

Fast 11: God — The existence of God

- The first article of faith in Islam is belief in God. We begin with the topic of the existence of God.
- The Quran advances many arguments to prove the existence of a Supreme Being Who is the Creator and Controller of this universe. There are three types of arguments it puts forward:
 - Arguments that can be seen from creation,
 - Arguments from human nature,
 - Arguments from revelation sent to man from God.

- **Arguments from the creation around us:** There are many such arguments from creation put forward in the Quran. Things around us, from the smallest creatures to plants and animals, trees, rain, rivers, the sun and the moon, the stars, etc. all work in the most wonderful ways which amaze scientists. We see design and beauty in the working of nature. We find laws everywhere governing how things work and holding them in their place. Wisdom and purpose are observable in the whole of the creation, from a blade of grass to the mighty planets and stars. The Quran says about this:

“In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of night and day, and the ships that run in the sea with that which benefits mankind, and the water that Allah sends down from the sky, then gives life with it to the earth after its death and spreads in it all (kinds of) animals, and the changing of the winds and the clouds made subservient between heaven and earth, **there are surely signs for a people who understand.** Yet there are some people who take for themselves objects of worship besides Allah, whom they love as they should love Allah. And those who believe are stronger in (their) love for Allah.” — 2:164–165

“He (Allah) it is Who made the sun a shining brightness, and the moon a light, and ordained for it stages that you might know the computation of years and the reckoning. Allah did not create this but with truth. He makes the signs clear for a people who know. Surely in the alternation of the night and the day, and what Allah has created in the heavens and the earth, **there are signs for a people who keep their duty.**” — 10:5–6.

- Another argument on the existence of God is that no one other than God can create anything:

“Surely those whom you call upon besides Allah, **they cannot create a fly**, though they should all gather for it. And if the fly carry off anything from them, they cannot take it back from it. Weak are (both) the invoker and the invoked.” — 22:73

Even the creation of something as insignificant as a fly, which looks to us like an irritant which we swat away, is evidence of the existence of God. The Quran also says:

“Have they set up with Allah partners **who have created creation like His, so that what is created became confused to them?** Say: Allah is the Creator of all things, and He is the One, the Supreme.” — 13:16

This says that no one is able to create things like Allah’s creation so that you cannot tell the difference between them.

- Regarding the development of creation, the Quran says:

“Glorify the name of your Lord (*Rabb*), the Most High, Who creates, then makes complete, and Who measures, then guides.” — 87:1–3

God not only creates but He also leads created things to the completion of their purpose of creation. This He does by: (1) creating them according to a *measure*, which means that He puts in them certain powers and potential for their development; and (2) guiding them towards their goal.

For example, a human being is **born** and then reaches physical and intellectual **completion** after many years. He is created according to a **measure**, which determines how, and to what extent, he will develop. Then his development takes place according to the laws of God which **guide** it to its completion. This is his bodily development. His spiritual development is through similar stages.

- Regarding law and order in nature, the Quran says:

“You see no anomaly in the creation of the Beneficent God. Then look again: can you see any disorder? Then look again and again — your sight will return to you confused, while it is fatigued.” — 67:3–4

There is immense, unimaginable variety of creation in the universe, yet nothing is an anomaly, i.e. nothing can work without being subject to a law. There is no disorder in the way things in nature work. This is an argument on the existence of God.

In the next Study we present the second kind of arguments on the existence of God.