

THOSE WHO DO NOT HEED THE QUR'AN

**They keep others from it and avoid it themselves.
They are only destroying themselves but they are not aware of it.
(Surat al-An'am: 26)**

HARUN YAHYA

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Now writing under the pen-name of HARUN YAHYA, he was born in Ankara in 1956. Having completed his primary and secondary education in Ankara, he studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, he has published many books on political, scientific, and faith-related issues. Harun Yahya is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

His pen-name is a composite of the names Harun (Aaron) and Yahya (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their people's lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on the his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to the their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the final scripture) and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of godless ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet, who attained ultimate wisdom and moral perfection, as a sign of his intention to offer the last word.

All of Harun Yahya's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur'an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as Allah's Existence and Unity and the hereafter; and to expose godless systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies.

Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership in many countries, from India to America, England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia, and Spain to Brazil. Some of his books are available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian), Polish, Malay, Uygur Turkish, and Indonesian.

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in Allah and gaining deeper insights into their faith. His books' wisdom and sincerity, together with a distinct style that's easy to understand, directly affect anyone who reads them. Those who seriously consider these books, can no longer advocate atheism or any other perverted ideology or materialistic philosophy, since these books are characterized by rapid effectiveness, definite results, and irrefutability. Even if they continue to do so, it will be only a sentimental insistence, since these books refute such ideologies from their very foundations. All contemporary movements of denial are now ideologically defeated, thanks to the books written by Harun Yahya.

This is no doubt a result of the Qur'an's wisdom and lucidity. The author modestly intends to serve as a means in humanity's search for Allah's right path. No material gain is sought in the publication of these works.

Those who encourage others to read these books, to open their minds and hearts and guide them to become more devoted servants of Allah, render an invaluable service.

Meanwhile, it would only be a waste of time and energy to propagate other books that create confusion in people's minds, lead them into ideological chaos, and that clearly have no strong and precise effects in removing the doubts in people's hearts, as also verified from previous experience. It is impossible for books devised to emphasize the author's literary power rather than the noble goal of saving people from loss of faith, to have such

a great effect. Those who doubt this can readily see that the sole aim of Harun Yahya's books is to overcome disbelief and to disseminate the Qur'an's moral values. The success and impact of this service are manifested in the readers' conviction.

One point should be kept in mind: The main reason for the continuing cruelty, conflict, and other ordeals endured by the vast majority of people is the ideological prevalence of disbelief. This can be ended only with the ideological defeat of disbelief and by conveying the wonders of creation and Qur'anic morality so that people can live by it. Considering the state of the world today, leading into a downward spiral of violence, corruption and conflict, clearly this service must be provided speedily and effectively, or it may be too late.

In this effort, the books of Harun Yahya assume a leading role. By the will of Allah, these books will be a means through which people in the twentyfirst century will attain the peace, justice, and happiness promised in the Qur'an.

TO THE READER

A special chapter is assigned to the collapse of the theory of evolution because this theory constitutes the basis of all anti-spiritual philosophies. Since Darwinism rejects the fact of creation—and therefore, Allah's Existence—over the last 140 years it has caused many people to abandon their faith or fall into doubt. It is therefore an imperative service, a very important duty to show everyone that this theory is a deception. Since some readers may find the chance to read only one of our book, we think it appropriate to devote a chapter to summarize this subject.

All the author's books explain faith-related issues in light of Qur'anic verses, and invite readers to learn Allah's words and to live by them. All the subjects concerning Allah's verses are explained so as to leave no doubt or room for questions in the reader's mind. The books' sincere, plain, and fluent style ensure that everyone of every age and from every social group can easily understand them. Thanks to their effective, lucid narrative, they can be read at a one sitting. Even those who rigorously reject spirituality are influenced by the facts these books document and cannot refute the truthfulness of their contents.

This and all the other books by the author can be read individually, or discussed in a group. Readers eager to profit from the books will find discussion very useful, letting them relate their reflections and experiences to one another.

In addition, it will be a great service to Islam to contribute to the publication and reading of these books, written solely for the pleasure of Allah. The author's books are all extremely convincing. For this reason, to communicate true religion to others, one of the most effective methods is encouraging them to read these books.

We hope the reader will look through the reviews of his other books at the back of this book. His rich source material on faith-related issues is very useful, and a pleasure to read.

In these books, unlike some other books, you will not find the author's personal views, explanations based on dubious sources, styles that are unobservant of the respect and reverence due to sacred subjects, nor hopeless, pessimistic arguments that create doubts in the mind and deviations in the heart.

INTRODUCTION

Imagine that, without knowing it, you turned down the greatest opportunity ever offered to you. After realising your mistake, imagine how sorry you would feel. If only you could travel back in time and make a different decision. Of course, that is impossible. A self-reflecting person would investigate what led them to make this error and to take precautions so it would not happen again. They would think about any people who may have influenced them while they made their mistake, and would try not to be influenced by them again. At present, a large number of people are unwittingly in this situation, passing up without a second thought an opportunity besides which worldly prospects pale by comparison: Allah has promised all of humanity both a life on earth filled with beauty, goodness, justice, equality, plenty, comfort and tranquillity, and an immortal life in the next world in such grandeur the like of which the human mind cannot even imagine. The prophets of Allah, and the holy books which He sent down as a guide to humanity, have brought this invitation to all people without exception throughout history.

One such offer, made to all of humanity through the Qur'an is a great opportunity, a great blessing and a great benefaction of Allah for those who choose to take advantage of it. People of conscience should thus examine the Qur'an carefully, lest they heedlessly pass up an opportunity they will later regret. On the Day of Judgment, those who ignored the truths of the Qur'an will be remorseful, but unlike the example we gave above, there will be no second chances.

When that difficult day comes, those who today refuse to accept the invitation of Allah will say, **"If only you could see when they are standing before the Fire and saying, 'Oh! If only we could be sent back again, we would not deny the Signs of our Lord and we would be among the believers.' "** (Surat al-An'am: 27) By then it will be too late, for on that day, judgment will be passed on everything a person has done in life and everybody will receive the corresponding reward or punishment.

What requires most attention these days is the fact that a great many people are resistant even to reading the Qur'an, though they do not know what it contains. Because of ingrained prejudices, and without knowing what kind of life to which Allah invites them, a majority of people shy away from the Qur'an. They do not evaluate it in an impartial and unprejudiced manner and, so, reject the invitation of the messengers. Being in a state of heedlessness, with fixed ideas, those who reject this invitation are unwittingly heading towards devastation.

The purpose of writing this book is to alert people about this prejudiced viewpoint which will ultimately cause them to suffer great losses in this world and in the next. It is to invite everybody, whether or not they are believers, to read the Qur'an and consider the verses of Allah with an open heart and mind, as all pious believers have done before them, cleansed of all prejudices, rote "knowledge" and fixed ideas. This reminder is also of benefit to Muslims who say they believe in the Qur'an but who are not guided by its instructions.

It is worth remembering that all the prophets who were simply messengers from Allah inviting people to have faith in Allah and His religion, were met with resistance, denial and rejection from their communities. So when we talk about "people who do not heed the Qur'an," or "people who avoid the Qur'an," in this book, we should remember that this is not unique or special to the Qur'an: all the prophets have been faced with similar

rejections. There have always been people who do not heed the prophets and their message, and who have thus ignored the reality of the message from Allah.

Our purpose is to invite people to think about what is contained in the Qur'an and to submit themselves to Allah while there is still time. Recall Allah's statement:

Those who do not respond to Allah's caller cannot thwart Allah on earth and have no protectors apart from Him. Such people are clearly misguided. (Surat al-Ahqaf: 32)

WHY PEOPLE AVOID THE QUR'AN

As soon as we are born, we have an appetite for learning. Childhood is a time of exciting investigation and discovery about the world. As we grow, this excitement dulls and gives way to habit—customs and traditions based on the "received wisdom" of our elders. We tend to accept this "received wisdom" unconditionally, and so lose the ability to investigate and think critically. We accept that what our society says is bad, is bad, and what it says is good, is good. We do not examine why bad is bad or good is good.

Strikingly, it is in religion in which this process of relying on the wisdom of elders is most pronounced. People tend to follow their religion that is really a conglomeration of traditions, customs, false information and misguided behaviour that have accumulated over time. What they follow often has different rules, prohibitions and conceptions of morality. One of the most troubling results of this process is that it creates amongst people a prejudice against the true religion. Even in Muslim countries, there are supposedly religious practices that are really just customs having no basis in the Qur'an or the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace.) All this causes some people to distance themselves from the true religion. Even those who are normally open-minded, when it comes to religion, lose their analytical viewpoint, and revert to irrational, often, conservative, prejudices.

Let us now investigate the reasons people avoid the Qur'an and the teachings of true religion.

Blind Attachment to the Religion of One's Ancestors

Throughout human history some people have resisted change, progress and new ideas. Be it from science to education, the economy to the judicial system, conservative people, seeking to uphold the status quo, oppose change. But though opposing change, they are not necessarily supporting the truth, rather, in general, old habits, traditions and customs. The prophets entrusted with calling people to Allah all met with this same mentality. The Prophets Muhammad, 'Isa, Shu'ayb, Musa, Nuh, and Hud amongst others (peace be upon them all), were all opposed by people defending and upholding their own religions.

Allah describes this mentality as an attachment to ancestral religion (**Surat al-Baqara, 170; Surat az-Zukhruf, 23**), where people take as their guide, the lifestyle and morality handed down by their ancestors. People mistake remaining bound hand and foot to the legacy of their ancestors for a major virtue. Many of them are so committed to their ancestors, that they will not even listen with an open mind to the message of the prophets. They hate to be shown errors in their ancestors' ways, fear change, and become enemies to the truth.

The Qur'an discusses in detail what different peoples said to their prophets. In Surat az-Zukhruf, Allah mentions one people who rejected their prophet's message, saying: "**... We found our fathers following a religion and we are simply following in their footsteps.**" (Surat az-Zukhruf: 23)

The Pharaoh and his people rejected the Prophet Musa and his brother Harun (peace be upon them), saying "**Have you come to us to turn us from what we found our fathers doing, and to gain greatness in the land? We do not believe you.**" (Surah Yunus: 78)

Allah asks those who reject His message simply because it does not conform to an ancestral religion to think again: "**... What, even though their fathers did not understand a thing and were not guided!.**" (Surat al-Bakara: 170)

The Qur'an invites people to think and compare ideas, rather than blindly accepting or rejecting. "**Say: 'What if I have come with better guidance than what you found your fathers following?'**..." (Surat az-Zukhruf: 24). However, people often prefer their own traditions, and ignore anything that might unsettle it, even if they have no apparent reasons: "**They say, 'We reject what you have been sent with.'**" (Surah Az-Zukhruf: 24)

So, because of their blind attachment to their ancestors' religion, people evade the truths of the Qur'an, overlook its teachings and ignore the divine revelation of Allah. They forget that life is short, and that one day they will die and be wrapped in a shroud and buried in the ground, after which they will be accountable to Allah for all they have done. Allah draws attention to this error of theirs in Surat al-Anbiya', "**No indeed! We have given these people enjoyment, as We did their fathers, until life seemed long and good to them...**" (Surat al-Anbiya': 44)

One of the best examples in the Qur'an of this process of irrational denial of prophethood is the story of the Prophet Ibrahim's people, who were disbelievers who followed the religion of their forefathers and worshipped idols. Their attachment to a superstitious religion led them to reject the Prophet Ibrahim's call to the true faith, to belief in One God. The Prophet Ibrahim asked his people and his father, who had also rejected Ibrahim's call, "**... What are these statues you are clinging to?**" (Surat al-Anbiya': 52) . The following conversation ensued:

They said, "We found our fathers worshipping them." He said, "You and your fathers are clearly misguided." They said, "Have you brought us the truth or are you playing games?" He said, "Far from it! Your Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, He who brought them into being. I am one of those who bear witness to that." (Surat al-Anbiya': 53-56)

The Surah later describes how the tribe met every invitation of the Prophet Ibrahim to believe in the One God, Allah, with refusal. So the Prophet Ibrahim said he would set a trap for the idols. After the people had gone, he broke all the idols "except for the biggest one." When the people returned they asked:

They said, "Who has done this to our gods? He is definitely one of the wrongdoers!" They said, "We heard a young man mentioning them. They call him Ibrahim." They said, "Bring him before the people's eyes so they can be witnesses." They said, "Did you do this to our gods, Ibrahim?" He said, "No, this one, the biggest of them, did it. Ask them if they are able to speak!" (Surat al-Anbiya': 59-63)

Faced with this invitation and clever stratagem of the Prophet Ibrahim, the tribe hesitated at first and for a moment, examining their consciences, they accepted that they had done him an injustice. But then they turned on him once more, saying:

"... You know full well these idols cannot talk." He said, "Do you then worship, instead of Allah, what cannot help or harm you in any way? Shame on you and what you worship besides Allah! Will you not use your intellect?" (Surat al-Anbiya': 65-67)

After this dialogue, they tried to kill the Prophet Ibrahim and cast him into the fire. Allah thwarted them by protecting the Prophet Ibrahim from the fire. This encounter, between the Prophet and his tribe, is a good demonstration of the problem we have been discussing: a people's illogical attachment to their ancestral religion, even in the face of rational proofs and evidence to the contrary.

However, on the Day of Judgment people will face Allah completely alone, and their ancestors, on whom they placed so much importance and whose paths they followed, will not save them from Allah's reckoning. The Qur'an describes their repentance and sorrow:

They will say on the Day their faces are rolled over in the Fire, "If only we had obeyed Allah and obeyed the Messenger!" And they will say, "Our Lord, we obeyed our masters and great men and they misguided us from the Way. Our Lord, give them double the punishment and curse them many times over!" (Surat al-Azhab: 66-68)

Excessive Attachment to the Life of This World

Many people make the mistake of thinking that this life will never end; they become excessively attached to life and forget how short it really is. This heedlessness leads people to avoid thinking about the lessons taught in the Qur'an. It does not cross their minds that everybody will meet the Angel of Death, perhaps unexpectedly, and that they will be buried beneath the earth.

When the Angel of Death takes someone, that person will not be able to take with them the worldly goods he or she struggled to acquire throughout in life, nor the relatives and friends they held dear. On that day, when people come before Allah entirely alone, they will be confronted with everything they have done. Everybody without exception will realise at that moment that life on earth was no more than a transient experience. Yet it will be too late. This is also mentioned in a hadith where the Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) says, *"He is a bad servant who is led by greed. He is a bad servant who is misled by passion. He is a bad servant who is debased by worldly desire."* (Al-Tirmidhi)

People who do not consider these facts look on religion and earthly life differently from those who think about meeting their Lord. For the former, life consists only of education, marriage and work. These three things consume their minds, and are their benchmarks that guide their decisions. Their life is prioritised around questions such as: how to make money; how to succeed at work or in marriage; and what kind of future they will have. No doubt these are important matters requiring consideration, but the mistake is to forget life's most

important reality: death. The Qur'an teaches us that people avoid thinking about death and turn back in their because **"Satan fills them with false hopes."** (Surat an-Nisa': 120) False hopes are to make long term plans, not for the sake of Allah, but for the sake of purely earthly pleasures, forgetting the true hope: life in Paradise.

