

Assignment No: 1

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NAME THE VARIOUS PROOFS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD. WHICH ARGUMENT IS THE STRONGEST IN YOUR OPINION?

Introduction

Belief in **God** is the first, most essential and central conviction in any religion. The first thing required for a person in many religions is to believe in the existence and unity of God. But, why do we believe that there is a God at all? My answer is; to suppose that there is a God actually explains the reason why this universe exists. This supposition also explains the evolution of Mankind. In fact, the hypothesis of the existence of God makes sense about the whole universe, and it does so better then any other explanation that can be put forward, and this is why it is believed to be true.

Part I: Concept of God - The Religious Dimension

All the religions around the globe have their own concept for the existence of god, salient are as follows: -

<u>Islam</u>

As per Islamic belief, the concept of God is essential, fundamental and uncompromising; God is the sole self-subsisting, all-pervading, eternal and absolute reality. He is the first and the last, either seen or unseen, considered to be supreme; all glory lies to him. He cannot be known or experienced by us living beings. He is transcendent because he is beyond the limitations of time, space and sense-content and Quran gives various clear verses covering details/ proofs regarding existence of God. He is not bounded by time, space and worldly attributions. He is also immanent both in human souls and spatiotemporal order.

In Islam seeking assistance from any other then Allah is totally forbidden and unacceptable. Thus, for a person to be a Muslim believer essentially embodies firm

belief in oneness of God and acceptance of whatever Allah and his Messenger Muhmmad (PBUH) commanded and forbid.

God in Arabic is Allah, which has no plural.

Allah is unique in his essence and attributes with which no one can be associated. He is beyond space and time as He is the Creator of everything including time and space.

He all-powerful, all-knowing and is present everywhere through His knowledge. He is eternal, the Absolute Being and is independent of anyone. Everything requires his essence.

Translation of a few verses of Holy Quran:

"In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the compassionate, Say, He is God, the One God, the Everlasting Refuge, who has not begotten, nor has been begotten, and there is no one equal to Him".

Therefore, He is the only Absolute who is independent of anything or anybody for His existence. The first sentence of Islamic Shahadah is:

"THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAH"

It means that there is only one God worthy to be worshiped. All other Gods(idols) that are worshiped are false. To worship anything else other than one true God is considered a sin of the highest order which is **Shirk (Shirk means to associate something or someone with God in worship or divine servitude)** and it is an **unpardonable sin** in Islam.

Translation of a few verses of Holy Quran:

"Worship Allah and do not, associate others with Him".

"Do not associate others with God; to associate others is a mighty wrong".

"Say [O Muhammad]: Surely Allah is one God. Surely I am free of the other you associate".

"Say! I have only been commanded to worship God, and not to associate anything with Him".

Buddhism

Buddhists, the followers of Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama), do not believe in any divine God neither did Buddha ever call himself a divine God. In order to understand the concept of God in Buddhism, it is important to know that, the views about God and Gods are very contradictory in Buddhism. From a study of the discourses of the Buddha preserved in history, "It is seen that, the idea of a personal deity, a creator God conceived to be eternal is not compatible with the Buddha's teachings."

Throughout his life Buddha remained silent about the existence or non-existence of God; he never denied the existence of God. Buddha was once asked by a person whether God exists? He refused to reply. When asked again and again, he said that if you are suffering from a stomachache would you concentrate on relieving the pain or studying the prescription of the physician.

Buddha said: "It is not my business or yours to find out whether there is God, our business is to remove the sufferings of the world."

Hinduism

Hinduism believes in several God and Goddesses, each having a different purpose.

Christianity & Jewisms

Christianity believes in one God (Jesus Christ), they believe that their god created the universe. The details regarding Jesus Christ are also present in Quran. Whereas, Jews believe in Moses and Quran also contains details of Jewish history.

