Wednesday, December 3, 2014
Topic: Divine Determining (Part 19)

**Almighty God, the Absolutely Wise One, made that weak and partial will a condition for the connection of His universal will. He, in effect says: “My creature! What you choose with your will, I will create it for you as long as you follow my order of creation. In which case the responsibility is yours!”
Thus, Almighty God, the Firmest of Judges, makes His servant’s will, which is utterly weak, a condition and His universal will follows it.**

* It is within my perception that His will follows my will.
* In reality, He is just creating what I choose.
* The Creator never forces you to make a choice.
* Example: If you choose that which is right, He will create that which is right for you. If you chose that which is wrong, He will create that which is wrong for you.
* God never changes His order. The established order is His choice.
* To understand how the Creator operates, I have to look at His act of creation.
* As an addressee of the Quran, I have to look at the universe.
* I cannot look at God. God is my conclusion.
* The only way to perceive God is through His act of creation.
* Knowledge of God is my own conclusion of my perception of the universe.
* We cannot come to a realistic conclusion by reading the scripture in an imitative way.
* I ought to ask myself: *How do I know God?*
* I have to see His qualities manifested in the universe.
* The Prophet (pbuh) experienced the manifestation of God’s act of creation at the highest level in his Ascension.
* Similarly, I also have to establish a surety that: everything that I observe in this universe is only from Him.
* Belief is my conclusion through my observation.
* I can only observe the act of creation. Then I can conclude that the One who is operating in each act of creation generously must be The Absolutely Generous One.
* I can only approve the scripture through the above conclusion.
* I am only given a limited area to exercise my freewill.
* When I use my freewill, I am exercising the freedom given to me by the Creator of the universe that is also My Creator.
* By creating me in a certain way, He has left me free to choose.
* For example: When I see an object through my eyes, this ability is given to me. I am exercising the ability to see given to me by my Creator. Similarly, I am exercising the reasoning given to me and I am able to make decisions.
* I choose and He creates.
* We have to read the scripture without turning it into imagination.
* In and of itself, imagination is a human capacity, we have to use it, but...
* Imagination is not belief.
* Belief is confirmation and confirmation needs evidence.
* We are free to imagine anything because imagination does not need evidence.
* In a sense, “God’s will” presides over everything.
* God’s will is channeled through His order manifested in the universe.
* As His creation, we operate within His order.
* Our freewill, confined by its physical limitations is supposed to function as a means of acknowledging His Absoluteness.
* Although, we are subordinated to His order, His order is such that I am free to exercise my freewill and follow His order in the universe
* I cannot change His established order but when I exercise my freewill, I use some of His laws manifested in the universe to modify existence.
* Example: I cannot change the established order of the sun rising followed by the sun setting. But I can change the order of receiving light by turning on/off an electric switch.
* If I discover something, I found out how the order of the universe has been established by the One who created it.
* The problem lies when I start attributing an order to random happenings.
* How can I confirm the existence of the order of the universe?
* I have to confirm everything by using my given capacities.
* I am responsible for my own reasoning according to my given capacity.
* Here are some parameters I may reason with to comprehend any existence:
* Can the universe happen accidentally?
* How can something exist by itself?
* This universe is given existence by whom?
* My reality: I am born as a human being, I want to use my human qualities and I want to be comfortable with my own existence.
* I ought to be consistent within my own existence.
* If I do not see an order described in the scripture as being reflected in the universe, I have to question the text in the scripture.
* We have to redefine how we read the scripture.
* The Creator is speaking to me within my own observation of the universe: The Creator must be telling me something.
* Example: The story of the people of the cave that slept in there for so many years and the sun rise/set did not penetrate their cave.
* This kind of events tells us that you must read the text according to your own condition.
* Quran must be read within the condition of human perception.
* I must understand what the text is trying to teach “me” here.
* The order of the Universe has been established by someone who has Absolute Will and Absolute Consciousness.
* It means that every single event is coming into existence within the knowledge of this single Creator.
* The Universe is a work executed by the One who is Absolute.
* Within His order, there is something that I do not see and He is hinting at it.
* For example: Prophet Solomon flew in air and he traveled a month’s distance in one year.
* Looks like this miracle is taking place within this order and I have to discover it.
* ***Can you fly in the air?* *What are the airplanes doing?***
* Airplanes are the discovery of the rules within the order.
* These rules are not accessible to you if you do not discover them.
* The mentioning of these miracles are hints/possibilities within the order of the universe for us to discover.

