

# Islamic Answers to Common Atheist Attitudes

**“Were they (humans) created by nothing or were they themselves the creators? Or did they create the heavens and the earth? Rather, they have no certain knowledge.” (Qur’an 52:35-36)**

**By Haya Muhammad Eid**

A group of people who had entertained doubts about God’s existence came to discuss the issue with Abu Hanifah, an early Islamic scholar, and he said to them: “Before we enter into a discussion on this question, tell me what you think of a boat in the Euphrates which goes to shore, loads itself with food and other things, then returns, anchors and unloads all by itself without anyone sailing or controlling it?” They said: “That is impossible; it could never happen.” So he said to them: “If that is impossible with respect to a ship, how is it possible for this whole world with all its vastness to move by itself?”



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## 1. I Do Not Believe in God

Would you agree that ‘something does not come from nothing’? Since something exists, and since nothing can create itself, a Creator is necessary to explain it. We live in an orderly universe, governed by scientific laws; its creatures develop into well-defined forms and have naturally specific tasks. Should we not ask ourselves about the Creator of this universe and everything in it?

Imagine that you are walking in a desert where there is lots of oil, sand, and metals in the ground. If you found a mobile phone sticking out of the sand, would you believe that it came into existence by itself? A mobile phone is made of glass, which comes from sand; plastic, which comes from oil; and metal, which is extracted from the ground. Would you believe that these elements formed themselves into a mobile phone? That the sun shone, the wind blew, lightning struck, the oil bubbled to the surface and mixed with the sand and metal, and over millions of years the mobile phone came into existence by chance? No one would believe such an explanation. A mobile phone is clearly something that was designed and put together by human intellect and not by natural processes acting randomly or blindly.

In the same way, when you see far more complex structures—such as the DNA that carries all your genetic information, the heart that is designed to pump blood through your body, the eyes that are designed with the ability to make you see, and the human brain with the ability to make you think—is it not rational to conclude that they must have been produced by an Intelligent Supreme Creator?

## **Order in the Universe**

The equilibrium and balance that exists throughout the universe is so precise that it is sometimes referred to as ‘the delicate balance of nature.’ Who set the universe and its laws in such meaningful order?

The exact rising and setting of the sun and moon; the daily cycles of day and night; the succession of the seasons; the movement of the clouds, winds, and waves; the rotation of the planets around the sun, each in a fixed orbit at high speed, neither colliding nor drifting into space; the falling of rain and the growing of seeds into fruits of different colors, tastes, and shapes, all watered with the same water and each with its own temperature and weather pattern. Who designed all these phenomena? Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but who sets the planets in motion?

Everything works together in amazing perfection for the process of life to continue. The different organs of the human body and the various inanimate elements of the universe have no power, ability, or volition of their own and have not been trained or taught by humankind. The rapid and precise communication between them is a sign that they are under the authority of one All-Knowledgeable and All-Powerful Being. If this were not the case, only chaos could be rationally expected.

## Conclusion

Design and order indicate the presence of a designer. There are stunning design and order in everything in nature and in each element of creation, from the largest planet down to the most microscopic creature. No power but an All-Wise God could have been the designer.

One Qur'anic verse gives a powerful argument to convince humans that there must be a Creator: **“Were they (humans) created by nothing or were they themselves the creators? Or did they create the heavens and the earth? Rather, they have no certain knowledge.”** (Qur'an 52:35-36). Humans obviously did not come here by means of nothing, nor did they create themselves. Therefore, they must be the result of the act of a Creator—a Creator who is Himself Self-Subsistent and not Himself a created being.

## 2. I Believe Only in What I See

### 1. Footprints

We actually believe in many things we cannot see. We only see their effects in the physical world. For example, we cannot see the air (oxygen) we breathe to keep us alive, the gravity that holds us to the surface of the earth, or the aromas that stir our appetites and memories. The reason we are sure these things exist is because we see the effects of their existence.



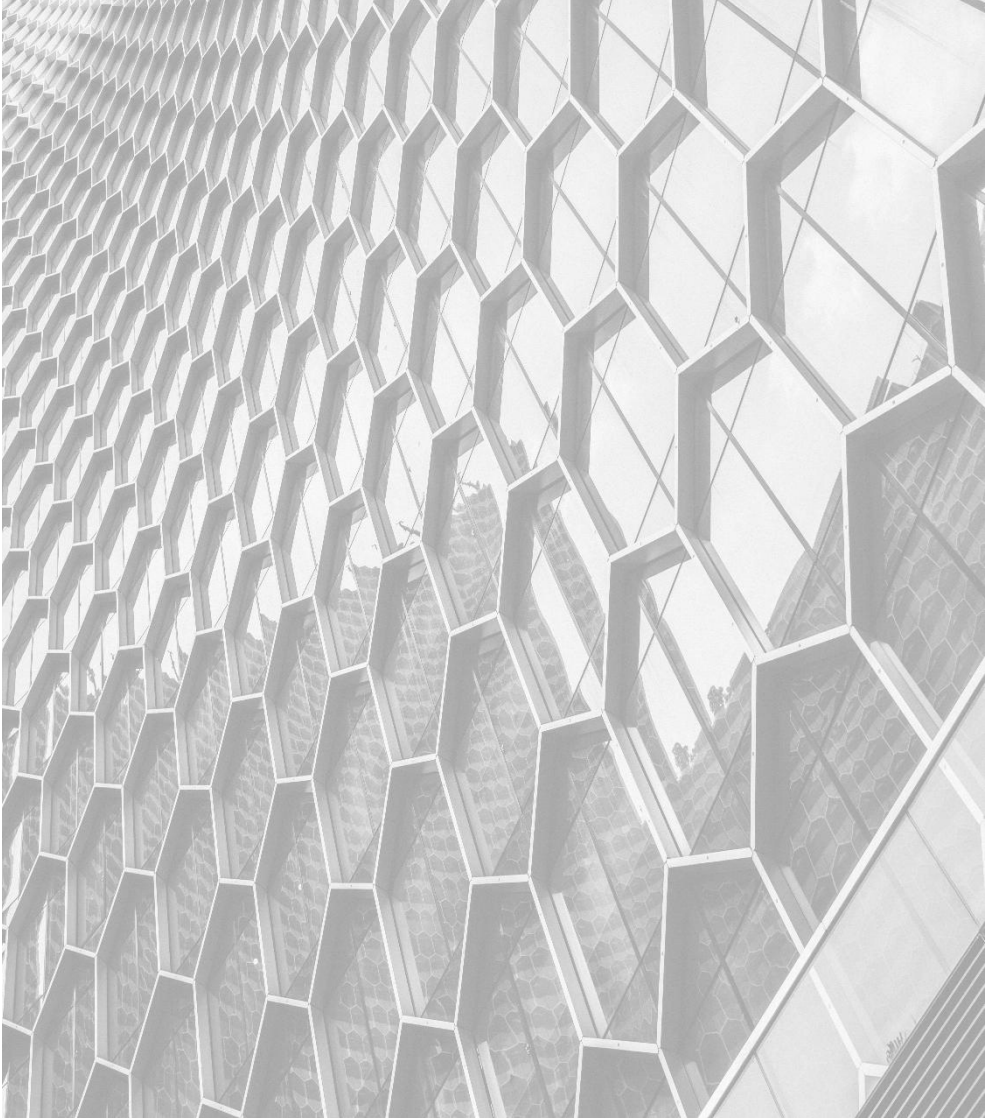
Just think of this: There are more atoms in a glass of water than there are glasses of water from all the oceans of the world.

## **2. Invisibility is Greater Than We Think**

Science has discovered that everything we see is composed of things that we cannot see—atoms.

