas, who said: I went in with the Prophet (saas) to see `Ali, who lay sick, while Abu Bakr and `Umar were visiting him. One of them said to the other: "I do not think that he will survive," whereupon the Messenger of Allah (saas) said: "In truth, he shall not die other than [by being] murdered." ⁹⁸

Hussain's (ra) martyrdom

Ibn Rahwayh, al-Bayhaqi, and Abu Nu`aym narrated from Umm Salamah: The Messenger of Allah (saas) lay down one day and woke up, holding a handful of red dirt in his hand and turning it this way and that. I asked: "What is this dirt, Messenger of Allah?" He replied: "Jibril informed

me that this one [meaning Hussain] would be killed in Iraq, and this is his resting-ground." ⁹⁹

Ibn al-Sakan, al-Baghawi, and Abu Nu`aym narrated from Anas ibn al-Harith, who said: I heard the Messenger of Allah say: "Truly this son of mine [meaning Husayn] will be killed in a land called Karbala'. Whoever among you is present then, help him." Thus, Anas ibn al-Harith went to Karbala' and was killed there with Husayn. ¹⁰⁰

All of these predictions came true, and many sincere Muslims who shouldered the great responsibility of spreading Islam also died as martyrs. As a result, more of his predictions came true. Every one of these is a miracle that Allah bestowed upon his blessed messenger, Muhammad (saas), from the Unseen.

Signs of the End Times

The world will experience the End Times before the Day of Judgment. Our Prophet (saas) told us many things about this time, and the fact that many of them are happening now is a miracle. Muhammad (saas) detailed events that would happen 1,400 years after his death as if he had actually seen them. We present a partial list below:

The Iran-Iraq War

The hadiths tell of a major war that will happen in the End Times:

There will be tumult in Shawwal (the tenth Islamic month), talk of war in Dhu al-Qa`dah (the eleventh Islamic month), and the outbreak of war in Dhu al-Hijjah (the twelfth month). ¹⁰¹

These months coincide with the dates of the developing stages of the Iran-Iraq War.

There will be tumult in Shawwal...

The first uprising against the Shah happened on 5 Shawwal 1398 (September 8, 1976).

Talks of war in Dhu al-Qa`dah (the eleventh Islamic month), and the outbreak of war in Dhu al-Hijjah (the twelfth month)...

The Iran-Iraq War broke out in Dhu al-Hijjah 1400 (October 1980).

In another hadith, the details of this war are given:

A nation/tribe will come from the Farsi direction, saying: "O You Arabs, you have been too zealous. If you don't give them their due rights,

nobody will have an alliance with you ... It must be given to them one day and to you the following day, and mutual promises must be kept ..." They will be going up to Mutekh; Muslims will be coming down to the plain ... Polytheists will be standing over there on the bank of a black river [Rakabeh] on the other side. There will be a war between them. Allah will deprive both armies of a victory ... ¹⁰²

On the right you see some of the news about Iran-Iraq war.

- **Those coming from the Farsi direction:** Those coming from the Iranian side:

- **Farsi:** Iran, Iranian
- **Coming down to the plain:** Coming down to the Iranian plain
- **Mutekh:** Name of a mountain in the region
- **Rakabeh:** A region where the oil wells are concentrated

"O you Arabs, you have indulged yourselves in bigotry! Unless you grant due rights to them, no one will agree with you on a plan of action..."

This hadith may draw attention to the outbreak of a racial dispute that will cause both sides to come down to the (Iranian) plain and wage war.

Allah will not give victory to any one of the armies...

The Iran-Iraq war lasted for eight years and, despite many thousands of casualties, neither side could claim a decisive victory.

The Occupation of Afghanistan

Pity poor Taliqan [a region in Afghanistan]. At that place are treasures of Allah, but these are not of gold and silver. (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, Al-Burhan fi `Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir al-Zaman, 59.)

This hadith may be an indication of Afghanistan's occupation during the Last Days. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan took place in 1979 (1400, according to the Islamic calendar).

... at that place are treasures of Allah, but these are not of gold and silver ...

In addition, this hadith draws attention to Afghanistan's material riches. Today, large oil deposits, iron basins, and coal mines have been detected there and await commercial exploitation.

Damming the Euphrates

Soon the river Euphrates will disclose the treasure [the mountain] of gold. So, whoever will be present at that time should not take anything of it. (Sahih al-Bukhari.)

