



LESSON 4

DOES GOD EXIST?

ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD & REFUTATION OF ATHEISM.

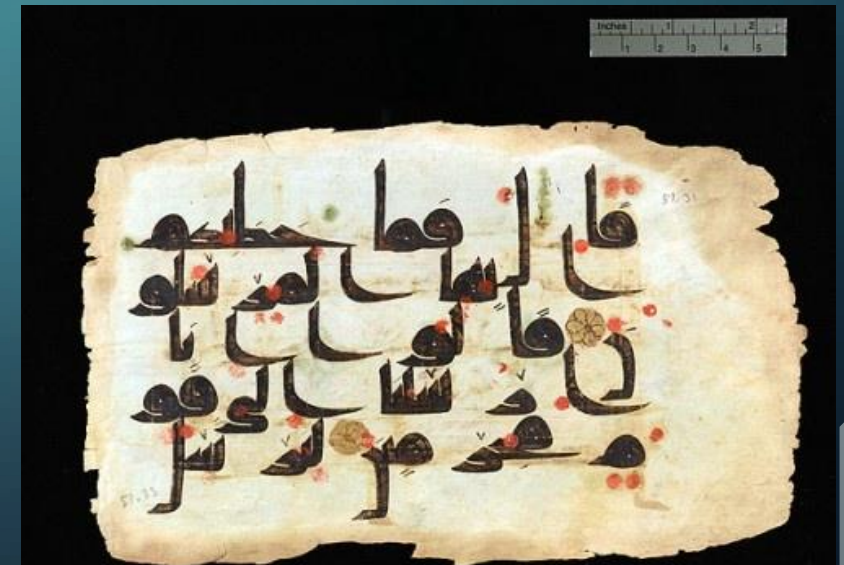
PRESENTED BY: MUFTI NIAZ HANNAN

MCMC LEARNING SERIES:

CONTEMPORARY COMPREHENSION OF THE IMAN: BELIEFS, ARGUMENTS AND PROOFS

GROUND RULES

1. No new Islam
2. Islam is about success in the Hereafter
3. You have to learn Arabic



RULE #1: ISLAM IS ISLAM

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ (ابْنِ مَسْعُودٍ) ^{رض}: أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ ﷺ قَالَ: خَيْرُ

النَّاسِ قَرْنِي، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ

The Prophet ﷺ said, "The best people are those living in my generation, and then those who will follow them, and then those who will follow them."

(Recorded by al-Bukhārī, Ḥadīth 2652, 3651, 6429)

THERE IS NO NEED FOR A NEW ISLAM

لَنْ يَصْلِحَ آخِرُ هَذِهِ الْأُمَّةِ إِلَّا بِمَا صَلَحَ بِهِ أَوَّلُهَا، فَمَا لَمْ

يَكُنْ يَوْمَئِذٍ دِينًا، لَا يَكُونُ الْيَوْمَ دِينًا

Imām Mālik   said, “The latter part of this Ummah will never be rectified by anything other than what the first part was rectified by; and so, if there was no Dīn at that time, there will be no Dīn today.”

THE “ORIGINAL SIN” IN ISLAM

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ

أَبَى وَاسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ

And (so) We said to the angels, ‘Prostrate before Adam’; they prostrated, but not Iblīs; he refused and acted arrogantly, and he was one of the faithless.

(Sūrah al-Baqarah 2, Āyah 34)

AVOID THE PATH OF SHAYṬĀN

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السِّلْمِ كَآفَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ

الشَّيْطَانِ ۚ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ

Oh you who believe! Enter completely into Submission, and do not follow in Shayṭān's footsteps; indeed, he is your clear enemy.

