



Introduction

Imagine a situation where a person travels in a bus. The bus conductor comes to him and the two have the following conversation:

Bus conductor: Ticket please!

Traveler: I don't have one.

Bus conductor: Where are you going?

Traveler: I do not know.

Bus conductor: What? Do you have an address where you need to go?

Traveler: Should I have an address or know my destination? I have no idea where I need to go.

Bus conductor: Why did you board the bus if you do not know where you need to go?

Traveler: I do not know.

Bus conductor:???? (Confused and puzzled look)

If you were traveling in the same bus, what would you think of this man? If we now apply the same conversation to our own life and ask a similar set of questions like: Who created us? Why do we exist? What happens after we die? Do we live and die without a purpose? Or is there a purpose behind our existence? How many of us can be sure of the answers for the questions above? Truth is that we are alive today and we will die one day.

Dear reader, we sincerely hope that this booklet will stimulate your thoughts and reflections about your life and your purpose of existence on this earth.

Is there a Purpose for our Existence?

To begin with, look around you. Unless you live in a cave, you are surrounded by things we humans have made with our own hands. Now, why did we make those things? Is there a purpose to those things? The answer is obviously yes. Let us look at the organs of our body. Do we find an organ without a purpose? Let us look at the natural things around us like the trees, mountains etc. Do they exist without a purpose?

When everything we create has a purpose, when our organs have a purpose, when natural things like trees, mountains etc. have a purpose, is it logical to assume that the whole human race exists without a purpose? Well, why do we exist? To amass fame and fortune? To have

fun? To be the richest person in the world? No, there must be more to life than that, so let's think about this.

Who Decides our Purpose of Existence?

Who decides the purpose of our existence? You might say, "I decide my purpose of existence". Let us take an example of a pen. What is the true purpose of a pen? The true purpose of a pen is to write. Who decided the true purpose of the pen - the user or the manufacturer? The answer is: the person who first manufactured it. Although, a user may use the pen to scratch his back, we would never conclude that the pen was manufactured for scratching backs. It is the inventor or the manufacturer who decides the true purpose.

Similarly, we as human beings may come out with our own reasons for our existence in this world, but this in no way will become the true purpose of our existence. We can get to know the true purpose of our existence only from our creator.

Do we have a Creator or did we come into Existence through Evolution?

Many people have been brought up more on science than religion, and to believe in evolution more than a creator. Let us analyze if we have a creator. When you see a bridge, a building or an automobile, you will not deny that it has a maker, a person or a company behind its existence.

What about the human body with its massive and intricate control systems? Think about the brain: how it thinks, functions, analyzes, retrieves, stores, distinguishes and categorizes information in a millionth of a second, all of this instantly. (And don't forget the fact that you are using your brain to read this too!). Think about the heart. Think about how it pumps continuously and maintains steady precision throughout the life of the person. Think about the kidneys and the liver and the various functions they perform. The purifying instruments of the body perform hundreds of chemical analysis simultaneously and also control the level of toxicity in the body. Think about your eyes, the human cameras that adjust, focus, interpret, evaluate and discern color automatically, naturally receiving and adjusting to light and distance.

Can random mutation or evolution develop these intricate systems? Can this design come about by itself? For example, throwing paint of different colors on the wall randomly might

create some design like a hand or a bird, but it can never create Mona Lisa! The design in our body is much more complex and intricate than Mona Lisa. How rational is it to believe that this design came into existence without a designer?

Let us think about the universe. Our planet earth is one of the several planets in our solar system, and our solar system is one of the several such solar systems in our galaxy. Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is one of the several galaxies present in the universe. Scientists say that there are thousands of galaxies in the universe. We can observe an excellent order and precision in the universe. To give an example, solar and lunar eclipses are calculated well in advance. It is possible to calculate the time of sun-rise and sun-set for the next hundreds of years. These things are possible because of the synchronization, balance and harmony that exist amongst the planets and stars in the universe. This is a wonderful example for the presence of excellent design and a set pattern in the universe.