Other hadiths reveal important information on this subject:

The Messenger of Allah (saas) said: "The Hour will not come to pass before the river Euphrates dries up to unveil the mountain of gold, for which people will fight. Ninety-nine out of 100 will die [in the fighting], and every man among them will say: 'Perhaps I may be the only one to remain alive.'" (Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim.)

The Prophet (saas) said: "The Euphrates reveals the treasures within itself. Whoever sees it should not take anything from it." (Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, Al-Burhan, 28.)

Damming the flow of water in the Euphrates and the emergence of a treasure as valuable as gold are both mentioned in many hadith collections.

Let's examine some important statements revealed in the hadiths one by one:

The Messenger of Allah (saas) said: "The Hour will not come to pass before the river Euphrates dries up and unveils the mountain of gold." (Sahih Muslim.)

(1)... the river Euphrates dries up ...

As-Suyuti mentions this hadith as "the stopping of water." The Keban dam, built in 1975, has accomplished this.

(2)... unveils the mountain of gold...

The surrounding land has become as valuable as gold for various reasons, for the Keban dam has enabled electricity production and higher soil fertility through irrigation and transport facilities. The Keban and other dams lining the Euphrates resemble a concrete mountain, and wealth as valuable as gold comes out of it. Therefore, they take on the properties of "the golden mountain." (Allah knows the truth.)

Our Prophet (saas) also gave other information about this time, which can be found in Harun Yahya's *The Signs of the Second Coming of Jesus, The End Times and the Mahdi, Signs of The Last Day*, and other books. Among these signs are the following: lunar and solar eclipses during Ramadan, the rise of a comet, storming the Ka'bah and the subsequent bloodshed, sighting a flare in the east, a sign coming out of the Sun, the beginning of widespread slaughter, the killing of the rulers of Damascus and Egypt, the enslavement of the Egyptians, the

destruction of great cities, the rebuilding of ruined places, the fourth peace and Arab-Israeli peace agreement, the destitution of the Iraqi people, the burning of Baghdad, an embargo against Iraq and Damascus, the restructuring of Iraq, confusion and disorder in Damascus as well as in Iraq and Arabia, conflict between Muslims and Jews, the killing of innocent children, pervasive corruption, religious prohibitions gaining acceptance, open denial of Allah, increasing numbers of earthquakes, the collapse of moral values, an increase in urbanization, the greening of deserts, and the appearance of false messiahs.

These are only a few of the signs. Since our Prophet's (saas) death, they have been observed at various times and in different places. However, since 1400 AH, all of them have occurred in the same period one after another. This means that another of his predictions has come true:

Signs following one another, like the pieces of a necklace falling one after the other when its string is cut.¹⁰³

Conclusion

Throughout history, people to whom Allah sent messengers and prophets demanded miracles so that they could see something extraordinary that would convince them to believe. Allah graced some of the prophets with the power to perform miracles; He helped them, thereby enabling them to proclaim His message and engage in a clash of ideas with all sorts of unbelievers. However, people of conscience and intelligence do not need a miracle in order to believe, for those with understanding see everything as an evident proof of His existence.

Even though all of creation is filled with signs of Allah's existence and wondrous creative power, some people continue to demand at least one miracle. But their real intention is not what it seems, for instead of believing in these miracles, they falsely accuse those who perform them of such things as witchcraft or corruption.

They have sworn by Allah with their most earnest oaths that if a Sign comes to them, they will believe in it. Say:

"The Signs are under Allah's control alone." What will make you realize that even if a Sign did come that they would still not believe? We will overturn their hearts and sight, just as when they did not believe in it at first, and We will abandon them to

wander blindly in their excessive insolence. Even if We sent down angels to them, the dead spoke to them, and We gathered together everything in front of them right before their eyes, they would still not believe, unless Allah willed. The truth is that most of them are ignorant. (Surat an-An'am: 109-111)

As Allah proclaims, those without faith who insist on seeing miracles do not really want to believe; rather, they want to test the prophets by making things difficult for them. In their own shallow minds, they want to show that the prophets are liars so that they can excuse their own rebelliousness. Such people do not believe even in a miracle when they see one; they simply increase their accusations that they have been bewitched.