The Qur'an is replete with verses reminding people to remember the hereafter. If only people would contemplate the Qur'an and its teachings they would become aware of Allah's truths, and would comprehend the importance and urgency of leading a life pleasing to Allah. They would thus benefit themselves and those close to them; they could hope to preserve themselves from the endless torment of hell. This understanding and hope are very important for every human being because the real destination is the eternal afterlife. In Surah Al 'Imran, Allah says :

To mankind the love of worldly appetites is painted in glowing colours: women and children, and heaped-up mounds of gold and silver, and horses with fine markings, and livestock and fertile farmland. All that is merely the enjoyment of the life of this world. The best homecoming is in the presence of Allah. Say, "Shall I tell you of something better than that?" Those who guard against evil will have Gardens with their Lord, with rivers flowing under them, remaining in them timelessly, for ever, and purified wives, and the Pleasure of Allah. Allah sees His servants. (Surah Al 'Imran: 14-15)

People generally have a "way of life" that they live by, and that is formed by their environment and according to their understanding of the world. They are usually very attached to their established way of life, and reluctant to change, especially their view of the world, their "philosophy of life," because changing a lifelong philosophy also causes deep-seated changes in a person's lifestyle. This reluctance to change a lifestyle has often been at the bottom of people's resistance to the prophets' message. The story of the Prophet Shu'ayb (pbuh) is illustrative. The greatest fear of Shu'ayb's tribe was that of abandoning their lifestyle and goods.

They said, "Shu'ayb, do your prayers instruct you that we should abandon what our fathers worshipped or stop doing whatever we want to with our wealth? You are clearly the forbearing, the rightly-guided!" (Surah Hud: 87)

The Prophet Shu'ayb replied:

He said, "My people! What do you think? If I do possess a Clear Sign from my Lord and He has given me His good provision, I would clearly not want to go behind your backs and do something I have forbidden you to do. I only want to put things right as far as I can. My success is with Allah alone. I have put my trust in Him and I turn to Him." (Surah Hud: 88)

Up to that point, these people had been satisfied with their superstitious lives. They certainly did not want to change their way of life or the system they were used to. These people, described to us by the Qur'an as **"those who do not expect to meet Us and are content with the life of this world and at rest in it, and those who are heedless of Our Signs, their shelter will be the Fire because of what they earned."** (Surah Yunus: 7-8), thought they were on the right path.

However, the life of this world is only a fleeting benefit. On the Day of Judgement they will regret it: **"It may be that those who disbelieve will wish that they had been Muslims. Leave them to eat and enjoy themselves. Let false hope divert them. They will soon know"** (Surat al-Hijr: 2-3). As this verse maintains, by focusing only on life in this world these people are only increasing their losses. Allah tells us that those who are deceived by worldly life and forget the values of religion will regret it on the Day of Judgment:

Those who took their religion as a diversion and a game, and were deluded by the life of this world. Today We will forget them just as they forgot the encounter of this Day and denied Our Signs. (Surat al-A'raf: 51)

A Feeling of Overwhelming Pride

Another reason some people steer clear of the Qur'an is that they have a superiority complex. They believe so strongly in the truth and flawlessness of their own beliefs and lifestyle that they scorn the idea that better beliefs may exist. As Allah says in the Qur'an **"When he is told to have fear of Allah, he is seized by pride which drives him to wrongdoing. Hell will be enough for him! What an evil resting-place!"** (Surat al-Baqara: 206) what pushes people into denial of the truth is "pride."

When invited to read the Qur'an, people like this refuse because that means submitting to the true faith and accepting that up to that point their religion has been nothing but a superstitious belief. It means they comprehend that they have been deceived, and have followed the wrong road, have chosen their leaders or role models incorrectly, and have written, read and valued erroneous knowledge. For them this is a catastrophe. In order to avoid suffering this catastrophe they do not want to accept that their beliefs are wrong, no matter what proofs are presented to them, because their pride does not permit this. So, as the verse says, their pride "drives them to wrongdoing."

If they could just understand that the Qur'an is the only truth, accept that they have been on the wrong path, listen to the voice of their consciences and start a brand new life in repentance, they would please Allah. The alternative is a troubled existence, both in this world and the hereafter. Allah tells us of the spirit of darkness that lies within those who reject Him: **"And they repudiated them wrongly and haughtily, in spite of their own certainty about them. See the final fate of the corrupters."** (Surat an-Naml: 14) Their pride cuts these people off from the true path and causes them great harm. This is also what the Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) has warned people about in his time with the words, *"Shall I inform you about the people of the Fire? They comprise every cruel, violent, proud and conceited person."* (Al-Bukhari)

Another result of their superiority complex is an attempt to draw people away from the path of Allah, as described in Surat al-Hajj:

Among people there is one who argues about Allah without knowledge or guidance or any light-giving Book, turning away arrogantly, to misguide people from the Way of Allah. He will be disgraced in this world and on the Day of Rising. We will make him taste the punishment of the Burning [while it is said], "That is for what you did before. Allah does not wrong His servants." (Surat al-Hajj: 8-10)

As is pointed out in these verses, because of their arrogance the deniers want to divert others from the path of Allah, as they have diverted themselves. They engage in arguments without any knowledge. In spite of not reading the Qur'an, and of not heeding its arguments and morality they argue about Allah and try, in their pride, to present themselves as superior. But on Judgment Day, when people are called to account for everything they have done, this will do them no good at all. On the contrary, they will be sorry and will say, "... Oh! If only we could be sent back again, we would not deny the Signs of our Lord and we would be among the believers." (Surat al-An'am: 27)

The Holding of Fixed Ideas

Those who possess extremely rigid ideas also avoid learning about the Qur'an. As we said earlier, people are greatly affected by what they learned from their ancestors, incorrect traditions and customs passed down by their elders, as well as the lifestyles and modes of thought they observe around them. This leads to fixity in thinking, and often aggression against new ideas. In turn, this can lead to threatening behaviour towards people bringing innovations, changes and the simple truth.

Holding fixed ideas acts like a curtain, screening people off from listening to, and observing, one another. In Surah Fussilat, Allah tells us how people stuck in the status quo respond when called to the faith:

A Book whose verses have been demarcated for people who know as an Arabic Qur'an, bringing good news and giving warning; but most of them have turned away and do not hear. They say, "Our hearts are covered up against what you call us to and there is a heaviness in our ears. There is a screen between us and you. So act—we are certainly acting." (Surah Fussilat: 3-5)

To have an incorrect idea about a worldly matter may not cause them serious damage, but a fixed idea that causes people to ignore the teachings of Allah is a very serious danger that can take them to the flames of hell. Everybody needs to strive to avoid falling into such a position. In fact the call to the Qur'an is an opportunity for people to cleanse themselves of their superstitious, mistaken and incorrect ideas. In such circumstances the intelligent way to behave is to listen to the person making the call, to read the book of truth which is offered and to evaluate it with commonsense. An open-minded person with a conscience who sees that the Qur'an is bringing more truthful ideas than the ones he currently holds will abandon his own ideas without any hesitation.

Indeed, constant searching for something better is built into the human constitution. People are drawn to better ideas, opinions, and points of view. But godlessness makes close-mindedness (which is contrary to human nature) seem reasonable and causes the person to be attached to outworn ideas; they are prevented from examining events as they need to, making significant steps forward and deep-seated changes.

We can compare this mentality to the insistence of a person on travelling with a horse and cart, when there are more efficient and modern means of transport available, such as cars, trains, aircraft and ships. This person's conservative behaviour leaves him/her deprived of these blessings of technology. The same is true for those suffering from rigid thinking; they are deprived of Allah's blessings.

The fixed ideas that people hold to are not limited to their religious viewpoints. It can be seen in all aspects of their lives: their failure to change the style of their interior decoration; their prejudiced approach to new technological products and refusal to take advantage of them; their dressing in the same way year after year; and their laughing at the same jokes, are just a few examples of these fixations. Because of this for years they cling on to the same ideas, even though they are incorrect, and they retain the same black and white ideas of right and wrong. Because of this straitjacket, they cannot think freely and easily, they do not read books that put forward new ideas or learn about these, take no pleasure from innovations, and do not make even the slightest improvement to their standards of living.

The clearest examples of this come from materialist and communist circles. It is possible to recognise these people right away. Their style of dress, hairstyles, ways of speaking and the arguments they put forward have not changed for years. They support outdated arguments, present these ideas as ultimate truths and give their own personal experiences as examples.

For decades they have taken Karl Marx's *Das Kapital*, Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* and Mao's *Little Red Book* as their bibles and read these books again and again, underlining passages. It is as if they learn them by heart. These books present ideas that have been outdated by scientific progress and the events of the twentieth-century, but these loyalists cannot accept that they contain any deficiency, mistake or incorrect information. They still believe that the teaching of these books is "correct" and "scientific" because they do not follow what is happening in the world and do not monitor scientific developments closely, or perhaps because they do not want to observe these and understand them. With great patience they await Marx's predictions and utopias, drawn up in the dark pages of the 19th century, coming true. They still believe that the ideas of Darwin, which were destroyed by scientific developments at the start of the 20th century, are valid. They only debate with people who hold the same views, and for year after year they read the same newspapers and watch the same films. The expression they most frequently use is, "I have not changed for years. The ideas I upheld 40 years ago I still uphold." But it should not be forgotten that such a statement is only reasonable when it comes from someone who is putting forward absolute truth.

These people feel proud of showing resistance to change, opposing innovation and rejecting other ideas without listening to them. They believe so blindly in the anti-religious words of those like Marx, Darwin and Mao that they scorn reading the Qur'an, or books explaining the Qur'an, simply to avoid having to go back on their prior convictions. They are convinced, or more correctly, have been convinced, that reading or learning from the Qur'an will do them great harm.

An invitation to the moral code of the Qur'an, however, is an opportunity for these people to learn from their previous experience, improve themselves by profiting from their mistakes, investigate finer and more truthful things and rescue themselves from their fixed ideas. But people with these fixed ideas reject the invitations made to them and the sincere criticisms and kind-hearted recommendations of those who make them because they regard them as inferior and they never abandon the beliefs to which they are so blindly attached.

But why do people approach new information, ideas, concepts or even scientific facts with prejudice, and not abandon the fixed ideas which are of not the slightest use to them?

This is due to the influence of Satan: Satan misleads those who reject the truth into thinking that what they have done is pleasant, acceptable and on the right track. Those who do not listen to the voice of their

consciences and turn their backs on the Qur'an are persuaded by Satan's deceits. Allah tells us about this deception:

... Satan made their actions seem good to them and so debarred them from the Way, even though they were intelligent people. (Surat al-'Ankabut: 38)

In time, Satan influences these people, who were capable of seeing the truth and aware of their own failings, into becoming people who cannot see or detect the truth, and who block their ears against it. Pride in their opinions and way of life makes them intolerant to the views of anyone else, and conversation with them on these matters is next to impossible.

As Allah says in the verse, "**They debar them from the path, yet they still think they are guided.**" (Surat az-Zukhruf: 37), these people think they follow the correct road. But the truth is not what they think. When the Day of Judgment comes, their thoughts, remembrance and regrets will be of no use at all.

And that Day Hell is produced, that Day man will remember; but how will the remembrance help him? (Surat al-Fajr: 23)

SATAN: THE SECRET LEADER OF THOSE WHO DO NOT HEED THE QUR'AN

The first part of this book explained, in the light of some Qur'anic verses, the reasons people do not heed the Qur'an and run away from the truth. In addition to these reasons, there are certain people who encourage others to hide from, and reject, the truth of the Qur'an, turning them in the wrong direction and trying their utmost to keep them from the Qur'an. These are people who act as spokesmen for Satan's deceptions, and who are frequently leaders in their community. They attempt to spread atheism, and to prevent the adoption of the Qur'an's moral code.

There do not need to be a large number of such people. It is enough for them to be people who are materially and morally influential in the community, who have economic power in their hands, and who possess the means to direct society's thinking. In this way they can easily communicate their ideas to the masses, thus directing them. Because of their means, they succeed in making the majority of people think, speak and organise their lives in the godless way they impose upon them.

In general, many people follow unquestioningly community leaders like those described above. Such followers are those who have surrendered themselves to the race of life; they tag along on the leader's path without really being aware of their ultimate aims, and without realising what kind of life they have embarked upon. They agree to the leaders' every word, obey it scrupulously, and so are caught up living their lives according to this misguided direction.

History is full of such evil leaders. In recent times bloody-handed leaders like Stalin, Hitler, Franco, Mussolini and Mao have headed the unbelievers. During their periods in power, these people placed the lives of their subjects entirely under their own control and directed their daily and social lives. They used all means of communication according to their own ideas, provided education of the type they wanted, permitted to be read only those books they thought should be read, and committed mass murders of those opposed to them. They did not even tolerate the existence of different ideas and viciously destroyed those who held them. They tried everything to spread atheism, destroying churches and mosques, and abolishing religious education. As the Qur'an says, what they did was to "summon people to the fire." In Surat al-Qasas, Allah tells us about these types of people:

We made them leaders, summoning to the Fire, and on the day of rising they will not be helped. We pursued them with a curse in this world and on the day of rising they will be hideous and spurned. (Surat al-Qasas: 41-42)

Because of the powerful persuasion of these faithless leaders, as mentioned here in the Qur'an, people have emerged who are unable to think, see, speak or reason. The latter ignore the fact that it was Allah Who created them and gave them life, and obey the orders of their leaders: in fact they are afraid to behave in ways that might displease their leaders.