Did this beautiful and perfect design come into existence by chance or by a mere explosion? Let us consider an example for things to happen by chance. Ten marbles numbered 1 to 10 and of different colors are put in a bag and the bag is shaken violently to mix the marbles up. Then, closing your eyes, you try to pull out the marbles in order of 1 to 10. What are the chances of pulling out the marbles in that order? It is twenty six million to one (26,000,000 to 1) and this is just for 10 marbles. What is the probability for the millions of stars and planets to come together with the exact precision, synchronization and orchestration by chance? The answer is zero. This shows that it is not rational to deny the existence of a Creator for this grand universe.

If a Creator created everything then who Created the Creator?

According to Cosmology the universe had a beginning some 14 billion years ago with a cosmic event commonly known as the 'Big Bang'. Along with the beginning of universe, time - the factor we use to measure beginning and end, also came into existence. All things created in this world are dependent on time; they all have a birth (beginning) and death (end). The Creator who created the universe was present even before time came into existence and is hence Independent of it. Hence the Creator can neither have a beginning nor an end and has always existed. Think about the booklet you are reading right now. If this booklet had always existed it wouldn't need a Creator or an author.

Now, imagine a soldier who has found his target, but needs the permission of a higher official to fire. The official tells the soldier that he is dependent on another higher official and needs to get his permission to open the fire. The higher-higher official then tells that he needs the permission of another higher-higher-higher official, as he is dependent on him. If this chain of 'dependency' goes on forever, will the soldier ever get to shoot the target? The obvious answer is no. The only way the soldier can shoot is if and only if there is someone along the chain who is independent of all others and can take a decision on his own without consulting anyone or needing others' help.

When we apply this principle to the universe, we can safely conclude that the very existence of the universe points to the Existence of an Entity which is not dependent on anyone else and takes Independent Decisions. This Independent Entity is referred to as the Creator or God.

Who is God?

The word God has different meanings with different understandings depending on the language, faith, philosophy, and the culture we represent. For some, anyone who helps them in need is their God, and for some, their parents are their Gods, for some; popular and successful human beings become their God, for others money is their God, and for some the natural elements are Gods, and for some anything and everything is God.

It is indeed very easy to understand the correct meaning of God. For example, if you are asked, who is a mother? Your obvious answer will be: One who gives birth to a child. We may address Mother Teresa as 'mother'. However, it does not give Mother Theresa the same status as our real mother. We don't have the choice to choose someone to be our mother; our mother is the one who gave birth to us.

Similarly, God is the One who created us and this whole universe. We may call anyone, or anything as God, but nothing can be our "true God" except the One who created us and the entire universe. We don't have the choice to choose someone we like, to be our God. The one who created us alone can be God. None of God's creation, regardless of how great the creation is, can ever be God!

What is the Purpose of Life?

We were created to worship, obey and serve our Creator alone (and not the creations). The purpose of our existence is “to live our life on God’s terms”, a life that is led by fulfilling all the divine commandments of God and to attain God’s pleasure and victory in the afterlife.

Why does God expect us to Obey Him?

Parents expect their children to obey them because parents have the right to be obeyed. Similarly a teacher expects his/her students to obey them. In the same way, God, who is our Creator, expects us to obey Him because He being the Creator deserves to be obeyed.

Vehicles work best with the oil, spare parts, tyre pressure etc. recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. We do not try to change it to our liking because we trust that the vehicle maker knows what is best for the vehicle. Similarly, our creator knows exactly what is good for us and has prescribed a way of life which is submission and obedience to Him.

Did God send His Guidance to Mankind?

God did not leave us without guidance. If we may call human beings a machine, we are the most complex machine on earth due to our emotions and thoughts. To properly use a complex machine, we need a demo and an instruction manual.

