

HOW TO APPROACH THE TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
UNIVERSE AND ITS CREATOR



**IS GOD REALLY
MERCIFUL?**

THINK OBJECTIVELY AND WITHOUT BIAS

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1. PREFACE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين، والصلاة والسلام على
سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

This book is written for people who are in the lookout for answers to certain questions in their lives, such as:

- (i) Is belief in God necessary? What is our relationship with God and the Universe?
- (ii) Why natural calamities occur? Why some people suffer from diseases? Why is there so much poverty in the world? Why is there so much bloodshed in the world? Why some species go extinct? Why God created Hell if He is Merciful?
- (iii) How can we objectively (not negatively) question about the things in the Cosmos?

When people do not find satisfactory answers to the questions such as the ones mentioned above, they start disbelieving in God and reject His existence and follow a lifestyle of atheism or agnosticism.

It is estimated that over 1.1 billion people in the world identify themselves as Atheist, Agnostic or non-religious. This is a huge number. This book is meant for them and for those, who follow religion only for the namesake, but have lost faith in it.

2. DIFFERENT BELIEFS ABOUT GOD

(i) **Theism** is the belief in the existence of a Supreme Being (God) and/or deities (gods of polytheistic religions). Classical theism is the concept of God found in monotheistic religions. Theism also covers gods/deities of polytheistic religions. Non-rejection of revelation is the characteristic of Theism.

(ii) **Deism** is a belief in the existence of a God on the evidence of reason and nature **only**. It is a belief in God who created the world but has since remained indifferent to it.

(iii) **Atheism** is the rejection of belief in the existence of God. Or it is an absence of belief that God exists.

(iv) **Negative Atheism** is related to a person who has never reflected on the question of whether or not God exists and has no opinion about the matter and someone who had thought about the matter a great deal and has concluded that he/she has insufficient evidence to decide the question, or that the question cannot be resolved in principle.

(v) **Agnosticism** is the belief that the existence of God is unknown or unknowable. Some Agnostics say that human reasoning is incapable of providing sufficient rational grounds to justify the existence or non-existence of God.

(vi) **Irreligionism** or non-religionism is indifference to, or rejection of religion.

The above beliefs are distinct, even though these appear to overlap with each other. Together, they reject the **existence of God**. In the broader sense, **Atheism is a religion** with different shades of beliefs within it, as described above. However, most of the followers of Atheism agree that the issue of existence of God can be explored empirically, with reason. They do not claim that their faith in non-existence of God is a justification for their non-belief in God.

3. BELIEF IN GOD AND HIS UNIVERSE

Analytic philosopher Alvin Plantinga argues that trust in God is the same as our trust in our physical faculties. Meaning, trust in God is inherent in human beings. It is like believing that there are other minds beyond our own which require no evidence.

Philosopher Ralph McInerny argues that belief in God reasonably followed from our observations of the natural order in the Cosmos and the law-like character of natural events. The extent of this natural order is so pervasive as to be almost innate, providing a prima facie evidence about the existence of a Supreme Being/God.

Once a person is convinced that there exists a God who has created the Cosmos, then the first question that come to his/her mind is, how is God?

All people who believe in the existence of a Supreme Being agree that God is self-existent, and the existence of everything in the Cosmos is dependent upon Him because it is His creation.

Within the followers of one God, there are different beliefs. Some consider God incarnates into a human being, some say there are smaller gods responsible for different works in the cosmos. Some say, God has a physical body, some say God can lie and associate all evil in this cosmos with Him.

Among all, the belief that the Cosmos and all its inhabitants are God's creation appeals to the logical mind.

When someone meditates on this topic, he understands that God's creations are appearing in the cosmos in specific shapes / forms / characteristics as per the requirement of their existence. Among His creations, human beings enjoy special status as they are provided with superior intelligence.

It is also a fact that God has created this Cosmos in a balanced way. Meaning, all the things in the Cosmos are inter-dependent and their existence is vital to the existence of the Cosmos.

When the logical mind comes to this stage of understanding, then the next questions that come to the mind are - Why do natural calamities occur? Why do some people suffer from diseases? Why is there so much poverty in the world? Why is there so much corruption, bloodshed and violence in the society? Why do some species go extinct? Why has God created Hell if He is Merciful?