When they see a Sign they only laugh with scorn. They say: "This is just downright magic." (Surat al-Saffat: 14-15)

If they see a Sign, they turn away saying: "There is no end to this witchcraft!" (Surat al-Qamar: 2)

It is a grace from Allah that many people have their faith strengthened by miracles. But people of conscience and intelligence believe in Allah because of the extraordinariness of creation, and thus do not expect a special miracle from the prophets. If the Lord manifests Himself in certain miracles, they see such events as blessings that stir up eager enthusiasm in them and strengthen their resolve. Throughout history, unbelievers have never expected such a thing and, as a result, have lost much. In order to find an excuse for their rebelliousness, they have disregarded the truths announced by the prophets in their search for something extraordinary. The Lord says that He could make these people submit to Him with just one miracle: "If We wished We could send down a Sign to them from heaven, before which their heads would be bowed low in subjection" (Surat al-Shu'ara': 4). But all things happen according to what is required by the nature of this world as a place of testing.

The miracles of our Prophet (saas) are a source of great joy for all Muslims. They increase the believers' faith and cause them to be more enthusiastic in their attachment to the sublime Qur'an.

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 miraculous order in the universe and in living things, as well as by the discovery of about 300 million fossils revealing that evolution never happened.** In this way, **science confirmed the fact that Allah created the universe and the living things in it.** The propaganda carried out today in order to keep the theory of evolution alive is based solely on the distortion of the scientific facts, biased interpretation, and lies and falsehoods disguised as science.

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

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

The Scientific Collapse of Darwinism

As **a pagan doctrine** going 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 opposed, in his own eyes, the fact that Allah created different living species on Earth separately, for he erroneously claimed that all living beings had a common ancestor and had diversified over time through small changes. **Darwin's theory was not based on any**

concrete scientific finding; as he also accepted, it was just an "assumption." Moreover, as Darwin confessed in the long **chapter of his book titled "Difficulties on Theory," the theory failed in the face of many critical questions.**

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

- 1) The theory cannot explain how life originated on Earth.
- 2) No scientific finding shows that the "evolutionary mechanisms" proposed by the theory have any evolutionary power at all.
- 3) The fossil record proves the exact opposite of what the theory suggests.

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

The First Insurmountable Step: The Origin of Life

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

Since the theory of evolution ignorantly denies Creation, it maintains that the "first cell" originated as a product of blind coincidences within the laws of nature, without any 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."**¹⁰⁴

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

Inconclusive Efforts of the Twentieth Century

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

Unfortunately, however, the problem of the origin of the cell is perhaps the most obscure point in the whole study of the evolution of organisms.¹⁰⁵

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.**¹⁰⁶

After a long silence, **Miller confessed that the atmosphere medium he used was unrealistic.**¹⁰⁷

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?*¹⁰⁸

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 outstandingly 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 a magnificent 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.¹⁰⁹

No doubt, if it is impossible for life to have originated spontaneously as a result of blind coincidences, then it has to be accepted that life was "**created**." This fact explicitly invalidates the theory of evolution, whose main purpose is to deny Creation.

Imaginary Mechanism of Evolution

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

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

Natural selection holds that those living things that are stronger and more suited to the natural conditions of their habitats will survive in the struggle for life. For example, in a deer herd under the threat of attack by

wild animals, those that can run faster will survive. Therefore, the deer herd will be comprised of faster and stronger individuals. However, unquestionably, this mechanism will not cause deer to evolve and transform themselves into another living species, for instance, horses.

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

*Natural selection can do nothing until favourable individual differences or variations occur.*¹¹⁰

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.¹¹¹

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

Neo-Darwinism and Mutations

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

radiation or replication errors, as the "cause of favorable variations" in addition to natural mutation.

Today, the model that Darwinists espouse, despite their own awareness of its scientific invalidity, 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.*¹¹²

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 the unscientific supposition of 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.*¹¹³

However, **Darwin was well aware that no fossils of these intermediate forms had yet been found.** He regarded this as a major difficulty for his theory. In one chapter of his book titled "Difficulties on Theory," he wrote:

Why, if species have descended from other species by insensibly fine gradations, do we not everywhere see innumerable transitional forms? Why is not all nature in confusion instead of the species being, as we see them, well defined?... But, as by this theory innumerable transitional forms must have existed, why do we not find them embedded in countless numbers in the crust of the earth?... Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory.¹¹⁴

