

There is Nothing Less than Perfect in Allah's Creation September 19, 2025

wamā hādhihi l-ḥayatu l-dun`yā illā lahwun wala`ibun wa-inna l-dāra l-ākhirata lahiya l-ḥayawānu law kānū ya`lamūna

“The life of this world is nothing but play and amusement, but the life in the Hereafter is indeed the only [true] life: if only they knew this! ” [Al-Ankabut 29:64]

Back in the 18th century, during Europe's so-called Enlightenment Period, people started changing the way they thought about life. Before this time, the focus was the purpose of life, such as what comes after this life, or how to live in a way that fulfills a higher goal. But after the industrial revolution, the focus shifted to the quality of life.

Rather than viewing life as a journey toward something bigger or more meaningful, people began focusing on making it as comfortable and pleasurable as possible in the here and now. When all the focus is on making life as pleasurable as possible at the moment, it is very easy to get distracted from a higher goal, and to become distressed when things do not go our way. People often dismiss many of the mysteries and interesting things around them, and close their eyes and hearts to the wonders of creation. When the mysteries of life conflict with our personal interests, we call it bad luck, rather than seeking to understand the wisdom behind the visible. We believe there is no deeper meaning or wisdom to be found in these conflicts. When people lose their awe and appreciation of the mysteries around them, and just look at them as distractions, they also begin to distance themselves from their Creator, denying His divine signs.

Imagine for a moment the awe and wonder our ancestors must have experienced when they looked up at the sky at night, the oceans, or the vast landscapes around them. They saw a world overflowing with mysteries, filled with signs and wonders they could not fully understand, but that they respected and learned from. They recognized that they were part of something much larger than themselves. This humility and openness to the unknown allowed them to see wisdom and beauty in the natural world. Their appreciation of the perfection in creation brought them closer to their Lord.

The advancements and achievements of the modern era have misled people and created delusions, leading people into believing that they can completely understand everything in the universe, that nothing is a mystery. They put themselves at the center of the universe. They claimed that they can identify what exists and what does not with

limited faculties, and therefore quickly dismiss the existence of wisdom in many of the remarkable events around them. Today, we view the world as a mundane science laboratory where cause-and-effect relationships can be known. This is a delusion. This delusion is the greatest obstacle preventing us from recognizing God as the true cause of everything, and prevents us from seeking the meaning behind what is visible.

We should picture the world as an artwork, not a laboratory, a grand painting, filled with strokes of light and shadow, each detail purposefully placed by the ultimate artist: God. This incredible artwork is not just for exhibition; it is a masterpiece designed to teach us, to help us grow and appreciate the magnificence of the Creator. The existence of opposites: good and evil, night and day, sweet and sour, hot and cold, pain and pleasure, death and life, sickness and health, is a testament to God's wisdom and a gift of His grace. These contrasts are not there to confuse us, but to enlighten us, guiding us toward a deeper understanding of God's greatness and perfection, and our true purpose in this life.

Imagine we are walking through a vast, beautiful forest that we have never visited before. We come here for enjoyment, but discover that the paths are many and not always clear, and sometimes, we find ourselves facing obstacles: perhaps a fallen tree blocking our way, a sudden storm interrupting us; or some paths are much steeper than we expected. At first, these hurdles might seem like bad luck or unnecessary hardships when we are out there for pleasure. However, as we continue our journey, we begin to realize something profound. Each obstacle teaches us something new about the forest, or about how to overcome challenges, and, most importantly, about ourselves. We learn to navigate, to be resilient, and to appreciate the beauty around us in a way we might not have without those challenges. This journey through the forest is much like life itself, especially from the perspective of a believer.

There is nothing less than perfect in Allah's creation. One may question why, in a creation where all is perfect, why evil exists. Nothing in our existence can be called pure evil, because every evil in this world is good from one angle or another. For instance, sickness harms the body from one angle, while from other angles tests patience, promotes resilience, and may even strengthen immunity. We are largely responsible for creating evil in our lives. This is the consequence of using our free will to act in evil ways. When we do not use our free will to stop tyranny and create what is beautiful and good, inevitably evil is born. When there is darkness, if we do not choose to turn the light on, we stay in the darkness. We beget evil with our choices.

However, this ability to exercise free will is essential in the grand scheme of life. If humans lacked the ability to choose freely between different courses of action, the moral weight of our decisions would be negligible. As free will is necessary, evil is also necessary and ultimately produces greater good. The very purpose of our lives is to

demonstrate our commitment to moral goodness. We are here to conduct ourselves with the beautiful attributes of Allah, and to support goodness and beauty when we are faced with a choice between good and evil. Would there be any value in choosing good over evil, if evil did not exist, or we did not have the ability to choose?

The creation of opposites such as good and evil demonstrates the perfection of God's wisdom, and making these opposites evident to us is an expression of His graciousness. Allah's attributes are inherently perfect, and we are here to witness them. We are largely responsible for creating evil in our lives. This is the consequence of using our free will to act in evil ways. However, this ability to exercise free will is essential in the grand scheme of life. If humans lacked the ability to choose freely between different courses of action, the moral weight of our decisions would be negligible. As free will is necessary, evil is also necessary and ultimately produces greater good.

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