

ALI 596: The God-Seeking Nature (Fitrah) Part 2

ACADEMY FOR LEARNING ISLAM

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Review

- ▶ Beings have natural inclinations (tabi'ah, garidah and fitrah).
- ▶ Fitrah is a human being's inclination towards higher truths.
- ▶ Fitrah is an inclination.
- ▶ There are three standards for all things fitriyy:
 - ▶ It does not need to be taught.
 - ▶ It is present in all human beings.
 - ▶ It is present in all eras.
- ▶ Standards are important in determining what is fitriyy.

Defining the Inclination

- ▶ Human beings have a natural inclination to perfection (kamal)
- ▶ Human beings have a natural inclination to absolute perfection (kamale mutlaq).
- ▶ Absolute perfection can never be found in the creation:
 - ▶ Limited in time and space.
 - ▶ Between potential and actuality.
 - ▶ Relative in its perfection.
 - ▶ Contingent upon others
- ▶ Human beings have a natural inclination towards the Creator.

Proof of Fitrah from Sociology

- ▶ There are proofs of human inclination in sociology.

Children are born believers in God, academic claims

Children are "born believers" in God and do not simply acquire religious beliefs through indoctrination, according to an academic.

By Martin Beckford, Religious Affairs Correspondent
Published: 2:54PM GMT 24 Nov 2008

"The preponderance of scientific evidence for the past 10 years or so has shown that a lot more seems to be built into the natural development of children's minds than we once thought, including a predisposition to see the natural world as designed and purposeful and that some kind of intelligent being is behind that purpose," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

"If we threw a handful on an island and they raised themselves I think they would believe in God."

In one study, six and seven-year-olds who were asked why the first bird existed replied "to make nice music" and "because it makes the world look nice". Another experiment on 12-month-old babies suggested that they were surprised by a film in which a rolling ball apparently created a neat stack of blocks from a disordered heap.

- ▶ What does the study demonstrate about human nature?

Proof of Fitrah from Psychology

- ▶ Prominent psychologists have argued that belief in God is natural
 - ▶ William James
 - ▶ 20th century psychologist and philosopher.
 - ▶ Distinction between religious experience and organized religion.
 - ▶ Religious experiences vary, but share a commonality.
an assurance of safety and a temper of peace, and in relation to others, a preponderance of loving affections
 - ▶ Carl Jung
 - ▶ Prominent psychologist and sociologist of the 20th century.
 - ▶ Argued three levels of human psyche: conscious, personal subconscious, communal subconscious.
 - ▶ Argued that archetypes exist within the subconscious, and belief in God was a result of those archetypes.
 - ▶ *"I do not have to believe in God, I know"*

The Proof by Fitrah.

- ▶ How is the inclination a proof for the existence of Allah (S)?
 1. It is not an independent proof for the existence of Allah (S).
 - ▶ It does not independently determine the object of the inclination.
 - ▶ It does not independently determine the existence of the object.
 - ▶ It provides encouragement for a rational effort to seek Allah (S).
 2. It is an independent proof for the existence of Allah (S).
 - ▶ Every human inclination has an object of fulfillment.
 - ▶ E.g. Child moving the lips for milk.
 - ▶ If the object of fulfillment did not exist, this inclination would not have survived within human beings.