The unbelievers are so attached to their leaders that they will also battle opposing ideas. So, unless their leader gives permission, it is impossible for these unbelievers to listen to the words of those who call them to

Allah, to read books on the topic, or even to believe in Allah. This is not a new situation, as we mentioned in the first part of the book, every prophet has faced leaders who try to prevent people from listening to, or following, the prophet. For example, when the Prophet Musa (peace be upon him) invited the people of Pharaoh to believe in Allah's verses, they were powerless against the Pharaoh, accepted his leadership and followed his orders for good or ill without reflection. However, the Qur'an points out that the Pharaoh was a leader summoning his people to the fire:

We sent Musa with Our Signs and clear authority to Pharaoh and his ruling circle. They followed Pharaoh's command but Pharaoh's command was not rightly guided. He will go ahead of his people on the day of rising and lead them down into the Fire... (Surah Hud: 96-98)

Just as they control how their people live their lives, absolute leaders also determine how they think. Recall how the Pharaoh resisted Musa (peace be upon him) despite every proof offered, and how his resistance also drove his subjects into the same deviation. The Qur'an's example of Pharaoh thus indicates clearly the pressure leaders of the unbelievers can exert on their societies and its beliefs:

He said, "Have you believed in him before I authorised you? He is your chief who taught you magic. But you will soon know! I will cut off your alternate hands and feet and I will crucify every one of you." (Surat ash-Shu'ara': 49)

This verse highlights that one of the main characteristics of absolutist leaders, who try to prevent their subjects from believing in religion, is their use of fear to control the community. They use slanders, threats of arrest, public ridicule and death, as ways to prevent their subjects from believing in Allah. However, such leaders forget that true believers fear nothing and nobody except Allah: because believers know that a person is responsible only to Allah and that they live only to earn Allah's approval. In fact, we see in the story of Pharaoh, that the magicians, who believed in the clear proofs brought by the Prophet Musa, set no store by Pharaoh's threats, because they sincerely believed in Allah, a belief which they expressed:

The magicians threw themselves down in prostration. They said, "We believe in the Lord of all the worlds, the Lord of Musa and Harun." Pharaoh said, "Have you believed in him before I authorised you to do so? This is just some plot you have concocted in the city to drive its people from it. I will cut off your alternate hands and feet and then I will crucify every one of you." They said, "We are returning to our Lord. You are only avenging yourself on us because we have believed in our Lord's Signs when they came to us. Our Lord, pour down steadfastness upon us and take us back to You as Muslims." (Surat al-A'raf: 120-126)

In another verse, Allah tells us of the brave decision taken by the faithful magicians in defiance of the Pharaoh:

They said, "We will never prefer you to the Clear Signs which have come to us nor to Him who brought us into being. Decide on any judgment you like. Your jurisdiction only covers the life of this world. (Surah Ta Ha: 72)

History is replete with examples of those who, like Pharaoh's people, fail to listen to their own consciences and use their own reason and only believe what their ruler gives them permission to. Even today, there are those who reject the Qur'an for similar reasons. Sadly, because they pay no attention to Allah's existence and are unaware that nothing and nobody has any independent power apart from Him, these people do not realise that their fear of their leaders is irrational. In reality, those they fear, and under whose orders they consequently place themselves, are impotent people like themselves, who have no real power of their own, living subject to the fate Allah has created for them. For example, the Pharaoh was a leader who, while he was alive, placed his people under great pressure, treated them cruelly, and was regarded as all powerful. But as the Qur'anic verses tell us, his **"jurisdiction only covers the life of this world."** Neither the wealth he owned, nor the kingdoms he established could protect him against death. Like everybody, his death at the end of a brief life was inevitable. After he died, he had no more control over his people.

In fact, when they are summoned to the presence of Allah, people will not be able to give as an excuse, that they disbelieved because their rulers persuaded and pressured them. None of the leaders whom they feared and whose orders they obeyed will be at their side to help or protect them. Everybody will give an individual accounting to Allah, and will be confronted with every single thing they have done. So, the image of the power, wealth, magnificence and potency on earth of the blasphemous leaders is a deceit. Allah warns that the power of such leaders will not be enough even to save their own souls:

Say: "Who will protect you night and day from the All-Merciful?" Yet they turn away from the remembrance of their Lord. Or do they have gods besides Us who will protect them? They cannot even help themselves! They will not be safe from Us. No indeed! We have given these people enjoyment, as We did their fathers, until life seemed long and good to them. Do they not see how We come to the land eroding it from its extremities? Or are they the victors? Say: "I can only warn you through the Revelation." But the deaf cannot hear the call when they are warned. (Surat al-Anbiya': 42-45)

Believing that any creatures other than Allah have power, submitting to their rule, allowing their every thought, belief and moral value to be a guiding principle and so destroying one's own beliefs and ideas is heedlessness and mindlessness. In fact this situation arises from the psychology of being controlled and managed in weak communities which do not think or exercise their free will. People in this situation prefer not to think or investigate for themselves, seeing it as too difficult; they prefer to follow received ideas, the "tried and true" and avoid the responsibility that comes with independent thought. They even follow people who are no longer alive, contenting themselves to adopt a viewpoint through reading a single book. They do not consider if the author had been sound in his thinking, or had been prejudiced or partial. That Marx, Mao, Lenin, Stalin, Mussolini, Hitler, Darwin and a great many other such atheist leaders of thought or politics still have so much influence on people's ideas is a very significant example of this.

But it is as dangerous as it is wrong to follow atheist leaders like those mentioned. A person may not heed calls to believe in Allah because of ignorance, because of failure to listen sufficiently to the voice of conscience or for other reasons, but once the truth has been perceived it is most intelligent to accept it. Continuing to insist on what is wrong, resisting the truth and failing to do what is right shows a great lack of reason. Doing what is right is a fine virtue, but regarding this as a weakness and calculating what people will think and trying to retain respect by doing so will cause a person real loss both in this world and the next. However, making a decision to conform unconditionally to the rules of the Qur'an and our Prophet (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) is honest, sincere, civilised and courageous. At the same time, a person who does so has proved what a strong, honest and sound character he or she has. The real weakness is remaining silent in the face of Satan's cajolery and thus obeying Satan.

Being A Member of Satan's Faction...

As mentioned in the first part of this book, prophets and those sincere Muslims urging people to follow the prophets who have come to enlighten them, have always met with this kind of rejection. Leaders who try and turn people away from the prophets and from following the true religion have always used the same methods and put forward the same excuses. What can explain this symmetry? Is there a book such leaders follow? Or do they themselves follow a leader, the same one since the dawn of humanity?

Indeed, the fundamental reason underlying people's attempts to reject the prophets' call is that people who are remote from religious morality take their orders from the same place and heed the words of the same leader. This leader, who prevents people from praying to Allah, following the words of the prophets and finding the right path is Satan. Satan is the one who inspires the eminent ones among people, who may be economically or spiritually influential, as mentioned in the beginning of this part, to encourage their followers to reject the true path of religion.

Allah warns us that by distancing themselves from what is good, people are following the path of Satan, when He says in the Qur'an, "... **What they call on is an arrogant Satan.**" (Surat an-Nisa': 117).

Satan, as the real leader of these people, is deluding them with all manner of promises. With a variety of methods and devices, Satan diverts them from the true faith of Allah, just as they themselves are doing with their own people. In fact by making Satan their friend and guardian, people are walking a path which will end in very great torment because, as the Qur'an tells us: "... **Anyone who has made Satan his comrade, what an evil comrade he is!**" (Surat an-Nisa': 38)

When a person accepts Satan as a friend, he begins to operate on the basis of his advice, inspiration and instructions. Before starting a task, before speaking, before making any decision, he is advised by this false friend. He consults Satan on every act and they plan together. In a Qur'anic verse, Allah gives this warning:

Among people there is one who argues about Allah without knowledge, and follows every rebellious Satan. It is written of him that if anyone takes him as a friend, he will mislead him and guide him to the punishment of the Searing Blaze. (Surat al-Hajj: 3-4)

This verse indicates that the friends of Satan are those who make him their protector, battle against the religion of Allah, enter into violent arguments and deviate from the true path. These people take Satan's side in the war he is waging against the religion of Allah, and become his foot soldiers. They are prone to becoming Satan's workers, because, as we are told in a verse of the Qur'an, "**... The disbeliever is ever, against this Lord, an assistant to [Satan].**" (Surat al-Furqan: 55)

The first task of Satan is to make his followers forget the existence of Allah. Through the prophets and the holy books, Allah promises everybody who He has created a wonderful eternal life if they accept Him and follow Him. Thus, He reminds them that they are responsible to Him and they are held responsible for observing the limits conveyed in the Qur'an. By contrast Satan deceives his own faction with lies such as that they have no responsibility to anybody, that there will be no accounting for what they do or say, and that there is no problem with their living how they wish, even any form of depravity and perversion. Thus Satan's promises about worldly life are easily accepted by people who have no faith and do not accept the Qur'an as their guide. Allah refers to the situation of those who turn away from the Qur'an in one of its verses:

Recite to them the tale of him to whom We gave Our Signs, but who then cast them to one side and Satan caught up with him. He was one of those lured into error. (Surat al-A'raf: 175)

As delineated in the first part of this book, those who allow themselves to become ensnared by Satan's traps live heedlessly and without a care, as though they will never die and life will never end. They hope to lead a happy life without recognizing religious morality and the limitations set by Allah. They make a great effort to avoid, overlook, or suppress any reality that might contradict their decision. But the calculations they make will not come out as Satan has promised them. On the contrary, every minute they spend in ignorance of the Qur'an will certainly bring with it great pain and trouble: a person who calculates with the thought that they are not responsible to anyone nor accountable for their behaviour, easily engages in any form of immorality and unconscionable behaviour. It is for this reason that the rejecters do not for the most part stop at lack of faith but exhibit aggressive behaviour towards Allah's prophets and believers, unable to endure their message.

The behaviour of people who reject religion in every period of history has an exact resemblance because what is directing them is the same Satanic power. The Qur'an describes it like this:

... The satans inspire their friends to dispute with you... (Surat al-An'am: 121)

Those in every society who conduct their endless struggle against Allah's message in their ignorance of the supreme truth that the Qur'an will prove to be superior under all circumstances, are proceeding down the path of Satan and obeying the orders he has given without consulting their own wisdom or consciences. But these secret calls of Satan will certainly bring them to a fiercely burning fire. Allah informs us about the position of these people in the Qur'an:

... Yet there are people who argue about Allah without knowledge or guidance or any illuminating Book. When they are told: "Follow what Allah has sent down," they say, "No, we will follow what we found our fathers doing." What! Even if Satan is calling them to the punishment of the Blazing Fire? (Surah Luqman: 20-21)

THE ORDERS GIVEN BY SATAN TO DISTANCE PEOPLE FROM THE QUR'AN

In previous sections of this book we stated that the true leader of people who resist religion is Satan. In the following sections we will speak of the orders given by Satan to the deniers and how these orders distance them from the Qur'an. However, first it is necessary to emphasize that Satan only influences his own followers.

Satan has no power whatsoever over people who scrupulously direct themselves towards Allah with all their hearts, who conform to His instructions and advice, who sincerely engage in good deeds to earn the pleasure of Allah and who are aware that they will be rewarded in the hereafter for everything they do. Satan has influence upon those people that reject Allah. All Satan's efforts to divert them from the true path, his whispered flatteries and his deceptive words have no effect on the faithful. In the verses of the Qur'an, Allah tells us:

He (Satan) has no authority over those who believe and put their trust in their Lord. He only has authority over those who take him as a friend and associate others with Allah. (Surat an-Nahl: 99-100)

Satan's situation is also described in another verse:

But as for My servants, you will not have any authority over them. Your Lord suffices as a guardian. (Surat al-Isra': 65)

For this reason Allah invited believers in the Qur'an as follows: **"It was only Satan frightening you through his friends. But do not fear them—fear Me if you are believers."** (Surah Al 'Imran: 175) Satan may, perhaps, cause people to fall into momentary errors with a variety of stratagems, but when a Muslim falls into any error he notices this immediately, repents and takes refuge in Allah. Surat al-A'raf instructs the faithful like this:

If an evil impulse from Satan provokes you, seek refuge in Allah. He is All-Hearing, All-Seeing. As for those who perform their duty, when they are bothered by visitors from Satan, they remember and immediately see clearly. (Surat al-A'raf: 200-201)

However, if a person turns again to Satan, they have made him their guardian. He places his yoke upon them with fear, threats, all kinds of deceptions concerning the life of the world, blandishments and promises, and they reach a point of listening to his every word. Every one of Satan's words becomes an order for them. The only thing they need to do is to obey his orders.

As the Qur'an tells us by saying, **"They are like Satan when he says to a human being, 'Disbelieve' ..."** (Surat al-Hashr: 16) Satan first instructs people to deny the existence of Allah. Later they follow his other orders: Don't Think! Don't Learn! Be Proud! Don't Listen! Stay Away from Believers! Don't Read! Mock the Believers! Conform to My Way of Life!

Satan's Command: "Don't Think!"

The ability to think is one of the greatest blessings granted to people because only by thinking can people be aware of Allah's boundless power and the beauty of the universe He created. Only a thinking person realizes that the world has been created by divine wisdom in every detail, that death is near, and that there are certain obligations that are required to be met in this life. We are told in a large number of Qur'anic verses that only thinking people can heed advice and that they alone are capable of seeing the proofs of Allah's existence. Indeed, the very purpose of the revelation of the Qur'an is for people to think carefully about its verses, as is stated here: **"It is a Book We have sent down to you, full of blessing, so let people of intelligence ponder its Signs and take heed."** (Surah Sad: 29)

However, a large proportion of humanity regards thinking as a hardship. These people even believe that thinking is damaging to their lives and their set ways. According to this opinion, "the greatest damage" lies in reminding people of their responsibilities in this life and taking them out of the slumbering, empty minded state of heedlessness in which they find themselves. Like a kind of magic spell, this sleep makes people forget why they exist, that there is a purpose in life, and that one day they will die. Another form of this sleep is to be inundated by the daily routines. Perhaps these people feel they spend a great deal of time thinking, making decisions and finding answers, but in fact what they think about does not go beyond the details of their day-to-day needs and impulses. Their thoughts are not related to the purpose of human creation, how the world came into being or the fact that one day every living thing will be buried in the ground. Actions, statements and behaviour learned by rote, taught, and become accustomed to, have such a hold on these people that they do not even feel a need to think about more fundamental realities.

Just as they evade thought, so too do these people escape hastily from warnings given by others; they turn their faces from belief in Allah, thinking about the verses of the Qur'an, and living by His guidance.

But nothing and nobody has been put on the face of the earth for an empty purpose. Allah created every detail in the universe for people to think about. In fact in the Qur'an, Allah announces that he created **"... death and life to test which of you is best in action..."** (Surat al-Mulk: 2) In this fleeting life, one is put to the test by all his or her deeds. A person has a great responsibility towards Allah Who created him and will resurrect him after death and call for an accounting for his deeds. Reading the Qur'an, taking heed of it, thinking about the verses and comprehending and applying them are amongst every person's principal responsibilities. Allah draws attention to this truth with the verse which reads, **"Do they not ponder these words? Has anything come to them that did not come to their ancestors the previous peoples?"** (Surat al-Mu'minun: 68)

Thinking people will conclude that such fine detail in the universe and its examples of flawless design mean that it cannot have come into being by accident and that there exists a Creator of all things. By thinking deeply about the miracles created around them and other proofs of Allah's existence, and observing the divine wisdom in the details which He has created, they will give themselves over to Him and live solely for the purpose of earning His approval. Aware of this truth, Satan wants them to live their lives in heedlessness, keep away from Allah's verses and hence to refrain from thought. Allah describes this purpose of Satan's in a verse of the Qur'an:

[Satan said], "... I will lie in ambush for them on your straight path. Then I will come at them, from in front of them and behind them, from their right and from their left... (Surat al-A'raf: 16-17)

In order to achieve this ultimate aim, Satan prepares very special situations to sink people into a state of heedlessness. For this purpose, he makes plans using people's weaker aspects, and attempts to make evil deeds attractive to people's egos. Unlike the faithful, people distanced from religious morality can end up in a state of spiritual heedlessness by forgetting Allah and not thinking about their purpose in life.