(Sūrah al-Baqarah 2, Āyah 208)

RULE #2: SUCCESS IS IN THE HEREAFTER

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ^{قَالَ} وَإِنَّمَا تُؤَفَّقُونَ أَجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ^{صَلَّى} فَمَنْ
زُحِرَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ ^{قَالَ} وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعٌ

الغُرُورِ

Every soul shall taste death, and you will indeed be compensated your full due on the Day of Resurrection. So, whoever is saved from the Fire and admitted to Paradise has certainly succeeded. The life of this world is nothing but materials of delusion

THE REALITY OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ: "يُؤْتَى بِأَنْعَمِ أَهْلِ الدُّنْيَا مِنْ أَهْلِ النَّارِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَيُصْبَغُ فِي النَّارِ صَبْغَةً ثُمَّ يُقَالُ يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ هَلْ رَأَيْتَ خَيْرًا قَطُّ هَلْ مَرَّ بِكَ نَعِيمٌ قَطُّ فَيَقُولُ لَا وَاللَّهِ يَا رَبِّ. وَيُؤْتَى بِأَشَدِّ النَّاسِ بُؤْسًا فِي الدُّنْيَا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ فَيُصْبَغُ صَبْغَةً فِي الْجَنَّةِ فَيُقَالُ لَهُ يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ هَلْ رَأَيْتَ بُؤْسًا قَطُّ هَلْ مَرَّ بِكَ شِدَّةٌ قَطُّ فَيَقُولُ لَا وَاللَّهِ يَا رَبِّ مَا مَرَّ بِي بُؤْسٌ قَطُّ وَلَا رَأَيْتُ شِدَّةً قَطُّ"

Allah's Messenger ﷺ said: one amongst the residents of Hell who had led a life of ease and plenty amongst the people of the world would be made to dip in Fire only once on the Day of Resurrection and then it would be said to him:



THE REALITY OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE

Oh son of Ādam, did you find any comfort, did you happen to get any material blessing? He will say: By Allāh, no, my Lord. And then that person from amongst the persons of the world be brought who had led the most miserable life (in the world) from amongst the inmates of Paradise. and he would be made to dip once in Paradise and it would be said to him. Oh son of Ādam, did you face, any hardship? Or had any distress fallen to your lot? And he would say: By Allāh, no, Oh my Lord, never did I face any hardship or experience any distress.

(Recorded by Muslim, Ḥadīth 2807)

RULE #3: YOU HAVE TO LEARN ARABIC

كَتَبَ عُمَرُ ^{رض} إِلَى أَبِي مُوسَى ^{رض} : أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَتَفَقَّهُوا فِي السُّنَّةِ،

وَتَفَقَّهُوا فِي الْعَرَبِيَّةِ، وَأَعْرَبُوا الْقُرْآنَ فَإِنَّهُ عَرَبِيٌّ

‘Umar ^{رض} wrote to Abū Mūsā ^{رض}: Acquire deep understanding of the Sunnah, and acquire deep understanding of Arabic, and apply the correct grammar to the Qur’ān, because it is (an) Arabic (Qur’ān)

(Related by Ibn Taymiyyah in Iqtidā al-Şirāt al-Mustaqīm, Volume 2, page 207)

RULE #3: YOU HAVE TO LEARN ARABIC

عَنْ عُمَرَ ^{رض} أَنَّهُ قَالَ: تَعَلَّمُوا الْعَرَبِيَّةَ فَإِنَّهَا مِنْ دِينِكُمْ،

وَتَعَلَّمُوا الْفَرَائِضَ فَإِنَّهَا مِنْ دِينِكُمْ

‘Umar ^{رض} said: Learn Arabic because it is part of your Dīn,
and learn Inheritance because it is part of your Dīn

(Related by Ibn Taymiyyah in Iqtidā al-Şirāt al-Mustaqīm, Volume 2, page 207)



WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING?

السَّعِيدُ مَنْ وَعِظَ بِغَيْرِهِ

“The good person is the one who learns the lesson from others...”

(Recorded by Muslim, Ḥadīth 2645)

THE CONNECTION TO ALLĀH

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ وَنَعْلَمُ مَا تُوَسْوِسُ بِهِ نَفْسُهُ
وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ حَبْلِ الْوَرِيدِ

“Indeed We have created man, and We know whatever thoughts his self develops, and We are closer to him than (his) jugular vein...”

(Sūrah Qāf 50, Āyah 16)

THE CONNECTION TO ALLĀH

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَأَنْسَاهُمْ أَنْفُسَهُمْ

أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

“Do not be like those who forgot Allah, for He made them forget their own selves;

They are the sinners.”

