

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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The Danger Of Personal Opinion

The dictionary defines opinion as a view or judgment formed about something, *not necessarily based on fact or knowledge*; the beliefs or views of a large number or majority of people about a particular thing. Conjecture is defined as an opinion or conclusion formed based on *incomplete information*.

The Quran tells us: [34:53] *They have rejected it in the past; they have decided instead to uphold conjecture and guesswork.*

[53:28] *They had no knowledge about this; they only conjectured. Conjecture is no substitute for the truth.*

We all have opinions, that's human. The danger is putting opinions above what God has given us. According to Quran, the people who persist in following opinions and conjecture are those who: disbelieve (54:3), have gone astray (5:77), are not guided by God (6:56), lack knowledge (6:148, 30:29, 45:24), follow their parents (2:170) or traditions (54:3), are full of doubt (45:32) and the majority (6:116).

These are not people we want to be associated with. [7:176] *Had we*

willed, we could have elevated him therewith, but he insisted on sticking to the ground, and pursued his own opinions. Thus, he is like the dog; whether you pet him or scold him, he pants. Such is the example of people who reject our proofs. Narrate these narrations, that they may reflect.

They insist on their own beliefs and no matter what truth you offer, they continue blindly on their way, just like the dog. They love their opinions more than the truth. [43:78] *"We have given you the truth, but most of you hate the truth."* And God cautions us not to be misled by those people. [20:16] *"Do not be diverted therefrom by those who do not believe in it—those who pursue their own opinions—lest you fall."*

We have a good example of David in the Quran (38:21-26). When the two men asked him to judge concerning the 99 versus 1 sheep, David gave his verdict. But then he worried that he might be following his opinion and he asked God to forgive him. As the footnote says: *Are we this careful?*

What are the things that can convince someone to follow their own opinions and conjecture? The most common

and influential thing is our ego. It convinces us that we are wonderful, smarter than the rest, obviously right all the time. Most people have no clue that they are being led around by their ego.

[25:43] *Have you seen the one whose god is his own ego? Will you be his advocate?*

[45:23] *Have you noted the one whose god is his ego? Consequently, GOD sends him astray, despite his knowledge, seals his hearing and his mind, and places a veil on his eyes. Who then can guide him, after such a decision by GOD? Would you not take heed?*

It creates an arrogance in a person that is difficult to break. We are told early in the Quran that we must kill our ego (2:54). But if they choose not to kill the ego, then God will send them astray, placing a veil though which they can no longer see the truth.

We are easily swayed by sheer numbers. It seems safe to join the majority. They are the most so they must be the rightest! But God tells us otherwise.

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[6:116] If you obey the majority of people on earth, they will divert you from the path of GOD. They follow only conjecture; they only guess.

[10:36] Most of them follow nothing but conjecture, and conjecture is no substitute for the truth. GOD is fully aware of everything they do.

Leaders, well-educated people, experts, and charismatic speakers often persuade people to follow their opinion. Soon they become convinced that this is the truth and they will repeat it often and work to convince others. Leaders are looked up to just by virtue of their title or presence. It's hard to contradict a charismatic leader. And once the majority is won over, it becomes even more difficult to break through.

[9:31] They have set up their religious leaders and scholars as lords, instead of GOD. Others deified the Messiah, son of Mary. They were all commanded to worship only one god. There is no god except He. Be He glorified, high above having any partners.

[34:34] Every time we sent a warner to a community, the leaders of that community said, "We reject the message you are sent with."

So, it's the leaders who work hard to convince people that the message is not to be believed. They may fear losing their revered position. They don't want to be challenged. They will fight hard to support their opinion, even when shown clear proofs.

Who is the most thorough and resolute of all who work to lead people astray? Satan, of course. He has vowed that he will skulk for humans and will entice the majority of them to follow him (7:16-17, 4:118-119). He finds most people more than willing to listen to his conjecture.

Satan Claims the Majority

[34:20] Satan found them readily fulfilling his expectations. They followed him, except a few believers.

How does Satan get to us? Often through our jinn companion.

[41:25] We assign to them companions who adorn everything they do in their eyes. Thus, they end up incurring the same fate as the previous communities of jinns and humans, who were also losers.

But God gives us tools to fight Satan.

[16:98] When you read the Quran, you shall seek refuge in GOD from Satan the rejected.

[7:200] When the devil whispers to you any whisper, seek refuge in GOD; He is Hearer, Omniscient. From Satan

[23:97] Say, "My Lord, I seek refuge in You from the whispers of the devils.

[23:98] "And I seek refuge in You, my Lord, lest they come near me."

