

Our Spiritual Journey to Get Closer to Allah

Knowing Allah (SWT) Through Nahjul Balagha



Khutba 91: Creation of Allah-The Sky

Reminder when Participating in the Chat

- 1) Do not write any personal information in the chat box (involving your email address and phone number).
- 2) Do not make fun of the responses of other students (show respect to everyone).
- 3) Once the class has begun all discussions should relate only to the class (no private conversations with others).

Recap from Previous Class

- Spiritual journey to get closer to God
- God is the source of all perfect in this world and cannot be understood by the human mind



Words of Wisdom from Nahjul Balagha Hadith 13

- **Amir al-mu'minin, peace be upon him, said:** When you get (only) small favours do not push them away through lack of gratefulness.

Excerpt from Khutba 91 Creation of Allah-The Sky

- *He has arranged the lows and heights of the openings of the sky. He has joined the space of its ruptures and has joined them with one another. He has made easy the approach to its heights for those angels who come down with His commands, and those angels who go up with the deeds of the creatures.*



Reflecting on the Design in Creation Pointing Towards Him

- Understanding God through the argument by design
- Premise 1- In any situation in which there is design, there has to be an **Intelligent** and **Conscious** and **Capable** designer who is aware of what is being designed.



Example 1: A Clock

- The device has a certain type of design (design in its individual parts, harmony among different parts, everything working to accomplish a common goal), we know that there must be a designer



Mind of the Designer
to function from
Allah



Designer



Clock

Example 2: The Example of a Peacock

- Imagine there is a beautifully drawn peacock on the board - if the question comes up for it, “Who drew that? How talented of a drawer he/she must be! How much knowledge of drawing and art that person must have!” then what about the real peacock that struts and eats and makes noise in real life?



Ability to draw given
to him from Allah



Artist



Peacock Drawing

Example 3: An Essay

- Thousands of random letters are thrown together to form an essay. The probability of this happening is so slim that no thinking person would accept it. There has to be an author who composed the essay with awareness.



Ability to write given
to him by Allah



Thinking Time

- What other examples can you think of that require an intelligent, conscious and capable designer that is aware of what is being designed?



Don't Forget

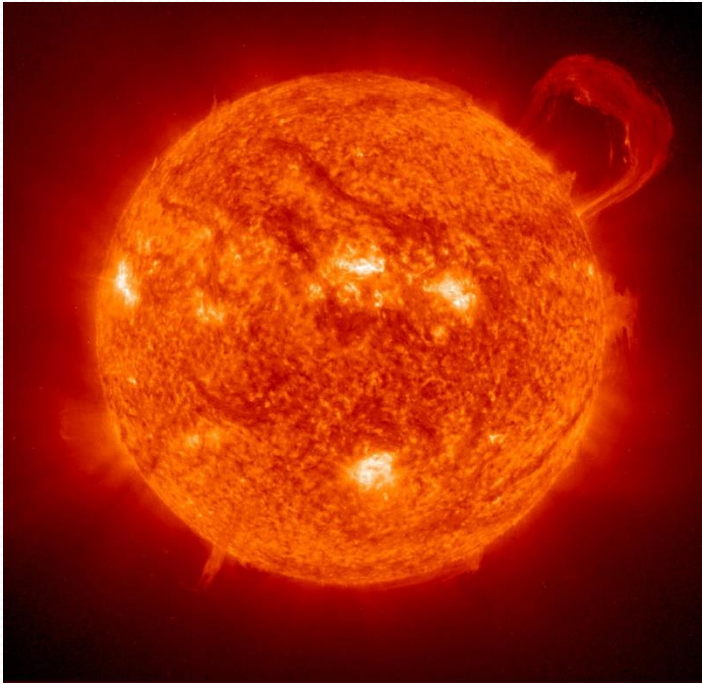


- The design in creation will always point towards God
- Hadith of Imam Ali:
- “I have not seen anything without seeing Allah with it, and before it, and after it.”