An atom, the basic building block of any visible matter, is over 99.9% empty space. Atoms and their particles—namely, electrons, neutrons, protons, and quarks—are nothing more than waves of vibrating energy. They are continuously moving, rotating, vibrating, and interacting with one another at high speed under complex electromagnetic and gravitational forces which combine atoms into molecules and molecules into matter. How fast the atoms vibrate and how they are arranged determines whether a matter exists as a solid, liquid, gas, or plasma.

And so everything we call material is really non-material, and everything we perceive as solid is really not solid at all, nor is it as stationary as it appears. Everything in the physical world, whether ultra-large or ultra-small, is composed mostly of empty space and is in a constant state of vibration. Quantum physics thus astonishes us with the illusion of physical reality. As Niels Bohr, the 1922 Nobel Prize-winning physicist who laid the groundwork for understanding atomic structure and quantum theory, once said: “Everything we call real is made of things that cannot be regarded as real.”

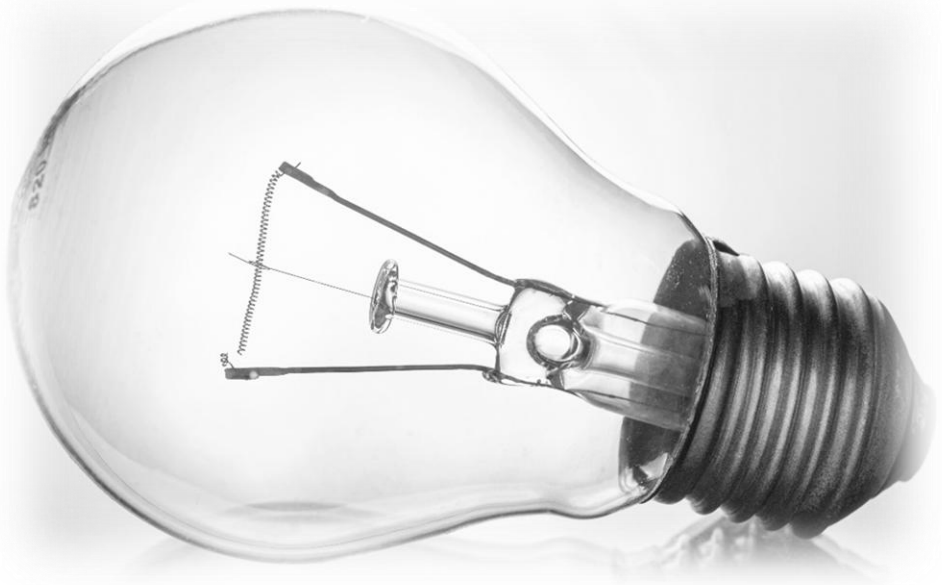


*Everything we call real is made of things that cannot be regarded as real*

### **3. Invisible but Highly Constructive or Destructive Forces**

Guess what? Although we cannot see our thoughts or hold them in our hands or in our pockets, thoughts are real. Thoughts can be measured. They are made up of vibrations of energy, just like everything else. Nothing has a stronger impact over us and our lives than thoughts.

Thoughts are the creative forces that came up with the inventions and technologies that have made the world what it is today. Thoughts have real effects that shape our lives and can, sometimes, be irresistible. When bad or angry thoughts spin out of control, they may develop into violent words or actions that destroy lives or relationships.



## **Dead Yet Still Present**



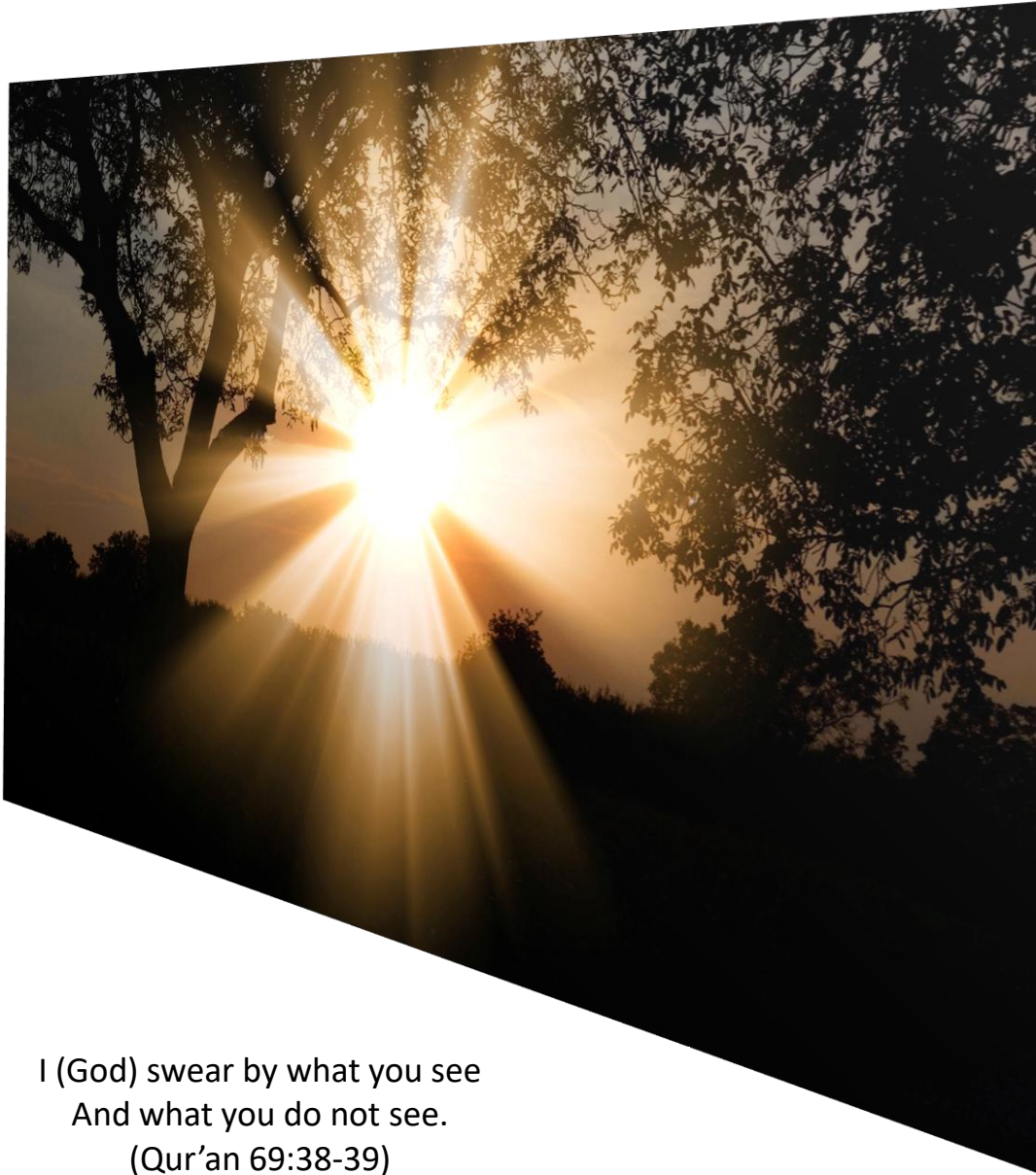
Long after the death of the people we love, the memories we shared with them and the love we have for them continues. Can we say that our loved ones who have passed away did not exist because we cannot see or touch them anymore?

## **The Evidence is All Around**

People live by the idiom ‘Seeing is believing.’ Reality works the other way around: believing will make you see. Some people choose to accept only what they know and can see. They are not willing to search into matters or look back and learn from past experiences.

Today we know that our skin is like a zoo, with billions of tiny little creatures called bacteria crawling all over it. If people were told this information before the invention of the electron microscope, they would have dismissed it as ridiculous. We often think that because we do not see or believe in something it does not exist. We cannot see God. But can we say He does not exist because we cannot see or touch Him? Does this make God any less real? We cannot eliminate God, just as we cannot eliminate the reality of air, electricity, love, or hate. We can see God’s Hands in this world. We can see and understand God’s invisible presence in everything that exists in the universe.