Conclusions

Each religion has a God, all religions agree on one point that this universe is not present at its own; there's someone out there, actually running the universe. Capable of keeping the heavenly order, changing days and night, giving and maintaining food for existence and subsistence and allowing life for smallest insects, trees, plants and controlling seas and sea life.

To further explore the existence of God, the best way would be to explore scientific work done on this subject. As science believes on verification not hypothesis alone, so this can be more supportive for further strengthening the arguments either for or against existence of God.

Part II: Existence of God and Science

When we think about existence of god, we think about the way this universe was actually created. The evolution in science over the centuries has answered many of these questions, not accurately but enough to make us think that there is someone out there controlling the Universe.

Speaking from Scientific point of view, there can be many possibilities regarding creation, but owing to constraints regarding size of paper we will only consider two possibilities about the creation of this universe; "Universe Existed from eternity" or "Universe was created by a Supreme Lord."

The Universe Existed from Eternity

If we consider the existence of universe from eternity, science proves our claim wrong as it tells us that the present age of the universe is about fifteen billion years old; it is obvious that, if an object's age can be found, it means that the object did not exist from eternity, Hence the first possibility is proven to be false.

The Universe was created by a Supreme Lord

According to a theory, around **15 Billion Years** ago all matter that comprises of this Universe was confined to a extremely hot and dense place which resulted in a Big Bang, the matter got broken into parts which later on formed the galaxies and stars. But this theory leaves one question unanswered, and that is 'Who created the substance that exploded as Big-Bang? Science has failed to answer this question to date.

With the coming of **Second Millennium** the theologians of the medieval west, above all Thomas **Aquinas**, began to produce arguments for the existence of God of considerable length and rigor. This enterprise of natural theology continued uninterrupted in the nineteenth century. Protestants however, believed that the natural world showed abundant evidence of its creator, thought that human sinfulness obscured our ability to recognize this evidence, and that there were better ways of knowing God.

Conclusion

Science provides proof through concrete observable phenomena's and off course there are clear indications regarding so many large-scale universal spectacles' that took centuries to prove but were already included in Quran. So, it will not be wrong to say that, science has established existence of God through

inference or cross-reference but still cannot support the same through a sequential or logical experiment. To conclude, we can find many processes that are clearly indicate the existence of God but to prove the same seems impossible because of extraordinarily large scope as it seems beyond human prowess.

My Strongest Opinion

This world, and the existence of mankind in this universe, points towards a divine creator, who brought forth all of this into existence, is the biggest proof of existence of God. In my opinion the strongest proof for the existence of god is a combination of both our *Fitrah and The Design and Designer Argument*. It is part of human nature that we seek help when we are in trouble, putting all religions aside, whenever in trouble we ask the creator for help, even **atheist call for help in such times**.

In the world around us there are sign for people who use their intellect. The uniform laws in nature which indicates that nothing comes due to coincidence, everything is created precisely, and besides this perfect creation there is a perfect sustaining system for each and everything that remain in a beautiful order rather collapsing.

Without God there would be total chaos in the universe, because even a small city cannot work without ruler and regulations, when there will be no god, the only rule will be the rule of the jungle: 'Might is Right'. On the contrary when we see around us, we come across the wonders God has created for us, Sun is here to produce energy and light, trees to produce oxygen and fruit, animals to produce foods and clothes, the question is who made things like the way they are? Who told them what to do?

For a rational mind everything has a purpose and for sure there is a purpose for life, and there is a **creator** who set this purpose. Now what comes to our mind is that what is the purpose of life? The real answer is only known to the creator himself. But, as per Islam, Allah has shown us from the time of Adam, what he wants from us, it's a very simple thing and that is to worship him alone, without any partners, in fact life is a test from God, that's why we were born, that's why we die, because there has to be a beginning and an end to the test.

There are many verses in Quran which speak about science, the conclusions that science has verified in 1400 years were described by the creator in his book, 'the Holy Quran'. This further clarifies that there is someone who knows all, who created us and he is our **GOD**: **ALLAH THE ALL MIGHTY**.