

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Light of the Heavens and the Earth

God is the light of the heavens and the earth. The allegory of His light is that of a concave mirror behind a lamp that is placed inside a glass container. The glass container is like a bright, pearl-like star. The fuel thereof is supplied from a blessed oil producing tree, that is neither eastern, nor western. Its oil is almost self-radiating; needs no fire to ignite it. Light upon light. God guiles to His light whoever wills (to be guided). God thus cites the parables for the people. God is fully aware of all things.
(24:35)

The initial statement of this beautiful verse indicates that God is the source of all energy, all light. He is the only source of power in the universe...in other words, All-powerful. For many individuals try-

ing to submit to Him, that concept has become almost self evident. But for many it may need some explanation.

If we accept that God is All-powerful, then it follows that the only power in existence is God's. So, strange as it may seem to us, anything that is done is done by God. This is exactly what verse 8:17 tells us:

It is not you who killed them; God is the One who killed them. It was not you who threw when you threw; God is the One who threw. But He thus gives the believers a chance to earn a lot of credit. God is Hearer, Omniscient.
(8:17)

This concept certainly is not self evident from a worldly point of view. It appears to us that we are

doing lots of things. It seems to me that I am sitting at my table, looking out the window at the birds swarming around the bird seed I have put out, as I type this article on my computer. But even our worldly wisdom tells us that appearances are deceiving.

Einstein's famous equation $E=mc^2$ and what we know about nuclear fission open a new way of looking at things which makes sense to me. The following are my personal thoughts. They are in no way proven facts. It is easier to write them as if they were, but please do not accept them as such, even if they make sense to you. God willing we can all remain open to other interpretations.

Cont'd on page 2

Light of the Heavens

Cont'd from page 1

Bill Bryson gives a simple explanation of Einstein's formula $E=mc^2$ in his "A Short History of Nearly Everything," 2004, pp.121-2:

... E in the equation stands for energy, m for mass and c^2 for the speed of light squared....Mass and energy have an equivalence. They are two forms of the same thing: energy is liberated matter; matter is energy waiting to happen. Since c^2 (the speed of light times itself) is a truly enormous number, what the equation is saying is that there is a huge amount—a really huge amount—of energy bound up in every material thing.

If we accept this concept as valid, then all matter is essentially "compressed energy." The horrific explosion of a relatively tiny atomic bomb just begins to demonstrate how much energy. Bryson goes on to tell us that even the most efficient nuclear bomb we have constructed to date releases less than one percent of the energy it potentially could.

But where did the energy come from in the first place?

Is not God the Light of the heavens and the earth? And is He not also the Creator? He not only created all things, but also created the material from which they are constructed, that which we call matter.

Can we say that in binding energy into matter God created matter from His own energy, since He is the Light, the only source? If so, not only is He the Creator of everything in existence, in a very deep sense all matter is of God. Everything in existence derives from Him.

It follows that He is Omnipresent, for every particle of the material that makes up our physical reality is created of His energy. Indeed, He is very dramatically closer to us than our jugular vein (50:16), for the very material of our own bodies arises from Him!

It seems ironic that, at least in the west, we make such a sharp distinction between the spiritual and the material. If indeed matter does derive from God's energy then the spiritual and the physical are far more intertwined than we have ever imagined. In fact, they are totally intertwined.

Note that if all matter is of God, it does not follow that God is in any way limited by matter. In other words, God is not the sum total of the physical universe, as some have postulated. Rather the Quran tells us that the seven universes "are folded within His right hand" (39:67), demonstrating that He is much greater than anything we can even begin to imagine.

Let us go back to the thought of God as the doer of everything. If indeed everything physical comes from God's energy, then it follows that since everything done in the physical world is done by means of physical matter, it is done by/with God's bound energy. The very arm that throws a ball is made up of matter that is of God's energy. Thus it is more His arm than our own!

Looking at things from this perspective changes our point of view. Suddenly God's omnipotence and omnipresence stop being philosophical constructs and become very real. God is doing everything and is everywhere. And His omniscience then follows, for if He is everywhere and intimately involved in all matter, everything going on with that matter is know-

able to Him. The very synapses of our brains, and thus our thoughts, are more known to Him than even to us (20:7).

Moreover, we know that when God created the human He blew into him from His own spirit:

He shaped him and blew into him from His spirit. And He gave you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains; rarely are you thankful. (32:9)

Having God's spirit within us and being constructed of His bound energy may seem to make us pretty special. But we do not want to follow Satan who bragged that he was created from fire, while we were created from clay (38:76). It is not how we were created, who our families or friends are; it is not how smart we are or how beautiful that matters. God tells us that our value to Him comes only through our worship (25:77), and that the best among us is the most righteous (49:13). He has totally leveled the playing field. All of us have an equal chance of being the most righteous. It is our choice to what degree we recognize His absolute sovereignty.

In my own personal life thinking of everything around me as being constructed of God's energy has helped. It has made God very immediate and real. It has enlarged my awareness of Him, His omnipotence and His constant presence and absolute control:

God is the One who holds the heavens and the earth, lest they vanish. If anyone else is to hold them, they will most certainly vanish. He is Clement, Forgiving. (35:41)

Praise God!

