

THE SIGNS LEADING TO FAITH

**O you who believe! Fear God and seek the
means of drawing near to Him... so that,
hopefully, you will be successful.
(Qur'an, 5:35)**

HARUN YAHYA

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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

His pen-name is a composite of the names *Harun* (Aaron) and *Yahya* (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their people's lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the Final Scripture) and the Prophet Muhammad (May God bless him and grant him peace), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of godless ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet, 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 God's Existence and Unity and the hereafter; and to expose godless systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies.

Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership in many countries, from India to America, England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia, and Spain to Brazil. Some of his books are available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian), Polish, Malay, Uygur Turkish, and Indonesian.

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in God 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 God'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 God, render an invaluable service.

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

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

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

TO THE READER

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

All the author's books explain faith-related issues in light of Qur'anic verses, and invite readers to learn God's words and to live by them. All the subjects concerning God'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 ensure 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 God. 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.

INTRODUCTION

A family who returns from a long holiday only to find that their home has been furnished with new items in a most ordered and perfect manner and that every detail has been thought of and provided to meet their needs, will be most astonished and affected. They will wonder who arranged this surprise, for how could they not in the face of such an extraordinary event? Would they really say: “We don’t really care how this happened, just as long as it happened”? Or would they suppose that everything happened by itself or by chance, and that the new furniture decided on its own to install itself there? Such ideas are laughable, for all events are the result of a certain intelligence, consciousness, and power that makes them happen. For that reason, the existence of someone who has thought of everything and consciously arranged it is clear.

This example also applies to the universe, our world, and all of its living and non-living entities. There are countless infinitely complex systems and delicate balances in the universe, in all of existence and all phenomena, from the human body to the sky, from animals to the depths of the oceans. Everyone who can think and reason sees that only God, with His superior power and intelligence, could have created these complex systems and delicate balances.

These people encounter countless proofs of God’s existence, such as brightly colored, sweet-smelling flowers; delicious fruits and vegetables that spring from muddy soil; the sense organs, which enable us to enjoy each created item’s unique properties (e.g., smell and taste); the human body with its many complex systems, all of which work in harmony; the Sun, which illuminates and warms, and its ideal size and distance from our Earth; the rain, which brings bone-dry soil to life; and countless other proofs.

Each of these is a “sign leading to faith.” In other words, they are miracles of creation and truths that guide people to faith and then increase that faith. Every unbiased person who thinks deeply about these proofs will come to faith by clearly seeing these reflections of God’s existence and greatness. Thanks to these signs, believers will come to know God better and increase their faith in, love for, and fear [and awareness] of Him.

However, due to the pervasive materialist worldview to which they are subjected from childhood onward, most people cannot see these signs or else find it hard to see them. This misguided materialistic system, which suggests that everything depends on chance, coincidence, and natural phenomena, prevents people from seeing the evident miracles of creation that pervade the universe. It literally draws a curtain over their eyes. Most people do not look at these signs and say, “How beautifully God has created these”; rather, they say, “How nice.” In other words, they look at them with a disinterested eye.

This book seeks to lift this curtain of indifference by dealing with the importance of these signs leading to faith. At the same time, it contains the views of several Islamic

scholars of these signs and gives examples of them. Moreover, it also considers how these signs are the most effective way of disproving the superstitious teachings of the theory of evolution, the greatest deception of our time, and one that continues to lead people to atheism in the End Times.

CHAPTER 1

THE QUR'AN AND THE SIGNS LEADING TO FAITH

Islamic scholars define the “signs leading to faith” as all forms of truth, information, and evidence of creation that lead people to faith, serve as proofs of God’s existence and oneness, and reveal His superior might, knowledge, and art. In short, they are the “truths that lead to faith and are a means whereby faith can be acquired and simultaneously enhanced, developed, and perfected.”

Although people cannot see God directly, they can comprehend His existence, might, and some of His names by looking at His creation. Just as every painting introduces its artist, all living and inanimate entities introduce us to God, their Creator. Human beings must consider this and bear witness to the proofs of creation. Indeed, in the Qur’an God gives us examples of various animals (e.g., the camel, gnat, bee, and spider) as well as plants, trees, mountains, the Earth, and sky, that serve as signs leading to faith. In other words, we are expected to view them as miracles of creation. Some of the relevant verses in this context are given below:

Have they not looked at the camel—how it was created? And at the sky—how it was raised up? And at the mountains—how they were embedded? And at the Earth—how it was smoothed out? (Qur’an, 88:17-20)

God is not ashamed to make an example of a gnat or of an even smaller thing. As for those who believe, they know it is the truth from their Lord. But as for those who do not believe, they ask: “What does God mean by this example?” He misguides many by it and guides many by it. But He only misguides the deviators. (Qur’an, 2:26)

Your Lord revealed to the bees: “Build dwellings in the mountains and the trees, and also in the structures that people erect. Then eat from every kind of

fruit and travel the paths of your Lord, which have been made easy for you to follow.” From inside them comes a drink of varying colors, containing healing for humanity. There is certainly a Sign in that for people who reflect. (Qur’an, 16:68-69)

He appointed the Sun to give radiance and the Moon to give light, assigning it phases so that you would know the number of years and the reckoning of time. God did not create these things except with truth. We make the Signs clear for people who know. In the alternation of night and day, and what God has created in the heavens and Earth, there are Signs for people who guard against evil. (Qur’an, 10:5-6)

The signs emphasized in these verses are important means whereby every person who thinks about the subject in an unbiased manner can grasp God’s existence and draw near to Him.

Of course, these signs are not limited to the examples in these verses, for many other entities, both visible and invisible, also serve this same function. An ant walking in a garden, a flower on a table, a cat in a street or in a house, a dog or a bird, our bodies, the order in the Earth and the sky, rain, the atmosphere that both surrounds us and protects us from harmful rays and objects from outer space, and an infinite number of other things—all of these are signs that lead to faith for people who seek to know God. Just as the life of a giant star can be a great proof of faith, so can our bodily organs be signs leading to faith.

All believers are responsible for using God’s verses to understand whatever they see and hear, and to think deeply about them. Every unbiased person is aware of this. Believers also know that they will be unable to account for their behavior if they live among the millions of living things created by God that exist between Earth and the boundless heavens, and yet fail to think about them.

The Qur’an Emphasizes the Signs’ Importance

The Qur’an clearly reveals that human beings were created by God to worship and serve Him, and that they can expect to live eternally in the Hereafter. Furthermore, He calls upon them to think deeply about the proofs that bear witness to these truths. The Qur’an refers to the phenomena and entities that are certain proofs of God’s existence, oneness, and names as “signs.” Just as these are written in the Qur’an, they also exist in the world and in a person’s soul, for: **“There are certainly Signs in Earth for people with certainty, and in yourselves as well. Do you not then see?”** (Qur’an, 51:20-21) The same truth is also stated in other verses:

We will show them Our Signs on the horizon and within themselves, until it is clear to them that it is the truth. Is it not enough for your Lord that He is a witness of everything? (Qur'an, 41:53)

In the heavens and Earth there are certainly Signs for the believers. (Qur'an, 45:3)

Among His Signs is the creation of the heavens and Earth and all the creatures He has spread about in them ... (Qur'an, 42:29)

These proofs are not restricted to the Qur'an, but are found everywhere around us. Whether it be a bird alighting on a tree branch, a flower in a garden, or a star in the sky, everything we encounter constitutes a message sent by our Lord to be read in our souls. From this point of view, even a single flower represents an entire letter bearing a message from our Creator to those who can read it.

On the other hand, some signs leading to faith confirm that the Qur'an is the word of God, for God revealed a great many of these signs in a miraculous manner 1,400 years ago. Among these signs are such facts as the expansion of the universe and its creation from nothing, the separation of Earth from the sky, the orbits of heavenly bodies, the Earth's round shape, the sky's role as a protective shield, the atmosphere's layers, the formation of rain, the existence of erosive winds, and why the oceans do not mix with each other. All of these facts have been confirmed by modern science. The fact that information unknown to anyone at the time of the Qur'an's revelation is set out clearly in its verses once again demonstrates that the Qur'an is the word of God.

Thinking and Acquiring Knowledge for Deep Thought

Unbiased people know that everything around them constitutes a proof of faith. They are aware that a seagull diving into the sea to catch its prey, a tiny ant walking on the ground, an apple tree that produces fruit every year, or clouds that remain suspended in the air despite weighing several tons—in short, everything they see—are proofs of God's existence.

The Qur'an refers to two other important features that lead to these signs being deepened and understood: thinking deeply and possessing knowledge.

- In the Qur'an, God constantly calls on people to think about the proofs of creation in the skies, on Earth, and in all that lies between—in other words, about the signs leading to faith:

In the creation of the heavens and Earth, and the alternation of the night and day, and the ships that sail the seas to people's benefit, and the water that God sends down from the sky—by which He brings Earth to life when it was dead and scatters about in it creatures of every kind—and the varying direction of the winds, and the clouds subservient between heaven and Earth, there are Signs for people who use their intellect. (Qur'an, 2:164)

Several verses state that God expects us to think deeply about what He has created and to learn about the limits He has imposed upon us. All living and non-living things have been created in a way that is designed to encourage us to ponder His superior power of creation, art, and knowledge. As the verses above indicate, everything has been created for a purpose. Ignoring and failing to give these matters their due importance means turning one's back upon His verses, something that all believers must avoid. Indeed, the Qur'an emphasizes that those who turn their backs on God's verses and the proofs of creation are unbelievers.

The importance of constantly thinking about these signs to an individual's growth and certainty of belief is emphasized in many verses, such as:

In the creation of the heavens and Earth, and the alternation of night and day, there are Signs for people with intelligence: those who remember God, standing, sitting, and lying on their sides, and reflect on the creation of the heavens and Earth: "Our Lord, You have not created this for nothing. Glory be to You! So safeguard us from the punishment of the Fire." (Qur'an, 3:190-191)

God has revealed that the signs leading to faith have a great significance for thinking people. However, the thinking referred to here does not consist of such clichéd reactions as "How splendidly God has created these" or "What a magnificent animal." We must think long and hard, as well as deeply and in a wide-ranging manner, about what God has created so that we can identify the wisdom and detail in that creation and thus bear witness to His infinite knowledge, might, and artistry.

One method that can be employed is that of questioning and comparing the entities and phenomena around us. In one verse, God gives us an example of such thinking:

If We had willed, We could have made it [the water that you drink] bitter. So will you not give thanks? (Qur'an, 56:70)

Water, a blessing that covers much of the Earth, almost always can be found with ease. The great majority of people have perhaps never even thought once about the water they drink every day. They regard water's existence and how it meets our needs as

something that does not require any consideration. The fact is, however, that water's physical and chemical properties could have been very different, had God so willed.

In addition, the atmosphere's structure or temperature could have been different. If that were the case, there would be no clouds and thus no sources of fresh water on Earth. All we would have is the oceans' salt water, in which case humanity either would not have survived or would have done so only in a state of great difficulty and constant crisis. Without fresh water, there would have been no agriculture, and the world would have become a vast desert whose only product is famine. Yet God gave us fresh water just about everywhere in the world. For this, we must thank Him.

