

MODULE 1

Class Title: Creation of the Universe

Aim of the lesson: to understand how Islam & “science” go hand in hand as they have the same Creator

Category: Islam & Science

Lesson Format: Power point presentation with discussion

Greeting to students) *Assalam alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

(Taooz) Aoodhubillahi min AsShaytanir Rajeem

(Tasmiyah) Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem

(Du’a) Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli (Surah Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Slide 1:

Today *Insha’Allah* we’ll look at an interesting presentation which will show us how Islam and science go hand in hand.

Slide2:

How can we define Islam?

Student’s answer: it’s a way of life, a religion, our beliefs and a complete code of life.

Slide3:

Ok. But what is the meaning of Islam according to the dictionary? In the dictionary you’ll find ‘submission’. What is the deeper meaning of it? According to the encyclopedia Britannica “Islam” means; ‘acknowledging or admitting the truth and /or existence of something; in this case, the existence of One God; Allah.’

Slide4:

What is science? How would you define science?

Students answer: the study of new things, facts, a subject...

Slide 5:

Ok. Basically science is a subject, but this is a subject which is related to knowledge that covers the general truth concerned with the physical world. So what is the common factor in Islam and Science?

“Truth” is the common factor in both the definitions. Science is based on truth and Islam is also based on truth

Slide 6:

So, what does science aim at? It aims at collecting facts. What is a fact? It is something that has actual existence, something known to be true and something that is based on evidence.

Slide 7:

What is evidence? It is the basis which leads us to believe or disbelieve in something. Either you accept something to be a fact, or you don't accept it. That decision will be based on the evidence.

Slide 8:

For example, when we go to the doctor, what does the doctor do? He takes our temperature. Why? - To see if we have an illness. So our body temperature is evidence of illness.

Slide 9:

For instance if we go to the forest on a snowy day and we see deer tracks, what is this evidence of? - The existence of a deer.

Slide 10:

Evidence is based on signs. Do you agree?

Slide 11:

The study of science is based on signs.

Slide 12-13:

There are other kinds of signs as well. What do these signs do? What do they do for us? They give us orders or instructions; to guide us, to tell us what to do and what is ahead of us. Some signs tell us how far a certain place is, or where we need to turn to reach our target or destination. So, it is clear that following signs benefits us. It helps us and guides us.

Slide 14:

What is an *ayah*? Who can define *ayah* for me?

Student's answer: a verse from the Qur'an, a statement in the Qur'an.

Teacher: Both these definitions are correct.

Slide 15-16:

(The teacher reads out an ayah in Arabic along with its translation ;) ‘And amongst His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and of all living creatures which He has caused to multiply throughout them’. (Surah Ash- Shura, verse 29)

How is the word “*Ayaah*” translated here? It has been translated as “Signs”.

Slide 17:

The holy Qur’an is a book of **signs**. Is it a book of science? No, it’s but a book of signs. There are more than 6000 *ayaat* in the holy Qur’an, out of which more than 1000 speak of science. Why is there so much of science in the Qur’an?

Slide 18-20:

The solar system is also a sign from Allah, so is the moon, the galaxies, the stars and so is the planet earth that we live on; these are all signs.

Slide 21:

What does Allah want us to do? Allah says in the Holy Qur’an : “(People with intelligence are)those who remember Allah standing, sitting and lying on their sides and reflect on the creations of the heavens and the earth. Our Lord, You have not created this for nothing. So glory be to You! So safeguard us from the punishment of the fire.” (Surah Aal-e-Imran, verse 191)

Allah (swt) says that people with intelligence are those who think about these things.

Slide 22:

Do you think about these things? Do you ever wonder how we, these, all came into being? This is what we’ll discuss today; how the universe came into existence.

Slide 23:

There are many theories, many arguments that came forward. Was it by chance, was it created or many things in between chance and creation?; terms like Infinite Universe, Materialism, Steady State Theory, etc.

