

Selected Questions from the Dictionary of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Islam (Morals Section)

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Question no. 16

How did life begin?

Answer:

Importance/1

Q- How did the creation begin?

Allah Almighty has always existed, and nothing else has existed along with Him or before Him. Then He originated His creation in an unprecedented manner after the universe had been non-existent. Allah Almighty says: ﴿إِنَّ رَبَّكُمُ اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ يُعْشَىٰ اللَّيْلَ النَّهَارَ يَطْلُبُهُ حَثِيثًا﴾ {Your Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and earth in six days, and then rose over [istawa] the Throne. He makes the night and day overlap in rapid succession. He made the sun, the moon, and the stars – all subservient to His command. Behold, His is the creation and the command. Blessed is Allah, the Lord of the worlds.}[Surat al-A'rāf: 54]Al-Bukhāri narrated in his "Sahīh Collection" that 'Imrān ibn Husayn reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"There has always been Allah and nothing else was before Him, and His Throne was above the water. Then, He created the heavens and the earth, and He wrote down everything in the Preserved Tablet."

Then, Allah Almighty created Adam, the father of mankind, as in the Hadth mentioned in the "Sahih Muslim Collection," where Abu Hurayrah reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "The best day on which the sun has risen is Friday. On that day Adam was created, he was admitted to Paradise, and he was driven out therefrom."

Allah Almighty mentions the creation of man, saying: ﴿وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ سُلَالَةٍ مِنْ طِينٍ﴾ {We created man from an extract of clay, ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاهُ نُطْفَةً فِي قَرَارٍ مَكِينٍ, then We placed him as a sperm-drop in a safe place, ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا النَّطْفَةَ عَلَاقَةً فَعَلَقْنَا الْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْمُضْغَةَ عِظْمًا فَكَسَوْنَا الْعِظْمَ لَحْمًا ثُمَّ أَنْشَأْنَاهُ خَلْقًا آخَرَ فِتْيَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنَ الْخَالِقِينَ then We made the sperm-drop into a clinging clot, then We made the clinging clot into a lump, then We made the lump into bones, and We clothed the bones with flesh, and then We developed it into another creation. So Blessed is Allah, the Best of Creators.}[Surat al-Mu'minūn: 12-14]

Allah Almighty also says: ﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَخَافُونَ رَجْعًا مِنْهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا﴾ {O people, fear your Lord Who created you from a single soul, and created from it its mate, and from both of them created countless men and women. Fear Allah in Whose name you ask one another, and be mindful of your kinship ties, for Allah is ever Watchful over you.}[Surat an-Nisā': 1]

In these verses, Allah Almighty mentions man's phases and stages starting from his creation until his last phase. In the beginning, Allah mentions the creation of the father of mankind, Adam (peace be upon him) and how he was created from {an extract of clay}, i.e., an extract taken from all the earth. This is why Adam's children vary according to the variations found in the earth. Among them are the good and the evil and in between them, and the easy-going and the harsh and in between them.

Allah Almighty also mentions the creation of the heavens and the earth and what is between them, saying: ﴿خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ بَعِيرٍ عَمَدٍ تَرْوَاهَا وَالْفَلَاقِ فِي الْأَرْضِ رَواسي أَن تَمِيدَ بِكُمْ وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ دَابَّةٍ وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَنْبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ

بَرَّوَجِ كَرِيمِ {He created the heavens without pillars that you can see; and He placed firm mountains on the earth, so it does not shake with you; and He spread therein all kinds of creatures. We sent down rain from the sky and caused to grow therein all kinds of fine plants.}[Surat Luqmān: 10]May Allah's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and all his Companions.

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