But to genuinely feel and express that gratitude, first of all we must realize that water is a blessing. This, in turn, depends on "thinking." The example of water applies to all natural entities, living things, and phenomena around us, each of which is a blessing from God. Yet in order to comprehend this, we need to ask: "What would have happened had things been different?" and make the necessary comparisons. And along with this, we must understand that God has created the most delicate balances in all things. The importance of thinking about natural phenomena and "using one's reason" with regard to them is described in another verse:

And in the alternation of night and day, and in the provision God sends down from the sky, bringing Earth to life by it after it has died, and in the varying direction of the winds, there are Signs for people who use their intellect. (Qur'an, 45:5)

Those "people who use their intellect" are believers, because both intelligence and reason are acquired only through faith. Since unbelievers are bereft of reason, they cannot comprehend His signs and so pass by these countless proofs without seeing any of them. Indeed, unbelievers are characterized by a lack of interest in the countless signs in Earth and sky and by behaving as if they were unaware of them. As the Qur'an states:

How many Signs there are in the heavens and Earth! Yet they pass them by, turning away from them. Most of them do not believe in God without associating others with Him. (Qur'an, 12:105-06)

- The second feature required in acquiring a deeper appreciation and understanding of the signs leading to faith is possessing knowledge. But in order to see a subject as a sign leading to faith, there is no need to know its most striking aspects or to have wide and detailed information about it. Rational people, upon looking around themselves, immediately realize the extraordinary nature of what they see and that everything has a Creator. When they see an insect, such as a dragonfly, they know that it has a Creator. The mere existence of a living thing is enough to understand that it is a sign leading to

faith. Thinking about the detailed information one can gather about that creature is a means whereby faith and enthusiasm can be increased.

Let's recall the example of water. We know how important this substance is for our lives. Yet when we possess basic physical, chemical, and geographical information about water, we can better comprehend its importance. When we consider its properties in greater detail, we can clearly see that from its properties of freezing, expansion, and viscosity to its chemical properties, water has been created in the most ideal way to support human life. (For more details, see Harun Yahya, *The Creation of the Universe*, Al-Attique Publishers Inc., Canada, 2000.) This, in turn, is a means to increase our depth of thinking and gratitude.

Both a small child with very limited information and a superbly educated professor who has spent years studying can both see and witness God's signs when they approach the matter with sincerity and an unbiased view. However, in order for people to think deeply about those entities that they cannot see, they require wide-ranging information. With regard to what they can see, they need to learn about them in order to deepen their consideration. Otherwise, their consideration will remain with fixed bounds and may, at times, be superficial. For example, those who have no knowledge of the systems in space but who nevertheless look up at the sky and ponder them will inevitably have different thoughts than those who have a deep knowledge of astronomy. Similarly, the way in which someone with a broad knowledge of the human body's physiology and anatomy comprehends the fine detail, miracles, and marvels apparent in humanity's creation will be deeper and broader than that of someone with no knowledge of the subject. Indeed, God informs us that from the point of view of reasoning and comprehension, those with knowledge are superior to those who have no knowledge:

Such metaphors—We devise them for humanity, but only those with knowledge understand them. (Qur'an, 29:43)

Among His Signs is the creation of the heavens and Earth and the variety of your languages and colors. There are certainly Signs in that for those who know. (Qur'an, 30:22)

What about the one who spends the night hours in prayer, prostrating and standing up, mindful of the Hereafter, hoping for the mercy of his Lord? Say: "Are they the same—those who know and those who do not know?" It is only people of intelligence who pay heed. (Qur'an, 39:9)

However, we need to recall that "information" unaccompanied by the intellect, conscience, and foresight necessary to interpret it, does not lead a person to the truth. The detailed knowledge possessed by a sincere unbiased person is important in his or

her quest to know God better and to draw closer to Him. Thus, today's advances in science and technology help us see and witness the knowledge, wisdom, artistry, and fine detail in God's creation from a much closer observation point.

Thanks to such advances, the miracles and beauties in God's creation are beginning to emerge more clearly and in greater detail. People who acquire this information and evaluate it in the light of the wisdom and beauty in God's creation become even more amazed at His infinite might.

CHAPTER 2

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SIGNS LEADING TO FAITH

Signs Leading to Faith Help People Acquire Faith

Signs leading to faith are one of the most important means that lead people to belief. Those without faith live in deep heedlessness and cannot see any of the surrounding proofs of creation. As their societies have moved away from religion, their minds have drowned in the details of day-to-day life, and their perceptions and consciousness have become so weak that they cannot recognize these countless proofs. But as long as such people are sincere and unbiased, there is hope that when they are told of the signs leading to faith, they will believe in God's existence and oneness, that He created all that exists from nothing, and perceive His infinite knowledge and might.

Since this world is a place of testing, it would be a mistake to expect to witness such a great miracle that would force everyone to choose faith whether they wanted to or not. For example, if a seed thrown onto the ground sprouted into a giant tree in a matter of seconds, the people who witnessed it would describe it as a great miracle. However, since billions of trees do the same thing, but only very gradually, this does not create the impression of a miracle at first sight.

Let's consider another example. Imagine that the human body, which ages as one grows older, suddenly aged before one's eyes. If a new-born baby grew rapidly and became fully developed within a few minutes, matured, and grew old, this would be something astonishing and encourage those who witnessed it to think. And yet this actually happens—the only difference is the time span. The fact that such miraculous phenomena actually take place so slowly that we almost do not recognize them may appear to be something very ordinary to people whose attention, consciousness, and imagination are weak. However, such phenomena are miracles, regardless of the amount of time involved. In order to be aware of these miracles, we need to examine their details in a sincere and open-minded way so that we can see the wisdom and fine calculations within those details.

The Qur'an tells us that those who are heedless cannot see that everything that exists, including their own bodies, are miracles:

Do you not see that God sends down water from the sky and threads it through the ground to emerge as springs, and then by it brings forth crops of varying colors, which then wither and you see them turning yellow, and then

He makes them into broken stubble? There is a reminder in that for people of intelligence. (Qur'an, 39:21)

Providing a detailed account of these signs, in all of their perfection and detail, is very important, for such an account helps unbelievers overcome their usual heedlessness. If their attention is drawn to these signs with which everyone is familiar and which few people bother to consider, then they will experience a consciousness of faith, the awakening of their conscience, and the elimination of unbelief's superstitious suggestions.

The first thing that comes to the mind of these newly aware people is that these signs could not have come about by chance or be self-generated. Thus, they will realize and believe in the existence of God, the Lord of infinite might Who created them.

Signs Leading to Faith Deepen Belief

Signs leading to faith are not only important to unbelievers, but also to deepening the believers' understanding and belief. In the Qur'an, God emphasizes the importance of His signs by commanding believers to think deeply about the proofs of creation He displays throughout the universe.

In addition to praying, fasting, and fulfilling their other religious obligations, sincere believers must be able to think deeply. Pondering the proofs of creation in "the heavens and Earth," which the Qur'an tells us to do, enables believers to increase their faith by acquiring definitive information about it. The Qur'an also reveals that the proofs of God's existence are directed toward faith with sure knowledge:

There are certainly Signs in the earth for people with certainty, and in yourselves as well. Do you not then see? (Qur'an, 51:20-21)

This verse states that the signs leading to faith, which are visible both in this world and in one's body, will lead people to belief by enabling them to acquire sure and certain knowledge. Such a faith will lead to a greater fear [and awareness] of God, which will cause believers to abide by His commands and prohibitions in a more conscientious manner. As they perform their religious obligations in submission to God, those who ponder the proofs of creation will come to believe that God sees all of their deeds and will reward them for their good actions. Similarly, the fact that God knows even their slightest sin will lead them to repent and strive to abandon these sins.

God calls on believers in the following terms:

O you who believe! Have fear [and awareness] of God, seek the means of drawing near to Him, and strive in His Way so that, hopefully, you will be successful. (Qur'an, 5:35)

As revealed in this verse, trying to draw closer to God is a means of hoping for salvation. Therefore, the signs leading to faith are means that help believers draw closer to Him by acquiring a deeper comprehension and understanding of His existence and nature. For instance, meditating on the living beings He has created, as well as observing and thinking about their perfect internal structures and systems, enable people to witness God's infinite might and power from a closer vantage point.

For example, people who learn about the human body's magnificent structures see the clear evidence of God's existence and artistry, and realize that everything, including their own bodies, is His work and is controlled by Him at every moment. At the same time, they draw closer to God by comprehending their own helplessness. Feeling themselves moving ever closer to God causes them to turn more toward gaining His mercy and good pleasure. For instance, they decide to use the time that they formerly wasted in ways designed to gain His good pleasure and perform their religious observations with greater enthusiasm.

Finally, signs leading to faith play a most important role in moving from a superficial and imitative faith to an unshakeable and powerful one.

Signs Leading to Faith Defeat Atheism

In our own time, atheists and all enemies of religion are making intense efforts to deny God's existence and oneness. In return, God offers believers many proofs and means that they can use to defeat and overcome these distorted and misguided philosophies. Signs leading to faith head the list of these proofs.

The greatest untruth asserted by those who deny God is that everything, living or otherwise, came about as the result of chance. In order to invalidate this superstitious belief and bring the proofs of creation into the light of day, we need to study and explain these signs according to the tenets and practices of modern science. Unbiased people who come to see the magnificent structures in living things, as well as the extraordinary systems and countless delicate balances in the universe, realize that these cannot have come about by chance and that God created everything through His infinite might. Thus, the unbelievers' claim that all of creation is the result of chance are swept aside. As the Qur'an tells us: **"Say: 'Truth has come and falsehood has vanished. Falsehood is always bound to vanish'"** (Qur'an, 17:81).

Those who are unaware of the signs leading to faith are defenseless in the face of atheism's assertions. For example, all of us have seen people who were raised in

conservative families and received a religious upbringing rapidly lose their faith during their high school or university years because of what they hear and see around them. The reason for this is that atheists adorn their superstitious beliefs with “reason and science” in order to portray themselves as people who know everything about nature and the universe, who have grasped the laws of life and unearthed all of the relevant facts. In this way, they influence and mislead those people with conservative upbringings but who are unaware of the signs leading to faith, for their faith is not built on sure and certain knowledge.

However, someone who knows about these signs can easily identify and deal with the atheists’ lies and falsehoods. Such people are more useful both to themselves and to those around them. Being unaware of these signs leaves a person defenseless when confronted by atheists, whereas knowing, comprehending, and explaining these signs makes them intellectually superior to all forms of atheism.

Signs Leading to Faith Enable Us to Appreciate God Properly

Thinking deeply about the signs leading to faith and seeing how they reflect God’s names allows one to move closer to Him. Thanks to this virtue acquired by those who begin to know God better and see His manifestations in all places, they come to appreciate His might.

For instance, those with a deep knowledge of and concentration on the signs leading to faith understand that God controls all people and knows each moment of their lives. The body’s trillions of cell, as well as the bodies of all people and of all the living things, exist and survive only by His will. Clearly, such a system can continue only because an infinite power, knowledge, intelligence, and reason—God—exists. Just thinking deeply about this one point enables people to witness His names from a closer vantage point and to appreciate His might properly.

