

This world is transient

It adds: "This world is transient but the necessities of the afterlife are obtained in it. It is doomed to decay but it yields everlasting fruits and displays the manifestations of the Eternal Names of a Permanent One. In return for its few pleasures it causes one to suffer many pains and afflictions but the favors of the All-Merciful, All-Compassionate One are true and lasting pleasures, and its pains are the cause of obtaining many spiritual rewards. Since the sphere of the lawful is sufficient for the enjoyment and pleasures of the spirit, heart and carnal self, do not enter the sphere of the unlawful: any illicit pleasure results in numerous pains. It also causes one to lose the favors of the All-Merciful One, which are pure, lasting pleasures.

"In the way of misguidance man falls so low that no trend of philosophy, nor scientific development, no human civilization and progress can pull him up out of that deep pit of darkness. Through belief and righteous deeds, the wise Quran takes man out of that lowest of the low and raises him to the highest of the high. It fills up that deep pit with the steps of spiritual progress and the means of spiritual perfection.

"The way of the Quran facilitates man's long, troubling and stormy journeying in the direction of eternity. It shows him the means with which to traverse in a day the distance which would normally take him fifty thousand years to cover.

"Also, by enabling man to know the majestic Being, Who is the King of Eternity, uncontained by time and space, it honors him with the position of being a dutiful servant and guest of His, and secures him an easy and comfortable journeying through the world and the mansions of the intermediate world of the grave and the Hereafter.

Just as a righteous, dutiful official of a king travels in his domain in security with fast vehicles of transport like planes or trains or ships and crosses the boundaries of its provinces without encountering any difficulty, so too a man who is connected with the Eternal King through belief and shows his obedience to Him through righteous deeds, travels through the mansions, and across the boundaries, of the world and the realms of the grave and the Hereafter with the speed of lightning or Buraq, the mount of Paradise, and finds eternal happiness. The Quran proves the truth of this decisively and purified religious scholars and saints can see it clearly."

The Quran also says:

O believer! Do not use your infinite capacity of loving in favor of your carnal self, which is ugly, defective and evil, and harmful to you.

Do not adore it and do not follow its desires and fancies as if it were an object of worship. Use the infinite capacity of loving given to you in favor of the One worthy of infinite love, Who does you infinite good and will make you infinitely happy in the future, Who through His favors makes happy those with whom you have connections and whose happiness pleases you; One with infinite perfection and infinitely sacred, transcendent, pure, perfect and undecaying beauty, Whose every Name radiates numerous lights of beauty and grace and the beauty of Whose Mercy and the mercy in Whose Beauty are displayed in Paradise, and Whose Beauty and Perfection all the beauty, grace and perfection in the universe which are lovable, point to and are signs of: love Him, and make Him the sole object of your worship.

The existence of angels and Prophethood

His Attribute of Life is linked to the article of belief in the angels, and argues it indirectly. The most important of all the purposes of the universe is life: animate beings make up the most diversely spread type of creation, with its kinds and species multiplied on account of their worth. They enliven continually the hostelry of this world with their coming and going in caravans.

The earth, in particular, which is stocked full with so many species of living creatures, is being continually emptied and re-stocked as the diverse species are renewed, varied and increased; even in its vilest and most rotten substances so many living things are given life so that it becomes a place where microscopic organisms swarm. Intelligence and consciousness, which are the distilled essence of life, and spirit, which is its subtle and stable substance, are also created everywhere on the earth in the very greatest multiplicity, so that it is as if the earth were teeming and bursting with the joy of life, intellect, consciousness and spirit. When all of that is given due consideration, it does seem totally impossible that the heavenly bodies, which are subtler, more lustrous, and by far more significant in dimension than the earth, should be inanimate, entirely without life, movement or voice.

Therefore, there must exist and be provided with the property of life, conscious, animate beings that enliven the skies, the suns, and the stars, giving them their vitality and so possessing them of the purpose for which the heavens were created, and receiving address from the Glorious One. These creatures, of a nature proper to the heavens, are the angels.

Similarly, with its meaning and essential nature, life also establishes the article of belief in the Prophets. The universe was created for the sake of life and life is in turn one of the supreme manifestations of the Living, Self-Subsistent and Eternal One. It is one of His most perfect designs, one of the most beautiful of His arts.

Now, the eternal life of God is declared, first of all, through the sending of Messengers and the revelation of Books. If there were no Books or Prophets, then His being eternal would remain unknown. Just as a man is recognized as being alive when he speaks, so it is the Prophets and revealed Books that declare the words and decrees of the Being Who, from behind the world of the Unseen that is veiled by that visible universe, speaks and sends out His commands and prohibitions.

Just as life existent in the universe is decisive testimony to the Necessary Existence of the Living and Eternal One, so also does it indicate and indirectly confirm the articles of belief in the sending of Messengers and the revelation of Scriptures, for these are the rays and manifestations of that Eternal Life.

And of them, most especially the Prophethood of Muhammad, upon him be peace and blessings, and the Quranic revelation, which are the very spirit and intellect of life, are established as irrefutably as the very existence of life