

The Al Islam eGazette

Friday, June 6th, 2008

www.alislam.org

THE HOLY QURAN PREDICTED WHAT VATICAN IS TALKING TODAY

Vatican is today suggesting that believing that the universe may contain alien life does not contradict a faith in God. Writing in the Vatican newspaper, the astronomer, Father Gabriel Funes, said intelligent beings created by God could exist in outer space. He is the director of the Vatican Observatory near Rome, is a respected scientist who collaborates with universities around the world. The search for forms of extraterrestrial life, he says, does not contradict belief in God. The official Vatican newspaper headlines his article 'Aliens Are My Brother' in May of this year. Funes was quoted as saying the vastness of the universe means it is possible there could be other forms of life outside Earth, even intelligent ones. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7399661.stm>

But what many people do not realize is that what Vatican is prepared to talk about today when the writing is on the wall, the Holy Quran talked about fourteen hundred year ago. The wordings in the Holy Quran are specific enough that Muslims cannot be accused of retrofitting to make a false claim. To review the Quranic prophecy of humans meeting extraterrestrial Life read the chapter [The Quran and Extraterrestrial Life](#) of the book Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth.



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June 20-22, 2008 at**

www.mtausa.tv

Whereas the Muslims make their case from their scripture, Father Gabriel Funes makes his case from religious conjecture and not from Bible. It is hard to make a scientific case from Bible which in Genesis states that earth is created on the first day and four days later God creates the sun, moon and stars. For other revelations in the Holy Quran review the May 2008 eGazette at: <http://www.alislam.org/egazette/>

HUMAN VULNERABILITY: THEME OF THIS MONTH

“Man does indeed transgress, because he considers himself self-sufficient.” (The Holy Quran 96:7-8)

These words of Sura Alaq, part of which formed the first revelation to the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} are as true today as they were 1400 years ago. Is man self-sufficient or is he in constant need of consolation? That is the fundamental question that once again faces mankind after several tragedies back to back in the last month. The atheists propose that the world is governed by blind chance and humans have to cater for themselves and they have no help, in this random and uncaring universe governed by the survival of the fittest. But, tell that to the 5 million in China and 2.5 million in Burma, that are homeless after recent catastrophes, or offer it as the only solution to the thousands who have lost their only child in China, in an earthquake on May 12, 2008. Is there hope or consolation, or is there none? How are they to make any sense of their world? Who will console them? Self sufficiency is only a delusion of those who have succeeded in some limited sense through some effort of theirs or a chance happening. In the Holy Quran we have promise of help from Almighty Allah:

“And when My servants ask thee about Me, say 'I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me. So they should hearken to Me and believe in Me, that they may follow the right way.’” (The Holy Quran 2:187)

And again:

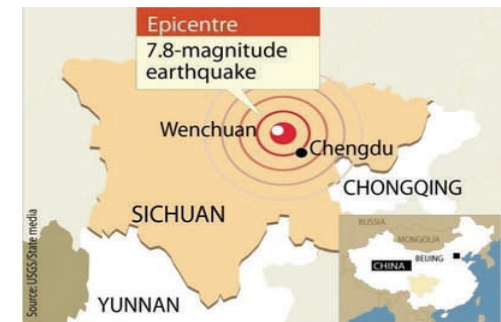
“He will remove that which you call on Him to remove, if He pleases.” (The Holy Quran 6:42)

If man assumes self-sufficiency and chooses not to pray then he or she is responsible for the choice. In the words of the Holy Quran:

“Say to the disbelievers, ‘What would my Lord care for you, were it not for your prayers to Him. But now that you have rejected the Truth, His punishment will cleave to you.’” (The Holy Quran 25:78)

CHINA EARTHQUAKE

On May 12th, China was hit with an extremely severe earthquake. The quake, which China's State Seismological Bureau measured at magnitude 7.8 and the U.S. Geological Survey said was magnitude 7.9, struck in the middle of the afternoon, flattening school buildings, shops and homes across a wide, mountainous area around the epicenter in south-western China's Sichuan province. There are 5 million homeless and the death toll may rise to 100,000.