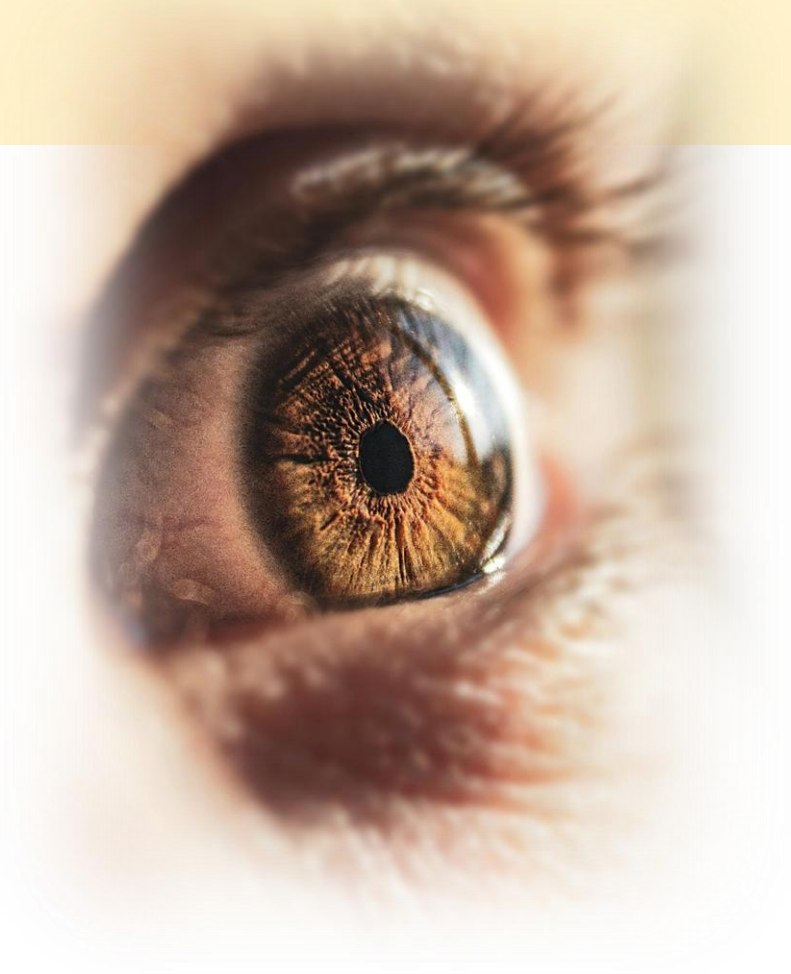
Every white beam of sunlight carries every color of the rainbow (and all the shades in between), which alone sufficiently reveals the power and beautiful creativity of God. He made the things we see and the things we cannot see.



I (God) swear by what you see  
And what you do not see.  
(Qur'an 69:38-39)

## **Certainty about God**

God has left a witness in every one of His creations, including us. To be certain that God exists, we need go no further than ourselves, since we have organs, systems, and senses working beyond our understanding, without our will or control. We cannot want clearer proof of the existence of God.





### 3. I Believe in Science

#### **The Role of Science**

Science is an explanatory system. Infinite realities exist and it is through science that humans can learn about them. Science is about discovery, about exploring the world around us and seeking to obtain a trustworthy understanding of it through observation and experiment. The information that is found through science is used to improve the condition of human life.

#### **The Dynamic and Changeable Nature of Science**

Science is not a fixed set of facts. Rather, it is always in a dynamic state of change and always open to new theories and discoveries. The truth in science is never final. Science is always open to questioning, revision, and modification. Many scientific facts accepted today were in the past, when they first appeared, viewed as nonsense or false. And current scientific findings may be changed, corrected, or become outdated tomorrow. This is how knowledge advances. The continuous flow of up-to-date information from various scientific resources around the world replaces previous conclusions and theories with new and more reliable ones.



## **Outside the Scope of Science**

Just because science can explain so many unknown matters does not mean that it can explain everything. Right and wrong do not come from physics, chemistry, or biology. Science does not instruct us how to treat one's neighbor as oneself, how to clothe the naked and feed the hungry, or why it is wrong to murder, steal, or bear false witness. The truths of a moral life are matters of belief. "Science gives a lot of factual information," wrote Austrian physicist and Nobel Laureate Erwin Schrödinger, "but is ghastly silent about all that is really near to our heart, that really matters to us." "This includes," he says, "beautiful and ugly, good and bad, God and eternity."

## Science Inspires Faith

A famous philosopher, Francis Bacon, said: “A little knowledge of science makes man an atheist, but an in-depth study of science makes him a believer in God.” The knowledge acquired through modern science makes belief in God more reasonable than ever. Modern science has shown that the universe, with all its animate and inanimate components, is astoundingly ordered, complex, purposeful, and intelligible. The teachings of the Qur’an instruct humankind to ponder over creation with all its magnificence. Reflection and rational thought have been invoked over and over in the Qur’an as a path that will lead to only one conclusion: that there is no way this universe could have possibly come into being except through the intention and creation of a great, divine, and masterful Creator.



“Science itself does not contradict the hypothesis of God. Rather, it gives us a window on a dynamic and creative universe that expands our appreciation of the Divine in ways that could not have been imagined in ages past.” Kenneth Miller

## **Science and Religion Are Complementary**

True religion and accurate science cannot contradict each other because their source is one and the same—God. They are components of one mission—explaining truth; religion through divine revelation, and science through investigation and evidence. Science and religion belong to two completely different but equally important realms of knowledge. Human beings are made up of both body and soul, which make them both physical and spiritual beings. As such, they need to have knowledge of both the physical and spiritual worlds. Science deals with the physical world (the realm of facts, figures, and formulas) and religion deals with the spiritual world (the realm of beliefs, morals, manners, ideals, values, and meanings). Both science and religion teach humans something about themselves and this wonderful universe in which they live, sometimes in complimentary ways. Science adds to faith and faith adds to science. Religion moderates science with the law of right and wrong, and science supports religion. Every new scientific discovery represents a step forward in human knowledge and another step forward in appreciation of God’s amazing creation. The more humans learn about the mysteries of the universe and the human body, the more they become in awe of God.

The American agnostic biologist, Stephen Jay Gould, wrote: “Science tries to document the factual character of the natural world, and to develop theories that coordinate and explain these facts. Religion, on the other hand, operates in the equally important, but utterly different, realm of human purposes, meanings, and values—subjects that the factual domain of science might illuminate, but can never resolve.”

## Amazing Facts: How Do Bones Stop Growing?



How They "Close"

Bones stop growing through a natural process called growth plate closure. Think of your long bones (like those in your arms and legs) as having built-in "factories" at each end that produce new bone to make you taller.

### The Role of Growth Plates

- **What they are:** Growth plates (or *epiphyseal plates*) are thin layers of soft, rubbery cartilage located near the ends of your long bones.
- **How they work:** While you are growing, these plates are "open." They constantly create new cartilage cells, which then harden into solid bone, stretching the bone longer and longer.

## Who Taught Our Bones When to Stop Growing?

- **The Hardening Process:** As you reach the end of puberty, your body sends hormonal signals—specifically estrogen in both boys and girls—that tell these "factories" to slow down.
- **Turning into Bone:** Eventually, the soft cartilage in the growth plates completely hardens and turns into solid bone. Once this happens, the plate is considered closed or "fused".
- **The "Growth Scar":** After the plate closes, all that remains is a faint line called an epiphyseal line, which can sometimes be seen on X-rays. Because there is no more soft cartilage left to expand, the bone can no longer get any longer.