If you want to give demo for a washing machine, you will use a washing machine and not a vacuum cleaner. Similarly, God chose righteous human beings to give a demo to other human beings on how to live a good life. These demonstrators were the Prophets sent by God. The instruction manuals given by God are the scriptures.

Who are the Prophets?

God chose the best men amongst us and made them His Prophets. These Prophets were only human and they did not have any divine quality. They stand tall as the role models and leaders for human beings.

Every nation in this world was sent a Prophet. Some of the Prophets are: Noah, Abraham, David, Solomon, Moses, Jesus (peace be upon them all).

Why did God Himself not come to Earth?

God and man are opposites. If God becomes a man, then He cannot be God. It is like having a diagram which is square and circle at the same time.

For example:

1. God will not die, Man will die.
2. God is not bound by time and space. Man is bound by Time and space. This is a huge problem to be solved when we say God became man.
3. Moreover, man has severe limitations. For example: Man cannot hear what the dog hears. Man cannot see what the owl sees etc. If God becomes a man, it would mean that God became a man with all these limitations, which does not befit the qualities of God.

So the fact is, either a person can be God at a given point of time or be human at a given point of time and not both simultaneously.

One might argue, God can do everything and hence He can be God and human at the same time.

If God can do everything, would God be unjust? Would God lie? The answer is no. If God wants to lie or be unjust, He can; but He will not. The reason: the acts of being unjust and lying do not befit the qualities of God. We can conclude that God will only do things that befit His divinity. We can understand that God becoming man does not befit His divinity, as it ascribes limitations to God.

Even if we assume that God can come down to the earth, then it would not serve the purpose at all! We know of incarnated gods who married thousands of wives, stole things, lied and cheated. The common humans might argue that since they were gods they could do it, but we humans should not do such acts. This proves that incarnate gods cannot be good role models for us, since they do not suffer from the limitations we have, they are not bound by the principles that we are often bound by. Moreover they easily overcame problems with their godly powers, where as we humans have to strive and struggle to tackle them. All these points suggest that the best role-models for humans can be a human and not an incarnate god.

Who was Prophet Mohammed (peace be on him)?

The last and final Prophet in the chain of Prophets was Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him). He was sent for the whole of humanity, till the end of time. All the previous Prophets of God were sent only for a particular people and for a particular time.

What were the Teachings of the Prophets?

The crux of the teachings of all the prophets sent by God can be summarized as follows:

1. Pray to, submit to, obey and worship only the Creator who created us. (Worship the Creator and not the creations). Do not elevate anyone or anything to the status of God. Do not deny the existence of God.
2. We are accountable to God for whatever we do in this world, in the Hereafter (Life after death).

What is the Quran?

Quran is the last and final revelation (Instruction Manual) given to the last and final messenger of God, Prophet Mohammed (peace be on him). The whole Quran is word of God. Quran does not contain the words of Prophet Mohammed (peace be on him). Quran serves as guidance for the whole of mankind.

What are the Characteristics of God?

Some of the characteristics of God:

1. God is only one
2. God is not in need of anything or God is free of wants
3. God does not have parents, wife or children
4. There is none equal to God in all His attributes like power, knowledge, wisdom, forgiveness, etc.
5. God does not get tired
6. God does not forget
7. God does not make mistakes
8. God loves all humans and does not differentiate on the basis of caste, color, race or descent (vamsha/khandan).

Can there be more than One God?

Let us say 3 people go for a job interview. There is just one vacancy for the job. Each of the three persons worships their own God with sincerity and asks his God for the job. If we assume that there is more than one God, then each God would want to grant the job to the person who worshipped it. We have just one vacancy with three people expecting the job and three gods trying to give the job to their worshipper. Will anyone ever get a job? A trivial

thing like this will trigger a fight amongst gods. There are billions of things happening in this world and they all require the approval of God. The whole universe will be full of chaos if we have more than one God.

Can God be in need of anything? Can God have Wife or Children? Can God have Parents?