Slide 24:

What does chance mean? There are some people on this planet who think that everything has come into being by pure chance. Every single thing is just a series of coincidences. Chance is a word that has magical properties and any question that you would put to people called Darwinists would say 'chance managed it somehow.' So how many of you believe in this theory that everything happened by chance, that everything just came into being one fine day? When you wake up in the morning, there is a pillow under your head, a blanket on your bed, when you get out of bed your slippers are there, you go to the bathroom the toothbrush is there, there's a mirror in which you look at yourself, your clothes are ironed, then you have your breakfast which is on your plate. Then you go out on the street, you see the trees, birds, cats, road, the traffic lights. Finally, you reach school, there is a stack of papers, pencils, desks, stapler with which you staple your papers so let's look at the staple pin; did it come into existence by chance? Was it there by chance or was it created by someone? It was created; it was specifically designed to fit the stapler in order to hold the papers together. It was built for a purpose. How can we believe that the whole world came into being by chance, when even a staple pin couldn't have?

Slides 25-26:

Then there's another theory, the Infinite Universe theory. This theory says that the universe was always there; since eternity and will be there forever and ever. There was no beginning and there will be no end. So again, what happens according to this theory? There is no Hereafter. Then why are there rich and poor people? Why do you need to do good deeds? You would say this is unfair. Some people are rich and some are poor; what is their fault? Only when we believe that the universe will come to an end does it make sense why there is so much disparity on this earth; because one day it will all come to an end and everybody will be on the same level that day.

There will be an afterlife - but what those people say is that the universe will never come to an end. They don't believe in the Hereafter or life after death. They just say we live on this earth, enjoy our lives and that's it. So, what does that make us? It makes us selfish people. You're doing everything for yourself, you want more and more. You forget about the underprivileged.

Slide 27:

There is also the theory of Materialism which was put forward by some people. They say that matter is the only thing that matters. Matter is everything. You live for things around you.

Slide 28:

Allah (swt) on the other hand, says in the Holy Qur'an that; "It is Allah Who has created the heavens and earth with truth and on the day when He says 'be', it will become. His word is the truth." (Surah Al-Anaam : verse 73)

So we know that it is Allah (swt) Who has created the universe.

Slides 29-31:

So what is the truth? How can we know what the truth is? We try to find out. Now look at this video and we'll discuss what is happening.

Play creation of the universe clip 1

Since a long time, many thinkers and scientists have been trying to argue, debate and discuss how the universe came into being. These few theories that we talked about have been put forward by thinkers of those days, especially Carl Marx, who brought to light the already existent theory of materialism during the time of ancient Greece. This theory became famous because of him. So, we can call him the founder of Materialism.

A long time ago when there was no telescope, people used to say that the universe just happened and we are just here by chance.

There was one thinker, Georges Politzer who wrote in his book "Principes Fondamentaux De Philosophie" that: 'if the universe was created, it would have to be created by God instantaneously from nothing.' So, they don't want to accept that the universe is a created thing. Why? Because they don't want to accept that there is a God behind it.

Slide 32:

There was a thinker called Edwin Hubble who tried to study and find out how the universe came into being. He designed a telescope and he studied the light beams and radiations in outer space. He observed that the stars and galaxies were moving away, they were going further away from us. This meant that the universe is constantly expanding. He also discovered that there was an image of a beam, and according to some physical laws, light beams that move away from us incline towards being red and those that lean towards us are violet. So he discovered that the light beams were tending towards red. This was evidence that the stars and galaxies were moving away from us. He also discovered that they weren't just moving away from us, they were also moving away from each other. The stars and galaxies were moving away from each other as well. These two points are very important. Just keep them in mind as we move forward. They prove that the universe had a beginning and that it is constantly expanding. Now we'll discuss why this is crucial.

Slides 33-35:

There is a theory called the Big Bang Theory.

If we think of the universe as a balloon which is constantly being inflated and you put some marks on the balloon, what will happen when you inflate it? The marks on the balloon will move further away from each other.

Play creation of the universe clip 2

If you put some dots on a balloon and you inflate it, the dots will move away. This was discovered by Albert Einstein, but he ignored the fact because he didn't want to lose his popularity and there were other theories that were more widely acceptable during his time. He didn't want to disagree with those theories and become an outcast. Later on however, he accepted that was a big mistake on his part.

So, what happens when things move apart from each other? If you take things backwards, then you'll realize that it all started from one point and that point has zero volume. In scientific terms "zero volume," means "nothing". It means it all started from nothing; there was nothing before and then the universe came into being with a big bang.