### When Does It Happen?

On average, this process happens at different times depending on your development:

- **Girls:** Typically between ages 13 and 15.
- **Boys:** Typically between ages 15 and 17.
- **Completion:** Most people's skeletons are fully "mature" and finished growing in length by their late teens or early 20s.

**Important Note:** While bones stop getting *longer*, they never truly stop changing! Your body continues to "remodel" its bones for the rest of your life, replacing old bone with new bone to keep your skeleton strong.

## 4. Who Created God? Who Came before Him?

### Illogical Question

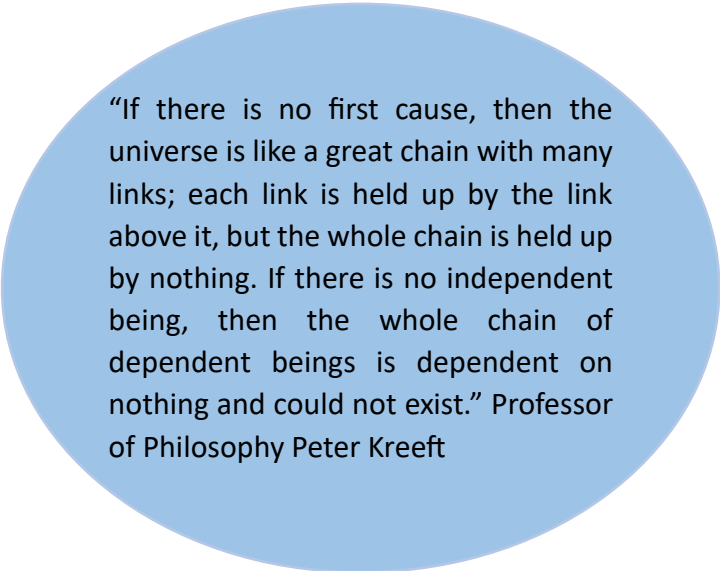
Basically, to ask whether God can be something which will make Him no longer God is an illogical question. God, by definition, is the only Self-Existing, uncaused Being. If God was created or caused or born, He would not be God. If something was needed to cause God, then God would not be the independent supreme cause of all things. Or if some process led to the formation of the greatest of all beings, then the greatest of all beings would not be so great. The definition of God does not allow this. God is entirely Self-Sufficient and Independent. Everything created needs something outside of itself to exist. God needs nothing to exist or to make Him complete. There never was a time when God did not exist. He is Eternal, Infinite, without beginning or end. He is the First (nothing is before Him) and the Last (nothing is after Him), and the Most High (nothing is above Him), unlike any of His creations.

What caused the first uncaused cause - who is by definition uncreated and eternally independent - to exist? Any further questions?

The issue of God being or doing ungodly things is outside the realm of reasonable discussion

## The Necessity of an Uncaused Cause

Nothing causes itself. Everything has been caused to exist by something else. The chain of causes cannot go on to infinity; one cause leading to another cause and so on... going on infinitely. There must be a first originating cause. If there is no first link in the chain, then how could the chain have started? Without a first cause, no subsequent effects would ever come into being! There must be a first cause, an uncaused cause, a transcendent cause of the whole chain—God. The concept of the Unmoved Mover argues the same point. Something cannot move itself; it must be moved. Anything that was brought into motion could not have come into motion without a first mover, an unmoved mover, a fundamental source of all motion, and this is the definition of God. The uncaused Causer or the unmoved Mover of all things must be powerful, as He brought the whole universe into existence; intelligent, as He caused the physical laws that govern the universe; independent, self-existent, and unchangeable, which are the attributes of God.



“If there is no first cause, then the universe is like a great chain with many links; each link is held up by the link above it, but the whole chain is held up by nothing. If there is no independent being, then the whole chain of dependent beings is dependent on nothing and could not exist.” Professor of Philosophy Peter Kreeft



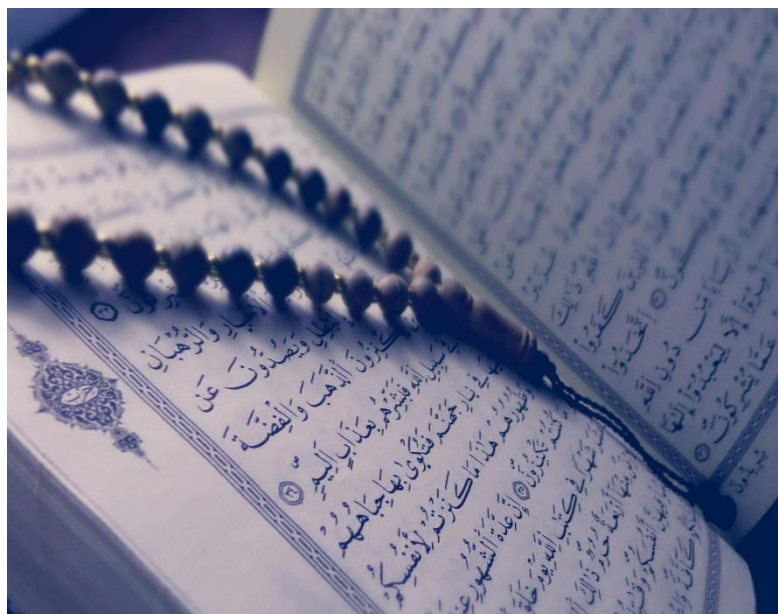
## **God is the Creator of Time and Space**

Is God inside or outside the universe? Is He finite or infinite? Of course God is outside the universe and is not subject to its laws, because the universe and its laws are God's creation. The universe is finite and God is infinite. God exists beyond the boundaries and parameters of His creation, for He is the Creator. Time, space, and direction are part of the structure of the universe—they are creations. Space, time, and direction are dimensions of our created universe. God cannot be contained within or bound by them; rather, He is beyond them, just as a craftsman is beyond the dimensions of what he has made.

We can quote here what Kenneth Miller said: “The categorical mistake of the atheist is to assume that God is natural, and therefore within the realm of science to investigate and test. By making God an ordinary part of the natural world, and failing to find Him there, they conclude that He does not exist. But God is not and cannot be part of nature. God is the reason for nature, the explanation of why things are. He is the answer to existence, not part of existence itself.”

## God is Changeless

Time is a measurement of change. By measuring the rate of change or decline or decay of something, we can determine its age. For example, we can tell the age of a tree by its rings. This is the main idea on which all the methods of time estimation have been based, from the sundial (sun clock) to the atomic clock. But what if there is something that does not change or decline? Everything changes and declines except God. He changes things, but He does not change. Time does not affect God or apply to Him. God created time as part of the order of our universe. He is not subject to it; it is subject to Him. The changes of time only affect His creatures. We are always changing, moving alternately from day to night and from night to day, living in a temporal and changing world, confined within limits of time and space. God is Eternal, without beginning or end. He has always existed, has always been perfect, and does not change. God surrounds time—past, present, and future. Nothing is past, present, or future for God. Perception of time as past, present, and future is restricted to humans.



In the Qur'an, when God talks about the Day of Judgement He uses the past tense. He says, "the Trumpet was blown" (Qur'an 39:68) as emphatic of an accomplished fact, because, for Him, everything has already happened as everything is foreknown and predestined by Him

## 5. This Universe Came from the Big Bang

The Big Bang Theory states that the universe was formed from a single mass of energy that exploded because of high density pressure, producing a cloud of smoke and dust from which this universe evolved.

### **Chaos Rather than Intelligent Design**

But do you agree with me that a big explosion resulting in an organized universe should involve a great organizer? Explosions create a mess, not a designed universe. How could such a random explosion lead to the consistency, excellence, and beauty that we see in the universe? How did it explode with just the right degree of vigor to create a universe containing at least one habitable planet?