I have answered these questions very briefly below. I have deliberately kept these answers concise because I am attempting to bring to your attention the basic facts of this Cosmos. Once you understand them, you, yourselves will be able to answer many more questions with a positive frame of mind and will be convinced that the fault lies with our understanding, in our mind. If we think logically, with a broad mind, realizing that the existence of everything in this Cosmos is as necessary as our own existence, you will get satisfactory answers to all questions which have been bothering you for a long time.

4. NATURAL CALAMITIES AND DISEASES

From a human being's point of view, something appears good and something appears bad because they 'think' - if a thing is harmful to them it should be eliminated from the Cosmos. This viewpoint is not correct because they 'think' they own this Cosmos and everything else that is not important to them is non-essential. They focus only on 'their' survival and not on the survival of other creatures/factors in the Cosmos.

The Cosmos is a living place for all the creatures, not just human beings. Human beings are provided with common sense and intelligence and they are expected to stay away from things which may potentially harm them. To hate certain things in the Cosmos and think that they should not have been there, is an unreasonable proposition. If an individual thing which you do not like is eliminated, then this may have a domino effect, as everything is inter-dependent forming a balance of existence in this cosmos. Once this balance is affected, it may have catastrophic effect on the life on this planet.

4.1 NATURAL FIRES

When we look at natural calamities from human being's perspective, we feel it is bad. But if you see things, taking out the glasses of bias in terms of good and bad, you will know that a naturally occurring forest fire is necessary for the survival of the forest. The old wood needs to be burnt for the new wood to sprout on earth and this way the resources for the human beings are redeemed.

The natural forest fires are different from manmade fires which erupt from the negligence of human beings. In these fires, the resources in the forest are destroyed which cause damage to the environment. People have been provided with intelligence. They should learn to live in a

society and should be explained that these resources are essential for the survival of humanity. This is criminal negligence which should be punished as a deterrent for others to follow the rules of law.

4.2 EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes are an important phenomenon of nature. Their occurrence is because of adjustments of tectonic plates of the Earth. These plates/rocks need to adjust as the heat within earth gradually cools down. If they do not adjust, the earth may disintegrate into pieces and everything on earth will be annihilated.

Human beings have been provided with intelligence. They know that Earthquakes are essential for the survival of planet earth. They will continue to happen during their lifetime and beyond. We also know that these cause damages to human life and property. What is required is that we do research and find out the potential areas/periods of earthquakes. Prepare the people of that area to safeguard themselves from their imminent occurrence. The dwellings in these areas should be built keeping this fact in view to reduce/eliminate the damage. etc.

4.3 FLOODS

The rain is important for the survival of almost every living thing on earth. Rain should fall and fall abundantly so that our drinking water and agricultural/irrigational requirements are met. Heavy rain fall is a blessing for us. When there is heavy rain fall, the ants and small creatures on earth are drowned and killed. From the ant's perspective, rain is harmful and fatal. But from the perspective of the life on earth, rain is important. It is also important from the point of view of ants' future generations. If there is no rain, they will all die.

Human beings are provided with intelligence and resources. They are expected to preserve the excessive rainwater for future use for drinking/irrigation/agriculture. They should not let this destroy their homes and property. They are expected to make arrangements for the water to get drained rather than destroy the houses.

4.4 DISEASE

God has created microorganisms as the building blocks of everything on earth and in the Cosmos. The microscopic world is important for the survival of life on this planet. The

existence of viruses and bacteria is equally important for the existence of varied life on earth. A virus which is good for some animal/plant may not be good for the human being. A bacterium, which is good for the survival of other creatures may not be good for human beings. Since we all live side by side on the planet, sometimes the viruses or bacteria which are meant for the benefit of other creatures come in contact with us and as per their nature they act/grow. It so happens that their natural growth becomes harmful for us and often becomes fatal. As a result of this, human beings suffer and sometimes die. When we look at the suffering of a person from the disease, we feel bad and quickly blame God for that. How come God is responsible for that?

4.5 PREVENTION OF DISEASE

God knew the possibility of human beings suffering from certain bacteria/viruses which are meant for other creatures/vegetation. **And look at His mercy on us.** To protect us from various ailments, he provided us with knowledge about medicines. He has made some human beings as medical doctors. He has helped us in inventing machinery to diagnose ailments. And people are continuously being treated from diseases. Earlier, there were many fatal diseases, now we have discovered a cure/vaccine for most them through research.

