

Who Created God? In Light Of Critical Analysis Of “The God Delusion”

Dr. Humaira Khalil¹, Hafiz Sajid Yaqoob², Dr. Muhammad Yaseen (Corresponding Author)³, Dr. Yasmin Nazir⁴, Dr Muhammad Husnain⁵, Dr. Muhammad Saeed Sheikh⁶

¹Department of Arabia and Islamic studies. The university of Faisalabad

²Ph.D. scholar Islamic studies. BZU Multan

³Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, National Textile University Faisalabad, Pakistan yaseen@ntu.edu.pk Orcid ID: <https://orcid.org/00000002-8909-4079>

⁴Assistant professor Department of Islamic studies The Govt Sadiq college women University Bahawalpur

⁵Assistant Professor Division of Science and Technology, University of Education, Township Lahore. muhammad.husnain@ue.edu.pk ORCID ID <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8225-0967>

⁶Assistant Professor Department of Quranic Studies, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4267-0718>

Abstract

An atheist named Richard Dawkins like many others came up with certain arguments questioning the existence of God in his book “The God Delusion”. His highlighted arguments revolved around the theory of Darwinism meaning that everything in this universe is a result of natural selection and evolution. He says that immoral contradictions in the old and new testaments are proof of the nonexistence of a sacred force. Another theory he presented was that if everything is created by God, then who created God in the 1st place? He also put emphasis on the idea that religion is a self-serving motivation, and it does not come from a divine origin. Although he talked about a worldwide topic, yet he failed to quote even a single reference from the world’s fastest-growing religion; Islam and presented his ideologies from a Christian perspective. Since the Old and New Testaments are the tempered scriptures that Richard Dawkins agrees to as well, his arguments cannot be considered valid considering these scriptures. Also, the theory he presented about the nonexistence of God goes against the basic principles of modern science as well. His key ideas are viewed and analyzed carefully and critically here considering the only non-tempered and original text, The Holy Quran. As a result, his work doesn't have actual academic support from anyone who studies religion from any angle, whether they be atheist or theist, liberal or fundamentalist.

Key Words: Atheist, God, Religion, Science, Evolution, Darwinism, Universe, Creation,

Introduction

Richard Dawkins highlighted the question about the existence of God in his book “The God Delusion”. His theories remain biased and based on false accusations. In fact, none of his arguments were taken from the Holy book of the Quran. All his accusations will be answered in the following discussions.

Introduction of Writer

Richard Clinton Dawkins was born on March 26, 1941, in Nairobi, Kenya. He was a British evolutionary biologist whose study was the concept of evolution from genes. Almost all of his highlighted works are based on the theory of evolution backing up Darwinism with a unique

concept of Genes being the driving force of evolution.

Dawkins spent his early childhood in Kenya, where his father resided during World War II. The family returned to England in 1949. In 1959 Dawkins entered Balliol College, Oxford, where he received a bachelor's degree in zoology in 1962. He remained at Oxford and received master's and doctorate degrees in zoology in 1966 under the supervision of renowned ethologist Nikolaas Tinbergen. Dawkins assisted Tinbergen before becoming an assistant professor of zoology (1967–69) at the University of California, Berkeley. He returned to Oxford to lecture in zoology in 1970 [1].

Work

Richard Dawkins is mostly famous for his very first work on Genes titled “The Selfish Gene”. In it, he rectified the misconstrued concept of Darwinism. His central argument was that the actual concept of natural selection takes place on a genetic level (where genes fight each other to survive) rather than on a specie or individual level as presented by Darwin.

Concept of Meme

A meme is a unit of cultural information spread by imitation. The term “meme” was first introduced by Richard Dawkins in 1976 in his work “The Selfish Gene”.

Dawkins conceived of memes as the cultural parallel to biological genes and considered them, in a manner like “selfish” genes, as being in control of their own reproduction and thus serving their own ends. In these terms, memes carry information, are replicated, and are transmitted from one person to another, and they can evolve, mutating at random and undergoing natural selection, with or without impacts on human fitness (reproduction and survival) [2].