Following the Big Bang explosion, one would expect matter to have been randomly distributed throughout space. But no such random and chaotic distribution occurred. Rather, matter accumulated at particular points in the universe to form galaxies, stars, constellations, the sun, and the earth. Only a conscious intervention directing every detail of the event could have produced such complex order. When we see the order in the universe, is it not reasonable to say the universe has an organizer who is best explained by the existence of God? God created the laws and order of the universe and keeps it under His Control at every moment.



*The universe has an organizer who is best explained by the existence of God*

## **What Triggered the Big Bang? Where Did the Big Bang's Matter and Energy Come from?**

Imagine you heard a loud bang, and you asked: “Where did that sound come from?” Would you be satisfied with the answer that it came from ‘nothing’ and it ‘just happened?’ Of course not. You would still ask: “What was the cause of that loud bang?”

In the same way, rationally, the Big Bang must have had a cause that produced it. The Big Bang is the effect. What caused the Big Bang? What force generated the explosion? How did ‘nothing’ explode? Without pre-existing matter and energy, there could have been no explosion!

If, according to the theory, the Big Bang represents the creation of matter, space, time, and energy, then from where did the initial mass of energy that formed the Big Bang come?

No law of science can explain the origin of this pre-existing matter and energy. This leaves us with one logical answer: the existence of a Creator Who can create something out of nothing, Who is incomprehensible (God's Infinite Attributes cannot be fully understood or appreciated by His finite creatures), incomparable, and unlike any of His Creations. In other words, a Creator Who is spaceless, timeless, and immaterial, since He caused space, time, and matter to come into being.

## The Fine-Tuning of the Universe

One of the most amazing discoveries of modern science is that the earth is tuned in such a precise way as to allow human life. The laws and constants of nature are perfectly balanced ‘on a razor’s edge’ so as to make our planet habitable. It possesses the exact balance of initial conditions and the laws and parameters of physics to allow and sustain life. If the value of any of the physical constants was altered by even a hair’s breadth at the beginning of our universe, life could not have existed. Jay Richards, co-author of *The Privileged Planet*, stated: “If you were to take the basic fundamental constants of nature and you were to change these even slightly, or you were to pick their values at random, you would almost never get a universe that would be habitable in any sort of way. That is, you could not have galaxies, you could not have planets, and you could not have complex biological organisms if these fundamental constants were slightly different, slightly stronger, or slightly weaker, than they actually are in this universe. That is the idea of fine tuning.”

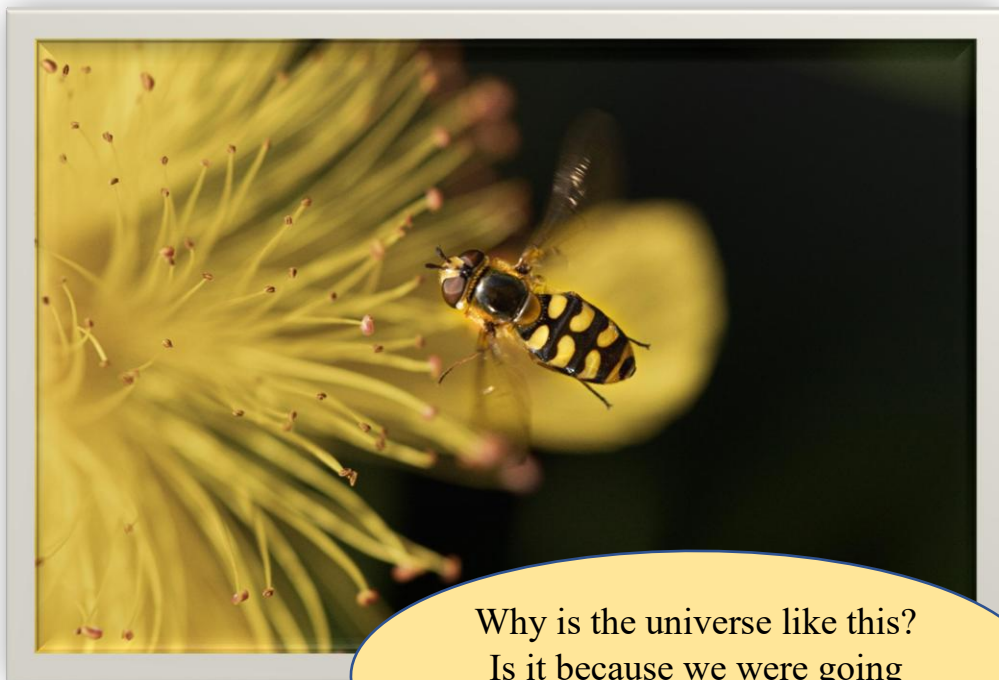


“Verily, all things have We (God) created in proportion and measure.” (Qur'an 54:49)

The physical constants of nature had to have precise, life-permitting values (in the same way that  $2 + 2$  must equal 4) to allow the orderly expansion of matter and formation of galaxies. Gravity, for example, had to have just the right force—if it had been just a tiny bit stronger, it would have pulled all the atoms in the universe back into one big ball and quickly ended up in a Big Crunch. If it had been just a tiny bit weaker, the atoms would have spread out so far from each other that no stars, no galaxies, no life could ever have formed. The strength of gravity had to be precisely tuned for that to happen.

Another example of the fine-tuning of the universe is the strong nuclear force that binds protons and neutrons together to form the nucleus of an atom; if it had differed minutely in strength, life could not have existed. All other constants of nature possess this same feature, which leads to the conclusion that the universe is too planned and precise to be a chance event.

The fact that the universe is life-supporting provides evidence of God. Only a powerful and intelligent Creator Who wanted such a universe to exist could explain such fine tuning.



Why is the universe like this?  
Is it because we were going  
to be here?

## 6. There Is No Creator! We Have Just Evolved (Evolution Theory)

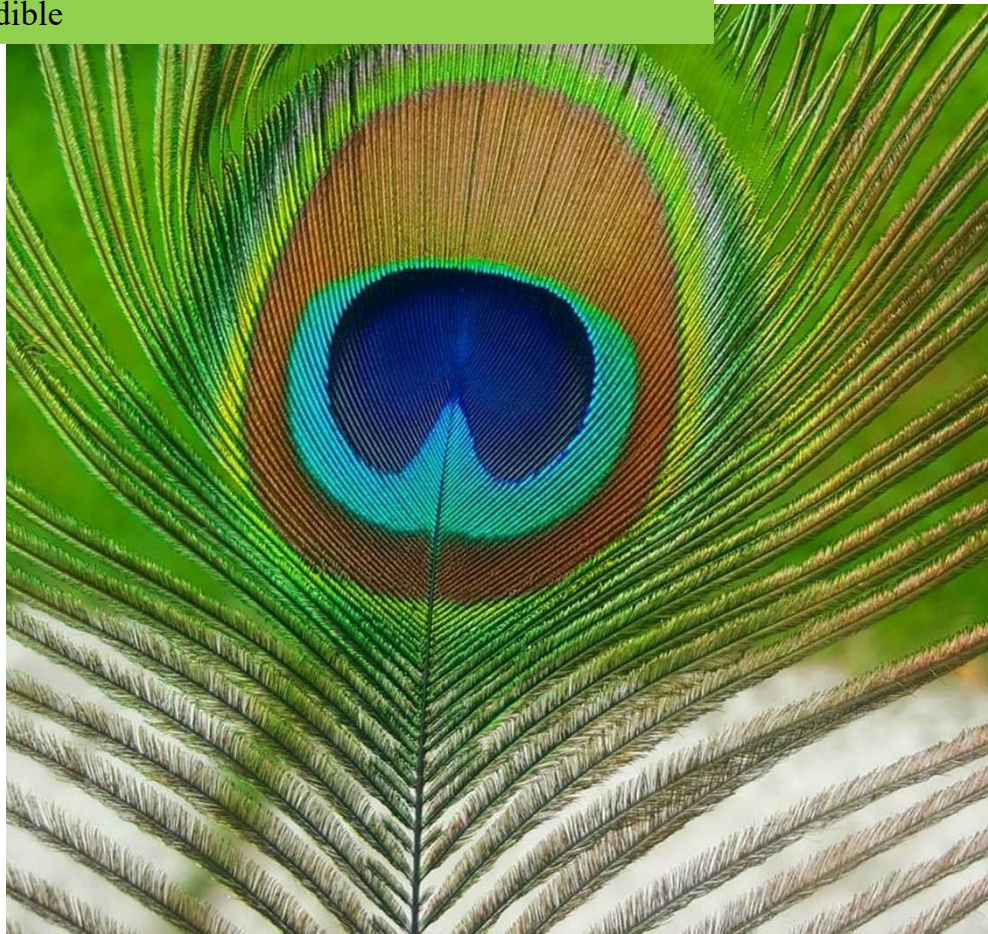
### 1. Darwin's Greatest Discovery—Design without a Designer and Order without Arrangement

Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859, argues that all life is the product of purely undirected natural forces—time, chance, and a process he called, 'natural selection.' For Charles Darwin, natural selection explained the appearance of design without a designer. Natural selection became a kind of designer substitute by which unguided natural forces bring about complex biological changes. Given enough time and chance, all things would form on their own and evolve into higher and more complex forms of life. So there was no longer any need to invoke an intelligent Designer for the order and complexity of life.

For thousands of years, the most prominent scientists and philosophers (such as Plato, Newton, and Kepler) viewed the world as the product of design or plan. A fundamental shift occurred in science after the introduction of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution 150 years ago. Today, this theory is facing a formidable challenge, as solid scientific evidence points to the contrary. The more science advances and the more we know about life and biology, the more the theory of evolution is discredited, and the more design and purpose becomes credible.



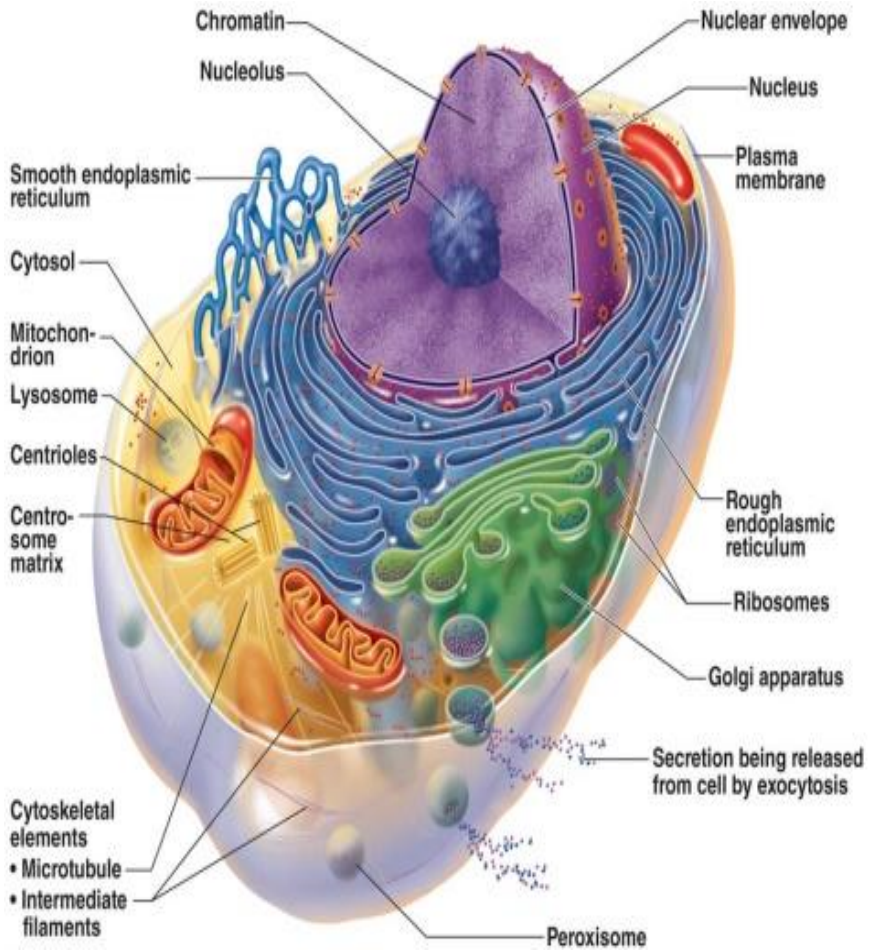
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## 2. The Black Box—the Cell

Back in the nineteenth century, Darwin and his contemporaries thought that the basis of life, the cell, was some simple glob of protoplasm, like a little piece of jell-O or something that was not complex or hard to explain at all. But modern science has discovered a very different reality. Powerful technologies have revealed elaborate microscopic worlds within every living cell. Each cell is a functional unit, capable of independently carrying on complex activities. Each cell is packed with networks, assembly instructions, and miniature machines, the complexity of which Charles Darwin could never have imagined.

The average human body is made up of approximately 37.2 trillion cells! Each cell is a busy little chemical factory, making and exporting molecules (such as hormones and lipids) in a precise, controlled way. When we look at these complex and versatile factories or machines responsible for the numerous life-supporting functions of the body, such as hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, feeling, respiration, blood circulation, digestion, and disease resistance, we ask ourselves: “Where do they come from? How have the mechanisms in these complex systems been assembled?” The standard answer—Darwinian evolution—is very inadequate. After seeing how complex and dynamic these ‘molecular machines’ are, that would be like saying that modern-day computers are the result of the evolution of steel and plastic.



### **3. Limitations of Natural Selection**

The theory of natural selection works well for explaining certain limited variations taking place slowly over long intervals of time, but it cannot explain the complexity of nature or the origin of life on earth.

Natural selection might explain something like changes in the size or shape of a finch's beak, but how did a finch come to have a beak, or eyes, or wings, or feet in the first place? We have a finch's beak, but what about the finch itself? This is a minor change in the structure of the beak versus the origin of the organism itself.

Natural selection in finch beaks cannot be claimed as evidence of the origin of finches. Such small-scale changes cannot be used to account for large-scale changes, such as the emergence of new species. Natural selection might result in the improvement of certain traits in living species, but not in acquiring totally new characteristics. Finches remain finches, and rabbits remain rabbits. Natural selection can act only on existing biological traits; it cannot create new traits or new genetic information. Rather, it just selects from what already exists, from available variations in nature. The real questions to be asking are: What, then, caused these variations to exist? How did the biological traits that already exist come to be? Geneticist Hugo de Vries expressed it best when he said: "Natural selection may explain the survival of the fittest, but it cannot explain the arrival of the fittest."

## 4. Darwin's Tree of Life

Central to Darwin's theory is the tree-of-life concept. Darwin viewed the history of life as a grand branching tree. The base of the tree represented the simplest of all cells and the branches represented the complex life forms that had evolved over the course of billions of years from the very first cell.

According to Darwinism, life must have developed in this way. But is this really how it happened? According to leading modern scientists, Charles Darwin's 'tree of life,' which shows how species are related through evolutionary history, is wrong. An article in *New Scientist* magazine quoted evolutionary scientist Eric Bapteste as saying: "We have no evidence at all that the tree of life is a reality." The process of evolution is revealed only through fossil evidence, and the fossil record shows that evolution never happened.

If species evolved into one another by successively slow and minute variations over billions of years, then millions of transitional forms or in-between creatures should have existed. But not a single transitional fossil such as half-fish/half-reptile or half-reptile/half-bird or half-human/half-ape has ever been found. All fossils are of complete animals and plants, not works in progress 'under construction.'