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.***¹¹⁵

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.*¹¹⁶

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 man evolved from so-called ape-like creatures. During this alleged evolutionary process, which is supposed to have started 4-5 million years

ago, some "transitional forms" between present-day man and his imaginary 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.¹¹⁷

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."¹¹⁸

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.¹¹⁹

Moreover, a certain segment of humans classified as Homo erectus have lived up until very modern times. **Homo sapiens neandarthalensis and Homo sapiens sapiens (present-day man) co-existed in the same region.**¹²⁰

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

*What has become of our ladder if there are three coexisting lineages of hominids (A. africanus, the robust australopithecines, and H. habilis), none clearly derived from another? Moreover, none of the three display any evolutionary trends during their tenure on earth.*¹²¹

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.*¹²²

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

Darwinian Formula!

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

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

Let evolutionists put plenty of materials present in the composition of living things such as phosphorus, nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, iron, and magnesium into big barrels. Moreover, let them add in these barrels any material that does not exist under normal conditions, but they think as necessary. Let them add in this mixture as many amino acids and as many proteins—a single one of which has a formation probability of 1 in 10^{950} —as they like. Let them expose these mixtures to as much heat and moisture as they like. Let them stir these with whatever technologically developed device they like. Let them put the foremost scientists beside these barrels. Let these experts wait in turn beside these barrels for billions, and even trillions of years. Let them be free to use all kinds of conditions they believe to be necessary for a human's formation. **No matter what they do, they cannot produce from these barrels a human, say a professor that examines his cell structure under the electron microscope.** They cannot produce giraffes, lions, bees, canaries, horses, dolphins, roses, orchids, lilies, carnations, bananas, oranges, apples, dates, tomatoes, melons, watermelons, figs, olives, grapes, peaches, peafowls, pheasants, multicolored butterflies, or millions of other living beings such as these. Indeed, they could not obtain even a single cell of any one of them.

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

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

Technology in the Eye and the Ear

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

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

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

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

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

Evolutionists claim that the mechanism producing this sharp and distinct image has been formed by chance. Now, if somebody told you that the television in your room was formed as a result of chance, that all of its atoms just happened to come together and make up this device that produces an image, what would you think? How can atoms do what thousands of people cannot?

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

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

As is the case with imagery, decades of effort have been spent in trying to generate and reproduce sound that is faithful to the original. The results of these efforts are sound recorders, high-fidelity systems, and systems for sensing sound. Despite all of this technology and the thousands of engineers and experts who have been working on this endeavor, no sound has yet been obtained that has the same sharpness

and clarity as the sound perceived by the ear. Think of the highest-quality hi-fi systems produced by the largest company in the music industry. Even in these devices, when sound is recorded some of it is lost; or when you turn on a hi-fi you always hear a hissing sound before the music starts. However, the sounds that are the products of the human body's technology are extremely sharp and clear. A human ear never perceives a sound accompanied by a hissing sound or with atmospherics as does a hi-fi; rather, it perceives sound exactly as it is, sharp and clear. This is the way it has been since **the creation of man**.

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

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

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

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

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

Everyone who reads this explicit and scientific fact should ponder on Almighty Allah, and fear and seek refuge in Him, for He squeezes the

entire universe in a pitch-dark place of a few cubic centimeters in a three-dimensional, colored, shadowy, and luminous form.

A Materialist Faith

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

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

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

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

*It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, so we cannot allow a Divine [intervention]...*¹²³

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 brought life into being. 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 ignorantly defend it just so as not to acknowledge, in their own eyes, the evident existence of Allah.

Anyone who does not look at the origin of living beings with a materialist prejudice sees 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, in the most perfect form, and fashioned all living beings.

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

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

As explained above, those who believe in the theory of evolution think that a few atoms and molecules thrown into a huge vat could produce thinking, reasoning professors and university students; such scientists as Einstein and Galileo; such artists as Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and Luciano Pavarotti; as well as antelopes, lemon trees, and carnations. Moreover, as the scientists and professors who believe in this nonsense are educated people, it is quite justifiable to speak of this theory as "the most potent spell in history." Never before has any other belief or idea so taken away peoples' powers of reason, refused to allow them to think intelligently and logically, and hidden the truth from them as if they had been blindfolded. This is an even worse and unbelievable blindness than the totem worship in some parts of Africa, the people of Saba worshipping the Sun, the tribe of the Prophet Abraham (as) worshipping idols they had made with their own hands, or some among the people of the Prophet Moses (as) worshipping the Golden Calf.

