

Lesson 3: WHERE DID THE HEAVENS AND EARTH COME FROM?

Have you ever looked at the sky at night? What have you noticed? You may have seen the moon, round like a ball at times, and thin like the tip of a finger nail on others. By observing its changes, we can count the days of the month. You may also have seen. Thousands and millions of stars in the sky. If you tried to count them all, you could never finish.

Everyday, we see the sun rise in the East and set in the West. With its light, we wake up, we can see the world and do our work. This same like and warmth causes the plants to grow and fruits to ripen. Many animals also wake up when the sun rises, and go out to find their food.

Have you ever wondered where the sun, the moon, the stars, and the earth came from? This is an important question. Did anybody make them, or did they make themselves? Does the sun have a brain? Could it have made itself? Could it generate its own energy? Does the moon have a brain? Could it know how to change its shape as the days of the month go by? Does the earth have a brain? Does it know how to make the air, the water, the plants and the animals?

We know that the sun and the moon, the earth and the stars do not have a brain. They could not make themselves. If they did not make themselves, then who made them? The name of the Maker of the heavens and the earth is Allah سبحانه و تعالی .

The Qur'an says:

نُبَارِكُ الَّذِي جَعَلَ فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا سِرَاجًا وَقَمَرًا
مُنِيرًا ﴿٦١﴾

Blessed is He Who made the heaven mansions of the stars, and placed therein a (radiant) lamp and a moon giving light.

(Al- Furqan 25:61)

What caused the world and all the living things to come into existence? Who made the first chicken, the first apple, the first man? Who causes them to stay alive and reproduce themselves right up until this day?

It is Allah سبحانه و تعالی, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In the Qur'an, He is called the *Al-Hayy*, The Living one. He is the Giver of life. He is also called *Al-Rabb*, The Sustainer, which means the One Who keeps things alive and provides for all their needs. And so, every day, we pray to Allah سبحانه و تعالی by the words of Surah *Al-Fatihah*:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢﴾

Praise be to Allah, the lord and Sustainer of all the worlds.

(Surah Al-Fatihah 1:2)

We have learned that Allah سبحانه و تعالی is the one God, the Creator of all that is in the heavens and the earth. Yet, Allah سبحانه و تعالی was not created by anyone or anything. He has always existed and will always exist. One of his name is *Al-'Awwal, al-Akhir*, which means "The First and The Last".

Human beings are very intelligent, but they cannot create something out of nothing. The carpenter may say, "I have made a chair". Yet he cannot make a chair without wood or metal. He can only use what Allah سبحانه و تعالی has created. A baker may say, "I have made a cake", But she cannot make a cake without flour, eggs, butter and sugar. She cannot create a cake out of nothing.

Only Allah سبحانه و تعالی has the power to create out of nothing. Allah سبحانه و تعالی has another name in the name Qur'an, *Al-Khaliq*, which means "The Creator". This trait is powerfully established in the following verse of the Qur'an.:

﴿٨٢﴾ إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِذَا أَرَادَ شَيْئًا أَنْ يَقُولَ لَهُ، كُنْ فَيَكُونُ

When He wills a thing, He says to it only 'Be!' and it is.

(YaSin 36:82)