After citing the example of a tiny fly as a sign leading to faith, God speaks of those who are heedless of these truths and do not properly appreciate His might:

O humanity! An example has been given, so listen to it carefully. Those whom you call upon besides God are not even able to create a single fly, even if they were to join together to do it. And if a fly steals something from them, they cannot get it back. How feeble are both the seeker and the sought! They do not measure God with His true measure. God is All-Strong, Almighty. (Qur’an, 22:73-74)

While referring in other verses to those who do not think about these signs, God says that these people have no fear of Him:

Say: “Who provides for you out of heaven and Earth? Who controls hearing and sight? Who brings forth the living from the dead and the dead from the living? Who directs the whole affair?” They will say: “God.” Say: “So will you not guard against evil?” That is God, your Lord, the Truth, and what is there after truth except misguidance? So how have you been distracted? (Qur’an, 10:31-32)

As can be seen from these verses, researching, learning about, and meditating on the signs leading to faith are means of understanding, with sure and certain knowledge, God’s absolute control and dominion over all of creation. This understanding leads to submission to God. Believers who ponder the body’s many systems and delicate balances understand that the body itself did not establish these perfectly functioning systems. They realize that the body is a collection of cells formed from atoms devoid of any consciousness, sensory organs, and reasoning ability. Given this reality, they form the sure opinion that everything in their bodies, down to the single cell and even the single atom, functions at His command and by His will. Thus, there is no place for chance or coincidence in any phase of any phenomenon.

Only Those With Knowledge Fear God as They Should

Researching and acquiring information about these signs and thinking about them gradually leads to a deep accumulation of knowledge. People with such knowledge “grow profoundly in knowledge” or “possess knowledge,” in the words of the Qur’an. And, these same people witness that God encompasses all places and that there is no deity but Him:

God bears witness that there is no deity but Him, as do the angels and the people of knowledge, upholding justice. There is no deity but Him, the Almighty, the All-Wise. (Qur’an, 3:18)

People who possess knowledge see His manifestations at every moment in their own bodies and all around them. For example, people who know that a tiny ant performs its duty with perfect obedience and proficiency, and that it has a planned and flawless working system to carry food back to the colony, see God’s superior mind and might in every ant.

People with knowledge who acquire a closer knowledge of God by thinking deeply about these signs acquire a better understanding of His great might and power.

However, those with only a little knowledge of these signs think that it is enough simply to say: “How well God has created this” when they see a bird flying, for example. Those with knowledge, on the other hand, know that the birds’ wings are designed for flight, that they fly in a “V” formation to conserve energy, and that their feathers’ have a special design. In short, they are aware that everything in each bird, from flight to reproduction, from the shape of their feathers to their colors, was created within God’s superior order and design.

But when such people see a new-born baby, they just say, “What a pretty baby. May God give it a long life.” Of course, remembering God when looking at a baby is excellent behavior. However, it is much better to consider the developmental phases that this baby will go through, to remember that God created all of these phases, and to praise and thank God. In fact, people with true knowledge think about the miraculous aspects of a baby’s pre-birth stages and the extraordinary nature of a single sperm reaching the egg that is so far away from it, remember that these two cells from two different bodies come together in perfect harmony, and see the perfection of how they turn into a seeing, hearing, and thinking human being. When they consider examples of such superior creative artistry, their faith in the face of God’s superior power and knowledge grows. Their fear [and awareness] of God also grows and is strengthened to the same degree that they feel His names. This characteristic is revealed thus in the Qur’an:

... Only those of His servants with knowledge have fear of God. God is Almighty, Ever-Forgiving. (Qur’an 35:28)

The Qur’an praises the people of knowledge for such superior qualities. All believers must seek to achieve this same level. To that end, they must see all of the events they experience and all of the entities with which they come into contact as signs leading to faith, and then think deeply about them.

Signs Leading to Faith Broaden a Person’s Mental Horizons

Learning and thinking about the signs leading to faith, as well as understanding their wisdom and detail, are very important to broadening a person’s mental horizons.

In our own time, people live monotonous and restricted lives in the suffocating atmosphere of crowded cities. They cannot see the signs leading to faith that surround them, and ignore them even if they do see them. Yet for believers, everything is a sign leading to faith. Knowing that God created the order in the universe, they evaluate all living or non-living entities from that perspective. For example, even nonbelievers are signs leading to faith, for God revealed in the Qur’an that there will be such people.

Moreover, their unbelief, despite His clear existence, is a means to increase the believers' fear [and awareness] of God and encourage them to thank Him for the gift of faith. In terms of these signs, believers do not think only about the astonishing features of trees, flowers, or animals, but also about the facilities created by God (e.g., transport vehicles, telephones, or computers) as more signs leading to faith. They know that they all exist with God's permission and thank Him for the way in which they make life easier.

The tense, angry, weary, thoughtless, crude, and disrespectful behavior we see all around us comes from those people who are unaware that God has created all things. However, those who interpret everything as signs leading to faith and duly think about these, grow and broaden in spiritual terms.

In the Qur'an, God compares people who lack spiritual depth and understanding, as well as those who think along narrow lines and with simple logic, to the "Badawis" (bedouins). These were nomadic Arabs, in the days of our Prophet (May God bless him and grant him peace), as opposed to urbanized Arabs. While they had literary and aesthetic cultures, the bedouins were an ignorant, hard, and crude-natured lot. Having such a nature is a major obstacle to understanding and living by religion. That is why God states:

The desert Arabs are more obdurate in disbelief and hypocrisy, and more likely not to know the limits that God has sent down to His Messenger. God is All-Knowing, All-Wise. (Qur'an, 9:97)

The "bedouin character" represents ignorance, thoughtlessness, and vulgarity. In order to put that character right, people need to work to become cultured, deep-thinking, and capable of comprehending the superior artistry and wisdom in God's creation. Studying, learning and thinking about, and interpreting the signs leading to faith is the basis of what God requires from us. In one verse, He describes this feature of Muslims as follows:

[People with intelligence are] those who remember God, standing, sitting and lying on their sides, and reflect on the creation of the heavens and Earth: "Our Lord, You have not created this for nothing. Glory be to You! So safeguard us from the punishment of the Fire." (Qur'an, 3:191)

Conclusion

So far, we have considered how the signs leading to faith enable people to have faith by knowing Him better. We have mentioned how they increase believers' faith, implant an unshakeable faith in their hearts, and allow them to appreciate God properly.

All of these qualities engendered by learning and thinking deeply about these signs increase believers' fear [and awareness] of God, and causes them to adhere to God's commands and prohibitions in a more enthusiastic and conscious manner. For that reason, they are a means of attaining God's mercy, which consists of God's gifts of what is auspicious, abundance, beauty, knowledge, wisdom, peace, joy and happiness, an increase in reason, and the granting of blessings. In the Hereafter, on the other hand, it means salvation from the eternal suffering of Hell and attaining the infinite blessings of Paradise and God's constant compassion.

Paradise consists of different levels, which believers reach according to the level of their faith. Therefore, believers who grow within the signs of faith bear closer witness to His infinite names and so possess an unadulterated and superior faith based on sure and certain knowledge. These people are, by His will, superior to the same extent in the levels of Paradise. (And God knows best.)

Believers who study and learn about these signs will be rewarded with high ranks in Paradise, by His will, on account of their deep thinking and trembling fear [and awareness] of God:

The believers are those whose hearts tremble when God is mentioned, whose faith is increased when His Signs are recited to them, and who put their trust in their Lord; those who perform prayer and give of what We have provided for them. They are, in truth, the believers. They have high ranks with their Lord, as well as forgiveness and generous provision. (Qur'an, 8:2-4)

CHAPTER 3

ISLAMIC SCHOLARS AND THE SIGNS LEADING TO FAITH

One important source that reveals these signs' importance and shows how they are to be interpreted is the works of past and present great Islamic scholars. These holy people, who lived and thought in complete obedience to the Qur'an and Sunnah, attached great importance to this activity. In their works, they always gave pride of place to the signs leading to faith. In this chapter, we look at some of their examples and ideas.

Imam Ghazali

Imam Ghazali (1058-1111), an Islamic scholar from Khurasan, was considered one of the sharpest intellects of his time, as well as the *mujaddid* (renovator) of his time (a great scholar referred to in the hadiths and sent at the beginning of every Islamic century to teach the signs of faith according to the requirements of the age). His broad knowledge, superior intellect, and powerful judgment caused his fame to spread throughout the Islamic world and even in the West. Imam Ghazali effectively invalidated those beliefs that are distant from the Qur'an's morality and the ideas of several contemporary thinkers, particularly those influenced by classical Greek philosophy, and kept faith alive in the face of such errors.

In all of his teachings and discourses, this famous scholar gave broad and detailed consideration to the signs leading to faith. Some examples of the signs in his works and some of his pronouncements on their importance are as follows:

No ruler can administer his country in a manner that is more orderly than God's order, Who ensures the regulation of the dominions of the heavens, Earth, and this universe. No one is more excellent and perfect than God. This being the case, is there a more delicious glance than looking at Him? Then one realizes that knowing God and His secrets is more delicious than any other information.

The taste of the heart is knowing God, the Glorious. Each sensory organ has something from which it derives pleasure and taste. For the eye, it is to see beautiful things; for the ear, it is to hear pleasurable things; and for lust (desire), it consists of such things as tasting good things or gaining victory over foes. The more one proceeds on the way to knowing Him, the more taste he/she acquires. What could be more delicious than the craft that manifests the attributes and names, secrets and divine purposes, works and artistry, sovereignty and majesty of God, the Creator and Owner of

the universe? What could be greater than being close to Him and having the honor and happiness of knowing Him? ¹

Humanity, who is created from a drop of water, is one of God's signs... Think of your previous state and what you have become. If jinn and human beings had come together, could they have created an eye, an ear, or power, science or soul, or wisdom from a drop of water? Could they have created bones, veins, nerves, skin, or hair? These aside, once God created all of them, they would fail to understand a human being's beauty and nature, and the essence of his/her existence...

Look at what God has bestowed and His grandeur, that glorious power and His purposes, and how they embrace human beings. It is a wonder that someone who admires a work of art thinks about the artist's talents and expresses his glorious artistry and skills. However, they do not think of God's artistry and purpose when they look at this magnificent universe and what has been created.²

The Sun, Moon, stars, cloud, rain, wind, and all powers in nature... are all under God's sway and command. They are like the pens in a clerk's hand.³

In the sky, there are many stars hundreds of times larger than Earth. They look like a single dot, for they are so far away. This fact reveals the greatness of the heavens. Despite their haughtiness, all of these stars are seen as very small in your eyes. For this very reason, you can grasp the mightiness and sovereignty of the One Who creates them all.⁴

Take a look at these numerous stars... their movements, spins, and their spinning speeds are all different. Some rotate once a year, some every 12 years, and others every 30 years. The astounding knowledge there is immense. ... Any attempt to convey the knowledge provided by God about this issue in this short life of the world would continue for days.⁵

Turn your face to the heavens; to the stars in the sky, to how they rise and set continuously and without mistake; and to the Sun and the Moon. Consider their regular movements that will continue until the Day of Judgment, as well as their orbits that will never deviate, and take lessons from them! Think about the great number of stars, their shapes and colors. Look at the movement of Sun within a year. Without its rising and setting, there would be no day or night. If there were no difference between them, there would be no seasons. ... Examples are legion. Every entity in the universe has many purposes. If the universe were a house, the heavens would be its roof.⁶

Al-Imam Al-A`zam Abu Hanifa

Abu Hanifa (d. 767), founder of the Hanifa sect and known during his own lifetime as "al-Imam al-A`zam" (The Great Scholar), strove to communicate the message of Islam and teach people God's commandments. The signs leading to faith constituted the most

important method he used to spread Islam and prove God's existence. As an example of just how much importance this great scholar attached to these signs, consider the following dialogue with an atheist (a naturalist or materialist who does not believe the Hereafter):

When Abu Hanifa, who lived on the opposite shore of Baghdad, failed to take his place at the hour for debate, various questions arose in the mind of the atheist and the crowd. Everyone wondered: "Why hasn't he come? Will he really not come? Is he afraid? Has he been unable to find any proof?" and so on. Al-Imam al-A`zam arrived shortly after the appointed time. The atheist had been encouraged by this, and his arrogance and pride had grown...