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

As for those who do not believe, it makes no difference to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they will not

believe. Allah has sealed up their hearts and hearing and over their eyes is a blindfold. They will have a terrible punishment. (Surat al-Baqara, 6-7)

... They have hearts with which they do not understand. They have eyes with which they do not see. They have ears with which they do not hear. Such people are like cattle. No, they are even further astray! They are the unaware. (Surat al-A'raf, 179) Even if We opened up to them a door into heaven, and they spent the day ascending through it, they would only say: "Our eyesight is befuddled! Or rather we have been put under a spell!" (Surat al-Hijr, 14-15)

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

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

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

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

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

As we can see, when people realized that a spell had been cast upon them and that what they saw was just an illusion, Pharaoh's magicians lost all credibility. In the present day too, unless those who, under the influence of a similar spell, believe in these ridiculous claims under their scientific disguise and spend their lives defending them, abandon their superstitious beliefs, they also will be humiliated when the full truth emerges and the spell is broken. In fact, world-renowned British writer and philosopher Malcolm Muggeridge, who was an atheist defending evolution for some 60 years, but who subsequently realized the truth, reveals the position in which the theory of evolution would find itself in the near future in these terms:

*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.*¹²⁴

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.

PICTURE:

17: We will certainly help Our Messengers and those who have belief both in the life of the world and on the Day the witnesses appear. (Surah Ghafir: 51)

18

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

23

Our Word to a thing when We will it is just to say to it "Be!" and it is. (Surat al-Nahl: 40)

25

"Still Life with Cheeses." Floris Van Dijck (1575-1651). Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

27

They have sworn by Allah with their most earnest oaths that if a Sign comes to them they will believe in it. Say: "The Signs are under Allah's control alone." What will make you realize that even if a Sign did come, they would still not believe? (Surat al-An'am: 109)

35

A copy of the Qur'an from 1790 CE (1205 AH) written in the Naskhi style. Classic style layout, every page containing seventeen lines. Ruled in gold, leather binding from the time. (Suleyman Tevfik)

39

... a mercy from your Lord. His favor to you is indeed immense. (Surat al-Isra': 87)

40

Is it not enough for them that We have sent down to you the Book that is recited to them? There is certainly a mercy and reminder in that for people who believe. (Surat al-'Ankabut: 51)

43

The revelation of the Book, without any doubt in it, is from the Lord of the worlds. (Surat al-Sajdah: 2)

46-47

We have sent down to you the Book for humanity with truth. So whoever is guided is guided to his own good and whoever is misguided, it is to his detriment. You are not set over them as a guardian. (Surat al-Zumar: 41)

48

Allah has sent down the Book with truth and with the Just Balance. What will make you realize [this fact]? Perhaps the Hour is close. (Surat al-Shura: 17)

49

It is in the Source Book with Us, high-exalted, full of wisdom. (Surat al-Zukhruf: 4)

55

So hold fast to what has been revealed to you. You are on a straight path. (Surat al-Zukhruf: 43)

57

It is certainly a reminder to you and to your people, and you will be questioned. (Surat al-Zukhruf: 44)

60

Those are Allah's Signs We recite to you with truth. In what discourse, then, after Allah and His Signs, will they believe? (Surat al-Jathiyyah: 6)

64

They will not help you in any way against Allah. The wrongdoers are protectors of one another, but Allah is the Protector of those who are conscious of Him. (Surat al-Jathiiyyah: 19)

71

A Messenger has come to you from among yourselves. Your suffering is distressing to him, he is deeply concerned for you, and he is gentle and merciful to the believers. (Surat at-Tawba: 128)

72

You will have a wage that never fails. Indeed, you are truly vast in character. (Surat al-Qalam: 3-4)

77

They exclaimed: "Are we to forsake our deities for a crazy poet?" Rather, he has brought the truth and confirmed the [earlier] messengers. (Surat al-Saffat: 36-37)

78

... that this is the word of a noble Messenger. It is not the word of a poet. How little belief you have! (Surat al-Haqqah: 40-41)

79

... nor the word of a fortune-teller. How little heed you pay! It is a revelation from the Lord of all worlds. (Surat al-Haqqah: 42-43)

80

You have an excellent model in the Messenger of Allah, for all who put their hope in Allah and the Last Day and remember Allah much. (Surat al-Ahzab: 21)