And yet most people simply don't heed the warnings. God knows what's in their hearts and once their decision is to disbelieve, He leads them on the way they have chosen.

[47:16] Some of them listen to you, then as soon as they leave they ask those who were enlightened, "What did he just say?" GOD thus seals their hearts and, consequently, they follow only their opinions.

[45:23] ...GOD sends him astray, despite his knowledge, seals his hearing and his mind, and places a veil on his eyes. Who then can guide him, after such a decision by GOD? Would you not take heed?

God has provided so many miracles for us to appreciate and understand His greatness. Certainly the mathematical code should convince everyone to drop their opinions and turn to the truth. But humans are the same today as in the past and they would rather follow conjecture than investigate and learn the truth. *[6:4] No matter what kind of proof comes to them from their Lord, they turn away from it, in aversion.*

[54:2] Then they saw a miracle; but they turned away and said, "Old magic." [54:3] They disbelieved, followed their opinions, and adhered to their

old traditions.

We have the truth; we have the proof; we have the knowledge that following opinion and conjecture is dangerous. God willing, we will find the ways to put aside our personal opinions and seek only God's truth.

[2:147] This is the truth from your Lord; do not harbor any doubt.

[49:1] O you who believe, do not place your opinion above that of GOD and His messenger. You shall reverence GOD. GOD is Hearer, Omniscient.

Douglass

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Appreciating the Creations of God

Human beings around the world (with the exception of a minority who are atheists) believe and accept that everything in this material world is created by God. It is estimated that about 7% of the world's population do not believe in God. The ideology of God differs according to the different religions and their beliefs. But the creator of this universe is God and that is largely un-debated. I will try to express my views on "Appreciating the creation of God" in the light of Quran.

We can benefit from looking around and reflecting upon the creations of God. And from appreciating all these creations. This will strengthen our belief in God. The easiest way to do this is by observing ourselves. Look at the delicate and precise mechanism of our body. Each part of our body is a wonder in itself. And each has an intricate function which to date, we have failed to replicate. And God can repeat this creation any number of times. *[29:19] Have they not seen how GOD initiates the creation, then repeats it? This is easy for GOD to do.*

[30:27] And He is the One who initiates the creation, then repeats it; this is even

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easier for Him. To Him belongs the most sublime similitude, in the heavens and the earth, and He is the Almighty, Most Wise.

Let us reflect upon a few creations in our body, for example, the heart. It can beat without rest for a 100 years or more until we die. An artificial pump could not work with that efficiency or would not last for so long. Think about your kidneys, the small delicate organ in our body which purifies our blood daily. If it fails, then we use a dialysis unit which is about the size of a cabinet! Isn't this enough to appreciate and thank God for His wonderful design? Let us accept that there is none other than God who could create this.

[6:14] Say, "Shall I accept other than GOD as a Lord and Master, when He is the Initiator of the heavens and the earth, and He feeds but is not fed?" Say, "I am commanded to be the most devoted submitter, and, 'Do not be an idol worshiper.' "

Consider our solar system. The sun is an extraordinary creation of God. Although it is millions of miles away, the temperature necessary for our survival on the earth is precisely maintained.



[31:29] Do you not realize that GOD merges the night into the day and merges the day into the night, and that He has committed the sun and the moon in your service, each running in its orbit for a specific life span, and that GOD is fully Cognizant of everything you do?

Let us think about God's design of the night and day. He made night for our rest, and the day to seek His bounties. Each day is a new chance for redemption.

[25:47] He is the One who designed the night to be a cover, and for you to sleep and rest. And He made the day a resurrection.

Every year we get to see our earth revive with greenery in the rainy season. Before that it appears dull and dead. But after rain it turns lush, green, and vibrant. This creation of God and the shower of water from the sky is truly amazing. Artificially it is impossible to imitate this natural system of God. These are His signs for the people who understand.

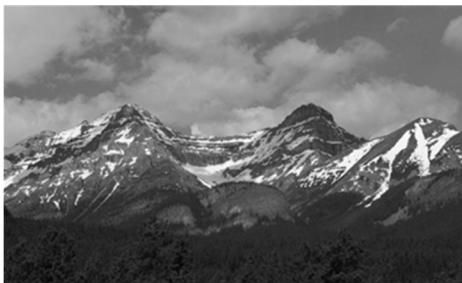
[22:63] Do you not see that GOD sends down from the sky water that turns the land green? GOD is Sublime, Cognizant.

[2:164] In the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of night and day, the ships that roam the ocean for the benefit of the people, the water that GOD sends down from the sky to revive dead land and to spread in it all kinds of creatures, the manipulation of the winds, and the clouds that are placed between the sky and the earth, there are sufficient proofs for people who understand.