Because the earthquake struck in the middle of the day, more than 900 parents lost their only child, in collapsed school buildings. The tremor was felt as far away as Beijing and the Thai capital Bangkok.



Rescuers try to help a stranded student out of the debris of a primary school in Mianzhu.

There were harrowing reports from the scene of a school collapse in Dujiangyan city - about 100 km from the epicentre - where 900 students were buried. Teenagers buried beneath the rubble of the three-storey Juyuan Middle School building were struggling to break free, while others were crying out for help, state news agency Xinhua reported. Parents were watching as cranes excavated the site. Villagers rushed to help with the rescue.

Not all hope of finding survivors was lost. After more than three days trapped under debris, a 22-year-old woman was pulled to safety in Dujiangyan. Covered in dust and peering out through a small opening, she was shown waving on state television shortly before being rescued.

"I was confident that you were coming to rescue me. I'm alive. I'm so happy," the unnamed woman said in a television interview.

“Allah will prepare a way out of his or her difficulties for him or her who is mindful of his or her duty to Him and will provide for him or her whence he or she expects not.” (The Holy Quran 65:3-4)

THE QUESTION OF SUFFERING

Many a times atheists offer the suffering in the world as their argument in lack of belief in the Omnipotent and Compassionate, Personal God.

His Holiness Mirza Tahir Ahmad has addressed this question in his epic making book Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth in the chapter The Question about suffering:

<http://www.alislam.org/library/books/revelation/>

THE BEST RESPONSE TO TRIALS

“And We will try you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth and lives and fruits; but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere. Who, when a misfortune overtakes them, say, ‘Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return.’ It is these on whom

descend blessings from their Lord and also mercy, and it is these who are rightly guided. (The Holy Quran 2:156-158)

One of the sons of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian (may peace be on him), died at a tender age of 8-9 years. When the son died, Ahmad^{as} wept for a brief moment but was then totally resigned to the will of God. He wrote in a Urdu poem, how he accepted the inevitable:

A piece of my heart, Mubarak Ahmad!

He was handsome, loving and of a pleasing character.

He has gone to Allah and has saddened our heart.

...

But, the one Who has called the son to Himself, is most dear and beloved to me.

I will revere and cherish Allah alone!

All my sacrifices and concerns are for God Almighty alone!

When God takes something back, it is like some body had offered one something temporarily and now has taken it back. There is no room for anger or irritation. The only logical choice is to thank the owner (Allah in this case) for allowing use for the time being. Such is the attitude of a believer.

For a believer the ultimate goal in life is to have pleasure and love of God. Other goals in life are only tools for this ultimate goal. If any of the other goals assume the position and priority of pleasure of God then one has set oneself up for possible failure and heart break. If the goal is not met then one is disturbed, one is depressed and so forth. For the believer, nothing in life except for pleasure of God, is really worth losing one's mind after. With this correct setting of priorities, correct attitude follows as described by a Punjabi poet Bullhe Shah:

For the gardener, it is only to water the plants, he waters them well.

It is for the Master to flower or not to flower, He may or He may not.

Updates at www.ThePersecution.org

- ◆ Excerpts from Human Rights Commission of Pakistan's Annual Report 2007 are available online at the website.
- ◆ News report April 2008 is also available
- ◆ As the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community celebrates the Centenary of Divine Institution of Khilafat (spiritual leadership in Islam), mullahs out of their jealousy are busy in Pakistan to stop Ahmadis from celebrating this auspicious historical event:
 - ◆ May 27, 2008: (1) Rabwah; District Police Officer Jhang bans all Ahmadiyya celebrations related to Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya Centenary. [Daily Khabrain]
 - ◆ (2) Shaheed Fazil Rahu; Sindh, 12 Ahmadis including a Murrabi (missionary) booked under anti-Ahmadiyya laws.
 - ◆ (3) Badin; Sindh, Police sealed Ahmadiyya Mosque in Badin (Sindh) barring Ahmadis to participate in Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya Centenary Celebrations.