Abu Hanifa apologized and began to explain why he was late: "I could not find a boat to carry me from the other shore. I began waiting, thinking that perhaps a skiff or a raft would come. ... At that moment, I saw that the trees suddenly fall over, turn themselves into timber, and the timber become a skiff. And then I saw an oar and a sail create themselves and assume their proper forms. I was delighted that I would no longer have to keep you waiting and so jumped into the skiff, which then brought me here by itself..."

The atheist and the crowd were unable to understand these words. The atheist, who believed that everything was created by nature, said that it was impossible for such an event to take place ... which was just what al-Imam al-A`zam had been expecting ...

Smiling, he replied: "How can you accept that a tiny skiff cannot come into being of its own accord without a builder and an artist, and yet you still believe that this magnificent universe could have come into being of its own accord, without a maker or a creator? The universe is the work of God, not of itself. There is no need to initiate a debate and dispute when all this is so apparent." ⁷

Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani

Like other Islamic scholars, al-Jilani (1077-1166) (known as al-Gawth [the arch-helper] of al-Imam al-A`zam), who lived in the eleventh century, attached great importance to the signs leading to faith. In his works, he called on people to consider the proofs of God. Various statements from his work *The Divine Gift* demonstrate this importance:

Every atom in the universe contains beautiful artistry. Each of these beautiful arts are proofs that demonstrate His existence, and everyone who adheres to them can reach God. Think deeply. As your thoughts deepen, you will rise and grow.⁸

Bediuzzaman Said Nursi

The great scholar Bediuzzaman Said Nursi (1880-1960), regarded as the *mujaddid* of the last Islamic century, speaks of the importance of these signs throughout his Qur'anic commentary *The Risale-i Nur Collection*:

There is a palace with a hundred doors, all closed. When one of its doors is opened, the palace may be entered and the other doors opened. If all of the doors are open and one or two are closed, it may not be said that the palace cannot be entered. Thus, the truths of belief are the palace. Each evidence is a key; it proves the truths and opens a door. If one of the doors remains closed, the truths of belief cannot be abandoned and denied. Satan, however, as a consequence of certain things or by means of heedlessness or ignorance, points out a door that has remained closed, thus causing a person to disregard all of the positive evidence. Saying: "See, this palace cannot be entered. Perhaps it is not a palace, and there is nothing inside it," he deceives the person.⁹

In his *Mektubat* (Letters), he emphasized the importance of adhering to the signs leading to faith in our own time and said that many previous Islamic scholars, if they were alive today, would concentrate on freeing peoples' faith by teaching them about these signs:

In his Letters (*Mektubat*), Imam-i Rabbani (may God be pleased with him), the hero and a sun of the Naqshbandi Order, said: "I prefer the unfolding of a single matter of the truths of belief to thousands of illuminations, ecstasies, and instances of wonder-working." He also said: "The final point of all the ways is the clarification and unfolding of the truths of belief." ... In which case, the Naqshi way consists of three "veils": The first and most important is direct service to the truths of belief; Imam-i Rabbani traveled this way in his later years ...

Since the reality of the matter is thus, my conjecture is that if persons like Shaykh 'Abd al-Qadir Jilani (may God be pleased with him) and Shah Naqshband (may God be pleased with him) and Imam-i Rabbani (may God be pleased with him) were alive at the present time, they would expend all of their effort in strengthening the truths of belief and tenets of Islam, for they are the means to eternal happiness. If there is deficiency in them, it results in eternal misery.¹⁰

In other writings, Bediuzzaman refers to these signs' importance in the following terms:

At this time the truths of belief must be the first objective, the first duty, and the fundamental aim. Everything else remains in the second, third, and fourth place. Serving them with *the Risale-i Nur* must be the primary duty, subject of concern, and fundamental aim ... Those scholars outside the frame of *the Risale-i Nur*, and perhaps holy men too because of their links to this political and social life, leave the importance of the truths of belief to the second or third place and, under the influence of those tendencies, even come to love those hypocrites who share the same ideas with them ... I think that while the true students of *the Risale-i Nur* are fulfilling their duty to explain the truths of belief at the level of eternal diamonds, their holy tasks must not be interrupted, and their minds must not be confused with the chess-like games of the cruel.¹¹

Furthermore, one passage expresses the importance he attached to the signs leading to faith:

According to Bediuzzaman, the fundamental problem was for a person to perceive himself, other beings, the universe, and those of his kind within the axis of faith. The most important task is to bring that about ... Making that analysis, Bediuzzaman then developed his remedial method, the essence and summary of which is “inquiring faith.” It was time to raise people on the axis of “inquiring faith” who would be enriched by the technology of the age. This could be done by education.¹²

In his *Tabiat Risalesi*, Bediuzzaman devoted considerable space to the signs leading to faith. In his *Barla Letters*, he explained that one of *the Risale-i Nur's* most important features was its ability to silence materialist and naturalist intellectual trends by leading people to think deeply on the signs:

Against the destructions wreaked on hearts by leftist currents, *the Risale-i Nur Collection*, serving as a spiritual miracle of the Qur'an and a spiritual atomic bomb against our time's unbelief, mends the spirit of hearts and imparts an astounding power and basis of might into its readers' hearts. Moreover, it does so with the inspiration and guidance of the Qur'an. With the lessons it provides on contemplation over faith, it points to the light of God's Oneness for the issues that have stumped the naturalists and materialists. It explains the truths of belief with illustrations and evidence from the material world. It arises as a sun and provides the proof for the truths of belief for the very same matters in the high school and university science curricula. For such reasons, in our time *the Risale-i Nur Collection* is a spiritual diamond sword in the hands of the faithful that needs to be primarily undertaken by the people of faith and Islam. The lessons of the Qur'an, the common signs of knowing God, come through the knowledge and inspiration of the verses that address themselves to the awareness of the age, and the recognition and understanding of the time. It brings the most proper style to a person's needs and instructs.¹³

In many of his other works, the master drew attention to the proofs of faith in the creation of the universe and living things, saying that everything was a proof displaying God's superior might. Other of Bediuzzaman's statements about signs leading to faith are given below:

O man who is addicted to enjoyment and pleasure! I am seventy-five years old, and I know with utter certainty from thousands of experiences, proofs, and events that true enjoyment, pain-free pleasure, grief-free joy, and life's happiness are only to be found in belief and in the sphere of the truths of faith. While a single worldly pleasure yields numerous pains, as though dealing ten slaps for a single grape, it drives away all of life's pleasure.¹⁴

It is unlikely that a book, whose words hold the entire book within itself and whose letters hold an entire line within themselves, can come into being without the existence of an author. Likewise, the existence of the Book of the Universe depends on the existence of God, the Ever-Lasting.¹⁵

No unbiased being in the universe can deny God, the All-Glorious, Who has as many witnesses as the components of the universe ... If it did, it would remain silent and indifferent, for the whole universe would deny it.¹⁶

Just as an ordinary machine, with its orderly and measured unity, reveals the existence of a skilful and scrupulous craftsman, each one of the countless (living) machines crowding the universe indicates thousands of miracles of wisdom. To the degree of the Sun's light, the glowworm's light brightly testifies that those living beings exist due to the existence of their skilful and eternal Master, and that He deserves to be worshipped.¹⁷

... Since an orderly act cannot occur without an author, a meaningful book cannot be without a scribe, and a beautiful piece of embroidery cannot be woven without an embroiderer, the purposeful acts which fill the universe surely have an author, and the meaningful letters and amazing embroideries which cover the face of the Earth and are renewed from season to season have a scribe and an embroiderer.¹⁸

There are three great and universal things which make our Sustainer known to us. One is the Book of the Universe ... another is the Seal of the Prophets (May God bless them), the supreme sign of the Book of the Universe. The other is the Qur'an of Mighty Stature.¹⁹

Come, my friend! Now we shall leave these particular matters and turn our attention to the mutual positions of the parts of this wondrous world in the form of a palace. Look! Universal works are being carried out, and general revolutions are occurring in this world with such order that all of the rocks, soil, trees, in fact everything in this palace, observe the universal systems of the world and conform to them as if each were acting with its own will.²⁰

All of these fruits and the seeds within them are miracles of Divine wisdom, wonders of Divine art, gifts of Divine mercy, material proofs of Divine unity, and bearers of the good news that Divine favors will be granted in the Hereafter. Just as they are all truthful witnesses to His all-embracing power and knowledge, each of them is a mirror confirming His unity in all the corners of the world of multiplicity and in all the parts of the world of this tree, a world that has become multiple. They turn the gaze from multiplicity to unity.²¹

Thus, if your mind is not submerged in delusions, you will understand that to make a word of power (e.g., a honey-bee) a minute index of most things, and to write in one page (e.g., a person) most of the matters in this Book of the Universe, and to include in one point (e.g., a tiny fig seed), the program of the mighty fig-tree, and to display in a single letter (e.g., the human heart) the works of all the Divine Names manifested in the pages of the macrocosm which encompass it, and to place in the human faculty of memory, which is situated in a place the size of a lentil, writings enough to fill a library, and to include in that tiny faculty a detailed index of all events in the cosmos—to do all of these things is most certainly a stamp particular to the Creator of All Things, the Glorious Sustainer of the universe.²²

Mehmed Zahid Kotku

Mehmed Zahid Kotku (1897-1980), spent his life guiding people with his wise words, teaching, and serving the Qur'an. Taking the Qur'an as his guide, he told all who would listen of the signs leading to faith, incontrovertible proofs of God's existence. Some examples of his writings are given below:

For thinking people, there are countless warnings and portents to be pondered on Earth and in the sky regarding God's existence and oneness. Looking at Earth and sky again and again, and drawing warnings and feelings from them, will definitely be a means of turning to God.²³

Can we know the type and number of God's creatures on Earth, in the sky, in the sea, and in the air? Nobody other than our Creator—God—can know their number. In particular, think of those things that we call germs, which so frighten us, are invisible to the naked eye, and threaten people, animals, and even our fruits. We cannot defeat them. Is their existence not enough to prove His existence and oneness? How is it that these tiny creatures can suddenly cause a person to lay down on the ground and eventually die? This is, of course, a lesson for thinking people.²⁴

Islamic scholars have always placed the signs leading to faith at the forefront of their message. As can be seen from the above passages, Islamic scholars have thought long and hard about these signs and then called on people to understand them as proofs of His existence and to think about His names.

We must take their considerations as models and learn more about, study, and interpret the signs leading to faith by using all of the scientific and technological possibilities available to us.

CHAPTER 4

THE SIGNS LEADING TO FAITH REFUTE ATHEISM AND MATERIALISM

Compared to previous times, ours is the one in which rebellion against God and denial of religion have reached the highest levels and spread far afield. Even the existence of God and the fact of creation are denied.

Up until the nineteenth century, both in the West and in the East, atheism was supported only by marginalized individuals and groups. But since that time, a systematic and planned campaign has been waged to impose atheism on as many people as possible. This campaign is led by those circles who support a materialist ideology and worldview. Their atheistic beliefs and teachings have managed to infiltrate the most remote corners of society, thanks to the widespread use of developing science, media, and other means of communication.

The most effective answer to this materialist and ideological assault is explaining the signs leading to faith to people. But first let's take a brief look at the materialists' claims and the theory of evolution.