Allah (swt) says that,

بَدِيعُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَنَّى يَكُونُ لَهُ وَلَدٌ وَلَمْ تَكُنْ لَهُ صَاحِبَةٌ وَخَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

"He is the Originator of the heavens and the earth"

(Surah Al-Anaam 6: verse 101)

Besides the fact that everything started from nothing and keeps expanding, everything also keeps moving away from each other.

So again in the Holy Qur'an, Allah (swt) says,

"Do the disbelievers not see that the heavens and the earth were sewn together and we unstitched them?"

(Surah Al-Anbiya, verse 30)

Allah (swt) says that it was all a big mass. After the Big Bang everything started moving away from each other and that's how the planets, stars and galaxies came into being and also our planet Earth. Our planet is part of the solar system which is constantly expanding.

Again Allah (swt) says in the Holy Qur'an,

"It is We Who have built the universe with Our creative power and indeed it is We Who are steadily expanding it." (Surah Adh-Dhariyaat : verse 47)

How many years ago were these two facts stated in the Qur'an? 1400 years ago. The Qur'an was revealed more than 1400 years ago, so this was revealed more than 1400 years ago. Was there

any way to find these things out during those times? Go back to the past... were there any telescopes, labs, conservatories, observatories, were there any such tools to find out these things? How did the Prophet (pbuh) find out about these things? How could he have? Allah (swt) revealed it in the Holy Qur'an and present day science has also proven it. The more people try to go against the facts and use science to prove otherwise, the more Allah shows them what the reality is.

Slide 36:

So why don't they want to accept the facts? If it was proven through science, why do they still not want to accept the facts? Because they might lose their popularity and have to submit to the will of Allah (swt). However, it is obvious that if something was created, then it should have a creator. Just like the staple pin, if I say it was created then somebody sat and made it. It didn't just pop out of the ground. They don't want to accept that there is a Creator, because if they do they'll have to change their entire lifestyles, they'll have to change the way they think and live.

Slides 37 - 38:

They made some more attempts to negate the Big Bang theory because they didn't want to change their lifestyles nor lose their popularity.

There was another thinker in 1948, George Gamov who said the reason he didn't want to believe in this theory was because then he would have to believe in the Creator. So, he came up with the idea that there would be a radiation surplus left behind if there had been a Big Bang and he thought that this might prove the big bang theory wrong. One day, two researchers; Arnold Penzias and Robert Wilson discovered the radiation he was talking about, by chance; and for their work and effort they were awarded a Nobel Prize.

Those who tried to prove the Big Bang Theory wrong themselves were wrong. It was proven that the Big Bang did happen. They sent a COBE satellite to confirm whether the radiation existed or not and it took the sensitive machine only 8 minutes to prove that there was radiation. They still weren't satisfied. So what did they do? They sent a COBE II to confirm that the first one was right and then again what happened? The COBE II proved that there was radiation in outer space.

They didn't stop there; they came up with something else! They said there should be a Hydrogen/ Helium balance in space. Again they sent something up and sure enough they found out that the balance does exist, because if the universe had been there for ever and ever, all the Hydrogen would have been converted into Helium by now, according to the speed of conversion.

Play creation of the universe clip 3

Slides 39 – 41:

So each time their efforts to prove the big bang wrong failed

And their theory that the universe has been there forever and will be there forever failed

Another thing that makes us wonder about the Big Bang is that there was an explosion. What happens in an explosion? We hear in the news daily about atom bombs and suicide bombs, what happens during these explosions? Do these explosions create beautiful gardens somewhere or lovely flowers or fruits all around us? So the Big Bang was an explosion that did not just throw matter here and there but it clumped matter together in the form of galaxies. So what they say in order to satisfy their ego is that some supernatural group must be involved. They don't accept that it's God. Why do they say it's some supernatural group like some UFO; some aliens? Because that's what they want us to believe.

Slide 42:

Play creation of the universe clip 4

Why do we need science or signs from Allah? What will happen to this man if he keeps going up blindfolded, without looking at the signs? That's right, he'll fall and be destroyed. We have to remove the blindfold in order to see the truth. We can't just believe in anything anybody says. Science helps us in discovering the truth.