Excerpt from Khutba #91-Creation of Allah-The Sky

- *He made **its sun the bright indication for its day**, and moon the **gloomy indication for its night**. He then put them in motion in their orbits and ordained their pace of movement in the stages of their paths in order to distinguish with their help between night and day, and in order that the reckoning of years and calculations may be known by their fixed movements.*

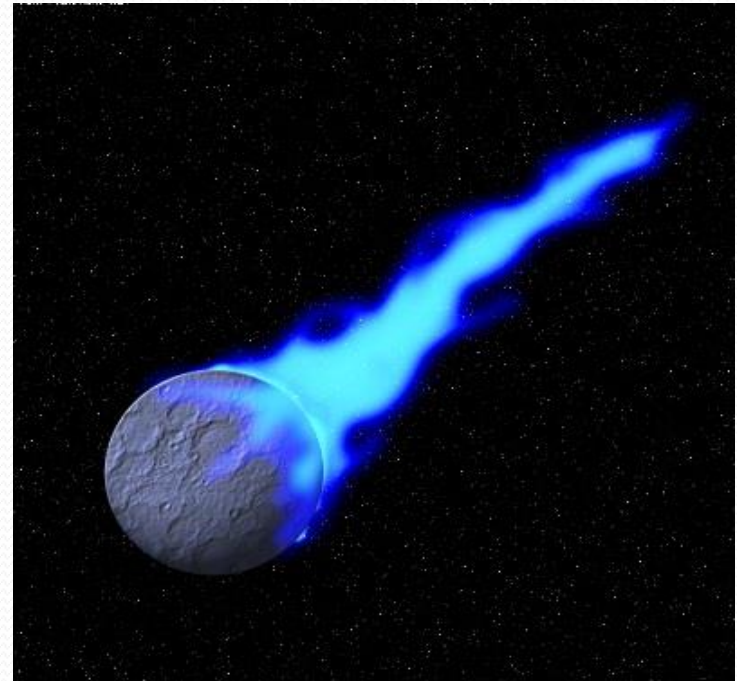
A Closer Look at the Sun and Moon Design



Excerpt from Khutba #91-Creation of Allah-The Sky

- *Then He hung in its vastness its sky and put therein its decoration consisting of small bright pearls and lamp-like stars. He shot at the over-hearers arrows of bright **meteors**. He put them in motion on their appointed routine and made them **into fixed stars, moving stars, descending stars, ascending stars, ominous stars and lucky stars.***

A Closer Look at the Meteor and Stars



How Has the Sky Been Described in the Holy Qur'an?

- 13:17
- *[Whenever] He sends down water from the sky, and [once dry] river-beds are running high according to their measure...*
- 6:99
- *And He it is who has caused waters to come down from the sky...*

Discussion of the Sky-From Tradition Hadith e Mufazzal

- Wisdom from Imam Jaf'ar Sadiq (a) narrated by his companion Mufaddal ibn 'Umar and recorded by 'Allamah Majlisi
- *Look at the colour of the sky and see how appropriate is the design! This particular colour is the most appropriate tonic compared with all the other colours. Even the physicians direct a man to gaze on the green hue or on some other darker hue in case of some ailment of the eye. Efficient physicians direct a person with a weakened eyesight to gaze on in a basin of green colour, filled with water.*

A Beautiful Depiction of the Seeds from Hadith e Mufazzal

- *Consider the seed-stone embedded inside the fruit, that it may serve to propagate a substitute in case a tree perishes due to some calamity...Then because of their resilience and hardness they hinder the fruit getting too soft and succulent.*

Examining the Wonders of Seeds

- Discussion of Seeds in the Holy Qur'an
- أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ مَّا تَحْرُثُونَ (56:63)
- *Have you ever considered the seed which you cast upon the soil?*
- Taking a closer look at the wonders of a seed

Examining the Beauty in the Creation of An Egg

- Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq and the Egg Parable Story
- Egg Discussed in the Holy Qur'an:
- (37:49) كَأَنَّهِنَّ بَيْضٌ مَّكْنُونٌ
- [as free of faults] as if they were hidden [ostrich] eggs.

A Closer Look at the Creation of an Egg

- Exploring the wonders of the egg
- *What can we learn from observing the different wonders of an egg?*



Optional Reflection Activity

- Think of 4 times during the upcoming week that you can apply the hadith of Imam Ali (a) and remember Allah 4 times when you look at a creation of Allah
- Write each of the times on the mountain steps in the mountain climbing challenge.