The Corruption of the Age: Materialist Thought and the Theory of Evolution

In our day, the greatest and widest intellectual movement denying God's existence and the fact of creation is materialism. Its "scientific" foundation is Darwin's theory of evolution. Although bereft of any scientific and logical evidence, and despite being totally irrational and unscientific, this theory's adherents continue to spread its assertions all over the world through propaganda, forgery, and deception. This major intellectual movement, which destroys peoples' belief in God and makes them atheists, is known as Darwinism.

The well-known atheist and evolutionist professor Richard Dawkins sums this up in the following words: "Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist."²⁵

Today, there is probably no person in the West or in the East, including all Muslim countries, who has not heard of this theory. In fact, its truth is so taken for granted that it appears in school textbooks, is inculcated in our children, and misguides them into believing that human beings came into being by chance and evolved from apes. Society is brainwashed, from primary school to university, with evolutionist falsehoods.

One hadith of our Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace); *"One kind of corruption will surface, from which no party will be able to protect itself, and spread*

immediately in all directions..."²⁶ may be pointing to this situation. Indeed, this theory's nonsensical claims have now spread worldwide due to advances in communication technology (e.g., the press, broadcasting, the Internet, and satellite communications). No other intellectual system has ever waged war on God's existence, creation, and religion on such a vast scale.

For all of these reasons, humanity's greatest enemy is Darwinism and its related ideologies. When analyzed in some detail, Darwinism shows itself to be the major source behind all of the irreligious and immoral trends prevailing in society today. On the level of ideas, Darwinism lies at the root of the pressure being inflicted on Muslims today, their lack of belief, and the avalanche of immorality and social degeneration seen throughout the world.

The Root of Misguided Value Judgments: Darwinism

The theory of evolution maintains that "living things evolve as the result of chance and thanks to the struggle for survival." Thus, "nobody is responsible to anybody else, you owe your life to coincidences, you need to fight to survive and, if necessary, trample others underfoot, for this world is a place of conflict and self-interest." These misguided beliefs have given rise to such concepts as "natural selection," "the fight for survival," and "the survival of the fittest" in both the biological and social arenas.

In order to see just how effective this propaganda is, look at contemporary society's value judgments. Most people live for this world and spend their time trying to carve out a good career for themselves, acquire property and money, enjoy themselves, and "emerge victorious from the struggle for survival." Young people, in particular, consider having a luxurious house and car and enjoying unrestricted spending to be among their greatest ideals. Such people never question why they exist or think about God. They live as if they were not created beings who have certain responsibilities toward their Creator. Although some of them may be unaware of the Darwinism's various theories and claims, they look at life through that very logic, thanks to certain circles.

This worldview encourages people to be selfish, pursue only their own interests, and be ruthless and cruel. In fact, it destroys such virtues as affection, compassion, self-sacrifice, and humility and then presents this destruction as a requirement of "the laws of nature." Clearly, such a misguided view will wreak terrible damage on the world.

Those who fall under the influence of this atheistic ideology think that Darwinism is a scientific fact, believe in it blindly, and regard religion as "a traditional popular belief." Indeed, when they are asked: **"What has your Lord sent down?"** the unbelievers: **"Myths and legends of previous peoples"** (Qur'an, 16:24).

However, Islam is a clear and evident truth that has nothing to do with tradition, for it is the path by which people turn, or return to, their Creator: God. But those who are misled by Darwinism or have fallen under the influence of this “religion” have become so biased and deluded that they cannot comprehend this truth. Only the signs leading to faith, which expose this superstitious religion for what it is, eliminate it, and thereby raise the curtain of heedlessness from society’s eyes, provide the intellectual means that can overthrow Darwinism and materialist philosophy.

The Most Effective Means: Signs Leading to Faith

Learning about, explaining, and telling people about the signs leading to faith—the proofs of God’s existence—are the most effective tools for disproving the theory of evolution, which ascribes the existence of humanity and all living beings to chance. Only they show, by totally undermining the evolutionists’ chance-based theories, the presence of a conscious design and reveal God’s matchless and superior creation.

For example, the eye is one of these signs, one that has represented an insurmountable obstacle to evolutionists ever since Darwin said: “I remember well the time when the thought of the eye made me cold all over.”²⁷ One can better understand why evolutionists are so keen to avoid discussing the eye after examining its structure. The eye possesses a very complex structure made up of a large number of organelles and components. Its functions are amazingly detailed and complex. The eye emerges as a result of the different organelles and components that comprise it and that work in harmony. Despite this, evolutionists maintain that all existing organs came into being by themselves over time. The eye’s requirement that all of its different organelles be present fully formed and working perfectly means that no such chance-based process could have taken place.

An eye that cannot secrete tears will soon dry up and go blind. Furthermore, a tear’s antiseptic properties protect the eye against germs. Evolutionists are unwilling to consider how the eye, which would dry up in a matter of hours in the absence of tears, managed to wait for millions of years until the tear glands emerged. In order for the eye to fulfill its function, it needs a body that has all of its systems and organs in place, as well as such tissues and organelles as the cornea, iris, pupil, lens, retina, choroid, eye muscles, and eyelid. In addition, in the absence of the superb network of nerves that connects the eye and the brain, and without the exceedingly complex visual center in the brain, we would be unable to see. Moreover, all of these parts have such special and complex structures that they could never have come into being by chance.

Consider the following facts: If any organelle, such as the lens, were absent, or if the positions of the lens and the pupil were changed, the eye would be unable to fulfill its function of sight. In short, the eye’s structure is the work of very special planning. There

is only one valid and logical explanation of how these organelles and strata, not one of which could have come about unaided and by chance, adhere to such a specific plan, work in such harmony, and exist in the same place: God, Lord of infinite intelligence and might, creates all of these organelles.

Given that the eye cannot generate itself or come about by chance, how could an entire living organism do so? The invented and nonsensical ideas upon which Darwinian theory rests are evident.

Clearly, Darwinism is the intellectual basis of superstitions, denial, and amoral conceptions. For that reason, disseminating the signs leading to faith as widely as possible will eliminate Darwinism's superstitious intellectual system. To cite the Qur'an:

Rather, We hurl the truth against falsehood and it cuts right through its brain and it vanishes clean away! Woe without end for you for what you portray! (Qur'an, 21:18)

The Qur'an informs us that the signs leading to faith defeat and eliminate all superstitious ideas. Darwinism's falsehoods and superstitious ideas will also disappear with the revelation of the absolute truth, the signs leading to faith, and their dissemination among people. Indeed, this process has long since begun among scientists.

The West Is Rediscovering the Signs

Most of the scientists who oppose the theory of evolution and believe it to be mistaken are American. Such scientists adhere to the concept of “intelligent design,” broadly defined as the belief life did not emerge by chance, but was “designed” by an entity possessing reason and consciousness. Over the last 20 years, in particular, they have published hundreds of books and papers and held a similar number of scientific panels and conferences. In addition, they produce a journal, *Origins and Design*, that contains a great deal of information, presented in an academic and scientific manner, that invalidate Darwinian claims. One of the most prominent people in this movement is Michael Behe, a professor of biochemistry, whose book *Darwin’s Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution* has been translated into many languages.

The Intelligent Design movement begins with the facts that we refer to as “signs leading to faith”: the evident “design” in the systems of living and non-living things that cannot be accounted for by coincidence and that are the work of the Creator. The movement’s leading scientists maintain that the universe’s flawless and delicate balances, the complex organs and systems found in living things, or the molecular world’s complex structures prove the existence of a Creator. Moreover, the materialists and Darwinists cannot refute their proofs. This movement has led many people in the scientific world and society at large to realize that the theory of evolution is a deception.

The concept of intelligent design is actually the western world’s rediscovery of the signs leading to faith, which formed one of the fundamental concepts of western science right up until the time of Darwin (1809-82). Many great scientists, such as Johannes Kepler (1571-1630), Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), Baron Georges Cuvier (1769-1832), and Carolus Linnaeus (1707-78), studied the universe or living things with the intention of “seeing the proofs of God.” William Paley’s (1743-1805) book *Natural Theology: or, Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity, Collected from the Appearances of Nature*, includes a great many signs of faith described from the perspective of design. In the introduction, he mentioned a watch, saying that nobody could imagine that nature could have created this by chance, thereby inferring that every watch proved the existence of a watchmaker. Following that, he examined the organs of living things, saying that each of these had a far more complex design than a watch and that this proved God’s existence.

Darwin targeted this concept and attempted to eliminate it by claiming that living things were not “signs leading to faith” but the result of chance and that nature had created them. His claims elicited a great response, because at that time people did not know how complex living things truly are. Moreover, sufficient experiments on and observations of nature had not been carried out, and people did not realize that the effects described by Darwin as “the evolutionary mechanisms of nature” had no developmental power at all.

Since Darwin's time, western science has discovered these facts one by one. Interestingly, instead of proving Darwinism, they actually revealed what a grave deception that theory is. (One of the strongest present-day proponents of the theory of evolution, Richard Dawkins, attempted a last-ditch defense of this claim in his book *The Blind Watchmaker*, but failed.) Science proved that Paley's opinion was correct and that living things were indeed "signs leading to faith." Behe stresses this in his book:

Who has answered his [Paley's] argument? How was the watch produced without an intelligent designer? ... Paley has actually never been refuted. Neither Darwin nor Dawkins, neither science nor philosophy, has explained how an irreducibly complex system such as a watch might be produced without a designer.²⁸

The rediscovery will have a deep influence upon both the scientific world and the world in general. By this means, the materialist philosophy of Darwinism will be overthrown, and people will comprehend God's existence and begin to live by His teachings. The disasters and tragedies inflicted on the world by unbelief will disappear, as will the fascist, communist, or capitalist ideologies encouraged by Darwinism, and the proper moral values of religion will prevail.

The key to this transformation consists of learning about, understanding, and explaining the signs of faith to all people. These signs will, if God wills, eliminate the unbeliever's falsehoods and the modern age's deceptions, in the same way that Prophet Moses' (May God bless him) staff swallowed up the Egyptian magicians' illusory serpents.

CHAPTER 5

EXAMPLES OF SIGNS LEADING TO FAITH

One can encounter these signs in any place that is accessible to our five senses. Large or small, living or non-living, every created thing contains a path leading to the Creator, which indicates that there are an infinite number of signs leading to faith. Those believers who wish to be closer to God and be welcomed to a high degree in Paradise must strive to acquire knowledge of these signs, think deeply about them to hone their certainty and reinforce their faith, and live by the moral values that are pleasing to God.

Those who realize the importance of these signs as they read this book will begin to learn and think deeply about them. Therefore, we have devoted some space to just a few of the millions of the proofs of faith to help these readers.

PROOFS OF FAITH FROM OUR OWN BODIES

As you read these words, millions of processes are going on in your body to calculate the needs of specific cells in specific bodily regions, to set out the functions they need to perform, to take the measures necessary to meet the cells' needs, and to tell the cells what to do.

For example, the eye's cells need glucose for nutrition. To that end, a particular bodily system identifies the amount of sugar in your blood and maintains it at the same level. The number of times your heart needs to beat every minute, the levels of the calcium stored in your bones, the amount of blood filtered every minute by your kidneys, and thousands of similar details are all calculated and organized with careful planning and thanks to the communication network among the cells.

Just one bodily system is responsible for all of this: the hormone system, a chemical communication system that allows the body's 100 trillion cells to work in harmony. This system enables coordination between the nervous system and the body's cells. If we compare the nervous system to messages sent over the Internet, then the hormone system resembles messages sent by letter; slower, but more effective in the long run. Let's now consider how the hormone system affects the body's growth.