For example, Satan can easily waylay people in places of entertainment, because such places are conducive to wasting time and not thinking about anything. In these places what assumes the most importance are the clothes and accessories people wear, the money they spend, and the people around them. With the music so loud that people cannot hear one another, the air so full of smoke they cannot see one another, exploding flashbulbs, loud conversation and yelling, an environment is formed in which people who have no fear of Allah certainly cannot concentrate their attention or think.

Of course it is a great blessing for people to enjoy themselves and come together with others they enjoy talking to. But these days places of entertainment are not those where the name of Allah is mentioned and where people recall their purpose in life. The purpose of creation is entirely forgotten. People who feel no fear of Allah in their hearts and spend their time in such places experience an atmosphere of heedlessness and are left in no condition to consider or understand warnings. In fact, one of the reasons why such people prefer these places is to forget everything and avoid thought, and they often say so. While a person who comes to such a place to, as he expresses it, escape from the troubles of the world, may have been behaving sensibly ten minutes earlier, now he starts to regard any excess as normal. In the name of enjoying themselves, these people see immorality of all kinds as reasonable and become insensitive to what is happening around them. In fact, in environments of this type, breaking plates, overturning tables, throwing napkins, attacks on others with obscene language, and fights reflect only a small part of the kind of heedlessness and immorality into which people can sink.

Concert arenas, football stadiums and other places where large crowds gather only magnify this effect of heedlessness. A large number of people go to such places not to enjoy themselves or to watch an entertaining game or to listen to a beautiful voice but to shout, to fight and to cause trouble, in short to display ugly behaviour of every kind. In such environments, it is utterly impossible for people with no fear of Allah to extract from their minds a single useful thought. It only remains to be said that people in such an uncontrolled environment that encourages violence and immorality, are wide open to the whisperings of Satan so that the obedience of people to Satan's "Don't think!" order is ensured. Allah draws attention to this method of Satan's with this verse: **"Stir up any of them you can with your voice and rally against them your cavalry and your infantry and share with them in their children and their wealth and make them promises!.." (Surat al-'Isra: 64)**

People whose lives are filled with work and going out to such places of entertainment, where heedlessness reigns, forget that one day they will meet the angel of death. And when they do, it is too late, because this person has passed his worldly life in pursuit of empty practices and has fled from consideration of the verses of the Qur'an. For a person who thinks about death, the transitory nature of life and his responsibilities towards Allah, it is impossible ever to accept such a heedless state. A person who knows that

Allah can take his life at any moment and that there will be a reckoning for his every word, thought and action never lets these realities slip his mind in any environment whatsoever and does not surrender to heedlessness.

For a person to continue a life of heedlessness resembles his seeing a truck with brake failure hurtling towards him and failing to get out of the way—even though this is possible—while being fully aware that it is going to hit and crush him. During his life, a person can indulge in excess hundreds or thousands of times, can even spend his entire life in this way, but when death takes him, everything he has experienced is left behind. If a person has passed his time in heedlessness of the existence of Allah, he will realize on the day of his death that this way of life, described in ignorant societies as "making the best of life," has brought him nothing but loss. He will feel regret for all the excesses he indulged in because he forgot Allah and the Day of Judgement. But heedless people ignore Allah's warnings:

Mankind's Reckoning has drawn very close to them, yet they heedlessly turn away. No fresh reminder comes to them from their Lord without their listening to it as if it was a game. Their hearts are distracted... (Surat al-Anbiya': 1-3)

The "Thinking Harms People" Deception

In ignorant societies the superstitious belief that thinking harms people is prevalent. This great deception is another tactic employed by Satan to prevent people from thinking about Allah's verses. Because of his idea, the work of Satan, that thinking will place them in difficulties, they remain distant from the Qur'an. In ignorant societies it is even believed that too much thinking drives people mad. This belief is one more deception, like Satan's other games. On the contrary, people experience far more problems when they do not think, than when they do.

Actually, not thinking about death and the Day of Judgement is an illusion that deceives people into believing they will not be accountable for their deeds. Whether a person thinks about them or not, responsibilities are neither reduced nor altered, because Allah holds everybody responsible for having faith and living according to Qur'anic morality. Everybody is tested in this life and sooner or later will face previously ignored realities.

Another result of the failure to think is that people do not draw lessons from events occurring around them or from their own personal experiences. The events that Allah creates to make people think and amend their behaviour have no effect on these people at all. By convincing themselves that all events occurring in the world are accidental, they fail to appreciate the reason for events that might teach them a lesson. Allah refers to such behaviour like this:

Do they not see that they are tried once or twice in every year? But still they do not turn back. They do not pay heed. (Surat at-Tawba: 126)

In truth, major disasters, serious problems, and this-worldly troubles are extremely important occurrences that direct people towards thought, but rejecters of the faith have made these events the subject of argument.

They begin by claiming that events are accidental and so evade thinking about them. They say, as Allah says in the Qur'an, "**... Our forefathers too underwent both hardship and ease...**" (Surat al-A'raf: 95) and continue their heedless lives. They feign ignorance about disasters which happen to them by saying, "It's just accidental," "a major natural disaster," "this was only to be expected," "such things happen in any society," and "a great misfortune." With such words, they provide themselves with their own explanation. They are incapable of saying, "This is a warning Allah sent to us," and are even afraid of expressing the possibility of such a thing. This is another tactic of Satan's.

All disasters, misfortunes, problems and events which befall people and remind them of the pain of hell are opportunities Allah provided for them as a kindness. Allah sends people difficulties so they can learn from them and so correct their behaviour. In a verse of the Qur'an, Allah explains the reason behind worldly troubles:

We will give them a taste of lesser punishment before the greater punishment, so that hopefully they will turn back. Who could do greater wrong than someone who is reminded of the Signs of his Lord and then turns away from them?... (Surah as- Sajda: 21-22)

Here Allah is reminding people that they are close to death, that a person is responsible for his or her every action, and that they therefore need to conform to His orders and prohibitions. But because of their extreme arrogance, the deniers turn all reminders into a laughing matter and increase their resistance still further. Indeed, they respond defiantly to prophets who warn them to conform to Allah's verses by saying, "**... When will this promise come about if you are telling the truth?**" (Surat al-Mulk: 25) or exhibit an ugly courage by using expressions such as, "**We and our forefathers were promised this before. This is nothing but the myths of previous peoples!**" (Surat al-Mu'minun: 83) In Verse 95 of Surat al-A'raf, Allah responds to this taunt by saying "**...We seized them suddenly when they were not expecting it,**" and of their deserving great torment. In Surah Al 'Imran, He invites people to consider what their spiritual state will be on the Day of Judgment:

On the Day that each self finds the good it did, and the evil it did, present there in front of it, it will wish there were an age between it and then. Allah advises you to beware of Him. Allah is Ever-Gentle with His servants. (Surah Al 'Imran: 30)

Satan's Command: "Ignore the Signs of Creation"

The universe and the systems of nature are flawless, down to the last detail, and are magnificently ordered. When we examine any part of the universe, from the smallest to the largest, we see that each one sets forth proof of a deliberate creation. Within an unchanging order, there are thousands of details which we cannot categorize in full, from the heavenly bodies moving in their orbits, to the balance of gases in the atmosphere which is necessary for life to continue, from the human body specially designed to allow people to live, to the smallest elements such as cells, protein, DNA and atoms—all of which require a different design expertise. All of these were created in the most wonderful way and continue their existence faultlessly.

However, those who resist the faith ignore countless proofs of Allah's existence and oneness, and try to explain the creation of living things in terms of uncontrolled coincidences. They connect the faultless design of the human body, the miracles of creation in the bodies of living things, the taste of cherries, strawberries and oranges, the smell of violets and honeysuckle and their splendid appearance and the unique characteristics of the stars, the sun and the moon in the heavens, to blind chance and resort to every method to reject the fact of creation. The basic claim of these people is that every detail in the universe is the end product of a series of mere coincidences lasting millions of years and occurred through the unconscious mingling of atoms. The chief proponents of this are the evolutionist scientists, who blindly defend the theory of evolution, while overlooking that the universe is filled with millions of proofs of creation.

This theory, propounded in the nineteenth century by Charles Darwin, an amateur biologist who was not even aware of the structure of the cell, has suffered a great defeat at the hands of contemporary scientific developments. However, the most important aspect of this theory is that it prepares quasi-scientific grounds for supporting materialist ideologies which reject religion. For this reason—despite its defeat by scientific knowledge—materialist scientists seek to keep the theory of evolution alive. These scientists ignore scientific facts in order to reject the truth of creation and refuse to recognize its proofs. What makes them most uncomfortable is reference to signs of creation and the scientific exposure of difficulties, deficiencies and errors in the theory of evolution. The attachment of evolutionist scientists to this theory has gone beyond being a scientific approach and has become an obsession and a blind devotion.

Persistence in their refusal to believe despite all proofs to the contrary is a common characteristic of deniers. In the Qur'an, people who continued their resistance to the faith even when signs of Allah's existence were presented to them because of their attachment to their ancestors' religion are held up as examples. Allah draws attention to this aspect of their behaviour in a number of verses of the Qur'an:

We destroyed generations before you when they did wrong. Their Messengers brought them the Clear Signs, but they were never going to believe. (Surah Yunus: 13)

At the present time, deniers of creation persist in their belief, just as did the previous generations referred to in the above verse. In spite of the clearest scientific signs, these people can still claim that the universe and all living things resulted from a series of coincidences. They further claim that, since this world is a product of coincidence, people have no responsibility towards anyone, and so they set their faces against the Qur'an. While the number of those who marvel at the magnificence in Allah's creation grows rapidly by the day, these materialists remain so blind that they cannot see the evidence. Undoubtedly this is a result of their distancing themselves from Allah's holy book, and blinkering their consciences.

The secret reason behind people's ignoring the truth is Satan, who makes great efforts to persuade them to resist. As the Qur'an states, Satan diverts people from the true path: **"If someone shuts his eyes to the remembrance of the All-Merciful, We assign him a satan who becomes his bosom friend—they debar them from the path, yet they still think they are guided."** (Surat az-Zukhruf: 36-37) While Allah's faultless planning and design encompass everything, Satan distances the deniers from the truth and causes them to overlook the proofs of this by diverting them with worldly preoccupations.

People Satan has captured in this way violently oppose others who tell them the truth. This situation causes them to become angry with believers and feel hatred and loathing of them. Allah describes the discomfort felt by the deniers when proofs of His existence are shown and explained to them:

... Their Messengers came to them with Clear Signs, but they put their hands to their mouths, saying, "We reject what you have been sent with"... (Surah Ibrahim: 9)

Moreover, there is a group of deniers that is deliberately ignoring the truth—that there are signs of Allah's existence and that the Qur'an is a holy book. Such people knowingly deny these truths and do not want to think about them. As Allah puts it in this Qur'anic verse, **"... a group of them heard Allah's Word and then, after grasping it, knowingly distorted it" (Surat al-Baqara: 75)** they recognize the truth of creation, then refuse to accept it, even though it does not require long hours of thought or research to see the matchless artistry of Allah. If a person expends a little care with a pure heart while listening to the voice of his conscience and thinks for a few seconds, it is impossible to deny the truth of creation. The only thing necessary is to lend an ear to the voice of conscience and beware of the methods of Satan.

Satan's Command: "Be Proud"

Another of the common characteristics of those who have no faith in Allah's verses and do not obey His orders and prohibitions is conceit and admiration of their own intelligence. By giving people a sense of pride, Satan diverts them from submitting themselves to Allah and heeding the verses of the Qur'an.

People turn their faces from the scriptures because of arrogance, as Allah tells us in this verse: **"When Our Signs are recited to such a person, he turns away arrogantly as if he had not heard, as if there was a great weight in his ears. So give him news of a painful punishment." (Surah Luqman: 7)**

By giving people a powerful sense of pride, Satan makes them believe that everything they think they know is correct and complete. Because of this such people are closed to warnings, advice and criticism from those around them and give pompous and haughty answers. They will not even abandon things that they see are wrong because of stubborn determination not to give up their beliefs. Their personality prevents them from being persuaded on any matter, and they are obstinate, fixed in their own ideas and their own rules. If they felt even a little doubt about certain deficiencies and mistaken aspects of their thinking, they might even be able to see the truth.

For this reason they do not evaluate invitations made to them with sincerity; they misunderstand them and are misled into thinking that the faithful are trying to attain superiority over them by this means. They absolutely do not want to believe that the faithful explain Qur'anic morality to people solely to earn the pleasure of Allah, expecting no other reward. On this general attitude of the deniers, a verse of the Qur'an concerning the leaders of a past people is striking:

The ruling circle of those of his [Nuh's] people who were disbelievers said, "This is nothing but a human being like yourselves who simply wants to gain ascendancy over you. If Allah had wanted He

would have sent angels down. We never heard of anything like this among our ancestors, the earlier peoples." (Surat al-Mu'minun: 24)

However, it must not be forgotten that arrogant and proud people will suffer great losses. Those deniers who carry on their meaningless war against the faith are losing a vital opportunity to distinguish truth from falsehood and turn back from the mistakes they are making and to reform themselves. Since they do not accept that it is possible for them ever to make a mistake, they have no opportunity of overcoming their deficiencies and developing themselves because they slam the door on any invitation right away. They do not even think about evaluating whether advice given them is beneficial or not. They are so certain of the correctness of their own ideas, thinking and beliefs that they do not even grant the possibility that somebody else may be more intelligent than they are. In short they do not recognize the authority of anybody other than themselves over their own ideas, attitudes and behaviour. That pride can drive a person to sin is referred to in this verse:

When he is told to have fear of Allah, he is seized by pride which drives him to wrongdoing... (Surat al-Baqara: 206)

Also in the past, Pharaoh was unable to overcome his pride in the face of the honourable station of Musa (peace be upon him) and his inviting him to submit to Allah. He thought himself much worthier of such an honorable post in terms of both power and financial resources. In empty pride he opposed Allah and did not listen to what he was told and because of his arrogance he set his face against Allah's verses. As we mentioned above, he also compelled his people to ignore the Prophet Musa. As Allah describes in the Qur'an:

Pharaoh said, "Do you believe in him before I have authorised you? He is your chief, the one who taught you magic. I will cut off your hands and feet alternately and have you crucified on palm trunks. Then you will know for certain which of us has the harsher and longer lasting punishment." (Surah Ta Ha: 71)

Pharaoh, remembered for the bullying and cruelty that arose from his arrogance and pride, was in this sense a man who came fully under the influence of Satan and carried out Satan's orders to the letter. In a verse of the Qur'an Allah describes Pharaoh's character like this: **"... he was haughty, one of the profligate." (Surat ad-Dukhan: 31)**

Satan is the one who directs people towards this arrogant behaviour, but he is not satisfied by their obeying his command that they should "Be proud!". He desires his advocates to struggle against Allah alongside him. In this verse, Allah informs us of Satan's real purpose:

He said, "My Lord, because You misled me, I will make things on the earth seem good to them and I will mislead them all, every one of them." (Surat al-Hijr: 39)

Certainly in order to achieve this aim, Satan tries to make denial attractive in the eyes of the unbelievers. Because of this the deniers demonstrate extremely refractory behaviour towards the faithful who call on them to conform to Allah's instructions and prohibitions, and they do not accept the possibility that their own ideas may be flawed. In the Qur'an, Allah describes the Pharaoh's conceit-filled reply to the call of Musa (peace be upon him) like this:

Then he [Musa] showed him the Great Sign. But he denied it and disobeyed, and then he hastily backed away. But then he rallied and called out, saying, "I am your Lord Most High!" (Surat az-Nazi'at: 20-24)

In short the deniers want to believe that the most superior people in every respect are themselves. As we can see in the example of Pharaoh, their pride prevents them from accepting that they are impotent servants of Allah. A sense of pride, which they cannot abandon, pushes them into disobedience. Indeed, as can be seen in the verse, **"When Our Signs came to them in all their clarity, they said, 'This is downright magic,' and they repudiated them wrongly and haughtily, in spite of their own certainty about them..." (Surat an-Naml: 13-14)**, proud people, even if they see the signs of Allah's existence, under Satan's influence, continue to reject it. Those who rebel against Allah and follow Satan's orders will, on the Day of Judgment fall into degradation and be forced to give an accounting for their behaviour.