Animals have been very different and complex since the moment they first emerged. The fossil of the Cambrian Period is a striking example. The Cambrian Period, also termed the Cambrian Explosion, refers to the geologically sudden appearance in the fossil record of all major types of animals 530 million years ago. The fossil record showed that these numerous and diverse species suddenly sprung into existence and did not evolve. They were fully formed without any trace of less complex ancestors in earlier layers of rock. Darwin himself warned that

an event like the Cambrian Explosion would invalidate his theory. Darwin wrote: “If numerous species, belonging to the same genera or families, have really started into life all at once, the fact would be fatal to the theory of descent with slow modification through natural selection.” Since there are no such evolutionary lineages, then there never was any Darwinian evolution. And without evolution, there must be a Creator.



“The Cambrian Explosion of Life has revealed life’s complexity from the start, giving evolution a black eye. The vast array of complex life that appears in the lowest (or oldest) stratigraphic layer of rock, with no apparent ancestors, goes hard against evolutionary dogma.” John Morris, President of ICR

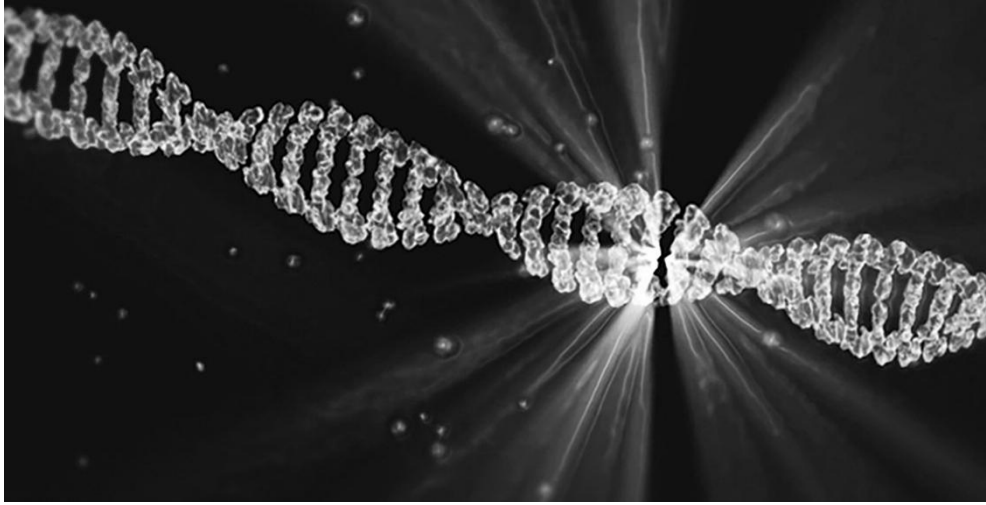


*Without evolution, there must be a Creator*

## **5. The Origin of Genetic Information**

During the 19th century, scientists believed that there were two foundational entities: matter and energy. But as we begin the 21st century, there's a third fundamental entity that science has had to recognize: information.

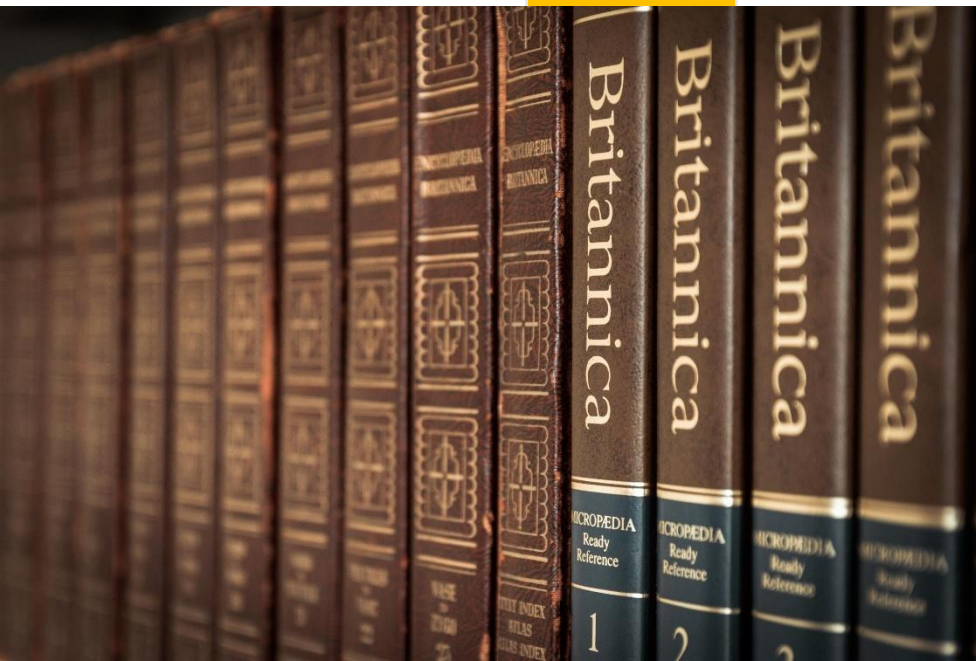
To explain how life began, we have to first account for the origin of the information necessary to build the first cell. Each living cell contains in its nucleus DNA a complex chemical code considered to be a genetic blueprint that provides the instructions for cells to function and reproduce. The essential building blocks of every living cell, proteins, are assembled based on DNA. Adherents of the evolution theory are challenged to explain how the first proteins arose; how the first proteins could have been assembled by undirected natural processes without the help of pre-existing genetic instructions; and from where the information necessary to build the first cell originated.



If all the DNA of the trillion cells in the human body were unwrapped and placed end to end, it would stretch from the earth to the moon about 6,000 times.

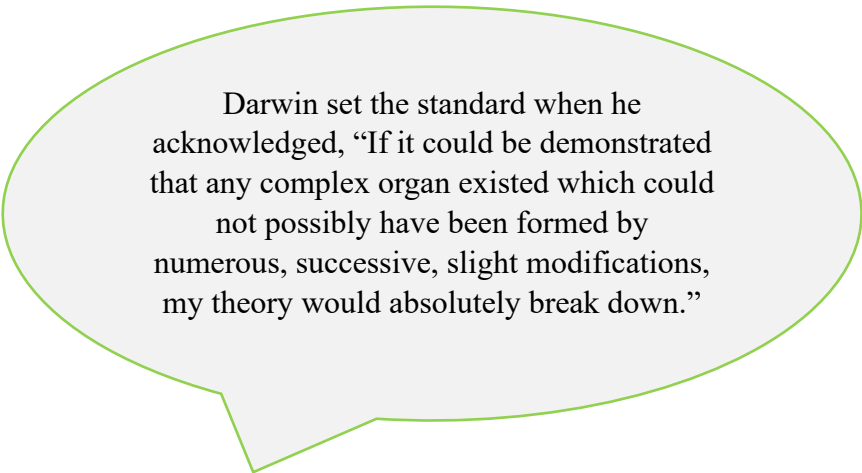


It is next to impossible that random processes could have engineered the genetic codes held in DNA molecules. To put this into perspective, imagine that you put on a blindfold and drop a box of scrabble letters onto a table to form a 40,000 page masterpiece novel. Consider also that the genetic information in the nucleus of a tiny single-celled organism, such as the amoeba, is enough to fill 30 volumes of Encyclopedia Britannica.