Proportionate Growth

By the age of one, a baby is twice as heavy and twice as tall as when it was born. As the years pass, it continues to gain weight and grow in height with extraordinary speed.²⁹ This miraculous growth takes place thanks to perfect communication among our cells. Our bodies are managed, on our behalf, by a chemical communication system.

The system's message bearers (hormones) carry messages backward and forward among the cells. This process keeps us alive.

The Miracle of Growth

The pituitary gland, a small, pink piece of flesh about the size of a chickpea, is connected to the hypothalamus region, located underneath the brain, by a small stalk. This connection allows it to receive instructions directly from the hypothalamus and thus produce the requisite number of hormones and make the necessary bodily adjustments. One of these adjustments is growth.

A person's growth assumes two different forms: an increase in the volume of certain cells, and the division and multiplication of cells. The growth hormone brings about and directs both processes. Secreted by the pituitary gland, this hormone affects all of the body's cells. Every cell understands the message it receives from the pituitary gland. If growth is necessary, it grows; if it needs to divide and multiply, it does so.

For instance, a new-born baby's heart is about one-sixteenth the size of an adult's,³⁰ even though the total number of cells in both hearts is the same. The growth hormone, which affects the heart cells individually during the growth process, commands every cell to grow to the necessary extent. As the heart grows, it turns into an adult, human heart.

Other cells, such as muscle and bone cells, divide and multiply throughout the developmental period. Again, the growth hormone is responsible for telling them how much they need to divide.³¹

The growth hormone's great affect on each cell is an exceedingly great miracle. Were only some cells to follow its instructions, the result would be crippling. For example, if the heart cells grew in the manner dictated by the growth hormone and the ribcage's cells refused to do so, the growing heart would be so constricted within the non-growing ribcage that the person would die. Or, if the bridge of the nose grew while the skin did not, the bridge would burst through the skin.

All of the muscles, bones, organs, and the skin grow in harmony with one another. This flawless harmony is ensured by each individual cell's obeying the growth hormone. That being the case, we need to ask how this chick-pea-sized gland comes to know the necessary formula for a cell's division or growth.

At this point, the flawlessness and perfection of God's creation emerges once again. Cells in a tiny region bring about the division and growth of trillions of other cells within a specific order. Yet these cells do not see the human body from the outside or know how much it needs to grow or what stage it has reached. These unconscious cells produce the growth hormone, within the darkness of the body, without knowing what it is that they are doing. Furthermore, they also halt production at the appropriate time.

All of these intricate details about the growth hormone and all of these interconnected balances indicate a single truth: God created humanity at a specific time and in a flawless manner. In fact, God reveals the superior nature of His creation in the following verse:

He is God—the Creator, the Maker, the Giver of Form. To Him belong the Most Beautiful Names. Everything in the heavens and Earth glorifies Him. He is the Almighty, the All-Wise. (Qur'an, 59:24)

Super Regulators: Enzymes

No one can count the number of processes carried out in living things in a single second. They are so detailed that every stage requires the intervention of “super regulators” that can control all of the complexity involved, provide the order in which they take place, and accelerate events. Each of the thousands of super regulators, known as enzymes, serves a specific purpose, such as helping DNA to replicate itself, breaking down foodstuffs, creating energy from food, bringing about molecular chains from simple molecules, and so on. They also maintain the order within a living being's body.

Enzymes are produced by the mitochondria located within the cell. Their larger regions consist of proteins, whereas the rest consist of vitamins and vitamin-like substances. If these enzymes did not exist, the body could not function. At the least, the body's functions would slow down almost to the stopping point. In either case, the person would die due to his or her inability to breathe, eat, digest, or speak. In short, life as we know it would be impossible.

The enzymes' most important task is to initiate, halt, and accelerate various chemical reactions in the body. As the cells carry out their functions, the chemicals within them undergo certain reactions that require the presence of high temperatures to get started. But such high temperatures threaten and even kill cells. This is where enzymes become essential.

Enzymes, which undergo no chemical reactions themselves, initiate or accelerate chemical reactions without the need for high temperatures. For instance, the enzyme that cleans the carbon dioxide from our blood enables us to stay alive without suffocating. Known as “carbonic anhydrase,” it speeds up the carbon dioxide cleansing process by 10 million times.³² At this speed, enzymes cause changes in 36 million molecules a minute.³³

How Do Enzymes Know What To Do?

Enzymes both accelerate vital reactions to the highest possible speed and also use the body's energy in the most economic manner. If we think of the human body as a factory and of the enzymes as the means of production, no source of energy could meet that factory's needs, for the amount of energy needed for the trillions of machines to work flawlessly would be very high. It follows, therefore, that in order to carry out a simple reaction, a cell needs a high temperature and a considerable amount of energy.

Yet the silently working enzymes fulfill their functions by using the energy they take from the body and its nutriments. This feature alone is sufficient to reveal that these are highly skilled personnel designed to make every reaction flawless and usable. At this very moment, many enzymes are controlling the reactions taking place throughout your body and bringing them up to a speed that allows your cells to stay alive.

Although a person is unaware of what is going on in his body, enzymes are both aware and make the most essential and timely interventions into all these processes. Moreover, every enzyme accelerates specific chemical reactions inside the body without any mistake, for each enzyme has been specially produced for its own task. For example, although many enzymes are effective in neutral liquid environments, those enzymes charged with digesting foodstuffs in the stomach can operate only in acidic environments.

Why Do Enzymes Only Initiate Specific Reactions?

All enzymes are compatible with the substances that they affect. They locate and adhere to a compatible substance in a most conscious manner, just like a key and a lock, within a complex three-dimensional geometry. Enzymes resemble hunters that, located throughout the body, wait for the appropriate substance. They are all in the correct place, well suited to their own design and properties, and avoid harmful environments or those that will render them ineffective. The way that they assume such responsibilities as initiating or accelerating all reactions requires separate consideration.

In the absence of any obstructive factor, enzymes initiate and accelerate all of the body's reactions. This leads to the excess production of a particular protein, for instance, or to the disruption of various balances inside the cell. Thus, the cell regulates the enzyme's activities by "deciding" that its activities need to be halted and then "distracting" the enzyme with extraordinary consciousness and planning. To do this, it sends a substance similar to that to which the enzyme normally attaches itself and thus prevents unnecessary activity for a certain amount of time. As this imitative substance needs to compete with the real substance to attract the enzyme, this process of obstructing the enzyme is known as "competitive inhibition." As a result, the enzyme's activities are temporarily halted until the product formed is reduced to a specific level.

Such phenomena cannot be glossed over in a single reading. First and foremost, recall that educated, conscious, and responsible human beings do not make the above calculations, take decisions, and put the plans into action; rather, all of this is done by proteins, fats, carbohydrates, and vitamins that consist of inanimate atoms. As if carrying out a stock control, the cell identifies how much of a particular substance it produces and, when it decides that enough has been produced, implements a most intelligent plan to prevent overproduction.

The cell's production of an imitative substance to distract the enzyme and its ability to send it just at the appropriate moment is a most conscious activity, for if these

imitative substances were always present, they would hinder production at inappropriate times. However, cells also achieve perfect timing. Such behavior, which requires perfect organization, intelligence, and information, is performed by tiny molecules that are invisible to the naked eye, surely an indication of God's artistry in creation. Clearly, all of these entities act according to His commands.

Tiny Hairs That Allow Cells To Move

Another example of a sign leading to faith is the tiny eyelash-like hairs whose sole function is to allow the cell to move. For example, each cell in each respiratory channel has a hundred of these hairs. By moving in concert all at once, rather like the oars of a ship, these hairs allow the cell to move forward.

- When cut perpendicularly, a hair is shown to consist of nine separate rods (microchips).

- These rods, known as micro-tubes, consist of two interconnected links.

- One of these links consists of 13 separate fibers, and the other of 10.

- The micro-tubes are produced by a protein known as tubulin.

- The micro-tubes have two protrusions, the inner and outer arm, which contain a protein called dynein. This protein serves as an engine among the cells and gives rise to a mechanical force.

- The molecules making up the tubulin are arranged just like bricks and give rise to a cylindrical structure within the cell. However, the arrangement of the tubulin molecules is far more complex than mere bricks.

- Two more micro-tubes in the middle of the tiny hairs stand alone and consist of 13 tubulin strips.

- There are 10 short protrusions on the upper side of each tubulin, and 10 indentations on the under side, and both of them fit together in order to form a very solid structure. These protrusions and indentations have a very special design, and the slightest imperfection will damage the cell's structure.

This is a very brief summary of the detail in these tiny hairs. All of these parts belong to a single hair, and their only aim is to cause just one cell to move. Each person's respiratory cells contain this complex system. Moreover, this complex and multipart system is the infrastructure of a tiny hair inside a cell, which is itself too small to be seen with the naked eye.

In short, God has installed an exceedingly systematic and complex mechanism in a space that is too small for us to see. How could chance think about making a cell move, establish such a system, and insert it into such a restricted space? This is only possible due to God's superior and infinite reason, knowledge, and might.

Brain Cells That Function Like Expert Anesthetists

Bones are designed to break at their thinnest parts when they encounter high pressure, in order that other bones and organs are not damaged. The body contains a string of precautionary measures for such an occurrence. One of these precautions is the chemical secretion endorphin, which reduces pain during breakage.

The nerves, which are stressed when a bone breaks, send a large number of signals to the brain through the spinal cord. The brain cells then begin to secrete endorphin, a natural anesthetic resembling morphine. This secretion reduces the pain signals to almost zero for the first 10-15 minutes so that the injured person can find enough strength to move away from danger or to take precautionary measures.

How did these cells, all of which are bereft of consciousness, information, hands, eyes, or brains, learn the chemical formula for endorphin? How do they know when to secrete it? Why do they never secrete it at the wrong time? The body carries out a great number of other astonishing and perfect processes built upon an exceedingly finely detailed plan. Only Almighty God could give these unconscious cells the intelligence needed to carry out these functions.

The Body's Flawless Systems Prove God's Might

The nutriment mixture that reaches the intestines after being digested in the stomach contains some rather powerful acids. This acidic environment represents a serious danger to the duodenum, which, unlike the stomach, has no protective layer. That being the case, why is the duodenum not harmed?

When the acid levels reach a dangerous level, the cells in the duodenum's wall secrete a hormone known as secretin. This hormone then mixes with the blood, reaches the pancreas, and stimulates it so that it will send bicarbonate molecules to this region to eliminate the danger. Thanks to these molecules, the stomach acid is neutralized and the duodenum is protected.³⁴

This protective mechanism gives rise to several questions, such as:

- How do the duodenum cells know that the needed bicarbonate molecules are found in the pancreas?
- How does the pancreas know the formula for and have the ability to make the bicarbonate molecules to neutralize the acids?
- How can the pancreas understand the danger signal from the duodenum?

As every rational person knows, cells cannot think, do not possess will power, and cannot take decisions. Therefore, how can they be aware of another organ's features or produce formulae? Clearly, only God, the Lord of the Worlds, creates the cells and their superior properties. With this flawless functioning in their own bodies, God shows people the infinite nature of His might and knowledge.

A 1-gram DNA Molecule Equals 1 Trillion CDs of Data

Engineers designing the computers of the future describe the human genome as an “unachievable” design. Why?

The DNA in the nucleus of every cell in the human body stores all of a person’s characteristics. DNA possesses such an unimaginably superior design and data storage capacity that 1 gram of a DNA molecule contains the same amount of data as 1 trillion CDs.³⁵ Bearing in mind that one CD contains as much information as hundreds of books, one can better appreciate DNA’s information storage capacity.