But as for those who reject Our Signs and are arrogant regarding them, they are the Companions of the Fire, remaining in it timelessly, for ever. Who could do greater wrong than someone who invents lies against Allah or denies His Signs?... (Surat al-A'raf: 36-37)

Satan's Command: "Don't Listen"

Satan is never in favour of people hearing the true and the good, because by following the voice of his conscience, a person who hears and heeds the Qur'an, may cross to the side of righteousness and may begin to apply, live and encourage what is right. So, Satan's priority is to keep his followers away from the Qur'an, and also from Muslims who expound the Qur'an. While Allah invites people to live their lives in a blessed state by earning His favour, most people obey Satan's orders and do everything in their power to avoid hearing what Allah tells them. With the verse, **"Those who do not believe say, 'Do not listen to this Qur'an. Drown it out so that hopefully you will gain the upper hand' " (Surah Fussilat: 26)**, Allah warns of the approach adopted by such people.

The deniers of the faith resort to various demagogic methods so that the Qur'an may not be heard: they argue against it with loud voices and try to shut others down, change the subject and aggressively prevent the reading of the verses. If these methods do not work, then they may resort to violence, threats and various pressure tactics to silence the faithful. The reason for their acting in this way is that they are afraid that the truths they hear will affect them, that their consciences will be brought into play and that they will realize how wrong some of their ideas are. It is possible to observe these fears right away from their facial expressions and

their behaviour, and also to understand that they are suddenly filled with panic when the verses of the Qur'an are read and the truth of creation explained.

Two of several Qur'anic verses which tell us that although the Qur'an is a mercy and a blessing for people and contains all the information needed to ensure their salvation in this world and the next, the deniers still turn away from the truth are the following:

A Book whose verses have been demarcated for people who know as an Arabic Qur'an, bringing good news and giving warning; but most of them have turned away and do not hear. (Surah Fussilat: 3-4)

They are told, "Heed what lies before you and behind you so that hopefully you will have mercy shown to you." Not one of your Lord's Signs comes to them without their turning away from it. (Surah Ya Sin: 45-46)

The people of the Prophet Nuh are cited as examples of this in the Qur'an. As did all prophets who tried to make Allah their only God and advised a fine moral life, the Prophet Nuh encountered resistance from his people:

He said, "My Lord, I have called my people night and day but my calling has only made them more evasive. Indeed, every time I called them to Your forgiveness, they put their fingers in their ears, wrapped themselves up in their clothes and were overweeningly arrogant." (Surah Nuh: 5-7)

This verse shows that the Prophet Nuh invited his people to faith in Allah in various ways but the people tried everything to avoid listening to him. It is important to emphasize that those who turn away from these invitations of the prophets and stop up their ears to avoid hearing the word of Allah do so because of prejudices and the powerful whisperings of Satan. The deniers immediately reject what they are being told, without even listening to a single word. In the 101st verse of Surat al-Kahf, Allah tells us of those "... **whose ears were unable to hear.**" Because these people are conditioned not to abandon their lack of faith, they say "Even if I listen, I won't abandon it," and turn their faces away right from the beginning.

In fact, in such a situation the rational thing to do is to listen to the invitation made, obtain detailed information about what is explained and read Allah's holy book carefully. But the deniers follow Satan's "Don't listen!" order and turn their backs on it from the outset. Satan knows very well that if people listen to the Qur'an with a sincere heart, the state of heedlessness in which they find themselves will be removed and with an open mind they will come to realize the truths the Qur'an contains.

Those who fall into this trap and close their ears to the Qur'an should know that on the Day of Judgment they will feel very great regret. On that day all that Satan's factions will want will be for death to be the end of everything:

But as for him who is given his Book in his left hand, he will say, "If only I had not been given my Book and had not known about my Reckoning! If only death had really been the end! My wealth has been of no use to me. My power has vanished." [Allah will say] "Seize him and truss him up. Then roast

him in the Blazing Fire. Then bind him in a chain which is seventy cubits long. He used not to believe in Allah the Magnificent, nor did he urge the feeding of the poor. Therefore here today he has no friend nor any food except exuding pus which no one will eat except those who were in error." (Surat al-Haqqa: 25-37)

Satan's Command: "Do Not Approach the Faithful, Stay Away"

Another order given by Satan for the purpose of preventing people from reading the truths contained in the Qur'an is, "Do not approach the faithful, stay away." He tries to keep those who serve him separate from anybody who reads the Qur'an, speaks about it, lives by its rules and invites others to follow it. He believes that being in their company will have, from his point of view, a very negative effect on his faction, because due to their submission to Allah they remind others of Him with their every act and their every word, positively affecting those around them with their steadfast morality. People who are in the company of the faithful are affected positively, whether they want to be or not, and their hearts warm towards Islam. This is exactly what Satan does not want. Because of this, he orders those who reject faith to stay away from believers and have no relationship with them. On the contrary, he wants them to display antagonistic, aggressive and mocking behaviour towards the faithful because this reduces the possibility of a positive relationship developing between them.

Those who resist faith because of this powerful satanic influence take care to stay away from people who believe in Allah. A person's faith and awareness of living for Allah is sufficient to distance the deniers from him or make them feel malice against him because the faithful, due to their pointing out the truth, represent a spiritual danger to the deniers whose lives are far removed from moral living. In the Qur'an, the behaviour of deniers towards the faithful who invoke the name of Allah or remind others of Allah is described in this way:

Those who do not believe all but strike you down with their evil looks when they hear the Reminder and say, "He is quite mad." But it is nothing less than a Reminder to all the worlds. (Surat al-Qalam: 51-52)

When Our Signs are recited to them—Clear Signs—you can detect denial in the faces of those who do not believe. They all but assault those who recite Our Signs to them!.. (Surat al-Hajj: 72)

These verses describe how the sole reason prompting mockery and violent enmity from deniers toward the faithful is reciting Allah's signs.

One of the principle aims of those who defy faith is to keep other people away from a moral life and to divert them from the true path. They do their utmost to keep apart anyone who may feel sympathy for the faithful and want to talk with them and listen to their ideas. In this way they prevent people from entering into the circles of those who remind others about Allah and His signs, who think about the proximity of death and

who exercise their consciences. They prefer everybody to be like them and shy away from the verses of the Qur'an, living their lives without thinking about the purpose of their creation.

One of the examples of this given by the Qur'an is that of the Companions of the Cave. The Companions of the Cave, who are a group of young believers, are forced by extreme pressure from deniers to take refuge in a cave. Surat al-Kahf tells us:

We fortified their hearts when they stood up and said, "Our Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth and We will not call on any god apart from Him. We would in that case have uttered an abomination. These people of ours have taken gods apart from Him. Why do they not produce a clear authority concerning them? Who could do greater wrong than someone who invents a lie against Allah?" [The youths said to one another:] "When you have separated yourselves from them and everything they worship except Allah, take refuge in the cave and your Lord will unfold His mercy to you and open the way to the best for you in your situation." (Surat al-Kahf: 14-16)

Those who would prevent the prophets from receiving support from the community have, throughout history, employed various calumnies and pressures. The sole reason for these slanders is to ensure that people shun the prophets and distance themselves from them. But the deniers—just like the people of the Prophet Nuh—are only destroying their own souls by doing this:

They keep others from it and avoid it themselves. They are only destroying themselves but they are not aware of it. (Surat al-An'am: 26)

Satan's Command: "Do Not Read Books Explaining Qur'anic Morality Or Let Others Read Them"

One of the principal stratagems used throughout history by those who want to keep others away from religion is to prevent them from reading books or other materials that teach religion and good morality. In fact, countless books have been burned and destroyed for this purpose, or their printing and distribution have been prevented. In modern times, in particular, communist and materialist regimes have tried to prevent the reading and teaching of books that point to the signs of the existence of Allah and Qur'anic morality.

They attack books which deal with the fact of creation, and the truths of the Qur'an, as harmful and unscientific, and try to damage the respect in which people who invite others to believe in Allah are held within the community.

All these are the efforts of Satan to prepare fertile ground in which to sow the seeds of the denial of Allah. His tools are a group of irreligious people, who try to prevent others from reading and learning and being aware of the truth. While these operations have been carried out openly in communist countries such as Russia and China, they are also encouraged by governments that have a materialist concept of life. One of the reasons lying behind communist Russia's changing of the alphabet and later taking control of all book publication in the Muslim Turkic Republics was to prevent people from learning about their own religion and hence to ensure that

they lost their identity. In the same way, the Chinese government has prohibited reading the Qur'an and books commenting on the Qur'an in order for the Muslim people of Eastern Turkestan to lose their Islamic identity.

Not only do these irreligious people prevent others from reading books about creation, so too do they avoid them themselves, because they are afraid that when they read works explaining Allah and His religion, they will start to doubt their own philosophy and lose the belief in the ideas they propound. For this reason the communist leader Lenin's warnings, made years earlier, to the effect that "if people are not to surrender themselves to religion, they must stay away from it" were so effective, that those deniers who came after him applied his ideas scrupulously, handing on the legacy one to another. Their nightmare is to see the destruction of the atheist philosophy on which they have based their lives. Because of this, just like others before them, they flee from submitting to Allah and do not make use of the holy book Allah has sent them as a blessing. But this flight produces nothing but loss.

Satan's Command: "Mock"

Mockery is one of the most frequent methods resorted to by those who resist faith. In the Qur'an, Allah tells us this moral defect is handed down from one person to another:

Not one of their Lord's Signs comes to them without their turning away from it. They deny the truth each time it comes to them but news of what they were mocking will certainly reach them. (Surat al-An'am: 4-5)

This is also described in another verse:

But when he came to them with Our Signs, they merely laughed at them. (Surat az-Zukhruf: 47)

Their mockery conceals the fact that they do not want to listen to what they are told, because they are afraid that their consciences will heed the reminder of the Day of Judgment, death and their responsibilities in this life. So, they draw cartoons on the subject, write humorous articles and try to find comedy in it, with the evil intention of mocking Allah's religion.

The deniers' sarcastic attitude brings them great respect from others in Satan's faction. They regard mockery as a virtue, so they respect those who practice it and try to imitate them. But their greatest mistake is to think that the believers will suffer harm and loss of morale from their actions. Since they see mockery as an indicator of wittiness and superiority, they certainly cannot comprehend the believers' point of view on this. The truth is that mockery is the sign of impotence and weakness. Mockery is a method used by people who have no evidence they can produce to contradict the idea with which they are confronted, and in order to cover up their own weaknesses and complexes. Because Allah calls special attention to this subject in the Qur'an, aware that mockery is a method employed by unbelievers against believers, Muslims counter this behaviour with the enjoyment of worship. But because a person who engages in mockery does not know this, he thinks what he has

done is very effective. Since he has persuaded himself with his mockery, he thinks he has succeeded in persuading others.

Nowadays, making religion the subject of jokes and anecdotes, and by mocking the Qur'an and the faithful, the deniers are trying to provide their denial with an air of superiority and justify their denial. As Allah has pointed out with the verse, **"But Allah is mocking them, and drawing them on, as they wander blindly in their excessive insolence" (Surat al-Baqara: 15)**, those who try to justify their denial through mockery will only be able to continue doing so for a short time for when they come up against death **"... what they used to mock at will engulf them." (Surat az-Zumar: 48)**

In the Qur'an, Allah describes the situation in the face of the torment of hell of those who used to mock His verses in this way:

No wonder you are surprised as they laugh with scorn! When they are reminded they do not pay heed. When they see a Sign they only laugh with scorn. They say, "This is just downright magic. When we are dead and turned to dust and bones will we then be raised up again alive? And our earlier ancestors as well?" Say: "Yes, and you will be in a despicable state." There will be but one Great Blast and then their eyes will open. They will say, "Alas for us! This is the Day of Reckoning!" This is the Day of Decision you used to deny. (Surat as-Saffat: 12-21)

Satan's Command: "Conform To The Majority"

One of the main reasons that people are ignorant of the Qur'anic truths and for resisting Allah's verses is that Satan deceives them with the claim that the deniers are in the majority. This is a wonderful excuse for someone who wants to avoid Allah and His commandments for a religious way of life. He resorts to pat answers such as, "Everybody does it that way, they reject the faith too, I have seen them behave this way also!" Because of this mindset, independent, free thinking becomes impossible.

Because they drift with the flow of life without thinking, living out what they have learned by heart, such people never ask themselves questions like, "Why am I doing these things? Why am I with these people? Why do I imitate this person? Why do I act without thinking?" Without feeling any need to consult their minds and consciences, they accept both what is right and what is wrong from their community and live their lives accordingly. The sole excuse they can produce for their beliefs is that they are generally accepted by the communities in which they live.

Rejecting Allah's verses and adopting their own flawed logic and thinking deceives them into belief in "the power of the masses." A natural result of this deception is that the bigger the community in which the individual lives, the higher the power of sanction the masses over him. Acting in unison with a mass community makes independent thinking and decision making difficult. Because of the "conform to the majority" philosophy, even if they know what is right and true, they hold back from expressing it, and conceal their sincere opinions.

One of the most prominent examples of this is materialist scientists who promote the theory of evolution on a worldwide scale. Believers in evolution think that it is true because it has been expounded for many years. They proceed from the idea that if everybody believes in it, they must believe in it too and arrive at the

conclusion that if everybody ignores scientific facts, then so should they. Thus collectively they take on the duty of defending the theory of evolution blindly and in spite of everything. To carry out a scientific struggle against this worldwide organized lie is to grapple with millions of people.

Many people may be planning to try and hide behind the excuse, "They were rejecting religion and I thought it was hardly possible for everybody to be wrong at once," but by declaring in the 116th verse of Surat al-An'am **"If you obeyed most of those on earth, they would misguide you from Allah's Way. They follow nothing but conjecture. They are only guessing,"** Allah informs us that a person who conforms to the majority may fall into error. Therefore the fact that an idea is supported by a large number of people does not mean that it is definitely correct.

For this reason a person should listen to his conscience and give up acting according to the pre-judgments of the majority, otherwise the twisted logic will emerge that anybody who bands together a large number of people is on the right path and a misguided majority view will be accepted, instead of objective evidence.