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Darwin thought the cell was pretty simple (“just a blob of protoplasm”) and so he assumed that the first living cell evolved “in some warm little pond” as a result of the combination of some chemicals (“all sorts of ammonia and phosphoric salts, light, heat, and electricity present”) necessary for life to emerge, without accounting for the origins of these ingredients (as if they were self-created matters). Today, it is inconceivable to think of the extremely complex structure of DNA as having arisen spontaneously in “primordial water or soup.” Scientists calculated the odds of a single bacterium reassembling by chance as one in 10,100,000,000,000. These odds led Fred Hoyle to state that the probability of spontaneous formation of cellular structure “is about the same as the probability that a tornado sweeping through a junk yard could assemble a Boeing 747 from the contents therein.”

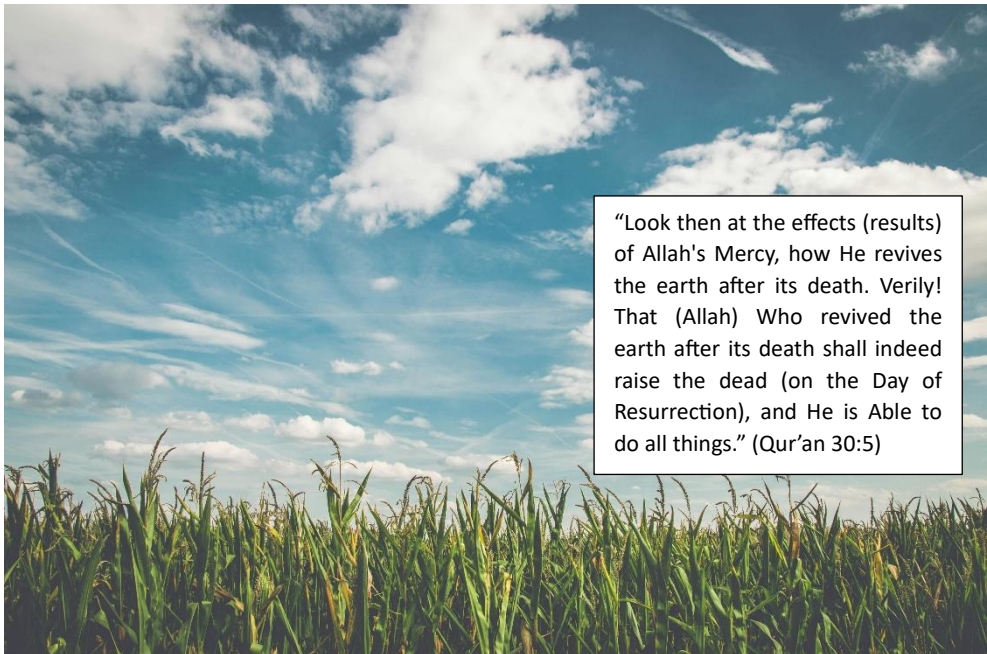


Darwin set the standard when he acknowledged, “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.”

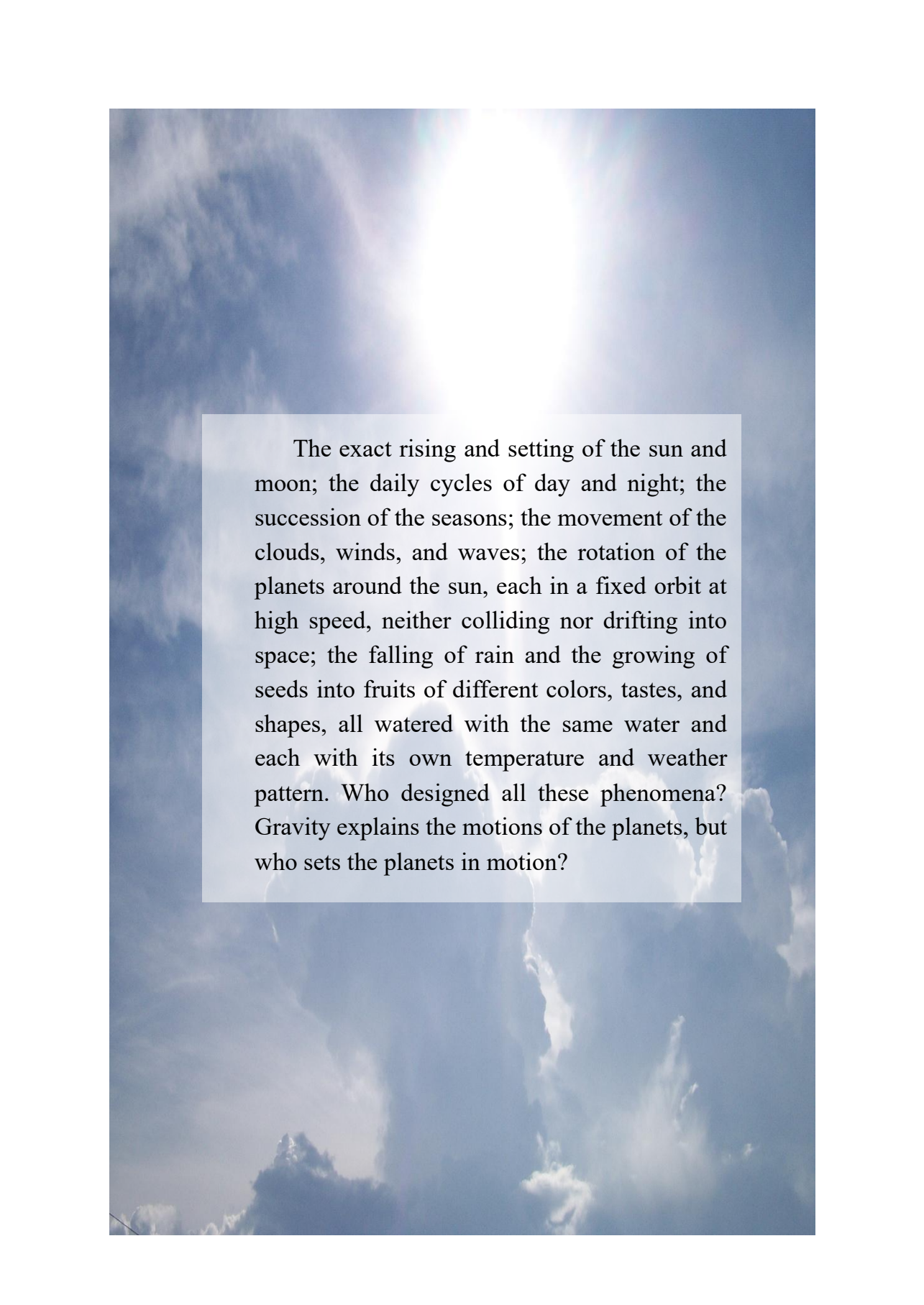
## Evidence Points to Intelligence Rather than Chance

Today, we know that there is no worldly explanation, no natural causes, no self-organizational processes, and no pure chance that can ever produce information. Accurate, specific, and complex information can only be produced by intelligent agents. Bill Gates said: “DNA is like a computer program but far, far more advanced than any software ever created.”

When looking at the inner structure of a magnified cell, we are looking at a world of supreme technology and high complexity and order, and so we can infer that intelligence, rather than chance, played a role in the creation of that system. And the same applies to the entire universe, the solar system, and life on earth. The world is not a chaotic assemblage of matter; rather, it is deliberately designed and engineered by God, Who made this world to be understood and appreciated.





A photograph of a bright sun in a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The sun is positioned in the upper center, creating a lens flare effect. The clouds are wispy and spread across the sky, with some larger, more defined clouds near the bottom. The overall scene is bright and clear.

The exact rising and setting of the sun and moon; the daily cycles of day and night; the succession of the seasons; the movement of the clouds, winds, and waves; the rotation of the planets around the sun, each in a fixed orbit at high speed, neither colliding nor drifting into space; the falling of rain and the growing of seeds into fruits of different colors, tastes, and shapes, all watered with the same water and each with its own temperature and weather pattern. Who designed all these phenomena? Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but who sets the planets in motion?