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A Muslim saint's wife was terminally sick and she was in great distress and anxiety. The saint was very concerned about her and kept on praying for her. But, the wife was not getting better and her distress continued as she had a strong urge to get better. The wife had very profound love for the saint and invested a lot of trust in him. She expected a solution from the saint, through a medicine or prayer. However, the saint had something else to offer. He had a word of advice. One day after a discussion of the disease, the wife asked the saint, "Why are you not praying for me, dear." The saint replied passionately, "My dear! I pray for you daily. Let us hope that Allah grants my prayer and you get better. However, if God's decision is otherwise and He intends to call back, then you have to become resigned to it. God is like a friend, sometimes, He accepts our decision or prayer and sometimes we accept His and resign to His verdict." The wife got the point and became resigned to whatever may be the outcome of the disease. The disease continued but now she was very calm and relaxed. It appeared to the outside eye as if she was not ill any more. However, the physical illness was still there only her psychological reaction had changed. She died a peaceful death a few days later.

TORNADOES

Powerful storms killed 22 people in three states of USA over the mother's day weekend, this year, including an Oklahoma mother who died while huddling over her child. Her son survived with facial injuries.

The deadly Midwest tornado -- at times, a mile wide -- blew winds estimated at up to 175 miles per hour, tracking a total of 63 miles from Oklahoma to southwest Missouri, according to the



National Weather Service. The storms spawned five twisters in Oklahoma and two in neighboring Arkansas.

An official surveying the damage in the Midwest said it looked like a "war zone."

"It's just horrific. It's devastating to all of us," said Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry, who declared a state of emergency in Ottawa County. "It appears the search and rescue part of the mission is over and now we're in the cleanup phase."

President Bush pledged federal support.

"Mother's Day is a sad day for those who lost their lives in Oklahoma, Missouri and Georgia because of the tornadoes," Bush told reporters in Waco, Texas. "We send our prayers for those who lost their lives. The federal government will be moving hard to help."

Another 150 were injured and an unknown number of people were missing.

“It looks like a war zone,” Michelann Ooten, spokeswoman for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, said. “Some homes have fallen in, some homes have lost roofs and some are now just slabs.” In Picher almost all the houses were leveled.

In a more recent tornado on May 22, 2008, in Windsor, Colorado, resident Liz Meyer, said she heard thunder and hail and rushed with her dog into her basement. Her house wasn't damaged, but a 60-foot tree was uprooted from two blocks away and dumped near her home. “And look. It went into the street instead of into my house,” Meyer said. The streak of tornadoes continued over the Memorial week end, May 26, 2008 and in Parkersburg Iowa 600 homes were destroyed or damaged.

HUMANITY FIRST INTERNATIONAL

Humanity First (HF) has sprung into immediate action and has assembled teams of doctors and other staff volunteers to travel to both China and Myanmar to setup medical camps immediately. These teams consist of volunteers from the UK and several other countries where Humanity First has already been locally established. HF has provided these critical humanitarian services many times in the recent past (the Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, the Pakistan earthquake, Guyanese floods, the Peru earthquake, and Bangladesh cyclone to name a few) and is ready to help victims through immediate disaster relief operations, as well as the subsequent rebuilding phases in affected communities.

How you can help: As always, supporters like yourself are stepping up and helping in disaster relief efforts through

generous donations, and by volunteering for various roles in field operations. Please visit our website and

<http://www.humanityfirst.org/>

Humanity First is registered in 25 countries across 6 continents, and has been working on human development projects and responding to disasters since 1992. These have included the earthquakes in Turkey, Pakistan, Japan and Iran, floods in Africa and Latin America, storms and tsunamis in the USA, Indonesia and Bangladesh, and conflicts in Eastern Europe. Over 93% of donated funds are spent directly on aid projects. With the majority of our labour including skilled engineers and clinicians being volunteers along with preferential rates for materials benefiting from global sourcing, Humanity First is often able to deliver a value of aid many times the value of donations provided.