Believing crowd psychology to be a strength, when he met the Prophet Musa, the Pharaoh also used the same method in a different way. When Musa (peace be upon him) arrived to present the clear proofs of the existence of Allah, the Pharaoh gathered all the people together and turned them into a mob.

In doing so, his primary purpose was his belief that he would be able to take pride in winning victory in front of a large crowd and that he would have a positive effect on the people. Secondly, he was deluded by the false belief that the strength of the mob would have a negative effect on the faithful. The same is true of the Prophet Ibrahim's tribe of idolaters. The leaders of the tribe gathered all the people together when the Prophet Ibrahim was about to speak. In the Qur'an, this incident is related in this way:

They said, "Who has done this to our gods? He is definitely one of the wrongdoers!" They said, "We heard a young man mentioning them. They call him Ibrahim." They said, "Bring him before the people's eyes so they can be witnesses." (Surat a-Anbiya': 59-61)

It is common practice for those who resist faith to prefer each other's company and to avoid being alone with a believer: they draw their strength from the unbelieving crowds, and are uncomfortable being alone with believers.

But the faithful, who accept Allah as their friend and guardian, are resigned to providence, and their faith remains unshaken at all times and under all circumstances. Allah tells us how the faithful proceed on the basis of the power of faith when they are greatly outnumbered by those opposing them:

Those to whom people said, "The people have gathered against you, so fear them." But that merely increased their Faith and they said, "Allah is enough for us and the Best of Guardians." (Surah Al 'Imran: 173)

Without any doubt the faithful are those who find their salvation in surrendering themselves thus to Allah. On the Day of Judgment, those who have adopted Satan and accepted him as their friend, are filled with regret and say that they have been left utterly alone. This shows the false path they followed.

The Kingdom that Day will belong in truth to the All-Merciful. It will be a hard Day for the disbelievers, the Day when a wrongdoer will bite his hands and say, "Alas for me! If only I had gone the way of the Messenger! Alas for me! If only I had not taken so-and-so for a friend! He led me astray from the Reminder after it came to me." Satan always leaves man in the lurch. The Messenger says, "My Lord, my people treat this Qur'an as something to be ignored." (Surat al-Furqan: 26-30)

HOW TO SAVE ONESELF FROM FIXED IDEAS

Before someone can discuss or even reject an idea, it is necessary to understand it; otherwise a person cannot reasonably reject it.

We find this is frequently the situation for those who turn away from the Qur'an: though they have not studied it, they assume they know what it contains, based on their own prejudices, conjectures, or "received wisdom" from their societies. Discarding the Qur'an without having the slightest knowledge of it is a clear indication that these people are insincere.

In fact dismissing ideas without first studying them is a common practice amongst people. Many people, though they cannot understand the ideas of those who differ from them, do not want to read their books because of their own fixed ideas. Communists read only books that support their own ideas, fascists read books with fascist ideas, atheists read the works of other atheists, and so on.

However, for a person who is not willing to study a subject, and basing their discussion only on their own presumptions, it is difficult to explain the correct and incorrect aspects of their thinking.

But for those who want correct and accurate information, it is important to be informed on every subject, otherwise it is easy to be influenced and misled. A knowledgeable, cultured person, who thinks independently and has a wide horizon, is capable of deeper and more detailed analysis and his ideas are based, not on rote learning, but on concrete evidence. Thus most of the time it is easier for such people to indicate what is right and explain what is wrong.

For people with faith, being knowledgeable in a wide spectrum of topics is important for a different reason. A faithful person who has a deep knowledge of the Qur'an and is at the same time cultured and possesses a wide range of knowledge has a clear point of view and is more accurate in decision-making than those around him. For example, a believer who knows the dangers of atheist ideologies, their logic and the systems which they promote can appreciate the superiority of the morality laid down by the Qur'an in much greater depth. A person with a deep knowledge of such ideologies as fascism or anarchism which are opposed to the Qur'an, discovers how the Qur'an discredits these ideologies, and realizes the harm they do to humanity, and in this way can explain that harm and the failings of these ideologies to others.

From this point of view, during a period when people are competing in their resistance to the faith, what is required of every Muslim is to be informed about ideas, to develop himself for a scholarly struggle against ideas that oppose the Qur'an, and to widen his general cultural knowledge and understanding of the world. To remain silent in the face of opponents through lack of knowledge, to be incapable of thinking, and to be unable to produce accurate responses to challenges from the other side is inappropriate for a Muslim. What is required is, on the one hand, to live wholeheartedly and with great desire, determination and faith, the truths contained in the Qur'an, and on the other, to comprehend the harm, evil and corrupt aspects of ideas opposed to the Qur'an. Muslims will be unable to counter those who oppose religion if they cannot engage skilfully with their ideas.

In addition, recognising the idolatrous religions, of which Allah speaks in a number of verses of the Qur'an, is important to realise the extent to which true religions have suffered degeneration through perversions. In this way it is possible to see how those pagan religions that existed in the past have also emerged in our time. In fact when the Qur'an speaks of other religions, Magians, polytheists and societies which worshipped al-Lat,

al-'Uzza and Manat, it is drawing the attention of the faithful to the need to be informed on these matters. Hence a Muslim needs to know about other faiths and ideologies, to read their books and to be informed about each one of them.

In fact the Qur'an indicates a wide array of subjects on which a Muslim needs to be informed, such as biology, astronomy, botany, geography, history, chemistry, psychology and the arts. There are verses that show that a knowledgeable person with faith will learn about Allah's flawless creation in all its details and, by carefully examining the wonders he sees, may come to possess an even deeper faith in Allah, the One Who created everything. Moreover staying up to date with developments in these branches of science will help a person understand more deeply the wonders of the Qur'an. The verse "**... only those of His servants with knowledge have fear of Allah...**" (Surah Fatir: 28) draws attention to the importance of being knowledgeable and informed.

An Important Duty of Muslims

A significant proportion of people say that they believe in Allah and the Qur'an. However, many of them have likely never read the Qur'an, and have not put into practice the morality, worship and instructions which it contains. Passing one's entire life in ignorance of the Qur'an, paying lip service to the faith and not living out in the full sense the life the Qur'an prescribes is behaviour that Allah dislikes. Allah warns of this in Surat al-'Ankabut:

Do people imagine that they will be left to say, "We believe," and will not be tested? We tested those before them so that Allah would know the truthful and would know the liars. (Surat al-Ankabut: 2-3)

Thus it is essential for all those who say they believe in Allah and the Qur'an to read the Qur'an, to think deeply about its verses and, to put its teaching into practice. On the Day of Judgment people will be asked about the Qur'an and called to give an accounting of everything they have done.

As we have already mentioned, many people resist the Qur'an without reading or studying it at all because of the fixed ideas which they hold. But if they ever read it once and thought carefully about it, they would be unable to escape the truths contained in the Qur'an and would be forced to abandon their lack of faith. Instead of reading and arriving at this conclusion, they condition themselves in advance by saying, "Even if I read it, I will not be able to give up my own ideas and prejudices" and so they reject a sincere approach out of hand.

As we have examined in detail on previous pages, the situation is that a large majority of people are influenced by those around them into staying away from the Qur'an and rejecting its teaching. Some feel distanced from the religion due to a long lasting and negative influence from somebody with no knowledge of proper morality and who has applied it incorrectly, and for long years they cannot be rescued from this negative influence. Others take as their yardstick what they have heard from an atheist or an unbelieving enemy of religion and allow themselves to be governed by these ideas throughout their lives. The greatest mistake of such

people lies in making decisions about religion on the basis of what they have heard and read from the wrong sources.

The true religion is the religion Allah handed down in the Qur'an, so it is necessary for anybody who wants to learn about religious morality—whether believing in it or not—to go first to the Qur'an, read it sincerely, without prejudice and think deeply about its verses.

Running away from the Qur'an unconsciously and without knowledge simply because of the above false perceptions and information is a great loss for everybody who does this and, unless Allah wills it, this loss will not be rectified on the Day of Judgment. Because of this everybody with intelligence and a conscience needs to read the Book, which Allah chose for Himself and sent down through His Prophet, while there is still time. Allah says that by means of it He will guide people to the ways of peace:

... A Light has come to you from Allah and a Clear Book. By it, Allah guides those who follow what pleases Him to the ways of peace. He will bring them from the darkness to the light by His permission, and guide them to a straight path. (Surat al-Ma'ida: 15-16)

In Surat at-Takwir, Allah warns people not to avoid the Qur'an:

Nor is it the word of an accursed Satan. So where, then, are you going? It is nothing but a Reminder to all the worlds, to whoever among you wishes to go straight. (Surat at-Takwir: 25-28)

Because of this the greatest obligation on the shoulders of the faithful is to make serious efforts to prevent others from shunning Allah's verses. So, first Muslims should explain the boundless blessings of the Qur'an and the signs of Allah's creation in the universe through scientific studies and to demonstrate the beauties of Qur'anic morality. Of course, a large percentage of people may not want to listen to these truths or read them so Muslims are required to try every possible method to reach those who do not want to read or listen.

THE GREAT MISTAKE OF THOSE WHO DO NOT HEED THE QUR'AN

Since those who follow Satan's way deny Allah, Who created the entire universe from nothing, they attribute an independent existence and power to every being. However, the universe is entirely subject to the power and the sovereignty of Allah, including people themselves and their experiences, because a person sees the material world in which he lives solely in the way in which his senses reflect it to him. That is to say, a person sees things as copies transmitted to his or her brain and only experiences the images in that brain.

For example, for us to see a car going along a road, or to hear its horn, or to get into that car and feel the softness of its seats and the hardness of its metal parts, it is not necessary for the car to exist in reality. We process all information about the existence of the car solely inside our brains by means of what our senses transmit to us. Therefore, it is not possible for us to experience the original of the car itself. What we deal with are nothing but electrical signals we perceive in our brains through our five senses. Our life goes on only within our brains. We can never have direct experience of what exists on the outside. (For detailed information, see Harun Yahya, *The Evolution Deceit, Eternity Has Already Begun, Knowing the Truth, Matter: The Other Name For Illusion, The Little Man in the Tower.*)

In the same way, a person who goes to a meeting and gives a speech is really talking to the crowd within his brain. This person only imagines that he has been able to speak in front of a large audience. In other words, the person making the speech is incapable of leaving the meeting place inside his brain. The individuals who make up the crowd also see the speaker in their own individual brains. All the words and the shouting and the crowd of people have to remain within the brain.

Thus, acting according to the existence of a thing whose reality he has never been able to directly experience, placing value on people whose real selves he has never been able to address and possessing goods whose reality he has never been able to touch is a state of extreme meaninglessness for a person who cannot step out of the images in his brain. We can use the analogy of dreaming to consider this further. For instance in a dream, even if the food you can smell, whose appearance you can see and whose heat you can feel does not exist in reality, you may still be able to taste that dish and even feel its heat burning your tongue. Or you may dream of being late for an important task for which you are responsible, the nervousness arising from this and the excuses which you are thinking of offering in full detail, just as in real life. Until you awake from the dream, you may be totally convinced of the reality of what you are experiencing. These deceptions experienced in the dream may also apply to the world in which you find yourself.

This is a clear scientific truth which people who are overly attached to this world do not want to consider. No matter how hard they try to escape from it, no matter how much they resist accepting it, it is a truth which they cannot actually avoid. Above all it is a truth which people personally experience and observe throughout their lives. Whoever evades it should know that it is definitely not possible to escape from the world inside the brain. Therefore those who resist the Qur'an in the belief that matter is absolute will eventually come face to face with the truth that the things they value consist of a mere perception when they think about this very important scientific knowledge. In this way, things which have made them ambitious, things which have frightened them and things which have caused them to feel pride will naturally lose their meaning.

In the same way, people whose words are respected and who are accepted as leaders are nothing but the result of a perception which Allah has created in the minds of others, so that unconditionally following Satan, his manifestations in human form or people who are under his influence, is no different from the deception we have referred to above of supposing that one has direct experience of the material world.

A person may go for years without realising these important truths concerning the real nature of matter. Many people may not have considered that they see the people surrounding them, nature and the entire universe within their brains and that they can never directly experience the originals of what exists outside. However, a few seconds' sincere thought with a collected mind is enough to change a person's entire view of life and rescue him from such fixed ideas.

For example, think about this book which you hold in your hand, the things which are written in this book and the pages you turn one by one. Every one of these consists of perceptions reaching your brain through the medium of your senses. Reconsider: the book which you think you see consists only of electrical signals reaching your brain and the hand which turns the pages is one whose real nature you have never experienced throughout your life. The moment when you understand this wonderful situation is the moment when you begin your real life because understanding that matter may never be experienced in its essence and that you can only view images of what exists outside is the most important scientific truth which a person can learn in the life of this world.

All these truths demonstrate a person's helpless situation in the face of Allah, because the life of the world in which Satan deceives people with promises and empty illusions is nothing other than a world of the imagination which can only be perceived through the senses. All these truths constitute an excellent reason for surrendering ourselves to Allah, Who created everything, believing in Him with a certain knowledge and fearing him with a heartfelt fear.

The Qur'an is a message to all humanity and it explains all things to mankind. It is hoped that people who listen to the voice of their consciences will heed this call and abandon their escape from reality. In a verse of the Qur'an, Allah offers this invitation:

Certainly there is a transmission in this [Qur'an] for people who worship. (Surat al-Anbiya': 106)

CONCLUSION

Do not think that the human characters which have been described in this book are so very far from your own, because you may be somebody who has never read the Qur'an up to now or who has wanted to read it, but has given up because of the prejudices you have. Perhaps you took such a decision thinking you would be unable to find time because of the pressure of your daily tasks or perhaps you may have received completely illogical advice from those around you, such as "Don't read too much or you'll lose yourself." Or maybe you have not experienced any of these possibilities but the idea of reading the Qur'an has never even crossed your mind. But there is still a great opportunity before you: you can disobey the orders Satan gives to prevent people from reading the Qur'an, and listen to the voice of your conscience.

If you are a person who reads the Qur'an and knows the truths contained in its verses this is still a position in which there is a fine opportunity before you. As a person of conscience who has seen what great harm is suffered by people who flee from the Qur'an, you can encourage others to read and study the Qur'an. You can encourage people to read about the religion of Allah, live by Qur'anic morality and learn about the beautiful things which Islam offers.

Allah Who created the world and everything from nothing as a test for people, gave strength to Satan and allows him to say, "Do not hear, do not listen, do not think." But being aware of this test, you should block your ears against Satan's orders and listen to the voice of your conscience which tells you to hear and listen. Remember that Allah created your leaders who appear to be strong and masterful and who try to prevent you from believing in Allah to test you. Allah is testing you in respect of what answer you will give to the calls of Satan. In the same way, you should certainly not forget the fact that Allah is also the Creator of their voice which orders you not to read books telling about the truths in the Qur'an, to stay away from what is written in them and avoid thinking.