83

Every time they come to you with a difficult point, We bring you the truth and the best of explanations. (Surat al-Furqan: 33)

87

As for those who believed and did right actions, their Lord will admit them into His mercy. That is the Clear Victory. (Surat al-Jathiiyyah: 30)

88-89

Truly it is the speech of a noble Messenger, possessing great strength, securely placed with the Lord of the Throne. (Surat al-Takwir: 19-20)

90-91

It is nothing but a Reminder to all the worlds, to whomsoever among you wishes to go straight. (Surat al-Takwir: 27-28)

95

What will those who invent lies against Allah think on the Day of Rising? Allah shows favor to humanity, but most people are not thankful. (Surah Yunus: 60)

98

Sidrat al-Muntaha: The border at which the knowledge of created things ends and which it cannot pass.

The Qubbat al-Sakhra (Dome of the Rock), built on the Hajar Muallaq stone.

99

The Hajar Muallaq: The sacred stone upon which our Prophet (saas) stepped when he ascended to Mi'raj.

Those are Allah's Signs that We recite to you with truth. You are indeed one of the messengers. (Surat al-Baqarah: 252)

100

Above: Our Prophet's (saas) miraculous journey was from the al-Haram al-Sharif in Mecca to the Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem.

Side: External view of the Qubbat al-Sakhra (Dome of the Rock).

101

Say: "If you love Allah, then follow me and Allah will love you and forgive your sins. Allah is Ever-Forgiving, Most Merciful." (Surah Al 'Imran: 31)

103

The land on which the Qubbat al-Sakhra and the Masjid al-Aqsa stand is sacred to all Muslims.

111

The Hour has drawn near, and the Moon has split. (Surat al-Qamar: 1)

115

Say: "Obey Allah and the Messenger." Then if they turn away, Allah does not love the unbelievers. (Surah Al 'Imran: 32)

122-123

Stand and face Him in every mosque and call on Him, making your religion sincerely His. (Surat al-A'raf: 29)

Call on your Lord humbly and secretly. He does not love those who overstep the limits. (Surat al-A'raf: 55)

127

Ask: "Who is going to shield you from Allah if He wills evil or mercy for you?" They will find no one to protect or help them besides Allah. (Surat al-Ahzab: 17)

128-129

But those of you who are obedient to Allah and His Messenger and act rightly will be given their reward twice over. We have prepared generous provision for them. (Surat al-Ahzab: 31)

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but the Messenger of Allah and the Final Seal of the Prophets. Allah has knowledge of all things. (Surat al-Ahzab: 40)

133

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

138

... and sent a Messenger to them from themselves: "Worship Allah. You have no deity other than Him. So will you not have fear of [and respect for] Him?" (Surat al-Mu'minun: 32)

140

O Messenger, transmit what has been sent down to you from your Lord. If you do not, you will not have transmitted His Message. Allah will protect you from people. Allah does not guide the unbelievers. (Surat al-Ma'idah: 67)

145

Put your trust in the Living One Who does not die, and glorify Him with praise. (Surat al-Furqan: 58)

149

Sir Edward Landseer's painting "The Arab Tent," dated 1866.

153

Remember when you called on your Lord for help and He replied to you: "I will reinforce you with a thousand angels riding rank after rank." (Surat al-Anfal: 9)

161

O Prophet, Allah is enough for you and for the believers who follow you. (Surat al-Anfal: 64)

162

Put your trust in the Almighty, the Most Merciful, He Who sees you when you stand up to pray and your movements with those who prostrate. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing. (Surat al-Shu'ara': 217-220)

167

Allah has not given you access to the Unseen. But He chooses those of His messengers whom He wills. So believe in Allah and His messengers. (Surah Al 'Imran: 179)

168

This is news from the Unseen, which We reveal to you. (Surah Al 'Imran: 44)

170

Say: "I am forbidden to worship those you call upon besides Allah." Say: "I do not follow your whims and desires. If I did, I would go astray and not be among the guided." (Surat al-An'am: 56)

171

Say: "I stand on a Clear Sign from my Lord, and yet you have denied it. I do not have in my possession that which you are in such haste to bring about. Jurisdiction over it belongs to Allah alone. He tells the truth and is the best of deciders." (Surat al-An'am: 57)

174

This gold relief, dating from the 5th-3rd centuries BC, is part of the treasure of the Persian king Oxus.