God has given us intelligence, let us do research, He will show us ways to reduce and eliminate human ailments. God has provided a cure for every disease. We need to discover it using our intelligence and resources that He has provided. It is our responsibility to strive for it.

4.6 EXTINCTION OF SOME SPECIES

Life on earth is constantly evolving. We are different from our ancestors in many ways. Similar is the case with animals and their species. Everything is subjected to change and everything is changing on this planet. Why is it so? It is because the planet is a living thing. It cannot remain stagnant. If it becomes stagnant, it will be a dead planet. There is no movement in a dead body. When we look at the extinctions of certain species, animals and their evolution, we know that our planet is a living thing. It is not dead. We should learn to increase our knowledge and avoid complaining.

4.7 POVERTY

Poverty is the creation of human beings. God has provided us with abundant resources on the planet. The evil rulers/corporates amass wealth. When the resources are held by a few, the majority suffers. These troublemakers should be punished for their crimes. How can they be brought to justice? There should exist a universal justice system on this Planet with which these troublemakers should be brought to justice.

Sometimes there are famines with which our sustenance is severely affected. Sometimes in the natural calamity, areas affected suffer from food shortages. We know these things are common occurrences and are the result of multiple factors. We have intelligence. We should prepare ourselves to meet such emergencies in an efficient way.

4.8 CORRUPTION, BLOODSHED AND VIOLENCE ON EARTH

Corruption, bloodshed and violence is the act of tyrants on the innocent masses carried out on earth. How can God be blamed for it? The evil doers corrupt and kill fellow human beings and enjoy the violent carnage and destruction.

There must be a justice system with which these tyrants are punished. Sometimes a tyrant kills millions of people, spends his life in luxury and dies while he is still in power. Apparently, he does not realize his mistake. The others who see this tyrant enjoying the life of luxury, are tempted to follow his footsteps in creating corruption and killing carnages to grab power. This cycle of violence, corruption and bloodshed continues unabated and innocent people are killed unnecessarily, without their mistake. What is the deterrent for these people?

Sometimes it so happens that good people fight against such tyrants and they die in agony without achieving their objective. How do we deal with these scenarios?

4.9 CREATION OF PARADISE AND HELL

When we meditate on these facts, the logical mind concludes that when God has created us, He also created everything that was needed for our survival and continuity on earth. For an efficient system to survive, a strong justice system and law enforcement machinery is needed so that the wrongdoer can be punished, and good people are rewarded.

When we think further, we would realize that God did not create the world and leave it in the hands of tyrants to kill others and create mayhem. He does not ignore the people who are fighting for justice on this planet. He must have established a strong justice system as He has established other things in this Cosmos. When we understand this, we will understand the necessity of Hell and Paradise.

The Hell and Paradise are part of the creation of this Cosmos. People are cautioned about their behavior on this planet. If they choose to do evil, they should know that they will get retribution for that. If they do good, they will get recompense for that.

Human being is given 'free will' to choose. It is we, who are responsible for our deeds and resulting consequences/rewards. Everyone has been made aware that by his/her deeds have they reserved their dwelling in their permanent abode.

5. QUESTION OBJECTIVELY ABOUT THINGS IN THE COSMOS

If we look at the whole picture of life on earth, we realize that it is we who are to be blamed for all our suffering.

It is important that we learn to respect our Lord and do not stage a rebellion against Him in ignorance. We should learn to **objectively question ourselves** seek God's assistance in finding solutions for them. He will show you the way for your safe and secured life on this planet.

Since God has provided us with intelligence, we are required to use this intelligence for improving the conditions and make this planet a better and secured place for entire humanity. This is the reason, when we ponder and do research, He opens the doors of possibilities for us. It is by doing research, that we have made airplanes, ships, cars for our transport. We are using artificial intelligence, big data management to make life easy and efficient for human beings. If we use all this research and technology for the benefit of mankind, we are doing what we are required to do. But if we use our research for developing nuclear and biological weapons to use against other civilizations/countries to annihilate them, it is evil. God did not create you to annihilate His creatures. Be mindful, you may be severely punished for such actions.