Lisa

God's blessings: "Bad water line"

The Edward Aquifer is a unique groundwater system. It is one of the greatest natural resources on earth, serving the diverse agricultural, industrial, recreational, and domestic needs of almost two million users in south central Texas.



*[15:19] As for the earth, we constructed it, and placed on it stabilizers (mountains), and we grew on it a **perfect balance** of everything.*

*[15:20] We made it **habitable** for you, and for creatures you do not provide for.*

*[31:20] Do you not see that **GOD** has committed in your service everything in the heavens and the earth, and has showered you with His **blessings - obvious and hidden**? Yet, some people argue about **GOD** without knowledge, without guidance, and without the enlightening scripture.*

The **fresh water/saline water interface**, usually known as the "**bad water line**" is the convergence of two flow systems within the Aquifer. It is actually a zone and not a line. The freshwater area is generally up dip, closer to the land surface; while the saline water area is farther down dip, deeper underground.

*[27:61] Who is the One who made the earth habitable, caused rivers to run through it, placed on it mountains, and created a **barrier between the two waters**? Is it another god with **GOD**? Indeed, most of them do not know.*

[45:13] He committed in your service everything in the heavens and the earth; all from Him. These are proofs for people who reflect.

[14:34] And He gives you all kinds of things that you implore Him for. If you count God's blessings, you can never encompass them. Indeed, the human being is transgressing, unappreciative.

The "**bad water line**" is a natural phenomenon that occurs along the southern and eastern edges of the water zone where water has been in contact with limestone for a long time. Since the rock in the saline water zone is less permeable and does not transmit water as easily, the movement of water is slower

*[16:18] If you count **God's blessings**, you cannot possibly encompass them. **GOD** is Forgiver, Most Merciful.*

Scientists discovered that in the places where two different seas meet, there is a barrier between them. This **barrier divides the two seas** so that each sea has its own temperature, salinity and density. There is a slanted unseen water barrier between the two seas through which water from one sea passes to the other.

*[55:19] He **separates the two seas** where they meet.*

*[55:20] A **barrier** is placed between them, to prevent them from transgressing.*

*[35:3] O people, remember **God's blessings** upon you. Is there any creator other than **GOD** who provides for you from the heaven and the earth? There is no other god beside Him. How could you deviate?*

Scientists also discovered that in estuaries, where sweet and salt water meet, the situation is somewhat different from that found in places where two seas meet. It has been discovered that what distinguishes fresh water from salt water in estuaries is a pycnocline zone with a marked density discontinuity **separating the two layers**. This partition has salinity different from both the fresh water and salt water.

*[35:12] The **two seas are not the same**; one is fresh and delicious, while the other is salty and undrinkable. From each of them you eat tender meat, and extract jewelry to wear. And you see the ships sailing through them, seeking His provisions, that you may be appreciative.*

The Baltic Sea is a relatively shallow inland sea surrounded by the countries of Northeastern Europe and Scandinavia. A total of nine countries border the sea: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Sweden

[6:59] With Him are the keys to all secrets; none knows them except He. He knows everything on land and in the sea. Not a leaf falls without His knowledge. Nor is there a grain in the depths of the soil. Nor is there anything wet or dry, that is not recorded in a profound record.

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“Bad water line”

Cont'd from page 3

The Baltic Sea is connected to the North Sea through narrow and shallow sounds between Denmark and Sweden. The outlet consists of a series of basins separated by shallow sills which obstruct efficient water exchange.

[31:27] If all the trees on earth were made into pens, and the ocean supplied the ink, augmented by seven more oceans, the words of GOD would not run out. GOD is Almighty, Most Wise.

The environmental conditions of the Baltic Sea are defined by the fresh water input from rivers and precipitation, and by the limited inflow of more saline water from the North Sea. A **clear salinity gradient** exists from the almost oceanic conditions in the northern Kattegat to the almost fresh water condition in the Northern Bosnian Bay.

*[25:53] He is the One who merges the two seas; one is fresh and palatable, while the other is salty and undrinkable. And He **separated them with a formidable, inviolable barrier** (evaporation).*

A **salinity barrier** also exists between the surface and the seabed of the Baltic. Saline water, naturally heavier than fresh water, flows along the bottom of the sea. The fresh water on the surface of the sea does not mix appreciatively with the saline water underneath.

The salinity barriers prevent the exchange of substances, i.e., oxygen, nutrients, and pollutants, between the two layers.

[67:30] Say, "What if your water sinks away, who will provide you with pure water?"

[2:22] The One who made the earth habitable for you, and the sky a structure. He sends down from the sky water, to produce all kinds of fruits for your sustenance. You shall not set up idols to rival GOD, now that you know.

The Quran educates us to reflect on the creations of God so that we can reinforce our appreciation to the Merciful Lord.

[2:164] In the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of night and day, the ships that roam the ocean for the benefit of the people, the water that GOD sends down from the sky to revive dead land and to spread in it all

kinds of creatures, the manipulation of the winds, and the clouds that are placed between the sky and the earth, there are sufficient proofs for people who understand.

May God bless all of us,

M. Irtaza

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We are looking forward to seeing you at the conference, God willing.