176

The region of the Dead Sea (Lake Lut) is the lowest in the world. This was revealed in the Qur'an 1,400 years ago, and modern technology has proven it.

The Byzantines' victory was completed with Emperor Heracleus' defeat of Persia's Khosrow II in 630, the recapture of Jerusalem, and the return of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to Christian hands.

196

Heavy Loss of Iran-Iraq War of 8 years: Approximately 2 Million Casualties

The bloodiest conflicts of the 7 years
Close Combat Between Iran and Iraq

Türkiye Daily, January 22, 1987
Iran Entered Iraq

Türkiye Daily, August 3, 1988
Back-and-Forth: Here is the Iran-Iraq War

199

Newsweek, February 11, 1980

201

The Great Euphrates Came to a Halt Where it was Born
Hürriyet Daily, November 4, 1973

208

Charles Darwin

211

Louis Pasteur's experiments invalidated the idea that "life can emerge from inanimate matter," the basis of the theory of evolution.

212

Alexander Oparin

213

One example of evolutionists' attempts to explain the origin of life is the Miller Experiment. It was gradually realized that this experiment, initially heralded as a major development on behalf of evolution, was invalid and even Miller himself was obliged to admit that fact.

Evolutionist Magazine Earth

215

One of the facts nullifying the theory of evolution is the incredibly complex structure of life. The DNA molecule located in the nucleus of cells of living beings is an example of this. The DNA is a sort of databank formed of the arrangement of four different molecules in different sequences. This databank contains the codes of all the physical traits of that living being. When the human DNA is put into writing, it is calculated that this would result in an encyclopedia made up of 900 volumes. Unquestionably, such extraordinary information definitively refutes the concept of coincidence.

216

Lamarck believed that giraffes evolved from such animals as antelopes. In his view, the necks of these grass-eating animals gradually grew longer, and they eventually turned into giraffes. The laws of inheritance discovered by Mendel in 1865 proved that it was impossible for properties acquired during life to be handed on to subsequent generations. Lamarck's giraffe fairy tale was thus consigned to the wastebin of history.

217

Lamarck

219

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, evolutionary biologists have sought examples of beneficial mutations by creating mutant flies. But these efforts have always resulted in sick and deformed creatures. The top picture shows the head of a normal fruit fly, and the picture on the left shows the head of a fruit fly with legs coming out of it, the result of mutation.

leg

mouth

eye

antennae

222-223

LIVING FOSSILS REFUTE EVOLUTION

Fossils are proof that evolution never happened. As the fossil record reveals, living things suddenly appeared together with all the characteristics they possess, and they never undergo the slightest change so long as they remain in existence. Fish have always existed as fish, insects as insects, and reptiles as reptiles. There is no scientific validity to the claim that species emerged gradually.

Sea Urchin

Period: Paleozoic Age, Carboniferous Period

Age: 295 million years

Sun Fish
Period: Cenozoic Age, Eocene Period
Age: 54-37 million years

Crane Fly
Period: Cenozoic Age, Eocene Period
Age: 48-37 million years

Starfish
Period: Paleozoic Age, Ordovician Period
Age: 490-443 million years

Birch Tree Leaf
Period: Cenozoic Age, Eocene Period
Age: 50 million years

Cicada
Period: Mesozoic Age, Cretaceous Period
Age: 125 million years

Sequoia Leaf
Period: Cenozoic Age,
Eocene Period
Age: 50 million years

224

The theory of evolution claims that living species gradually evolved from one another. The fossil record, however, explicitly falsifies this claim. For example, in the Cambrian period, some 550 million years ago, tens of totally distinct living species emerged suddenly. These living beings depicted in the above picture have very complex structures. This fact, referred to as the "Cambrian Explosion" in scientific literature is plain evidence of creation.

226

There are no fossil remains that support the tale of human evolution. On the contrary, the fossil record shows that there is an insurmountable barrier between apes and men. In the face of this truth, evolutionists fixed their hopes on certain drawings and models. They randomly place masks on the fossil remains and fabricate imaginary half-ape, half-human faces.

232

Compared to cameras and sound recording devices, the eye and ear are much more complex, much more successful and possess far superior features to these products of high technology.

240

Glory be to You! We have no knowledge except what You have taught us. You are the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. (Surat al-Baqarah: 32)

Notes

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