

## Letter to the Editor: Existence of Allah

Recently I had the opportunity of discussing with a number of non-Muslims about Islam, one of those people was a communist and completely denied the existence of God. I tried a number of ways to explain the existence of Allah but could not convince them. In particular I found it difficult to refute the communist's claim that religiousness was not instinctive as I claimed. I wonder if it is possible for you to answer this question.

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Reply:

Firstly, you should clarify what do you mean by instincts. Organic needs, such as food and water, are well known and need no explanation. Instincts on the other hand are contentious and as you discovered some are denied by people. The main instincts are survival, reproduction and religiousness. One should note that there is a difference between the need or instinct and their aspects. For example the aspects of the organic needs for food and water are hunger and thirst. Similarly the aspects of the reproduction instinct are sex, compassion and affection. The difference between organic needs and instincts stems from the energy in man that leads him to undertake his actions. With organic needs this vitality must be satisfied otherwise man may die. With the instincts however if this vitality is not satisfied, anxiety rather than death will occur.

As well as this difference they are also dissimilar in respect of the impetus. Because the impetus of the organic needs is internal, whilst the impetus which activates the instincts arises from:

- (a) Thoughts that have an association with the thing that activates the emotion or
- (b) A sensation like seeing, feeling etc. that activates the emotions

An example to illustrate this point is the

instinct of reproduction. An aspect of reproduction is the sexual feeling, now this thing is agitated by what? Thinking of a beautiful woman, or anything related to sex, alternatively actually seeing a beautiful woman or anything related to sex will agitate this feeling. If none of these things occur then the sexual feeling is not excited. Just consider what is happening here in Britain, why are so many women raped? Why is there so much illicit sexual activity as compared to Muslim countries for example? The reason is simply that Islam considers women an honour and therefore keeps anything that may tarnish this honour away. So girly magazines, films are controlled. In Britain, however, advertising, newspapers, films, make-up, perfume, clothes lingerie etc. are all geared to excite the instinct. Thus what agitates this instinct is not internal like the organic need, but rather externally activated.

This is the same for all instincts. The appearance of the instinct comes into being when the thing which agitates it appears. In the absence of anything that agitates the instinct the appearance of the instinct, is not seen. Accordingly, the instinct of religiousness is agitated by seeing or contemplating on the signs of Allah, pondering about the Day of Judgment and that related to it. This is why Allah (SWT) in the Glorious Quran draws attention to the signs of Allah. Because they will agitate the instinct of religiousness. For example Allah says in Surah Aal Omran (The family of Imran):

"LO! IN THE CREATION OF THE HEAVENS AND EARTH AND (IN) THE DIFFERENCE OF NIGHT AND DAY ARE TOKENS (OF HIS SOVEREIGNTY) FOR MEN OF UNDERSTANDING."

(III:190)

There are hundreds of other Quranic verses that express similar meanings. Thus Allah draws man's attention to the signs that bring man to believe in the Creator and to that which agitates the religious instinct.

Religiousness as such goes back to the first man, Adam (R.A), who had a certain feeling of awesome sacredness towards the Creator. This was irrespective to whether he could explain the attributes of Allah or His Overwhelming Power or not. This feeling is born with man and forms a part of his constitution which is religiousness. Man since his existence in earth has worshipped. He has worshipped the Sun, planets, fire, idols and of course Allah, The Supreme, The Glorified. This religiousness is found in the history of every nation, or peoples throughout history. The Communists, officially, deny Allah, that is right. But

have they been able to stamp out religiousness? No, more people attend church in Russia than in Britain and that's a fact! The Churches in Poland are full and the only way they can stop Muslims observing Islam is by force - but still they fail. The Communists, like the atheists here, simply substitute things in place of Allah. The instinct still goes on but now pop stars, film stars etc. are revered not Allah. In Russia Lenin's tomb is visited like Muslims make Hajj to Mecca. In China-Mao's book was chanted in exactly the same way as the Quran is chanted by us. Reverence to Allah is simply diverted but the characteristics associated with Religiousness are still exhibited.

Some people may say that this feeling is really an aspect of the instinct of survival. They are however totally wrong. Because the instinct of survival conflicts real sacredness. Consider the martyr who goes into battle against tremendous odds, survival is far from his mind and this is the greatest act of worship. Religiousness then is an independent instinct which differs from the instinct of survival.

It may be said by some, if contemplating on the signs of Allah agitates the religious instinct how come the Communists don't believe? The reason basically is that the concept they hold says that the signs quoted from Quran are the product of nature, not Allah. Therefore they relate the signs to nature not Allah. Hence, they are in complete awe of nature. Thus the concept they hold transforms the property of the thing that excites the instinct of religiousness so that it does not produce the reaction. But does this not mean that they show no religiousness? Indeed not, for they substitute the religiousness instinct by worshipping creatures, heroes, the party and above all the sacredness of nature.

However, when you consider the question you realise that to disbelieve is more difficult than to believe. Because belief is mans own natural disposition and to transfer man from this requires great effort Furthermore, this is why the disbelievers hasten to believe in Allah when they are convinced by intellect that Allah does exist. Because not only are their minds convinced, but their hearts are filled with tranquillity.

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