The DNA molecule has existed in all human beings and every animal, without exception, since they were first created. This reveals the superior nature of our creation. The fact that all of the data concerning the structure of living things is contained in atoms set out according to a specific code in such a minute space again demonstrates the matchless power and infinite intellect of God, the Creator of all.

EXAMPLES OF SIGNS OF FAITH FROM LIVING THINGS

The Acorn Weevil’s Boring Mechanism

A person needs tools to hole in acorn, and yet there is one tiny insect that spends its whole life doing just that without any difficulty. The acorn weevil, which has a tube on its head that is longer than its abdomen, lives on valonia, the woody fruit of an oak tree. At the edge of this tube is a minute but very sharp saw tooth.

In normal times, this insect keeps its tube at the same angle as its body so that it can walk. When it climbs an oak tree, it lowers the tube toward it in order to rest the tube’s saw-like edge on the acorn. Moving the tube by turning its head to the left and right, it begins to bore a hole in the acorn. The insect’s head, which is ideally designed for this purpose, exhibits an extraordinary freedom of movement.

As the insect conducts its drilling, it also feeds itself by eating the fruit inside the acorn. However, it does not touch the larger part of the fruit, but rather keeps it for its as-yet unborn young. When the drilling process is completed, the insect deposits an egg in the channel opened in the acorn. The egg gradually turns into a larva, which starts to eat the acorn. The more it eats, the more it grows, and the more it grows, the more it eats. Thus, it continues to make enough room for itself within the acorn.

This continues until the acorn falls from the branch. The noise and violent motion it makes as it falls tell the larva that the time has come for it to emerge. Thanks to its strong teeth, it enlarges the hole and emerges through it. The first thing it does after this is to bury itself some 25-30 cm (12 inches) underground. Here, it will undergo the pupa stage and wait for between one and five years. When it emerges as a fully formed adult

weevil, it begins drilling acorns. The variation in the pupa stage depends on the maturation of new acorns.³⁶

This insect's interesting life is just one of the proofs that invalidates the theory of evolution and shows the flawless design with which God created living things. Close inspection reveals that all of the insect's mechanisms were constructed according to a specific plan. The drilling tube, the sharp teeth at its end, and the flexible head structure that allows the tube to be used cannot be accounted for by chance or natural selection. If the drilling process were not carried out flawlessly, then the drilling tube would be an impediment, and hence a disadvantage. Therefore, it cannot be claimed that this tool developed in stages.

The larva has to have teeth powerful enough to pierce the acorn's skin, has to "know" that it needs to burrow into the ground the moment it emerges from the acorn, and has to have the "patience" to wait there. Otherwise, it would die and the species would become extinct. These realities cannot be explained in terms of chance, but rather reveal that this tiny creature was created by a superior intelligence. God created this tiny creature, with all of its flawless organs and flawless instincts, because He is **"the Maker."** (Qur'an, 2:54)

An Interesting Plant: The Bladderwort

How can a living thing feed itself if it has no legs but is a carnivore? We can find the best answer to this question in the bladderwort plant.

The bladderwort, or *Utricularia*, is a water plant that has three secretor glands in its sac-like traps. The first of these, the spherical secretor glands, are on the traps' external face, while the other two types (the "four-armed glands" and "two-armed glands") are found on the traps' internal faces. These glands function as the different stages of a most fascinating trap. First of all, the glands on the internal face go into action when their tiny hairs pump water out of the bladderwort, thereby creating a vacuum within the plant.

At its mouth is a valve that prevents any sea water from re-entering. The hairs on this valve are very touch-sensitive. If an insect or another organism in the water touches them, the valve suddenly opens and causes a powerful water current to rush into the empty bladder. The valve then closes before the victim knows what is happening. The whole process takes place in about one-thousandth of a second, and immediately afterwards the glands begin to secrete substances to digest the trapped prey.³⁷

Every bladderwort possesses this same perfect design and the same internal glands, and the hairs on the valves all have the same sensitivity to touch. So how did this mechanism come into being? How did it happen that all members of this species of water plant have exactly the same features?

Evolutionists assert that such features are all the result of coincidence. Yet this design actually points to one single truth: Living things emerged all at once, in full

possession of all of their features. Only Almighty God could create all living things as we see them today.

Sharks' Unique Heating Systems

White sharks, which catch their prey by following it with their eyes, experience no difficulty when swimming off hot coral shores. In cold ocean waters, however, their vision should be impaired by the cold.

Under normal conditions, their eyes should find it difficult to follow their prey, since chemical reactions slow them down under the influence of the cold water. Yet white sharks never encounter such difficulties, for while they are cold-blooded, the heat from their body's muscles is directed straight to the eyes. Thus, they can catch the fastest swimming fish and even seals.³⁸

Yet how do other shark species, whose vision is too weak in cold waters to follow their prey, manage to find food? The answer to this question introduces us to the perfect design in sharks.

Sharks Are Sensitive to Electrical Currents

All living things give off electricity and heat. Those creatures that live in darkness find it hard to perceive these currents, because the air serves as an insulator. However, water is a natural conductor of electricity, which means that animals that can sense that electricity have a most effective sense perception. Sharks have this advantage to such an extent that they can perceive all vibrations in the water, changes in water temperature and salinity levels, and especially minute changes in electrical currents given off by moving creatures.³⁹

A shark's body contains a large number of gel-filled grooves. These grooves are particularly concentrated at the head, from where they extend right through the animals' bodies. Known as the "ampullae of Lorenzini," these magnificent electrical receivers are used by both sharks and skates to find their prey. These organs are connected to stoma (pores) in the animal's head and snout. As electro-receptors, these are so sensitive that they can perceive currents as small as 20 billionths of a volt.

This is an extraordinary ability. Think of the batteries in your home. Sharks can detect the current given off by one of these 1.5 volt batteries from a distance of 3,000 kilometres (1,800 miles).⁴⁰

The information provided so far shows that sharks possess extraordinarily complex bodily systems. Most of their systems and organs function together to such an extent that the others could not function if one were absent. For example, the lack or disablement of even one of the components of this electro-receptor system would mean that the ampullae of Lorenzini could not function as intended.

Despite this manifest truth, the theory of evolution would have us believe that "primitive sharks" did not possess these electro-receptors in the way their modern-day

counterparts do, and that this perfect system only developed gradually over time. However, the illogical nature of this assumption is evident, for sharks could not survive without this system. Moreover, such a perfect system could not have developed over time, for the body muscles that transfer heat directly to the eyes, as well as the systems that perceive electrical waves with such extraordinary sensitivity, must have emerged as a whole.

Thus, this system could not have come about in stages, as evolutionists maintain, for the intermediate stages would serve no purpose. The fossil record indeed confirms this: There is absolutely no difference between shark fossils dating back millions of years and present-day specimens.

In addition to the ampullae of Lorenzini, the sharks' respiratory systems, which function as the magnetic receptors that allow them to find their way, and their ability to swim at high speeds are all miracles of creation. As with all other living things, God has created sharks in an absolutely flawless form.

Such facts are all means that encourage people to think deeply about the beauties created by God. There are lessons to be learned from animals, for as the Qur'an states:

Among His signs is the creation of the heavens and Earth and all the creatures He has spread about in them... (Qur'an, 42:29)

A 150-Ton Military Plane Imitates a 2-Gram Moth

Each AWACS plane is designed to establish the moment and direction of an attack before it is launched. These planes, designed by hundreds of scientists and engineers in facilities costing hundreds of millions of dollars, use giant radar and complex computer systems to monitor the activities of enemies located far away. One living thing in nature displays a comparable ability: the moth, which weighs no more than 2-2.5 grams.

Some species of moth are equipped with "early warning" systems, just like those in AWACS planes. Thanks to the ears underneath their wings, they can hear sound waves emitted by bats (their enemies) from as far away as 100 meters (330 feet). This allows them to identify their enemies' coordinates and decide whether an attack aimed at them has been initiated or not.

On the one hand we have an AWACS plane, weighing 150 tons and having a wingspan of 40 meters and a height of 44 meters, and, on the other hand, a moth weighing only a few grams, with a wingspan of 2.5 centimeters and a height of 2 centimeters. Both possess the same technological features. Furthermore, an AWACS plane requires 9.5 tons of fuel, while the moth can make do with a few milligrams of nectar. Kilometers of cable are used for its radar and computer systems, while just two short fibers are enough for a moth's perfect perception system.

These early warning systems, which are the accumulation of centuries of scientific experience and can only be fitted into planes weighing many tons, take place in an area

no larger than the head of a match under the wings of a moth weighing only a few grams. Such a miraculous system, which people find very difficult to imitate even by pooling all their resources, has been flawlessly created in a tiny moth. God, the Creator of all, is the Lord and Ruler of the entire universe. Our Lord's name of *al-Malik (The Sovereign, The King)* is revealed in one verse, as follows:

Exalted be God, the King, the Real. There is no deity but Him, Lord of the Noble Throne. (Qur'an, 23:116)

A Fly's Ear and Hearing Aids

One species of fly, known as *Ormia ochracea*, lays its larvae on crickets, in which the larvae develop and kill. It is not easy to find a cricket in a forested area. This particular fly, however, is able to do this very easily thanks to its ears, which are specially designed for the purpose.

The human brain uses the same method to determine the direction of sounds. The sound reaches the closer ear first, and then the one that is further away. The brain calculates the time difference between the sound reaching the two ears, and thus identifies the direction from which it came. In human beings, this calculation is performed in 10 milliseconds. The fly *Ormia*, however, performs the same calculation in a brain no larger than a pinhead 1,000 times faster.⁴¹

The designs in nature have always represented an infinite source of inspiration. Many modern technological products actually imitate designs in nature. Obviously, copying systems that have functioned flawlessly for millions of years makes things a great deal easier for designers. For example, attempts are being made to imitate the perfect design in this fly's ear in hearing aids and similar implements, under the name of *Ormiphone*. Such designs, which people can only imitate, demonstrate that the power of creation belongs to God alone.

Computer Chip Warming and Butterfly Wings

There is a miracle in the design of a butterfly's wing. A study carried out at Tufts University revealed that each wing contains a special cooling system. Since butterflies are cold-blooded, they have to regulate their body temperature constantly. This represents a major problem, because as they fly, high temperatures develop in their wings. However, this problem is resolved when the blood passes through thin film-like structures in the wings. The surplus heat that forms in the butterfly's body is thus expelled as the blood flows through these delicate vessels.⁴²

This special cooling system, when compared to that in computer chips, was observed to be far more efficient. As computer chip technology develops, the problem of heat worsens. Faster chips mean greater heat. The problem of eliminating this heat is being studied by

computer chip manufacturers. They plan to bring the technology in butterflies' wings into production within the next two years.

Scientists model their designs according to what they see in nature. In short, the matchless systems in living things show the way to further technological progress and new solutions.

A New Objective: The Soundless Flight of Owls

The research carried out by American Air Force scientists to develop the stealth bomber airplane is based upon the matchless design found in an owl's wings. Owls can approach their prey at the dead of night without being detected due to the special design of their wings. Other bird species have rather sharp-edged wings; however, an owl's feathers have a very fine—but not at all sharp—design. This allows these nocturnal hunters to fly without making a sound.

According to statements from the NASA's Langley Research Center, an owl's soft-fringed wings prevent air turbulence, which laypeople call noise. Military designers have imitated owl wings in their quest for devising even more silent and secretive stealth bombers.⁴³ Each of these designs is a sign leading to faith, for it reveals the matchless artistry of God's creation.

