



Comparing Islamic and Secular worldviews

What is a worldview?


What is the difference between a religion and a worldview?



Defining a Worldview

A worldview is generally understood as a set of beliefs about fundamental aspects of Reality that ground and influence all our perceiving, thinking, knowing, and doing.

A worldview is a study of the world; a view of life; literally, a perception of the world; a particular philosophy of life; a concept of the world held by an individual or a group.



Every path and philosophy of life is based on a belief, outlook, and value system vis-a'-vis being or on an explanation and analysis of the world.

The kind of conception that a school of thought presents of the world and of being . . . is considered the intellectual foundation and support of that school.

This foundation and support is termed the worldview. All religions, customs, schools of thought, and social philosophies rest on a worldview.

(Shahid Murtaza Mutahhari, *Fundamentals of Islamic thought: God, man, and the universe*)



Worldview means world knowledge . . . it relates to the well-known question of knowledge, which is an exclusively human property, as opposed to feeling, which man shares with other animals.

Man's superiority over other animals lies in his knowledge of the world, that is, in a kind of insight into the world. The animals feel the world, but man explains it as well.

(Shahid Murtaza Mutahhari, *Fundamentals of Islamic thought: God, man, and the universe*)



Some fundamental questions

1. What is Reality?
2. Where did I come from? Where am I going?
3. Why am I here?
4. What is most important in life?
5. What happens after death?

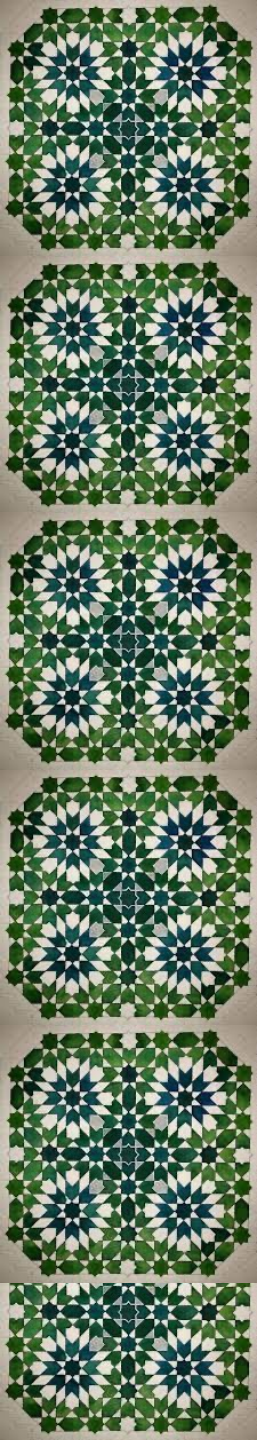


The Islamic worldview

The Islamic Worldview is a theistic worldview which sees God as the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. The principle of Tawhid runs through and unites all things.

The human being is a soul given a physical body as a tool to achieve perfection.

The life of this world is a chance to reflect the qualities of the Almighty and be His vicegerent.



La ilaha illa Llah means ultimately that there is no being or reality other than the Absolute Being or the Absolute Reality. In essence, therefore, everything is sacred, and nothing profane, because everything bears within itself the fragrance of the Divine.

Seyyed Hossein Nasr, *Islamic Life and Thought*



The Islamic worldview

- Based on two primary sources: the Qur'ân and the Sunnah (Hadith of the Prophet (s) and his family)
- Divine Revelation is the ultimate source of guidance.
- Intellect and free will are gifts from God to achieve perfection.
- Life on earth is temporary. Real life is the life of the soul.
- Religious practices covers all aspects of daily life.



The worldview of *Tawhid* means perceiving that the universe has appeared through a sagacious will and that the order of being is founded on goodness, generosity, and mercy, to convey existents to attainments worthy of them.

The worldview of *Tawhid* means the universe has for its essence “from Him-ness” (*inna lillah*) and “to Him-ness” (*inna ilayhi raji'un*) [*Qur'an, 2:156*].

(Shahid Murtaza Mutahhari, *Fundamentals of Islamic thought: God, man, and the universe*)



The Secular worldview

Denies the existence of a Divine Creator and spiritual aspect of reality.

Focuses only on the physical and material aspects of life on earth.

Sees human as dominant over nature and feels the nature resources should be used for the benefit of humanity.



The human being is the measure in the Secular
Worldview. Truth and values are determined by him.

Secularism separates civil affairs and politics from
religion.