

FRIDAY MESSAGE

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The Quran is not merely a book—it is a revelation that speaks to the heart, mind, and soul. Its verses do not simply narrate; they command reflection, inviting us to witness the divine wisdom woven into the fabric of existence. From the vast cosmos to the delicate workings of life itself, every sign in this universe echoes the truth of its words.

Consider the origins of everything—the very first moments of existence. Scientists describe the Big Bang as the singular event from which all matter and energy emerged, an expansion from an initial undifferentiated "smoke," a haze without form. But the Quran speaks of this moment with clarity, long before modern theories could grasp it, *"Then He directed Himself to the heaven while it was smoke."* (41:11) The universe was not born out of chaos but from a purposeful decree, a divine act of creation, where the heavens and the earth took shape from an initial state of obscurity.

But the Quran does not stop at beginnings. It speaks of movement, expansion, and progression—principles mirrored in the universe itself. *"And the heaven We constructed with strength, and indeed, We are [continually] expanding it."* (51:47). Science, with its careful measurements, confirms this—the galaxies are moving apart, the universe is stretching outward, growing with time. What does this mean for us? It is a lesson written in the stars: creation does not stagnate; it expands. And so must we—our knowledge, our faith, our

pursuit of truth—always reaching beyond limitations, always seeking growth.

And in the midst of this vastness—among billions of galaxies, stars, and planets—lies one simple yet profound force: water. It is the cradle of life, the sustaining essence without which no living creature could exist. The Quran proclaims, *"And We made from water every living thing"* (21:30). Science affirms this truth: wherever water is found, life flourishes. From the deepest ocean to the cells within our bodies, it binds existence together. But this verse is more than a biological fact; it is a call to recognise divine mercy. So, which of the blessings of your Lord will you deny? It cleanses, nourishes, heals. It is an everlasting gift, a gentle yet mighty sign of the Creator's sustenance.

And then, there are the celestial marvels—wonders that push the boundaries of human comprehension. Black holes, those enigmatic voids that swallow even light, and pulsars, the radiant remnants of collapsed stars, flashing like cosmic lighthouses. These are not simply objects of curiosity; they carry lessons within them. The Quran swears by their existence: *"So I swear by the retreating stars, those that sweep and disappear."* (81:15-16). Some scholars link this verse to black holes—those mysterious entities that retreat from sight yet exert an immense force upon their surroundings. The Quran does not merely describe the universe—it invites us to ponder, to seek understanding, to embrace curiosity.

But the majesty of the Quran is not only in its alignment with physical reality; it is in its unshakable truth, its purity untouched by doubt. *“Falsehood cannot approach it from before or behind it; it is a revelation from a [Lord] All-Wise, All-Praiseworthy.”* (41:42). The universe functions upon precise laws—the movement of stars, the balance of forces, the rhythm of existence. Is it not then fitting that divine guidance should reflect the same unwavering precision? Every verse stands firm, every command carries wisdom, every piece of knowledge unveiled by science echoes truths already embedded within revelation.

And what is the Quran, if not a healing for the soul? *“And We send down from the Quran that which is a healing and a mercy to those who believe.”* (17:82). This healing is not limited to physical ailments; it is a cure for the confusion, doubt, and despair that weigh upon the human heart. It is a light that illuminates the path forward, reminding us of our purpose when the world feels lost. And for those who embrace it, it becomes a transformative force, lifting the intellect and the spirit alike, guiding us toward clarity and peace.

Yet, for those who turn away from guidance, there remains a warning: *“But it does not increase the wrongdoers except in loss.”* (17:82). This is not a threat—it is a truth. To deny knowledge, whether scientific or spiritual, is to cut oneself off from the vastness of understanding. It is to remain stagnant while the universe itself moves forward. But for those who open their hearts, who embrace both intellect and revelation, the Quran becomes a source of endless expansion—just like the universe itself.

So, let us reflect. The Quran is not merely a book to recite—it is a book to experience, to contemplate, to integrate into our lives. It invites us to see beyond what is immediately visible, to recognise the signs

written in both creation and scripture. It urges us to seek knowledge, to grow, to elevate ourselves spiritually and intellectually.

A new Islamic year dawns, bringing with it the promise of renewal, reflection, and spiritual growth. Just as the Hijrah marked a profound transition—a journey from hardship to hope, from oppression to freedom—so too does each new year offer us the chance to embark on our own personal migrations.

The Quran remains our guiding star, illuminating the path ahead, urging us to seek knowledge, to expand our understanding, and to embrace the wisdom that transcends time. As the universe unfolds, so must we. As the days pass, so must our hearts awaken to the call of faith.

The first month of the Islamic calendar, Muharram, is one of the sacred months, a time for deep contemplation and renewal. It reminds us that beginnings are not merely moments in time but opportunities to realign ourselves with truth, mercy, and divine guidance. The Quran calls us to reflect upon its verses, to ponder their meanings, and to let them shape our lives. As Allah says: *“This is a blessed Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded.”* (38:29).

With each new year, we are given the chance to renew our intentions, to seek forgiveness, and to strive for righteousness. The Quran reminds us that time is a trust, a gift from the Divine, and that we must use it wisely.

So, which of these signs will we deny? Let us embrace them. Let us reflect. And let us step forward into this new year with purpose, with gratitude, and with unwavering faith. May it be a year of light, of wisdom, and of steadfast devotion.