If God is in need of something, there should be someone to fulfill the needs of God. This would mean that the person who fulfills God's needs has something that God does not have and God becomes incomplete without that person. For example, we need a spouse because we are in need of a companion. If God has a wife, it would mean that He has needs and thus requires a wife to satisfy Him. This makes God needy and dependent on His spouse and God being in need of anything goes against the very nature of God. Hence, God cannot have a wife.

If God has no wife, then He cannot have any children. If God has parents, then it would mean that He did not exist before He was born. This would mean that God did not exist at one point and this is impossible as it goes against the definition of God. So God cannot have parents.

Can God get Tired? Can God Forget or make Mistakes?

God is the All Powerful. Hence He cannot get tired. God is the All Knower. Hence He cannot make mistakes or forget.

Can there be anyone Equal to God?

If there is anyone equal to God, then that person can also claim to be God and this would make more than one God, which is impossible and irrational as we have seen above.

Is there a Life after Death?

Ownership will always have accountability. An employee is accountable to his boss for the work he does. Everyone in this world, irrespective of their position is accountable to someone or the other. This is a basic fact of life. Similarly, our Creator who is the real, supreme and ultimate authority will surely hold us accountable for what we do in this world. If there is no accountability, justice can never be established.

The world will come to an end one day. All the human beings, from the first man to the last will be brought back to life (Resurrection) on the Day of Judgment and will be questioned for their deeds. People who have worshipped the one true God, done good deeds and lived a life in accordance with what God has commanded will receive a reward and people who have disobeyed God will be punished. The reward will be Paradise and the punishment will be Hell. The life in Paradise and Hell will be eternal and never-ending.

Do we really need Resurrection and the Day of Judgment?

Each and every human being desires justice. Even if he does not want justice for others, he wants justice for himself. Every person who has suffered injustice, almost certainly wants the perpetrator of injustice to be punished. Every normal person would like the robber or the rapist to be taught a lesson. Can we have perfect justice through punishments in this world? Hitler killed many Jews during his reign of terror. Even if the police had arrested him, what punishment can the human law give Hitler? The most they can do is to send Hitler to the gas chamber. But that will only be punishment for the killing of one Jew. What about the punishment for killing the other Jews?

We have even heard of judges writing multiple life imprisonments which can go up to 100 years for the convicted criminals. This is because the criminal deserves so many years of punishment. Will the convict complete his term of punishment if it is 100 years?

True and perfect justice would mean that the victims are also taken care of. What compensation can we give to those innocent people who were killed by people like Hitler? We will not be able to compensate them because they are already dead. Several righteous people have been tortured and some even killed. Don't you think those righteous people should be rewarded for their righteousness?

Rational thinking will lead us to conclude that there is definitely a need for an eternal life after death to compensate people for what they did in this world. God who is most just will not let people go without being rewarded or punished for what they did.

Since the life in Paradise and Hell is eternal and never ending, God can punish Hitler six million times or even more in the hellfire. Similarly, God can reward and compensate the righteous and the innocent people who were killed, by giving them as much as He wants.

Is Resurrection possible after we Die?

We all know that creating something for the first time will be difficult. Repeating the same creation again is simple. When God did not have any difficulty creating us the first time, why will He find it difficult to give us life after we die? Bringing us back to life, after our deaths is indeed very easy for God.

What is the meaning of the word Islam?

Islam is an Arabic word whose root words are Silm and Salam. Salam means “peace” and Silm means “submission”. Thus, Islam means attaining peace through submission to God - the Creator of this universe.

Who founded Islam?

As many think, Islam is not a new religion. It was not founded by Prophet Mohammed (peace be on him). Islam is the way of life given by God, our Creator, to the first man Adam and to all of us who came after him. This can be well understood from the fact that all the Prophets sent by God like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Solomon, David, Jesus, etc (peace be on them all) taught the same way of life which was to surrender, obey, submit and be sincere to God Almighty. We call this way of life as Islam in Arabic.