[13:3] He is the One who constructed the earth and placed on it mountains and rivers. And from the different kinds of fruits, He made them into pairs—males and females. The night overtakes the day. These are solid proofs for people who think.

God created mountains as stabilizers. It is truly phenomenal to observe these enormous mountains playing the role God designed for them. Can anyone else other than God create this?

[31:10] He created the heavens without pillars that you can see. He established on earth stabilizers (mountains) lest it tumbles with you, and He spread on it all



kinds of creatures. We send down from the sky water to grow all kinds of beautiful plants.

Another amazing piece is these mountains are moving. Both due to tectonic activity and the rotation of the earth: *[27:88] When you look at the mountains, you think that they are standing still. But they are moving, like the clouds. Such is the manufacture of GOD, who perfected everything. He is fully Cognizant of everything you do.*

The earth rotates once a day and its circumference is roughly 40,000 kilometers. Thus, the surface of the earth at the equator moves at a speed of 460 meters per second—or roughly 1,000 miles per hour. Isn't it amazing? If we're in a car driving at 200 mph without restraints we'd be blown away. Now imagine the speed of 1000 miles per hour. This is just unimaginable. Only God can design this.

God has provided for us abundantly. We eat different kinds of fruits but do we reflect upon their colour, size and taste? It is worth observing these fruits carefully and praising God for them. Even though they look similar, their taste and benefits differ a lot. Do we appreciate these blessings of God as much as we should?



[6:99] He is the One who sends down from the sky water, whereby we produce all kinds of plants. We produce from the green material multitudes of complex grains, palm trees with hanging clusters, and gardens of grapes, olives and pomegranate; fruits that are similar, yet dissimi-

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lar. Note their fruits as they grow and ripen. These are signs for people who believe.

[6:141] He is the One who established gardens, trellised and untrellised, and palm trees, and crops with different tastes, and olives, and pomegranate — fruits that are similar, yet dissimilar. Eat from their fruits, and give the due alms on the day of harvest, and do not waste anything. He does not love the wasters.

God created so many different creatures from water. If we look around, we can find different organisms with different body forms. Some crawl, some walk, some swim, some have two legs, some have four, etc. All these creatures are indeed unique and inimitable. We need to appreciate this too. Nothing is impossible for God. He just says, "Be," and it is.

[24:45] And GOD created every living creature from water. Some of them walk on their bellies, some walk on two legs, and some walk on four. GOD creates whatever He wills. GOD is Omnipotent.

We receive water in our homes but do we appreciate it as a true blessing of God? For us it is quite normal to use a faucet because we don't need to put in any extra effort for it. But just imagine if this water does not fall from the sky, what would we do? If it rains with salty water, then what? It is due to the mercy

of God that the rain that falls on the ground can be used easily. It is due to His immense mercy that the rainwater does not drain off or become undrinkable.

[15:22] And we send the winds as pollinators, and cause water to come down from the sky for you to drink. Otherwise, you could not keep it palatable.

[23:18] We send down from the sky water, in exact measure, then we store it in the ground. Certainly, we can let it escape.

The creation of a human life itself is certainly one of the biggest miracles. Even the scientific world is surprised by the process of human life development in the mother's womb. The description of the development of the baby in the mother's womb as mentioned in the Quran, is indeed wonderful.

[23:14] Then we developed the drop into a hanging (embryo), then developed the hanging (embryo) into a bite-size (fetus), then created the bite-size (fetus) into bones, then covered the bones with flesh. We thus produce a new creature. Most blessed is GOD, the best Creator.

[40:67] He is the One who created you from dust, and subsequently from a tiny drop, then from a hanging embryo, then He brings you out as a child, then He lets you reach maturity, then you become old—some of you die earlier. You attain a

predetermined age, that you may understand.

From these verses, it becomes clear that



God, creates human life from a tiny drop. This insignificant beginning transforms into a living child. How it takes shape is explained briefly in the Quran.

We get to learn

in details about the child development and its birth through scientific journals and books. Even today scientists cannot explain or prove certain developments and transformations taking place during pregnancy. This little drop grows to become a full fledged human being. No scientific predictions or inventions can accurately predict when someone will die. It is predetermined by God. Hence, I can say it is impossible to challenge or find fault in the creations of God.

There are so many creations of God which we do not appreciate. One can write volumes on this topic. May God help us use every opportunity to praise Him for His creations and blessings. May He bless us all with all the necessities of life like air, water and light. May God guide us in the right direction and make us more appreciative.

Abdul G