Dawkins and Atheism

Dawkins is an outspoken atheist and a supporter of various atheist, secular, and humanistic organizations, including Humanists UK and Bright's movement [3]. His work on Atheism got more famous than his actual field of expertise, Evolution. He always questioned the existence and proof of God but without any psychological statement. Much of Dawkins's work caused debate for asserting the supremacy of science over religion in explaining the world. Though he talks about the complexity of the human body as well as other species, he fails to answer where it all came from.

Criticism

“The God Delusion” written by Richard Dawkins, had a deep impact on the rank and file of the atheist community but those having extensive philosophical training have criticized it. For example, Dr. Michael Ruse, a philosopher at Florida State University, has written extensively on philosophy, science, and religion. He criticized it in his article titled, "Why I Think the New Atheists are a Bloody Disaster" [4].

Introduction of Book

Richard Dawkins wrote a book in 2006 with title “The God Delusion” in which he presented certain arguments regarding the existence of God. In this book, Dawkins asserts that the supernatural creature; God, certainly does not exist. His book is a bestselling anti-religious rant a science in disguised. He says that one must have to make a choice between Religion and Science because both can never be fit together. In fact, science and religion have no conflicts. Conflict exists in the ideology of radical atheist who has expanded science with naturalism.

Response to highlighted arguments of “The God Delusion”

On pages 157-158 of “The God Delusion,” Dawkins summarizes what he maintains as “The

central argument of my book” which includes the following points

1. One of the greatest challenges to the human intellect has been to explain how the complex, improbable appearance of design in the universe arises.
2. The natural temptation is to attribute the appearance of design to the actual design itself.
3. The temptation is a false one because the designer hypothesis immediately raises the larger the problem of who designed the designer.
4. The most ingenious and powerful explanation is Darwinism’s evolution by natural selection, and we don’t have an equivalent explanation for physics.
5. We should not give up the hope of a better explanation arising in physics, something as powerful as Darwinism is for biology. [5]

- **God almost certainly does not exist.**

All of the above-mentioned statements are baseless and not based on facts. Furthermore, none of these statements prove that God does not exist. So, this book and these arguments certainly do not provide a positive case for Atheism. Before going into his main arguments, let’s have a look at his conclusion which states, “God almost certainly does not exist”. So, the real question is how he concludes this statement from the above-mentioned arguments since these arguments are not even based on scientific facts. It is clear that his conclusion just jumped out of nowhere.

The God Delusion Key Idea #1:

Creation of the Universe and theory of Darwinism

Darwin argues that the existence of the universe is a physical phenomenon of nature, and it has nothing to do with God. He further stated that the model of the universe in itself is so appealing that it does not require any creator at all, and everything fell into place by itself. But the

believer of God believes that the structure of the universe is so complex that it cannot be formed automatically, and it could not have evolved the way Darwin stated.

Darwinism

Darwinism is the theory of the evolutionary mechanism propounded by Charles Darwin as an explanation of the organic change. It denotes Darwin’s specific view that evolution is driven mainly by natural selection. Beginning in 1837, Darwin proceeded to work on the now well-understood concept that evolution is essentially brought about by the interplay of three principles: [6]

- (1) Variation—a liberalizing factor, which Darwin did not attempt to explain, present in all forms of life.
 - (2) Heredity—the conservative force that transmits similar organic form from one generation to another.
 - (3) The struggle for existence—which determines the variations that will confer advantages in a given environment, thus altering species through a selective reproductive rate.
- In his theory of Evolution, Darwin focused on maintaining the argument that organisms evolve through generations by inheritance of physical or behavioral traits. He also presented the theory of Natural Selection focusing on the fact that every single organism on the phase earth is in constant competition with other and the fittest one wins the competition and takes over. This is called survival of the fittest.