Do not forget that it is a mistake to feel overawed by other people, fearing them and obeying them without thinking, in the belief that each one of them has an independent power of his own. Really, every one of those people is conforming to the fate Allah has written for him and has no power to do anything that Allah does not desire. There is one absolute truth, that today or tomorrow, sooner or later, at some time everybody will meet with the angels of death and will be called upon completely alone for a reckoning. Like it or not, everybody will be wrapped in a white cloth, lowered 3 meters below the earth's surface and buried under the soil. Everybody will be called into the presence of Allah completely alone, so the deniers will not have those who influenced them and encouraged them to reject the Qur'an by their sides. So do not be deceived by the apparent health and strength of those who encourage you to deny the faith, because when the Day of Judgment comes, not one of those people will be with you. In a verse of the Qur'an, Allah has this to say:

You have come to Us all alone just as We created you at first, leaving behind you everything We bestowed on you. We do not see your intercessors accompanying you, those you claimed were your partners with Allah. The link between you is cut. Those you made such claims for have forsaken you. (Surat al-An'am: 94)

Because of this, before that day comes, abandon your flight from the truth of the Qur'an and spare time to read the Qur'an and think about its verses.

THE DECEPTION OF EVOLUTION

Darwinism, in other words the theory of evolution, was put forward with the aim of denying the fact of creation, but is in truth nothing but failed, unscientific nonsense. This theory, which claims that life emerged by chance from inanimate matter, was invalidated by the scientific evidence of clear "design" in the universe and in living things. In this way, science confirmed the fact that Allah created the universe and the living things in it. The propaganda carried out today in order to keep the theory of evolution alive is based solely on the distortion of the scientific facts, biased interpretation, and lies and falsehoods disguised as science.

Yet this propaganda cannot conceal the truth. The fact that the theory of evolution is the greatest deception in the history of science has been expressed more and more in the scientific world over the last 20-30 years. Research carried out after the 1980s in particular has revealed that the claims of Darwinism are totally unfounded, something that has been stated by a large number of scientists. In the United States in particular, many scientists from such different fields as biology, biochemistry and paleontology recognize the invalidity of Darwinism and employ the concept of intelligent design to account for the origin of life. This "intelligent design" is a scientific expression of the fact that Allah created all living things.

We have examined the collapse of the theory of evolution and the proofs of creation in great scientific detail in many of our works, and are still continuing to do so. Given the enormous importance of this subject, it will be of great benefit to summarize it here.

The Scientific Collapse of Darwinism

Although this doctrine goes back as far as ancient Greece, the theory of evolution was advanced extensively in the nineteenth century. The most important development that made it the top topic of the world of science was Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, published in 1859. In this book, he denied that Allah created different living species on Earth separately, for he claimed that all living beings had a common ancestor and had diversified over time through small changes. Darwin's theory was not based on any concrete scientific finding; as he also accepted, it was just an "assumption." Moreover, as Darwin confessed in the long chapter of his book titled "Difficulties of the Theory," the theory failed in the face of many critical questions.

Darwin invested all of his hopes in new scientific discoveries, which he expected to solve these difficulties. However, contrary to his expectations, scientific findings expanded the dimensions of these difficulties. The defeat of Darwinism in the face of science can be reviewed under three basic topics:

- 1) The theory cannot explain how life originated on Earth.
- 2) No scientific finding shows that the "evolutionary mechanisms" proposed by the theory have any evolutionary power at all.
- 3) The fossil record proves the exact opposite of what the theory suggests.

In this section, we will examine these three basic points in general outlines:

The First Insurmountable Step: The Origin of Life

The theory of evolution posits that all living species evolved from a single living cell that emerged on the primitive Earth 3.8 billion years ago. How a single cell could generate millions of complex living species and, if such an evolution really occurred, why traces of it cannot be observed in the fossil record are some of the questions that the theory cannot answer. However, first and foremost, we need to ask: How did this "first cell" originate?

Since the theory of evolution denies creation and any kind of supernatural intervention, it maintains that the "first cell" originated coincidentally within the laws of nature, without any design, plan or arrangement. According to the theory, inanimate matter must have produced a living cell as a result of coincidences. Such a claim, however, is inconsistent with the most unassailable rules of biology.

"Life Comes from Life"

In his book, Darwin never referred to the origin of life. The primitive understanding of science in his time rested on the assumption that living beings had a very simple structure. Since medieval times, spontaneous generation, which asserts that non-living materials came together to form living organisms, had been widely accepted. It was commonly believed that insects came into being from food leftovers, and mice from wheat. Interesting experiments were conducted to prove this theory. Some wheat was placed on a dirty piece of cloth, and it was believed that mice would originate from it after a while.

Similarly, maggots developing in rotting meat was assumed to be evidence of spontaneous generation. However, it was later understood that worms did not appear on meat spontaneously, but were carried there by flies in the form of larvae, invisible to the naked eye.

Even when Darwin wrote *The Origin of Species*, the belief that bacteria could come into existence from non-living matter was widely accepted in the world of science.

However, five years after the publication of Darwin's book, Louis Pasteur announced his results after long studies and experiments, that disproved spontaneous generation, a cornerstone of Darwin's theory. In his triumphal lecture at the Sorbonne in 1864, Pasteur said: "Never will the doctrine of spontaneous generation recover from the mortal blow struck by this simple experiment."¹

For a long time, advocates of the theory of evolution resisted these findings. However, as the development of science unraveled the complex structure of the cell of a living being, the idea that life could come into being coincidentally faced an even greater impasse.

Inconclusive Efforts in the Twentieth Century

The first evolutionist who took up the subject of the origin of life in the twentieth century was the renowned Russian biologist Alexander Oparin. With various theses he advanced in the 1930s, he tried to prove that a living cell could originate by coincidence. These studies, however, were doomed to failure, and Oparin had to make the following confession:

Unfortunately, however, the problem of the origin of the cell is perhaps the most obscure point in the whole study of the evolution of organisms.²

Evolutionist followers of Oparin tried to carry out experiments to solve this problem. The best known experiment was carried out by the American chemist Stanley Miller in 1953. Combining the gases he alleged to

have existed in the primordial Earth's atmosphere in an experiment set-up, and adding energy to the mixture, Miller synthesized several organic molecules (amino acids) present in the structure of proteins.

Barely a few years had passed before it was revealed that this experiment, which was then presented as an important step in the name of evolution, was invalid, for the atmosphere used in the experiment was very different from the real Earth conditions.³

After a long silence, Miller confessed that the atmosphere medium he used was unrealistic.⁴

All the evolutionists' efforts throughout the twentieth century to explain the origin of life ended in failure. The geochemist Jeffrey Bada, from the San Diego Scripps Institute accepts this fact in an article published in *Earth* magazine in 1998:

Today as we leave the twentieth century, we still face the biggest unsolved problem that we had when we entered the twentieth century: How did life originate on Earth?⁵

The Complex Structure of Life

The primary reason why the theory of evolution ended up in such a great impasse regarding the origin of life is that even those living organisms deemed to be the simplest have incredibly complex structures. The cell of a living thing is more complex than all of our man-made technological products. Today, even in the most developed laboratories of the world, a living cell cannot be produced by bringing organic chemicals together.

The conditions required for the formation of a cell are too great in quantity to be explained away by coincidences. The probability of proteins, the building blocks of a cell, being synthesized coincidentally, is 1 in 10^{950} for an average protein made up of 500 amino acids. In mathematics, a probability smaller than 1 over 10^{50} is considered to be impossible in practical terms.

The DNA molecule, which is located in the nucleus of a cell and which stores genetic information, is an incredible databank. If the information coded in DNA were written down, it would make a giant library consisting of an estimated 900 volumes of encyclopedias consisting of 500 pages each.

A very interesting dilemma emerges at this point: DNA can replicate itself only with the help of some specialized proteins (enzymes). However, the synthesis of these enzymes can be realized only by the information coded in DNA. As they both depend on each other, they have to exist at the same time for replication. This brings the scenario that life originated by itself to a deadlock. Prof. Leslie Orgel, an evolutionist of repute from the University of San Diego, California, confesses this fact in the September 1994 issue of the *Scientific American* magazine:

It is extremely improbable that proteins and nucleic acids, both of which are structurally complex, arose spontaneously in the same place at the same time. Yet it also seems impossible to have one without the other. And so, at first glance, one might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means.⁶

No doubt, if it is impossible for life to have originated from natural causes, then it has to be accepted that life was "created" in a supernatural way. This fact explicitly invalidates the theory of evolution, whose main purpose is to deny creation.

Imaginary Mechanisms of Evolution

The second important point that negates Darwin's theory is that both concepts put forward by the theory as "evolutionary mechanisms" were understood to have, in reality, no evolutionary power.

Darwin based his evolution allegation entirely on the mechanism of "natural selection." The importance he placed on this mechanism was evident in the name of his book: *The Origin of Species, By Means of Natural Selection...*

Natural selection holds that those living things that are stronger and more suited to the natural conditions of their habitats will survive in the struggle for life. For example, in a deer herd under the threat of attack by wild animals, those that can run faster will survive. Therefore, the deer herd will be comprised of faster and stronger individuals. However, unquestionably, this mechanism will not cause deer to evolve and transform themselves into another living species, for instance, horses.

Therefore, the mechanism of natural selection has no evolutionary power. Darwin was also aware of this fact and had to state this in his book *The Origin of Species*:

Natural selection can do nothing until favourable individual differences or variations occur.⁷

Lamarck's Impact

So, how could these "favorable variations" occur? Darwin tried to answer this question from the standpoint of the primitive understanding of science at that time. According to the French biologist Chevalier de Lamarck (1744-1829), who lived before Darwin, living creatures passed on the traits they acquired during their lifetime to the next generation. He asserted that these traits, which accumulated from one generation to another, caused new species to be formed. For instance, he claimed that giraffes evolved from antelopes; as they struggled to eat the leaves of high trees, their necks were extended from generation to generation.

Darwin also gave similar examples. In his book *The Origin of Species*, for instance, he said that some bears going into water to find food transformed themselves into whales over time.⁸

However, the laws of inheritance discovered by Gregor Mendel (1822-84) and verified by the science of genetics, which flourished in the twentieth century, utterly demolished the legend that acquired traits were passed on to subsequent generations. Thus, natural selection fell out of favor as an evolutionary mechanism.

Neo-Darwinism and Mutations

In order to find a solution, Darwinists advanced the "Modern Synthetic Theory," or as it is more commonly known, Neo-Darwinism, at the end of the 1930's. Neo-Darwinism added mutations, which are distortions formed in the genes of living beings due to such external factors as radiation or replication errors, as the "cause of favorable variations" in addition to natural mutation.

Today, the model that stands for evolution in the world is Neo-Darwinism. The theory maintains that millions of living beings formed as a result of a process whereby numerous complex organs of these organisms (e.g., ears, eyes, lungs, and wings) underwent "mutations," that is, genetic disorders. Yet, there is an outright scientific fact that totally undermines this theory: Mutations do not cause living beings to develop; on the contrary, they are always harmful.

The reason for this is very simple: DNA has a very complex structure, and random effects can only harm it. The American geneticist B.G. Ranganathan explains this as follows:

First, genuine mutations are very rare in nature. Secondly, most mutations are harmful since they are random, rather than orderly changes in the structure of genes; any random change in a highly ordered system will be for the worse, not for the better. For example, if an earthquake were to shake a highly ordered structure such as a building, there would be a random change in the framework of the building which, in all probability, would not be an improvement.⁹

Not surprisingly, no mutation example, which is useful, that is, which is observed to develop the genetic code, has been observed so far. All mutations have proved to be harmful. It was understood that mutation, which is presented as an "evolutionary mechanism," is actually a genetic occurrence that harms living things, and leaves them disabled. (The most common effect of mutation on human beings is cancer.) Of course, a destructive mechanism cannot be an "evolutionary mechanism." Natural selection, on the other hand, "can do nothing by itself," as Darwin also accepted. This fact shows us that there is no "evolutionary mechanism" in nature. Since no evolutionary mechanism exists, no such any imaginary process called "evolution" could have taken place.

The Fossil Record: No Sign of Intermediate Forms

The clearest evidence that the scenario suggested by the theory of evolution did not take place is the fossil record.

According to this theory, every living species has sprung from a predecessor. A previously existing species turned into something else over time and all species have come into being in this way. In other words, this transformation proceeds gradually over millions of years.

Had this been the case, numerous intermediary species should have existed and lived within this long transformation period.

For instance, some half-fish/half-reptiles should have lived in the past which had acquired some reptilian traits in addition to the fish traits they already had. Or there should have existed some reptile-birds, which acquired some bird traits in addition to the reptilian traits they already had. Since these would be in a transitional phase, they should be disabled, defective, crippled living beings. Evolutionists refer to these imaginary creatures, which they believe to have lived in the past, as "transitional forms."

If such animals ever really existed, there should be millions and even billions of them in number and variety. More importantly, the remains of these strange creatures should be present in the fossil record. In *The Origin of Species*, Darwin explained:

If my theory be true, numberless intermediate varieties, linking most closely all of the species of the same group together must assuredly have existed.... Consequently, evidence of their former existence could be found only amongst fossil remains.¹⁰

Darwin's Hopes Shattered

However, although evolutionists have been making strenuous efforts to find fossils since the middle of the nineteenth century all over the world, no transitional forms have yet been uncovered. All of the fossils, contrary to the evolutionists' expectations, show that life appeared on Earth all of a sudden and fully-formed.

One famous British paleontologist, Derek V. Ager, admits this fact, even though he is an evolutionist:

The point emerges that if we examine the fossil record in detail, whether at the level of orders or of species, we find – over and over again – not gradual evolution, but the sudden explosion of one group at the expense of another.¹¹

This means that in the fossil record, all living species suddenly emerge as fully formed, without any intermediate forms in between. This is just the opposite of Darwin's assumptions. Also, this is very strong evidence that all living things are created. The only explanation of a living species emerging suddenly and complete in every detail without any evolutionary ancestor is that it was created. This fact is admitted also by the widely known evolutionist biologist Douglas Futuyma:

Creation and evolution, between them, exhaust the possible explanations for the origin of living things. Organisms either appeared on the earth fully developed or they did not. If they did not, they must have developed from pre-existing species by some process of modification. If they did appear in a fully developed state, they must indeed have been created by some omnipotent intelligence.¹²

Fossils show that living beings emerged fully developed and in a perfect state on the earth. That means that "the origin of species," contrary to Darwin's supposition, is not evolution, but creation.