(Sūrah al-Ḥashr 59, Āyah 19)

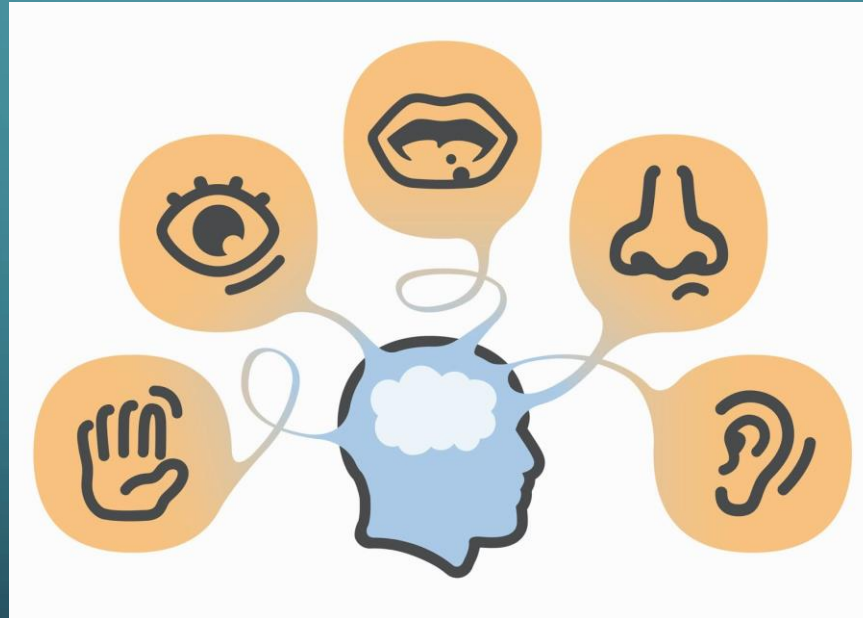
WHAT IS EPISTEMOLOGY?

- Epistemology is the nature and study of knowledge
 - What are the sources of knowledge?
 - How do we prioritize the sources of knowledge?
- ‘Ilm al-Kalām (Discursive Theology)
 - ‘Ilm Uṣūl al-Dīn, ‘Ilm al-‘Aqā’id, al-Fiqh al-Akbar, etc.
 - Stating and proving what Muslims believe with both textual and rational proofs

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE?

1. The Five Senses (al-ḥawāss al-khamsah)

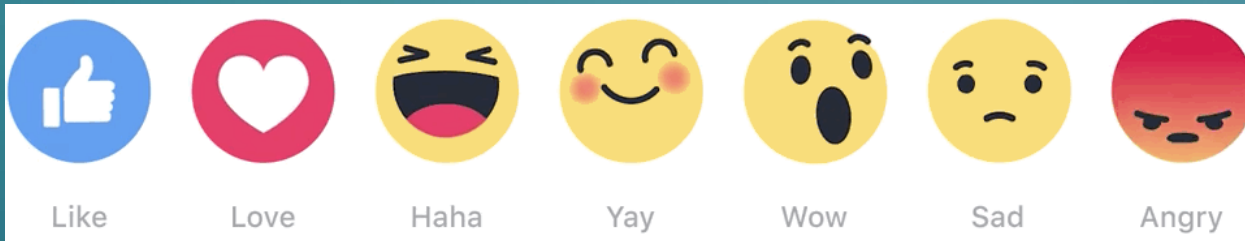
- 1) Vision
- 2) Hearing
- 3) Touch
- 4) Smell
- 5) Taste



- Bottom Line: The senses are limited in their jurisdiction.

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE?