Slide 43:

So all the scientific calculations we have today, all the laws and principles of physics have been discovered by science but they had been there even when science had not discovered them. And they all somehow correspond with what the Glorious Qur'an says. We can't say that we are trying to prove the Qur'an right using scientific knowledge. The *ayaat* in the Qur'an that talk about science are correct. Remember that the Qur'an came more than 1400 years ago, whereas science has just come up in the past couple of 100 years.

Slide 44:

All this is solid evidence of the existence of the Creator. If we are satisfied, if we know that it is right then we'll be confident in answering others who try to tell us otherwise. That we know what is right and we know everything has been created by Allah (swt). Allah (swt) does whatever He wants, whenever He wills.

Slides 45 – 46:

Science tells us how things work, not why; why is there air? Does science tell us why there is

air? Does science tell us why an ant was created? Why there are so many colours? Why there is a universe? Science can't answer these things.

Slide 47:

Allah (swt) has made all these things. The beauty around us, the butterflies, the fruits, the flowers, everything you look at seems to be perfectly done.

The snowcapped mountains, the penguins even the color scheme is so lovely, wow, just look at this scenery. Everything is just so perfect. It couldn't be better. So who has done this for us? Who has given us all these things? Allah (swt) has also thought of our pleasure, for us to enjoy life. Life is not just *namaz parho* (offer *Salah*), *tasbeeh karo* (Praise the Lord); that's not it. Allah (swt) has given us lots of opportunity to relax, enjoy and have fun. So should we not be thankful to Allah (swt)? Should we deny that everything is done by Allah (swt)? Is that the right kind of attitude?

There are two kinds of people on earth; the thinking people and the unthinking people. Unthinking people live for this world only. They just want to have fun in this world. What do the thinking people do? The thinking people too want to have fun, but they also think that they should acknowledge and be grateful to The One who has given them this opportunity and they are thankful to Allah (swt) for it. How do you show your gratitude?

We pray to Allah (swt) and do good deeds. We try to obey and do what He has asked us to and in order to obey we first have to know what He has asked us to do. We have to think about why we have been sent here on this planet. There is a Hereafter and everybody will be going there. It's just like a video game where you are at a level and then you have to pass that level in order to go to the next level. And you have to do all the right moves in order to reach the next level. So that's it, that's what life is about. I'm not saying life is a game but its one level and to move to the next level you have to do the right things. How do we know what are the right things?

Slides 48 – 49:

Allah (swt) says that He will keep showing us signs, His signs in the universe and in ourselves until we are convinced that the revelation is the truth. Allah (swt) keeps on showing us every new discovery.

Allah (swt) has not created all this in vain. He says; "It is He Who has created the heavens and the earth that He might try you and see who is best in conduct." (Surah Hud 11: verse 7).

Teacher: Why has Allah (swt) created us?

Answer: So He can try us to see who will obey Him.

Slides 50 – 51:

There may be some people out there who will like for everyone to accept that Darwin's theory is correct. They present their arguments in a way that convinces people of the reality of this. But we need to realize that our Creator, Allah (swt) is the one who created this entire universe and everything in it. Everything, from the huge mountains to the tiny grains of sand was created by Him alone. He has revealed in His book about how the universe came to be. So, when we know that all the facts are in the Quran. Then there is no need to accept false scientific theories presented by a few human beings.

For how long will we be deceived like this by some people? The answer is simple. When we accept the truth as it is mentioned in the Quran then we will no longer be left in doubt. Doubts that are created by a few people to confuse many young minds .

(Du'a for end of a gathering) *Subhana Rabbika Rabbul Izzati 'amma yasifun wa salamun 'alal mursaleen, walhamdulillahi Rabbil 'alameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *Assalam alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

Reference for Teacher

- http://harunyahya.com/en/Makaleler/4307/Darwinism_is_not_science._It_is_a_shamanistic_religion_that_has_adopted_nature_as_a_deity!
- http://harunyahya.com/en/Guncel_Yorumlar/16010/Concept_of_science_based_on_the_Qur'an
- http://harunyahya.com/en/Makaleler/3443/The_Islamic_origins_of_modern_science