The Tale of Human Evolution

The subject most often brought up by advocates of the theory of evolution is the subject of the origin of man. The Darwinist claim holds that modern man evolved from ape-like creatures. During this alleged evolutionary process, which is supposed to have started 4-5 million years ago, some "transitional forms" between modern man and his ancestors are supposed to have existed. According to this completely imaginary scenario, four basic "categories" are listed:

1. Australopithecus
2. Homo habilis
3. Homo erectus
4. Homo sapiens

Evolutionists call man's so-called first ape-like ancestors *Australopithecus*, which means "South African ape." These living beings are actually nothing but an old ape species that has become extinct. Extensive research done on various *Australopithecus* specimens by two world famous anatomists from England and the USA, namely, Lord Solly Zuckerman and Prof. Charles Oxnard, shows that these apes belonged to an ordinary ape species that became extinct and bore no resemblance to humans.¹³

Evolutionists classify the next stage of human evolution as "*homo*," that is "man." According to their claim, the living beings in the *Homo* series are more developed than *Australopithecus*. Evolutionists devise a fanciful evolution scheme by arranging different fossils of these creatures in a particular order. This scheme is imaginary because it has never been proved that there is an evolutionary relation between these different classes. Ernst Mayr, one of the twentieth century's most important evolutionists, contends in his book *One Long Argument* that "particularly historical [puzzles] such as the origin of life or of *Homo sapiens*, are extremely difficult and may even resist a final, satisfying explanation."¹⁴

By outlining the link chain as *Australopithecus* > *Homo habilis* > *Homo erectus* > *Homo sapiens*, evolutionists imply that each of these species is one another's ancestor. However, recent findings of paleoanthropologists have revealed that *Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis*, and *Homo erectus* lived at different parts of the world at the same time.¹⁵

Moreover, a certain segment of humans classified as *Homo erectus* have lived up until very modern times. *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis* and *Homo sapiens sapiens* (modern man) co-existed in the same region.¹⁶

This situation apparently indicates the invalidity of the claim that they are ancestors of one another. A paleontologist from Harvard University, Stephen Jay Gould, explains this deadlock of the theory of evolution, although he is an evolutionist himself:

What has become of our ladder if there are three coexisting lineages of hominids (*A. africanus*, the robust australopithecines, and *H. habilis*), none clearly derived from another? Moreover, none of the three display any evolutionary trends during their tenure on earth.¹⁷

Put briefly, the scenario of human evolution, which is "upheld" with the help of various drawings of some "half ape, half human" creatures appearing in the media and course books, that is, frankly, by means of propaganda, is nothing but a tale with no scientific foundation.

Lord Solly Zuckerman, one of the most famous and respected scientists in the U.K., who carried out research on this subject for years and studied *Australopithecus* fossils for 15 years, finally concluded, despite being an evolutionist himself, that there is, in fact, no such family tree branching out from ape-like creatures to man.

Zuckerman also made an interesting "spectrum of science" ranging from those he considered scientific to those he considered unscientific. According to Zuckerman's spectrum, the most "scientific"—that is, depending on concrete data—fields of science are chemistry and physics. After them come the biological sciences and then the social sciences. At the far end of the spectrum, which is the part considered to be most "unscientific," are "extra-sensory perception"—concepts such as telepathy and sixth sense—and finally "human evolution." Zuckerman explains his reasoning:

We then move right off the register of objective truth into those fields of presumed biological science, like extrasensory perception or the interpretation of man's fossil history, where to the faithful [evolutionist] anything is possible – and where the ardent believer [in evolution] is sometimes able to believe several contradictory things at the same time.¹⁸

The tale of human evolution boils down to nothing but the prejudiced interpretations of some fossils unearthed by certain people, who blindly adhere to their theory.

Technology in the Eye and the Ear

Another subject that remains unanswered by evolutionary theory is the excellent quality of perception in the eye and the ear.

Before passing on to the subject of the eye, let us briefly answer the question of how we see. Light rays coming from an object fall oppositely on the eye's retina. Here, these light rays are transmitted into electric signals by cells and reach a tiny spot at the back of the brain, the "center of vision." These electric signals are

perceived in this center as an image after a series of processes. With this technical background, let us do some thinking.

The brain is insulated from light. That means that its inside is completely dark, and that no light reaches the place where it is located. Thus, the "center of vision" is never touched by light and may even be the darkest place you have ever known. However, you observe a luminous, bright world in this pitch darkness.

The image formed in the eye is so sharp and distinct that even the technology of the twentieth century has not been able to attain it. For instance, look at the book you are reading, your hands with which you are holding it, and then lift your head and look around you. Have you ever seen such a sharp and distinct image as this one at any other place? Even the most developed television screen produced by the greatest television producer in the world cannot provide such a sharp image for you. This is a three-dimensional, colored, and extremely sharp image. For more than 100 years, thousands of engineers have been trying to achieve this sharpness. Factories, huge premises were established, much research has been done, plans and designs have been made for this purpose. Again, look at a TV screen and the book you hold in your hands. You will see that there is a big difference in sharpness and distinction. Moreover, the TV screen shows you a two-dimensional image, whereas with your eyes, you watch a three-dimensional perspective with depth.

For many years, tens of thousands of engineers have tried to make a three-dimensional TV and achieve the vision quality of the eye. Yes, they have made a three-dimensional television system, but it is not possible to watch it without putting on special 3-D glasses; moreover, it is only an artificial three-dimension. The background is more blurred, the foreground appears like a paper setting. Never has it been possible to produce a sharp and distinct vision like that of the eye. In both the camera and the television, there is a loss of image quality.

Evolutionists claim that the mechanism producing this sharp and distinct image has been formed by chance. Now, if somebody told you that the television in your room was formed as a result of chance, that all of its atoms just happened to come together and make up this device that produces an image, what would you think? How can atoms do what thousands of people cannot?

If a device producing a more primitive image than the eye could not have been formed by chance, then it is very evident that the eye and the image seen by the eye could not have been formed by chance. The same situation applies to the ear. The outer ear picks up the available sounds by the auricle and directs them to the middle ear, the middle ear transmits the sound vibrations by intensifying them, and the inner ear sends these vibrations to the brain by translating them into electric signals. Just as with the eye, the act of hearing finalizes in the center of hearing in the brain.

The situation in the eye is also true for the ear. That is, the brain is insulated from sound just as it is from light. It does not let any sound in. Therefore, no matter how noisy is the outside, the inside of the brain is completely silent. Nevertheless, the sharpest sounds are perceived in the brain. In your completely silent brain, you listen to symphonies, and hear all of the noises in a crowded place. However, were the sound level in your brain was measured by a precise device at that moment, complete silence would be found to be prevailing there.

As is the case with imagery, decades of effort have been spent in trying to generate and reproduce sound that is faithful to the original. The results of these efforts are sound recorders, high-fidelity systems, and systems for sensing sound. Despite all of this technology and the thousands of engineers and experts who have been working on this endeavor, no sound has yet been obtained that has the same sharpness and clarity as the sound

perceived by the ear. Think of the highest-quality hi-fi systems produced by the largest company in the music industry. Even in these devices, when sound is recorded some of it is lost; or when you turn on a hi-fi you always hear a hissing sound before the music starts. However, the sounds that are the products of the human body's technology are extremely sharp and clear. A human ear never perceives a sound accompanied by a hissing sound or with atmospherics as does a hi-fi; rather, it perceives sound exactly as it is, sharp and clear. This is the way it has been since the creation of man.

So far, no man-made visual or recording apparatus has been as sensitive and successful in perceiving sensory data as are the eye and the ear. However, as far as seeing and hearing are concerned, a far greater truth lies beyond all this.

To Whom Does the Consciousness That Sees and Hears within the Brain Belong?

Who watches an alluring world in the brain, listens to symphonies and the twittering of birds, and smells the rose?

The stimulations coming from a person's eyes, ears, and nose travel to the brain as electro-chemical nerve impulses. In biology, physiology, and biochemistry books, you can find many details about how this image forms in the brain. However, you will never come across the most important fact: Who perceives these electro-chemical nerve impulses as images, sounds, odors, and sensory events in the brain? There is a consciousness in the brain that perceives all this without feeling any need for an eye, an ear, and a nose. To whom does this consciousness belong? Of course it does not belong to the nerves, the fat layer, and neurons comprising the brain. This is why Darwinist-materialists, who believe that everything is comprised of matter, cannot answer these questions.

For this consciousness is the spirit created by Allah, which needs neither the eye to watch the images nor the ear to hear the sounds. Furthermore, it does not need the brain to think.

Everyone who reads this explicit and scientific fact should ponder on Almighty Allah, and fear and seek refuge in Him, for He squeezes the entire universe in a pitch-dark place of a few cubic centimeters in a three-dimensional, colored, shadowy, and luminous form.

A Materialist Faith

The information we have presented so far shows us that the theory of evolution is incompatible with scientific findings. The theory's claim regarding the origin of life is inconsistent with science, the evolutionary mechanisms it proposes have no evolutionary power, and fossils demonstrate that the required intermediate forms have never existed. So, it certainly follows that the theory of evolution should be pushed aside as an unscientific idea. This is how many ideas, such as the Earth-centered universe model, have been taken out of the agenda of science throughout history.

However, the theory of evolution is kept on the agenda of science. Some people even try to represent criticisms directed against it as an "attack on science." Why?

The reason is that this theory is an indispensable dogmatic belief for some circles. These circles are blindly devoted to materialist philosophy and adopt Darwinism because it is the only materialist explanation that can be put forward to explain the workings of nature.

Interestingly enough, they also confess this fact from time to time. A well-known geneticist and an outspoken evolutionist, Richard C. Lewontin from Harvard University, confesses that he is "first and foremost a materialist and then a scientist":

It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, so we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.¹⁹

These are explicit statements that Darwinism is a dogma kept alive just for the sake of adherence to materialism. This dogma maintains that there is no being save matter. Therefore, it argues that inanimate, unconscious matter created life. It insists that millions of different living species (e.g., birds, fish, giraffes, tigers, insects, trees, flowers, whales, and human beings) originated as a result of the interactions between matter such as pouring rain, lightning flashes, and so on, out of inanimate matter. This is a precept contrary both to reason and science. Yet Darwinists continue to defend it just so as "not to allow a Divine Foot in the door."

Anyone who does not look at the origin of living beings with a materialist prejudice will see this evident truth: All living beings are works of a Creator, Who is All-Powerful, All-Wise, and All-Knowing. This Creator is Allah, Who created the whole universe from non-existence, designed it in the most perfect form, and fashioned all living beings.

The Theory of Evolution is the Most Potent Spell in the World

Anyone free of prejudice and the influence of any particular ideology, who uses only his or her reason and logic, will clearly understand that belief in the theory of evolution, which brings to mind the superstitions of societies with no knowledge of science or civilization, is quite impossible.

As explained above, those who believe in the theory of evolution think that a few atoms and molecules thrown into a huge vat could produce thinking, reasoning professors and university students; such scientists as Einstein and Galileo; such artists as Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and Luciano Pavarotti; as well as antelopes, lemon trees, and carnations. Moreover, as the scientists and professors who believe in this nonsense are educated people, it is quite justifiable to speak of this theory as "the most potent spell in history." Never before has any other belief or idea so taken away peoples' powers of reason, refused to allow them to think intelligently and logically and hidden the truth from them as if they had been blindfolded. This is an even worse and unbelievable blindness than the Egyptians worshipping the Sun God Ra, totem worship in some parts of Africa, the people of Saba worshipping the Sun, the tribe of Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) worshipping idols they had made with their own hands, or the people of the Prophet Musa (peace be upon him) worshipping the Golden Calf.

In fact, Allah has pointed to this lack of reason in the Qur'an. In many verse, He reveals in many verses that some peoples' minds will be closed and that they will be powerless to see the truth. Some of these verses are as follows:

As for those who do not believe, it makes no difference to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe. Allah has sealed up their hearts and hearing and over their eyes is a blindfold. They will have a terrible punishment. (Surat al-Baqara: 6-7)

... They have hearts with which they do not understand. They have eyes with which they do not see. They have ears with which they do not hear. Such people are like cattle. No, they are even further astray! They are the unaware. (Surat al-A'raf: 179)

Even if We opened up to them a door into heaven, and they spent the day ascending through it, they would only say: "Our eyesight is befuddled! Or rather we have been put under a spell!" (Surat al-Hijr: 14-15)

Words cannot express just how astonishing it is that this spell should hold such a wide community in thrall, keep people from the truth, and not be broken for 150 years. It is understandable that one or a few people might believe in impossible scenarios and claims full of stupidity and illogicality. However, "magic" is the only possible explanation for people from all over the world believing that unconscious and lifeless atoms suddenly decided to come together and form a universe that functions with a flawless system of organization, discipline, reason, and consciousness; a planet named Earth with all of its features so perfectly suited to life; and living things full of countless complex systems.

In fact, the Qur'an relates the incident of Prophet Musa and Pharaoh to show that some people who support atheistic philosophies actually influence others by magic. When Pharaoh was told about the true religion, he told Prophet Musa to meet with his own magicians. When Musa did so, he told them to demonstrate their abilities first. The verses continue:

He said: "You throw." And when they threw, they cast a spell on the people's eyes and caused them to feel great fear of them. They produced an extremely powerful magic. (Surat al-A'raf: 116)

As we have seen, Pharaoh's magicians were able to deceive everyone, apart from Musa and those who believed in him. However, his evidence broke the spell, or "swallowed up what they had forged," as the verse puts it.

We revealed to Musa, "Throw down your staff." And it immediately swallowed up what they had forged. So the Truth took place and what they did was shown to be false. (Surat al-A'raf: 117-119)

As we can see, when people realized that a spell had been cast upon them and that what they saw was just an illusion, Pharaoh's magicians lost all credibility. In the present day too, unless those who, under the influence

of a similar spell, believe in these ridiculous claims under their scientific disguise and spend their lives defending them, abandon their superstitious beliefs, they also will be humiliated when the full truth emerges and the spell is broken. In fact, Malcolm Muggeridge, an atheist philosopher and supporter of evolution, admitted he was worried by just that prospect:

I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books in the future. Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.²⁰

That future is not far off: On the contrary, people will soon see that "chance" is not a deity, and will look back on the theory of evolution as the worst deceit and the most terrible spell in the world. That spell is already rapidly beginning to be lifted from the shoulders of people all over the world. Many people who see its true face are wondering with amazement how they could ever have been taken in by it.

**They said, "Glory be to You! We have no
knowledge except what You have taught us.
You are the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."
(Qur'an, 2: 32)**

NOTES

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COVER

Today a great many people are resistant even to reading the Qur'an, though they do not know what it contains. Because of ingrained prejudices, and without knowing what kind of life to which Allah invites them, a majority of people shy away from the Qur'an.

The purpose of writing this book is to alert people about this prejudiced viewpoint which will ultimately cause them to suffer great losses in this world and in the next. It is to invite everybody, whether or not they are believers, to read the Qur'an and consider the verses of Allah with an open heart and mind, as all pious believers have done before them, cleansed of all prejudices, rote "knowledge" and fixed ideas. This reminder is also of benefit to Muslims who say they believe in the Qur'an but who are not guided by its instructions. Hopefully, complying with this call, which has been constantly repeated throughout history by true believers, will be a way for the salvation of those who seek to win the good pleasure of Allah and lead a beautiful life in this world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. He studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University, and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on political, faith-related and scientific issues. Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in helping many to return their faith in Allah, and, in many others, to gain a deeper insight into their faith. Harun Yahya's books appeal to all kinds of readers, regardless of their age, race, or nationality, for they focus on one objective: to broaden the reader's perspective by encouraging him or her to think about a number of critical issues, such as the existence of Allah and His unity, and to live by the values He prescribed for them.