Is Allah a Muslim God?

As many think, Allah is not a Muslim God. Allah is the Arabic name for God Almighty who created everything, including you and me. Even the Arab speaking Jews and Christians use the word “Allah” to refer to God.

Water (English), Paani (Hindi), Neeru (Kannada) and Moya (Arabic) all denote the same entity. A glass of water is not going to differ just because of the language that is used to denote it. God (English), Ishwar (Hindi), Devaru (Kannada) and Allah (Arabic) all denote the same Creator who created this universe including you and me.

Which is the sin God will not forgive?

God does not forgive a person who after knowing the truth chooses to:

1. Associate partners with God or makes equals with God in worship, obedience, submission
2. Disbelieves in God's existence.

God Himself considers this sin to be unforgivable unless a person repents for it before their death.

How does one make equals with God in worship, obedience, submission?

A person makes equals with God by doing the following acts:

1. Praying, adoring, bowing and worshiping the natural things like air, water, fire and things which are man-made viz. stone carvings, statues, images, graves of saints or pious men, etc.
2. Ascribing divinity to humans by calling them God's son or wife or His descendants or claiming that they possess qualities similar to that of God.
3. Worshiping angels (devtas) viz. Agni, Vayu, planets (grahas), who are in fact just God's creations just like many of His other creations, who sincerely obey Him and have no free-will of their own.

Why is associating partners with God such a Great Crime?

God Almighty stands in no need of man's gratitude and prayers as God is free of all wants and needs. It is we humans who are in need of God and His mercy. It might look like a paradox because if God does not need people's belief, why does He care if people believe or not?

1. God does not approve disbelief not because "disbelief" deprives God of something. As we have explained earlier God created us to worship and serve Him alone. Associating partners with God or to put anyone/anything equal to God or to reject the truth of His existence would make us go against the very purpose of our existence and it would also be the highest form of disrespect to our Creator.
2. Disbelief in God jeopardizes the whole life system and causes evil and corruption to manifest in the world. When a person disbelieves in God or associates partners with God, they choose to reject God's sovereign authority and divine guidance. People end up following their desires and become unaware that they are being watched by God, leading to carelessness about their accountability to Him. This becomes the root cause for all the evils in the world.
3. Associating partners with God is the highest degree of injustice and ingratitude. If we look around us and at ourselves we will find the blessings of God bestowed on us - our loving family, our children, our ability to walk and see and to witness everything that has such great beauty in His creation.

Would it not be utmost ungrateful for us to ascribe all this to anyone else other than the one who gave us everything? How then, can we be so ungrateful to Him and associate partners with Him? Is this not ingratitude and injustice to the Mercy which God has shown upon us? How can we become pious men and women when we pay no regard to God's laws and Commandments and when we make images not befitting His Majestic Personality?

What is the Proof?

God does not expect blind faith from us. The proof for whatever mentioned above is the last and final revelation from God, The Quran. Quran is the unchanged word of God.

The Quran speaks about various disciplines like geology, embryology, astronomy, oceanography, law, psychology, botany, physics, zoology etc. Quran gives an open challenge to all those who disbelieve in it. The Author of this book (God) says "Do they not consider the Quran carefully? Had it been from others beside God, then it would have contained many errors and inconsistencies" (Quran - Chapter 4: Verse 82).

Amazingly, the Quran spoke about several 21st century discoveries in science 1400 years ago with pristine accuracy, which was impossible for a human being like Prophet Mohammed to know on his own. So the Quran has to be the Word of God.

Conclusion

This booklet neither aims to hurt anyone's feelings nor do we wish ill to anyone. Our mission is only to communicate the message of God and make people realize the purpose of their existence; as we believe that the only way to reform the society is to realize the purpose of our existence and lead a life of obedience to our Creator - God Almighty. If we do so, then there is no doubt that the world will be a much better place to live in.