* How can I confirm the miracles mentioned in the Quran which I have not experienced?
* I must have been exposed to this type of information for a reason.
* The One who created this order of the universe is speaking to you as such: “Once one of my created beings wanted some evidence for his claim that he is selected as My Messenger. To confirm it, I disclose what is hidden in My order to him. You too can find out.”
* We are slowly discovering what is hidden in the universe.
* Miracles are mentioned in the Quran to discover treasures for ourselves.
* Example: The Prophet Jesus’ bringing a dead person back to life again is hinting at me to find out something within the order of the universe.
* Definition of death must be redefined within the order of the universe. There are hints in this order and we need to find out. Otherwise it’s irrelevant.
* **Challenge question:** *In the order of the universe, what is not a miracle?*
* Every action is a miracle.
* Prophetic miracles are mentioned to let us know that they are within the order of the universe and I need to find out what they signify for me? Thus, I will feel confident that the Speaker in the text is the One Who established this order in the universe.
* Definition of the Quran**: Creator of this universe is speaking to you through the witnessing of the creation**.
* Think about it: *Why would the Creator tell me something without giving me the ability to understand it and confirm it?*
* The Creator knows that you have the ability to understand creation because He creates you.
* For centuries, people have been going deeper in their study of creation. For example: Look at how perfectly each cell in our body is in motion. Scientists are unraveling layers and layers of meaning in understanding sub-atomic parts.
* Discoveries are endless. We are discovering what is hidden in the order of the universe.
* The more information I get out of studying His created universe, the more I get to know Him.
* We have to get amazed and shocked with this wonderful universe. Only then can we surrender to the Creator as: “I believe in the Creator of the universe as my object of worship.”
* **Your Mission:** You have to discover your Creator within this universe.
* Your ultimate aim is to study this universe and discover how wonderful the Creator of this universe is beyond imagination: He is Absolute.
* Example: If you are studying a particular subject, you have to look for the Creator in it. A dentist needs to study the creation of the tooth.
* If you do not get excited with objects in this universe, you cannot glorify the Creator.
* Example: In order to go from place A to place B, you have to take air transportation.
* By getting on a plane, you choose to follow the order given by the Creator of the universe.
* You should be aware and acknowledge: “**I wanted to go to place B and the Creator of the order of this universe took me there**.”
* Belief cannot be practiced without consciousness.
* The relationship between my usage of freewill and God’s act of creating the result is such that:
* When I am exercising my freewill, I am obeying the order of the universe.
* Through obeying the order of the universe, I am obeying the will of the Creator of this order.
* **It’s a blessing if I am aware that I am complying with the Order Giver while using my freewill otherwise I am wasting my human qualities.**

* The existence of order is perfect as it enables me to communicate with God.
* The existence of order enables me to use my freewill. Without this choice, I would never experience worship.
* Prayer is the result of my awareness and we are given the opportunity to pray over and over again.
* In this regard, God is very patient (*saber*), HE creates you over and over again.
* **It is our duty to benefit from the order of the universe using my freewill to become aware of who my Lord is.**
* As a result of my belief, I should feel comfortable in my existence.
* Universe is the source of the truth/belief.
* Universe is the witness of God. Although, we may think that the Quran is the witness.
* Quran is a guide on how to read the universe and how to use the universe and your existence.
* Quran is the result of my conclusion after studying the universe and seeing that this universe has been created by an Absolute Conscious Being and this Absolute Being must tell me how to use it.
* ***Without consulting the universe, how can you confirm that the Quran is the speech of God?***
* We must be proud of using the universe. This universe is a gift from our Creator.
* I am here to study the universe in order to know who my Lord is. So I can be thankful to Him.
* Everything in the universe is deliberately placed with perfect wisdom.
* If you do not wonder about the universe, *how can you confirm God, Who is its Creator?*
* Universe is the first evidence when you wonder about the meaning of the universe.
* Then you look for the manual (Quran) because you are a part of the universe.
* If someone does not use their human qualities, they are turning their existence into meaninglessness.
* **[Not using my human qualities] => [not being filled with awe of the Creator of the universe] => [wasting my whole humanity => wasting my whole life].**
* Prostrate before the glory of the Creator of the teeth.
* Scripture virtually says: “I created you equal to the universe; I created you just for Me.” You are worth the universe.
* We have been entrusted with a “trust” by our Creator.
* **Trust= I have been given my human qualities to study the universe and get in touch with my Creator.**
* The potentiality to connect myself with my Creator can best be practiced under the guidance of the Quran.
* The scripture says: “I have offered this “trust” to the heavens, the mountains and the earth. They all refused saying that they are not able to carry this trust but human beings assumed it.”
* We are given the ability to communicate with God through all His qualities to get to know Him and worship Him.
* As compared to human beings, mountains represent the qualities of God manifested on them only.
* Always look for the actual Provider of any gift and use your freewill to acknowledge and be grateful to the real Owner.
* Analogy: If someone holds the door for us, we say thank you.
* Similarly, if my Creator gives me the ability to chew food at every meal, how many times do we thank Him?
* We are unaware of how ungrateful we are.
* We have to utilize the universe in order to communicate with the Creator and establish a relationship with Him.
* Our Creator introduces Himself to us through: All Praise is to God, Lord of the universe (*alhamdu lillahi rabbi’l alameen*).
* We are accustomed to worship God, instead of God, the Lord of the universe.
* I have to confirm: “I worship the Sustainer, I acknowledge Him, He is my Lord”.
* Sura Naas (chapter 114) starts with “Lord of mankind”.
* Who is mankind?
* Mankind is the summary, center of the universe. Whatever is manifested in the universe, I can communicate within the qualities given to me.
* Analogy: I am a prism and light comes to me and is reflected through me.
* The light is the message that manifests His qualities.
* Analogy: If no one uses this building, what is the purpose to build this building?
* Similarly, if this universe is not utilized in order to fulfill its purpose of existence for conscious beings, the universe becomes useless.
* He says: I have created human beings to get to know Me.
* *How can I communicate with Him?*
* Through using my given human faculties and utilizing His act of creation.