NATURAL DISASTER OR DIVINE PUNISHMENT

Any calamity can be an accident for one person and a punishment for another. However, sometimes these calamities are used as a form of punishment to the whole group, in such circumstances the God fearing are miraculously saved from these disasters. But more broadly speaking when to call a calamity a natural disaster or divine punishment? There should be clear cut distinguishing features. What are the criteria to distinguish these two entities? Review a five part article, on this topic by His Holiness Mirza Tahir Ahmad, at the following link: <http://www.alislam.org/library/tahir.html>

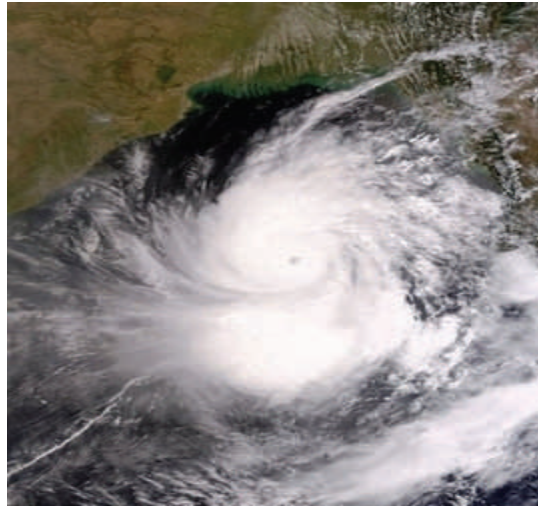
HURRICANE OR CYCLONE

The Southeast Asian country, popularly known as Burma, with the formal name Myanmar was severely rattled by the May 3 cyclone. The International Red Cross said in a new estimate that the death

toll may already be between 68,833 and 127,990 — considerably higher than the government's latest official count of 38,491 dead, announced Wednesday night on state television.

The United Nations estimated those affected by the Myanmar cyclone at up to 2.5 million and called an urgent meeting of big donors and Asian states.

U.N. humanitarian affairs chief John Holmes told reporters that there were now between 1.6-2.5 million people who were "severely affected" by Cyclone Nargis. Heavy rains and another potentially powerful storm headed toward Myanmar's cyclone-devastated delta Wednesday. The U.N. warned that inadequate relief efforts could lead to a second wave of deaths.



The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale rates a hurricane's intensity using wind speed and storm surge, which is the abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storms. It classifies hurricanes into five categories. The category 5 hurricanes pack winds with speeds greater than 155 miles per hour and can create storm surges of 20-30 feet and in some special circumstances surges up to 50 feet. The highest surges in the northern hemisphere are seen on the east side of where the hurricane makes landfall. This is because the hurricanes as

viewed from satellites are moving in a counter clockwise direction in the northern hemisphere.

The hurricanes are a very powerful reminder of the strong forces of Mother Nature or God Almighty. Man despite his enormous technological advances continues to be helpless in face of such overwhelming power. A typical hurricane in addition to contributing about 5.5 trillion gallons of rainfall a day is also a huge air circulation system. They play a noticeable, even if episodic role, in the general circulation of the atmosphere, transporting large amounts of warm, moist air from very low to middle latitudes. It is estimated that a mature hurricane may export more than 3.5 billion tons of air per hour, thus contributing greatly to redistribution within the atmosphere.

“He is Allah, the creator, the Maker, the Fashioner. His are the most beautiful names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorifies Him, and He is **Al Aziz** that is the Mighty, the Wise.” (The Holy Quran 59:24)

LONGING FOR CONSOLATION: A DILEMMA FOR DAWKINS

Professor Richard Dawkins in the last chapter of his book, the God Delusion, summarizes the four roles of religion, namely, explanation, exhortation, consolation and inspiration. In this chapter he is trying to refute the consolation and inspiration purpose of religion. This short essay is meant to be a practical rebuttal of Dawkins' views pertaining to the consolation needs and longing of humanity. The reality of human psyche is such that it cannot find any real consolation or comfort in blind science or the

so called 'survival of the fittest.' As Carl Sagan noted, "It does not make any sense to pray to the law of gravity;"

"Nor," as Kenneth Miller adds, "does it make any sense to pray to the second law of thermodynamics, which has never given me a break, and probably never will."