2. The Intellect (al-'aql)

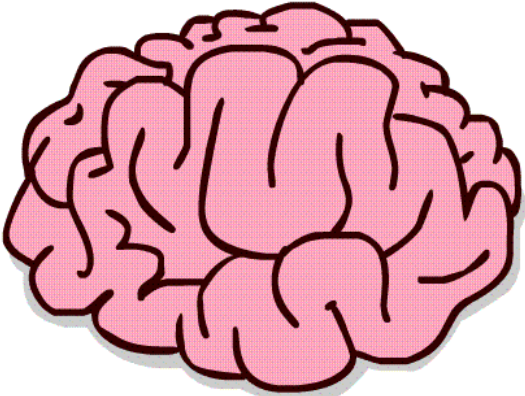
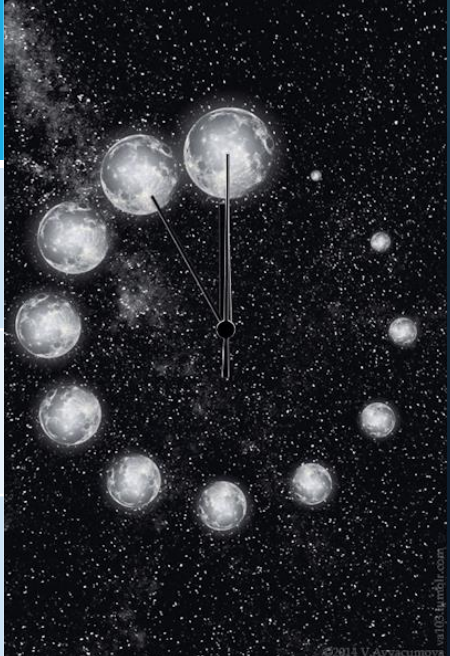


- Two people can intake the same information using their senses and come to different conclusions because of:
(1) limits and (2) bias in perspective and understanding
- There is a difference between a mature and immature intellect – experience, intelligence, memory, etc.
- Bottom Line: The intellect is limited in its jurisdiction.

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE?

2. The Intellect (al-'aql)

- Bottom Line: The intellect is limited in its jurisdiction.

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------|---------------|--|
|  <p>- Mrbysco</p> | Time | Space | Matter |  |
| | Past | Height | Solid | |
| | Present | Width | Liquid | |
| | Future | Depth | Gas | |

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE?

2. The Intellect (al-'aql)

- Bottom Line: The intellect is limited in its jurisdiction.