Plants That Defend Themselves

Many plant species give off chemical substances when they are attacked by caterpillars. Thanks to these chemicals, insects eating caterpillars are attracted to the area and protect the plants. For instance, the leaves of the tobacco plant that grows in Utah (USA) are attacked frequently by the caterpillar that will later become the *Manduca quinquemaculata* moth. The wild tobacco plant "analyses" the caterpillar eating its leaves and, "realizing" that it is being damaged, immediately initiates its defense system by giving off air-borne volatile organic compounds. Thanks to these chemicals, the insect *Geocoris* is attracted to the area and begins to eat the caterpillars.⁴⁴

In this way, harvest-damaging caterpillars are eliminated by means of an indirect strategy and superior intelligence. However, we need to ask:

- How does the plant know that it is being damaged?
- How does it analyze the caterpillar's saliva and determine from which insect it needs to protect itself?
- How does it produce the air-borne chemical substance to attract the insect *Geocoris* to the area?

Of course, no plant can prepare such an intelligent strategy to protect itself. Only God, the Lord of the Worlds Who creates the plants with their flawless properties, can inspire in them what they need to do to protect themselves.

Proofs of God's Existence Are Everywhere

As the above examples have shown, the manifestations of God's great might and knowledge over His creation are evident. No unbiased person who reads about the signs leading to faith can claim that these creatures came about by chance or by themselves.

As in these examples, there are additional billions of signs leading to faith, from the sky to plants, from the human cell to the structures so expertly built by animals. Therefore, one comes across these signs everywhere he or she looks. In fact, it would be more accurate to say that we live constantly surrounded by such signs, for God created His servants' bodies, which house many signs, so that we may recall His existence at every moment.

That being the case, all assertions that God does not exist merely reveal those people's heedlessness, which blinds their eyes and clouds their reason, together with the scale of that heedlessness. God reveals the situation of these people, as follows:

Say: "Who provides for you out of heaven and Earth? Who controls hearing and sight? Who brings forth the living from the dead and the dead from the living? Who directs the whole affair?" They will say: "God." Say: "So will you not guard against evil?" That is God, your Lord, the Truth, and what is there after truth except misguidance? So how have you been distracted? (Qur'an, 10:31-32)

No one with an unbiased mind and eyes to see can ever turn his or her back on or deny the proofs of God's existence.

CONCLUSION

Thinking deeply about the signs leading to faith is not left up to the person's will; rather, the Qur'an commands us to do so. For that reason, thinking about these signs that encompass the universe is a constant religious observance for believers.

Thanks to the signs leading to faith, which enable believers to feel His existence at every moment and in a most powerful manner, they can better understand His names and their superior nature. Once this deeper understanding is established, they try to draw ever close to Him. Due to the deep understanding stemming from these signs, and because they have seen the infinite nature of God's knowledge and might, they live with a greatly increased fear [and awareness] of Him and with a desire and longing to attain His mercy, compassion, and Paradise. Eventually, if He wills, they depart from this world, in which they appreciated God and hoped for His mercy, and go to live in the palaces of Paradise and the rivers flowing beneath them. One of the verses that inform believers of this good news of Paradise reads as follows:

Whereas those who believe and do right actions, such people are the Companions of the Garden, remaining in it timelessly, forever. (Qur'an, 2:82)

But unbelievers, due to their lack of consciousness and knowledge, heedlessly turn their backs on the manifest proofs of God's existence. The Qur'an reveals the end awaiting them:

But as for those who do not believe and deny Our Signs, they are the Companions of the Fire, remaining in it timelessly, forever. What an evil destination! (Qur'an, 64:10)

In the light of these verses, those who fear Hell and hope for Paradise, with its infinite joys and in which everything their hearts could desire is created in the most perfect and flawless manner, must work to attain our Lord's mercy, friendship, and love by coming to know Him better. To that end, they must acquire a greater knowledge and understanding of His names by pondering deeply on the signs leading to faith. In addition, they must explain these signs to others and become a means whereby they increase their faith. This responsibility is incumbent upon all believers.

They said: "Glory be to You! We have no knowledge except what You have taught us. You are the All-Knowing, the All-Wise." (Qur'an, 2:32)

ADDITIONAL CHAPTER THE DECEPTION OF EVOLUTION

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

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

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

The Scientific Collapse Of Darwinism

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

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

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

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

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

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

The First Insurmountable Step: The Origin Of Life

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

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

"Life Comes From Life"

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

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

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

However, five years after the publication of Darwin's book, Louis Pasteur announced his results after long studies and experiments, that disproved spontaneous generation, a cornerstone of Darwin's theory. In his triumphal lecture at the Sorbonne in 1864, Pasteur said: "Never will the doctrine of spontaneous generation recover from the mortal blow struck by this simple experiment."⁴⁵

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

Inconclusive Efforts In The Twentieth Century

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

Unfortunately, however, the problem of the origin of the cell is perhaps the most obscure point in the whole study of the evolution of organisms.⁴⁶

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.⁴⁷

After a long silence, Miller confessed that the atmosphere medium he used was unrealistic.⁴⁸

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?⁴⁹

The Complex Structure Of Life

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

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

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

A very interesting dilemma emerges at this point: DNA can replicate itself only with the help of some specialized proteins (enzymes). However, the synthesis of these

enzymes can be realized only by the information coded in DNA. As they both depend on each other, they have to exist at the same time for replication. This brings the scenario that life originated by itself to a deadlock. Prof. Leslie Orgel, an evolutionist of repute from the University of San Diego, California, confesses this fact in the September 1994 issue of the *Scientific American* magazine:

It is extremely improbable that proteins and nucleic acids, both of which are structurally complex, arose spontaneously in the same place at the same time. Yet it also seems impossible to have one without the other. And so, at first glance, one might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means.⁵⁰

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

Imaginary Mechanism Of Evolution

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

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

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

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

Natural selection can do nothing until favourable individual differences or variations occur.⁵¹

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.⁵²

However, the laws of inheritance discovered by Gregor Mendel (1822-1884) and verified by the science of genetics, which flourished in the twentieth century, utterly demolished the legend that acquired traits were passed on to subsequent generations. Thus, natural selection fell out of favor as an evolutionary mechanism.

Neo-Darwinism And Mutations

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

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

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

First, genuine mutations are very rare in nature. Secondly, most mutations are harmful since they are random, rather than orderly changes in the structure of genes; any random change in a highly ordered system will be for the worse, not for the better. For example, if an earthquake were to shake a highly ordered structure such as a building, there would be a random change in the framework of the building which, in all probability, would not be an improvement.⁵³

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

The Fossil Record: No Sign Of Intermediate Forms

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

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

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

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

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

If my theory be true, numberless intermediate varieties, linking most closely all of the species of the same group together must assuredly have existed... Consequently, evidence of their former existence could be found only amongst fossil remains.⁵⁴

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.⁵⁵

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.⁵⁶

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

The Tale Of Human Evolution

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

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

Evolutionists call man's so-called first ape-like ancestors *Australopithecus*, which means "South African ape." These living beings are actually nothing but an old ape species that has become extinct. Extensive research done on various *Australopithecus* specimens by two world famous anatomists from England and the USA, namely, Lord Solly Zuckerman and Prof. Charles Oxnard, shows that these apes belonged to an ordinary ape species that became extinct and bore no resemblance to humans.⁵⁷

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."⁵⁸

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.⁵⁹

Moreover, a certain segment of humans classified as *Homo erectus* have lived up until very modern times. *Homo sapiens neandarthalensis* and *Homo sapiens sapiens* (modern man) co-existed in the same region.⁶⁰

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

What has become of our ladder if there are three coexisting lineages of hominids (*A. africanus*, the *robust australopithecines*, and *H. habilis*), none clearly derived from another? Moreover, none of the three display any evolutionary trends during their tenure on Earth.⁶¹

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.⁶²

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

Darwinian Formula!

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

The theory of evolution asserts that life is formed by chance. According to this claim, lifeless and unconscious atoms came together to form the cell and then they somehow formed other living things, including man. Let us think about that. When we bring together the elements that are the building-blocks of life such as carbon, phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium, only a heap is formed. No matter what treatments

it undergoes, this atomic heap cannot form even a single living being. If you like, let us formulate an "experiment" on this subject and let us examine on the behalf of evolutionists what they really claim without pronouncing loudly under the name "Darwinian formula":

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

Briefly, unconscious atoms cannot form the cell by coming together. They cannot take a new decision and divide this cell into two, then take other decisions and create the professors who first invent the electron microscope and then examine their own cell structure under that microscope. Matter is an unconscious, lifeless heap, and it comes to life with God'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 was measured by a precise device at that moment, complete silence would be found to be prevailing there.

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

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

To Whom Does The Consciousness That Sees And Hears Within The Brain Belong?

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

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

For this consciousness is the spirit created by God, 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 God, and fear and seek refuge in Him, for He squeezes the entire universe in a pitch-dark place of a few cubic centimeters in a three-dimensional, colored, shadowy, and luminous form.

A Materialist Faith

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

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

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

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

It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced

by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, so we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.⁶³

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

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

The Theory Of Evolution Is The Most Potent Spell In The World

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

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

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

As for those who do not believe, it makes no difference to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe. God has sealed up their hearts and hearing and over their eyes is a blindfold. They will have a terrible punishment. (Qur'an 2:6-7)

... 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. (Qur'an 7:179)

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!" (Qur'an 15:14-15)

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

In fact, the Qur'an relates the incident of Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) and Pharaoh to show that some people who support atheistic philosophies actually influence others by magic. When Pharaoh was told about the true religion, he told Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) to meet with his own magicians. When Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) 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. (Qur'an, 7:116)

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

We revealed to 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. (Qur'an, 7:117-118)

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

I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books in the future. Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.⁶⁴

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.

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BACK COVER

The Qur'an refers to the phenomena and entities that are certain proofs of God's existence, oneness, and names as "signs." Just as these are written in the Qur'an, they also exist in the world and in a person's soul, for: "There are certainly Signs in Earth for people with certainty, and in yourselves as well. Do you not then see?" (Qur'an, 51:20-21)

Those who use their conscience encounter countless proofs of God's existence, such as brightly colored, sweet-smelling flowers; delicious fruits and vegetables that spring from muddy soil; the sense organs, which enable us to enjoy each created item's unique properties (e.g., smell and taste); the human body with its many complex systems, all of which work in harmony; the Sun, which illuminates and warms, and its ideal size and distance from our Earth; the rain, which brings bone-dry soil to life; and countless other proofs.

Each of these is a "sign leading to faith." In other words, they are miracles of creation and truths that guide people to faith and then increase that faith. Every person who thinks deeply about these proofs will come to faith by clearly seeing these reflections of God's existence and greatness. Thanks to these signs, believers will come to know God better and increase their love for, and fear [and awareness] of Him.

This book seeks to lift the curtain of indifference by dealing with the importance of these signs leading to faith. At the same time, it contains the views of several Islamic scholars of these signs and gives examples of them. Moreover, it also considers how these signs are the most effective way of disproving the superstitious teachings of the theory of evolution, the greatest deception of our time, and one that continues to lead people to atheism in the End Times.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. He studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University, and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on political, faith-related and scientific issues. His main focus has been the refutation of Darwinism and materialism, two modern myths presented under a scientific guise. Harun Yahya's books appeal to all kinds of readers, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, regardless of their age, race, or nationality, for they focus on one objective: to broaden the readers' perspective

by encouraging them to think about a number of critical issues, such as the existence of God and His unity, and to display the decrepit foundations and perverted works of godless systems.