.....

A 1997 survey of American scientists found that 39 percent believed in a God to whom one may pray in expectation of receiving an answer as compared to 42 percent in a 1916 survey that used the same questions and an identical sampling procedure. The results challenged the widely held assumption that religious beliefs have fallen off drastically among scientists in the twentieth century.

These statistics are about an imagined trial or tragedy. Once the tragedy or trial hits home, these numbers quickly swell to a hundred percent. It has been well documented that 96% of patients undergoing cardiac surgery used prayer as a coping mechanism to deal with their stress. Dawkins himself tells us that 95% of US population believes in afterlife. It seems it is very hard for humanity to face his or her mortality. Once again, it cannot be repeated enough, 'There are no atheists in foxholes.' The Holy Quran says:

"Your Lord is He Who propels the vessels in the sea for your benefit that you may seek of His bounty. Surely, He is Ever Merciful towards you. When danger threatens you in the sea you call upon Him, and forget all others upon whom you call. But when He brings you safe to land, you turn aside. Man is ever ungrateful. Do you then feel secure against His causing you to be

swallowed up by the earth or His sending a sandstorm to cover you up, when you would find no one to rescue you? Or, do you feel secure against His sending you back therein once more and raising a fierce gale against you and drowning you because of your ingratitude, when you would find no one to help you against Us? We have indeed honoured the children of Adam, and provided for them means of transportation in land and sea, and given them wholesome food and exalted them high above the greater part of Our creation." (The Holy Quran 17:67-71)

The Holy Quran very profoundly describes human psychology at time of trial and its tendency of 'out of sight out of mind' once the trial is over. But, in the final analysis, there is no escaping from All Knowing God.

Review the full article at:

<http://www.alislam.org/library/contemp.html>

FRIDAY SERMON

Friday Sermon delivered on **January 27, 2006**, by Khalifatul-Masih V, His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad covers in part the earthquake in Pakistan in October, 2005, and can be reviewed or listened to at the following link: <http://www.alislam.org/archives/>

CONCLUSION

Atheism is a world view without hope and devoid of meaning. It does not offer any consolation when going gets tough. A false hope is only so much better than no hope. A Trinitarian God does not exist. The true and real hope can only come from real sources. The real hope comes from God the father, Eternal God, of Abraham^{as} Moses^{as} and Muhammad^{saw}, who is Gracious and Merciful.



وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Consolation and help from the Divine comes with some responsibility. It is a two way street:

“If Allah had imposed upon people the evil consequences of their conduct as quickly as they desire the acquisition of worldly goods, the end of their term of life would already have been reached. But We leave those who believe not in meeting Us to wander distractedly their transgression. When trouble befalls a person he calls on Us all the time, lying on his side, sitting and standing; but when We relieve him or remove his trouble, he goes his way unconcernedly as if he had never called on Us for the removal of his trouble. Thus it is that the doings of the transgressors are made to look fair to them. We destroyed generation after generation before you when they did wrong. Their Messengers came to them with clear Signs, but they would

not believe. Thus do We requite the guilty people. Then, after them We made you their successors in the earth, that We might see how you would behave.” (The Holy Quran 10:12-15)

The laws of nature do not rule out the laws of the spiritual realm. Human mastery of the natural forces has made man less vulnerable, in certain circumstances, but he continues to be vulnerable. Even though the life expectancy has increased in the western world but ultimately man is mortal and has to face his mortality. Man will continue to be vulnerable even though to varying degree despite the mastery of nature. Man cannot be divine, perfect protection comes from All Powerful God only. God continues to be in charge! In the words of the Holy Quran:

“And if Allah were to punish men for their wrongdoing. He would not leave therein a living creature, but He gives them respite till an appointed term, and when their term is come, they cannot remain behind a single hour, nor can they go ahead of it.” (16:62)

And again:

“He is Allah and there is no god besides Him, the Sovereign, the Holy One, the Source of peace, the Bestower of security, the Protector, **Al Aziz** that is the Mighty, the Subduer, the Exalted. Holy is Allah, far above that which they associate with Him.” (The Holy Quran 59:24)

Miracles do not imply violation of the laws of nature, rather God works through the laws of nature. The Messiah of this era, the lead follower of the Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian (may peace be on him) has said in his book *Barkat Ud Dua'*:

“If God has created the universe, then one can be certain that in keeping with His infinite entity, He would have left innumerable ways to influence the universe, so that His divinity is not suspended in any way at any time!”

CENTENARY KHILAFAT SPEECH AND PLEDGE

The speech and its running live translation in English along with the clip of Pledge that His Holiness Khalifatul Masih V took from the members of the community on the historic day of 27th May 2008 is available on Khilafat page:

<http://www.alislam.org/topics/khilafat/>

DOCUMENTARY KHALIFATUL MASIH V

The new [MTA documentary about Khalifatul Masih V](#) - Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{at} - The Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is available online. The documentary covers events up to Dec 2007.



OTHER UPDATES AT ALISLAM.ORG

- ♦ [Al Islam Store](#) has got a new design along with **19 new books and 2 DVDs** including the documentary Islam Ahmadiyyat.
- ♦ **New topic: [Arabic—the mother of all languages](#)** has been setup which includes 10 articles and books by late Sheikh Muhammad Ahmad Mazhar sahib tracing 22 languages to Arabic.
- ♦ New English [Books](#) added to Al Islam website include:
 - ♦ **Selected Sayings of The Holy Prophet of Islam^{saw}**
 - ♦ **Fountain of Christianity** by The Promised Messiah^{as}
 - ♦ **Minan-ur-Rehman** by The Promised Messiah^{as}

- ♦ Three English books by Hadhrat Mirza Bashirudin Mahmud Ahmad^{ra}, Khalifatul Masih II: (1) **Ahmadiyyat or the True Islam** (2) **Muhammad the Liberator of Women** (3) **Hadhrrat Ahmad**
- ♦ **Khilafat and Mujaddidiyyat** by Hadhrrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad^{rh}, Khalifatul Masih III
- ♦ Three English books by Hadhrrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad^{ra} about the life of The Promised Messiah^{as} (1) **Scattered Pearls (Durr-i-Manthur)** (2) **Some Hidden Pearls (Durr-i-Maknun)** (3) **Mirror of Charm and Beauty (A'inah Jamaal)**
- ♦ Two books by late Naeem Osman Memon sahib in response to allegations: (1) **Three in One** (2) **Ahmadiyyat or Qadianism! Islam or Apostasy?**
- ♦ **Commonsense About Ahmadiyyat** by Faizur Rasul
- ♦ [11 Audio books in English](#) have been added.
- ♦ [Review of Religions](#) website has been updated with indexed listing. You can view all articles written by a particular author or browse the table of contents before opening the pdf.
- ♦ Some new Urdu books include:
 - ♦ Masihi Anfaas—compilation from Hadhrrat Masih-e-Maud's writings
 - ♦ **Kalam-e-Tahir** by Hadhrrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{rh}
 - ♦ **Silsila Ahmadiyya** by Hadhrrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad^{ra}
 - ♦ **Khilafat—Roshni Subeh-e-Azal ki** by Hadi Ali Ch. Sahib
 - ♦ **Ahmadi Daiyan kay liyay Rah-e-Amal**
 - ♦ **Rah-e-Huda** (replies to some allegations)

And more <http://www.alislam.org/whats-new.html>

Please remember Al Islam Team volunteers in your prayers.