PASCAL'S WAGER

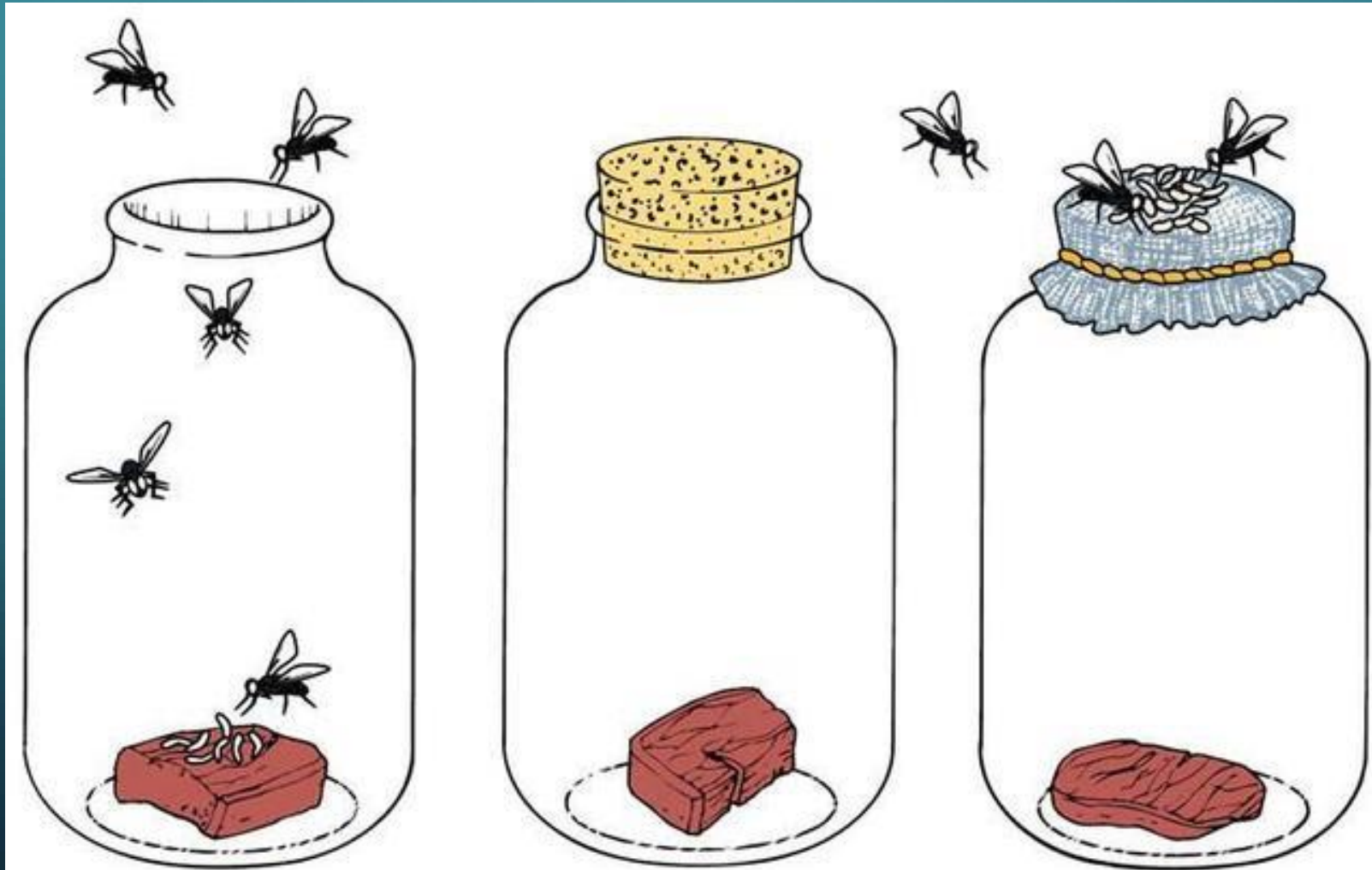
| | God exists (G) | God does not exist ($\neg G$) |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Belief (B) | $+\infty$ (infinite gain) | -1 (finite loss) |
| Disbelief ($\neg B$) | $-\infty$ (infinite loss) | +1 (finite gain) |



Belief is a wise wager. Granted that faith cannot be proved, what harm will come to you if you gamble on its truth and it proves false? If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager, then, without hesitation, that He exists.

(Blaise Pascal)

CAN SOMETHING BE CREATED FROM NOTHING?