Throughout his theory of Evolution, Darwin never mentioned that what was the actual force behind this whole process of continuity. On the other hand, Richard Dawkins who most certainly depends on the theory of Darwinism very confidently stated that the process of evolution is self-growing and does not involve any driving force at all. This is because Darwin was a believer

in God and the fact that everything is evolving by itself is so ridiculous that it couldn't be stated by Darwin.

Evolution in Islam

The concept of evolution presented by Darwinism is in a widespread argument among Muslim Scholars. From the Islamic point of view, the theory of evolution can be given attention if the element of driving force is introduced in it. The evolution of Human beings from apes would still be a false argument. The concept of evolution in Islam can be seen in Holy Quran at certain places, Allah Almighty says that:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا
رُؤُوسَهُمْ وَأَنزَلَ مِنْهَا مِائِدَةً وَنِسَاءً [7]

"O mankind! Be careful of your duty to your Lord Who created you from a single soul and from it created its mate and from them twain hath spread abroad a multitude of men and women."

In another verse of Holy Quran, Allah says,
هَلْ أَتَى عَلَى الْإِنْسَانِ حِينٌ مِّنَ الدَّهْرِ لَمْ يَكُنْ شَيْئًا مَّذْكُورًا [8]
"Hath there come upon man (ever) any period of time in which he was a thing unremembered?"

In light of the above-mentioned verses, Evolution in the human being is clearly stated although this is God-oriented evolution which is logical and understandable. On the other hand, the foundation of modern evolution is based on illogical reasoning. We can understand from the verse of Surah Dharr that there was a time period in Human history when he was not considered as intellectual as he is now, which means that humans have evolved throughout history, but it does not mean at all that their common ancestors are Apes or Bonobos.

Creation of the Universe and the question of the Creator

Richard Dawkins, an atheist always believed that the whole universe is created out of nowhere and the evidence of creation and the creator of the universe does not exist. But modern scientific research and the evidence from Holy Quran

clearly state the whole phenomenon of the creation of the Universe.

Big Bang Theory and Holy Quran

The big bang model is a renowned theory of the evolution of the universe. Its essential feature is the emergence of the universe from a state of extremely high temperature and density, the so-called big bang that occurred 13.8 billion years ago. Although this type of universe was proposed by Russian mathematician Aleksandra Friedmann and Belgian astronomer Georges Lemaitre in the 1920s, the modern version was developed by Russian-born American physicist George Gamow and his colleagues in the 1940s [9].

According to this theory, after the "big bang," the universe expanded into a group of Subatomic Particles which includes Neutrons, anti-neutrons, and photons. At that moment, the temperature of the universe was said to be 1 billion, 80 million Centigrade, and the density was 5 crores, 40 lac Fahrenheit as compared to the density of water. After some time, electrons and protons being oppositely charged particles attracted each other and vanished. Rest of the electrons and protons formed hydrogen and helium. This process of composition of hydrogen and helium was said to last around 1 billion years and then these 2 compounds formed the rest of the universe.

Now from the above-mentioned process of creation of the universe, there are two points:

1. Universe is a result of Power and Energy exhibited with full-fledged force, the big bang.
2. Universe is in continuous divergence. Scientists are unable to conclude the end of this expansion yet.

These two elements are proved by modern science, but Holy Quran confirmed this type of creation more than 1400 years ago. Allah Almighty says:

وَالسَّمَاءَ بَنَيْنَاهَا بِأَيْدٍ وَإِنَّا لَمُوسِعُونَ [10]

“We have built the heaven with might, and We it is Who make the vast extent (thereof).”

This verse of the Holy Quran clearly describes the expansion of the Universe.

In another verse, Allah Almighty says:

[11] **يَزِيدُ فِي الْخَلْقِ مَا يَشَاءُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ**

“He multiplied in creation what He will. Lo! Allah is Able to do all things.”

Now the big bang theory, which was presented in early 1900s, Holy Quran gives explanation of that theory as well. Allah Almighty Says:

**أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا
وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ** [12]

“Have not those who disbelieve known that the heavens and the earth were of one piece, then We parted them, and we made every living thing of water? Will they not then believe?”