INFINITY IS NOT AN ANSWER

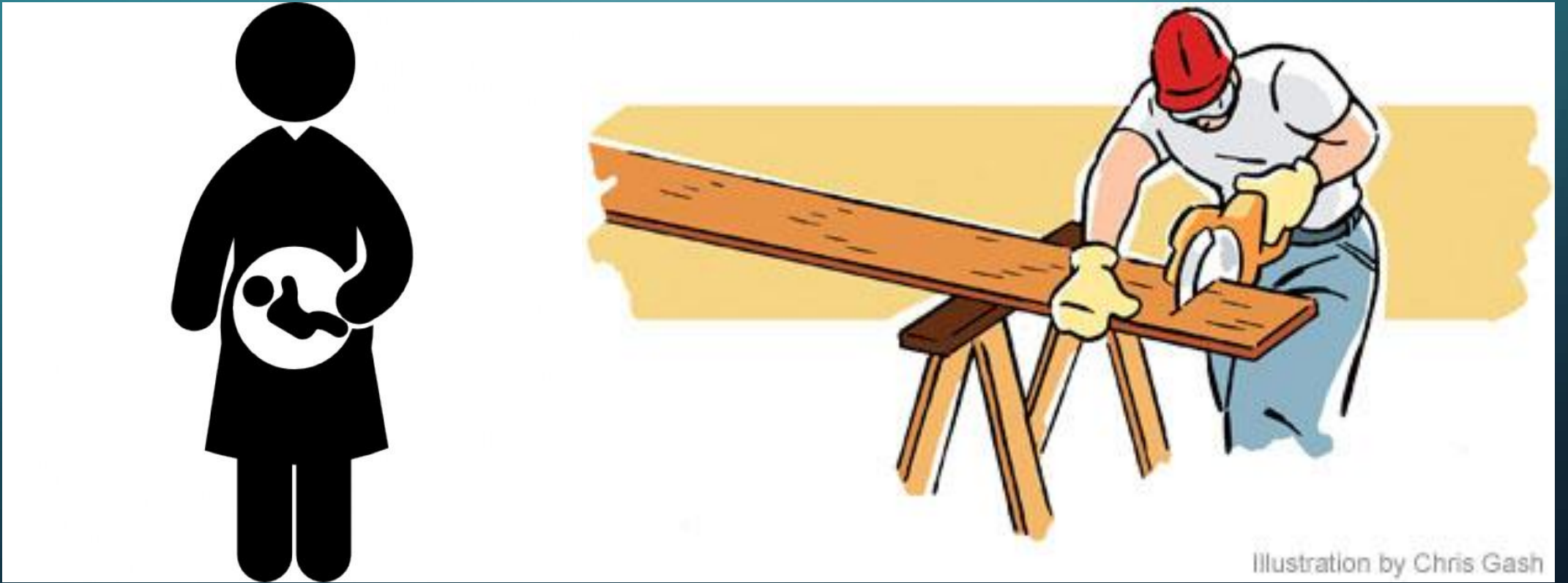


or



What happened **first** ?

THERE IS AN EXISTENTIAL BARRIER



OUR PROOF FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD IS RATIONAL

$a=b \quad b=c$

↓

$a=b=b=c$ *reflexive property!*

↓

$a=b=b=c$

↓

$a=c$

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم:

"أَحَبُّ الْبِلَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَسَاجِدُهَا،
وَأَبْغَضُ الْبِلَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَسْوَاقُهَا."

رواه مسلم

Like

Love

Haha

Yay

Wow

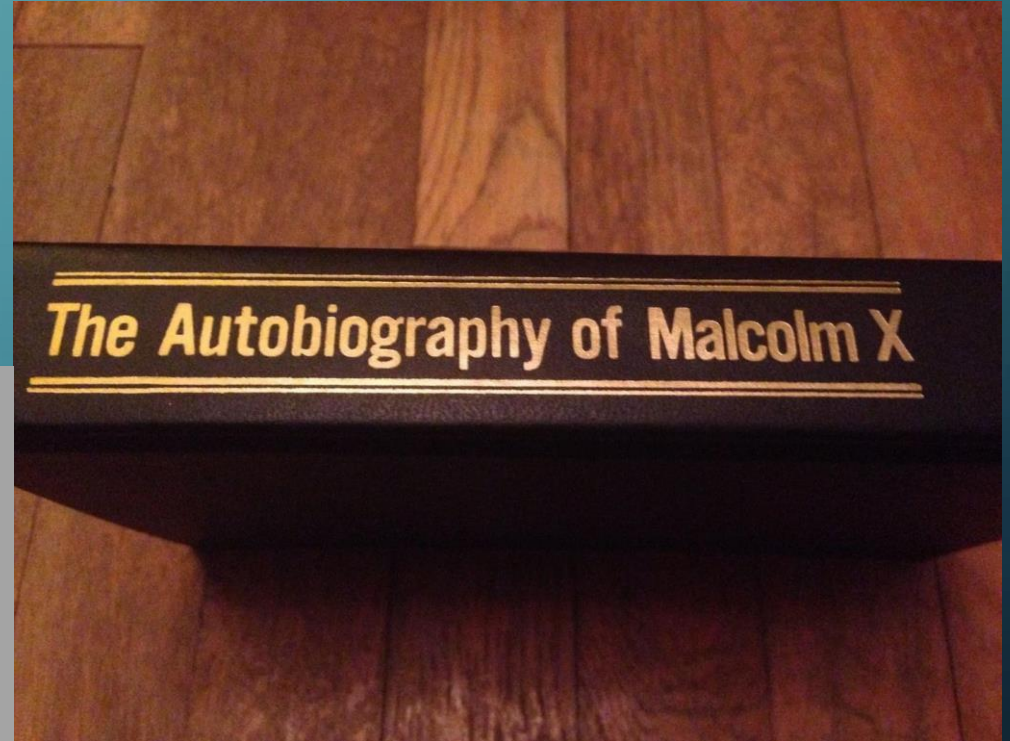
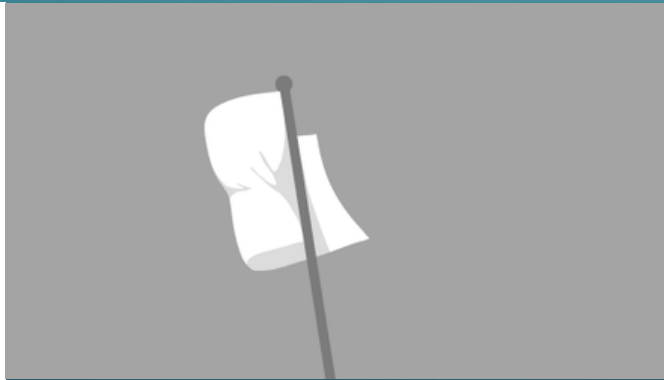
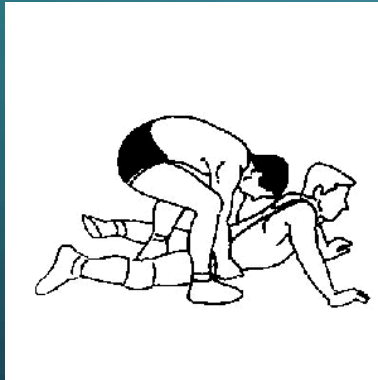
Sad