All these verses are clear evidence of modern Big Bang theory but according to Richard, if science and Religion have clashed, then how the book of Allah Almighty stated the very theory of the creation of the universe 1400 years ago when there were no satellites even nor there was a single cosmological gadget available for scientific research? The point is, Richard never read a single verse of the Holy Quran and pointed out all false arguments in light of the Old and New Testaments.

Creation of Living matter from non-living matter

Spontaneous generation is the hypothetical process by which living organisms develop from nonliving matter; also, the archaic theory applied this process to explain the origin of life. According to that theory, pieces of cheese and bread wrapped in rags and left in a dark corner, produce mice, because after several weeks there were mice in the rags. Many believed in a spontaneous generation because it explained such occurrences as the appearance of maggots on decaying meat.

By the 18th century, it had become obvious that higher organisms could not be produced by

nonliving material. The origin of microorganisms such as bacteria, however, was not fully determined until Louis Pasteur proved it in the 19th century. [13]

In light of the above-mentioned theory of spontaneous generation, it is proved that living organisms cannot be reproduced by non-living matter. We can consider the example of a mature egg. The non-living matter of an egg, in modern equipment and by modern techniques, cannot even reproduce a single chick. The question raises, if something as complex as a human being cannot be reproduced by effort and using every kind of modern equipment, how can it be produced spontaneously? Richard is unable to answer such a simple question.

Creation of Creator

Above mentioned cosmological evidence is more than enough for the question of the creator. Without accepting the existence of the creator of the universe, Dawkins questioned the creation of the Creator. He says, let’s suppose that the universe is created by a creator, then who created the creator? In a taunted response to his question, he quoted a line of a great philosopher Rolf Freidheim in his book, “Probability of life originating on earth is no greater than a chance that a hurricane sweeping through a crape yard would have the luck to assemble Boeing 747” [14]

Dawkins questions if a Boeing 747 can be composed by itself by luck, then God himself is the biggest Boeing 747 if he is self-created.

The answer to this argument is that, if we suppose (for the sake of argument) that God is created by someone else superior to him, then who created the superior one? And then who created the most superior one? So, this is an infinite line of questions arising about the creation of Divine power which goes against the rules of philosophy. In other words, to explain it in the best possible way, we have to believe the God hypothesis and Creation Ex-Nihilo.

Creation Ex-Nihilo

Creationism is the belief that the universe and the various forms of life were created by God out of nothing (ex nihilo). It is a response primarily to modern evolutionary theory, which explains the diversity of life without recourse to the doctrine of God or any other divine power [15]

What does Islam say about the question of the Creator?

There is this point to ponder that in Holy Quran, Allah Almighty has always advised us to look around for the proof of the creation of the Universe in the shifts of days and nights and seasons. But Quran never insisted to look around for proof of the creation of God. Sir Ghulam Rasool Saeedi has explained the reason for this point in his Tafseer. He says, "A human being can try as much as he wants but he can never find the answers to the creation of God because if a human cannot even find the 5% of God's creation, how can he question and find proof about the creation of creator himself?" [16]

Prohibition about the questioning of God's creation is also clearly explained in light of the sayings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). He says, "Look around for the proof of the Universe and do not dare to question the creator of the Universe." [17]

Conclusion.

Any person with a non-radical approach towards modern science and Islam would easily understand the concept of the Creation of the Universe and how modern science is correlated to the Islamic concept of the creation of the Universe. But Richard Dawkins did not bother to study the actual text of Allah Almighty; Holy Quran rather he took false arguments and accusations from the Old and New Testaments. It is a huge disappointment that he is talking about the fastest growing and 2nd largest Religion in the phase of the World and he completely ignores the only non-tempered scripture. The Centre of his

discussion is the idea that if everything in this universe is created by a divine power, then who created that divine power? This is such a non-serious and childish question that goes against the basic laws of Philosophy and not a single person with a bare minimum of philosophical knowledge would give a second thought to his baseless arguments.

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