Angry

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE?

3. Revelation (Wahy)

- What does Islam actually mean?



- Bottom Line: Revelation is a higher source of knowledge than the five senses and the intellect.

EVERY CREATED THING NEEDS A CREATOR

أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمُ الْخَالِقُونَ ۝ ٣٥ أَمْ خَلَقُوا السَّمَاوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ بَلْ لَا يُوقِنُونَ ۝ ٣٦ أَمْ عِنْدَهُمْ خَزَائِنُ رَبِّكَ أَمْ هُمُ الْمُصَيِّرُونَ
۝ ٣٧ أَمْ لَهُمْ سُلَّمٌ يَسْتَمِعُونَ فِيهِ ۚ فَلْيَأْتِ مُسْتَمِعُهُمْ بِسُلْطَانٍ مُبِينٍ ۝ ٣٨

Is it that they are created by none, or are they themselves the creators? Or have they created the heavens and the earth? No, but they are sure of nothing. Or do they have the treasures of your Lord, or have they acquired control (over them)? Or have they a stairway (to the heavens) by means of which they listen (to the divine decrees)? If so, their listener must bring a clear proof.

(Sūrah al-Ṭūr 52, Āyāt 35-38)

EVERY CREATED THING NEEDS A CREATOR

كَانَ اللَّهُ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ شَيْءٌ قَبْلَهُ، وَكَانَ عَرْشُهُ عَلَى

الْمَاءِ، ثُمَّ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ، وَكَتَبَ فِي

الذِّكْرِ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ

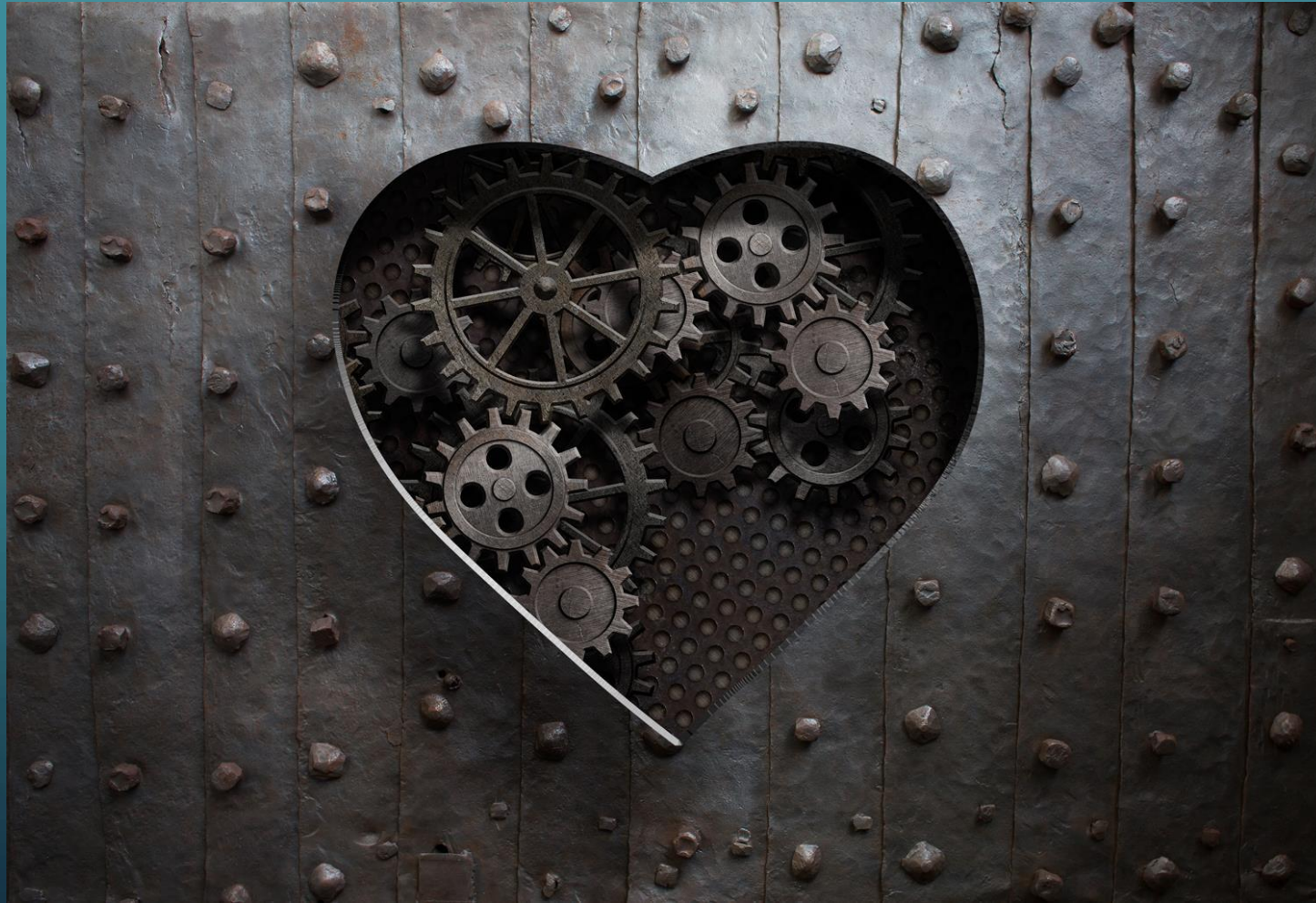
The Prophet ﷺ said "There was Allah and nothing else before Him and His Throne was over the water, and He then created

THE PROBLEM

كَلَّا صَلَّيْنَا سِرَازَانَ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا
يَكْسِبُونَ

“No! But that which they used to
commit has covered their hearts with
rust...”

THE SOLUTION





RECOMMENDED READING

- *The History of the Qur'anic Text: From Revelation to Compilation*
– Shaykh Dr. Muhammad Mustafa al-Azami
- *Al-Ghazali's Deliverance from Error (al-Munqidh min al-Ḍalāl)*
– translated by R.J. McCarthy
- *God, Islam & The Skeptic Mind: A Study on Faith, Science, Religious Diversity, Ethics and Evil* – by Saiyad Fareed Ahmad
- *The Divine Reality: God, Islam & The Mirage Of Atheism*
– Hamza Tzortzis
- *Science Set Free: 10 Paths to New Discovery*
– Rupert Sheldrake