

Polarized Viewpoint Between Islamic Worldview and Scientific Worldview on the Existence of Allah

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Abstract: The Islamic Worldview is the strongest proponent of the existence of Allah whereas the scientific worldview is a strong proponent of the non-existence of Allah. This research draws an overall outline of the scientific worldview to identify the problem that may affect Muslim Youths within Muslim societies. This research uses qualitative methodology to understand why scientific worldview has such a strong origin for the non-existence of Allah. This article finds that there is robust polarization between the Islamic Worldview and the Scientific Worldview on the existence of Allah. Muslim Academics and Leaders in Muslim societies perhaps need to be more genuine and transparent in the construction of Islamic education among future Muslim Youths.

Keywords: Islamic Worldview, Scientific Worldview, Existence of Allah, Non-existence of Allah, Scientism, New Atheism, Islamization of Knowledge, Muslim Youths, Avijit Roy.

1. Introduction

In early 21st century, Dawkins book, ‘The God Delusion’ was quite thought-provoking to rebut the idea of existence of God [1]. Krauss published his masterpiece ‘A Universe from Nothing’ to explain how our universe come from nothing without any sort of divine intervention [2]. Then, Harari came up with his famous book, ‘Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind’. These books are comprehensive for all background of people [3].

“I do not know” You, as an ordinary seeker of knowledge, may ask any genuine science student and teacher regarding the existence of a supernatural God, that’s how proponents of scientific worldview would answer if they have really studied enough philosophy, science, psychology, sociology, history and theology. Human beings, no matter what part of the planet they live in, have curious mindset like the character Sophie in the novel, “Sophie’s World” [4]. Home sapiens have developed language and rationality according to the scientific worldview. That’s why humans have progressed in comparison with other species.

In the history of Eastern or Western knowledge, we distinguished a few categories as point of view like theist, agnostic and atheist. At least, atheism was never the major trend

in the history of knowledge. The situation seems to turn upside down in the 21st century due to the scientific worldview. This article would explore why does scientific worldview has a stronger basis than other religious beliefs in the 21st century. Then, the research would try to throw some light on Islamic worldview to understand if Islamic narratives plays any vital role to encounter scientific worldview.

2. Why is Something Rather than Nothing?

This is traditional question when it was asked in the past like if God does not exist, why something is rather than nothing?



Fig. 1. Dr. Avijit Roy at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland (Slayed by religious fundamentalist on 26th February, 2015), Founder of Muktomona Blog and Passionate Advocate of Scientific Worldview among Bengali Speaking People

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32701207>

Scientists are more curious about this topic than general people. Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, Switzerland was made up to find this answer. This is the most complex machine ever built by scientists. It can create artificial models e.g. having atmosphere during big bang. There are other tasks there to look for answer why something is rather than nothing. Scientists are quite familiar with quantum mechanics. The Higgs field was important in their discussion since particles gain mass through the interaction with this invisible field. For example, when a person takes a selfie with the prime minister and post at his social media, he gets automatic praise and fame. Similarly,

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particles interacting with Higgs field gains mass. There are probably other invisible fields like Higgs in nothing. Hence, in fundamental level of quantum mechanics, that's how particle or virtual particles came into existence. There are theories like quantum field, fluctuation etc. to understand how something appears from nothing.

The philosophical question that was asked by early philosophers is embraced by modern scientists to answer this basic question.

3. How Exo-Planet is Detected and What is the Relationship with Scientific Worldview?

Whether you are a poor student in the remote village of Bangladesh or you are a student of Harvard in America, all have chance to look at mysterious skies. Our ancestors for billion years witnessed this sky. The sky is open for everyone. We have Greek mythology based on stars. We passed so many civilizations who made mythical stories in the night sky. Humans have invented Gods, Angels, and so many things based on Sky. We have created Sky God sitting on throne and this God governs the universe. Based on myth we have witnessed mythical medieval Arabic stories like '*AlifLaila*'. There are TV series based on these classics. We have *Iliad* and *Odessey* as Greek classics.

We crossed so many generations. After a long time travel, we reached in 21st century. A student perhaps wants to see stars in the night sky. He went to an agricultural field in his village to lie down in grass and stare at night sky. As he lied down and started star gazing, he found mosquitoes biting him and singing song. He was bored with mosquitos and came back.

For some big questions, scientists across the world never return home rather they would stare at night sky like staring at their most beloved. Mosquito bites they completely forget. Astronomy has developed now. When astronomers faced difficulties to see clear night sky due to clouds, they send space telescopes to investigate matter more. Cosmic Rays that cannot come to earth, these telescopes perfectly catch those lights and analyze the data. James Webb Space Telescope is the most advanced telescope to find exo-planets. The Hubble Telescope led the way for several decades. Large Hadron Collider tried to answer why something is rather than nothing. James telescope would follow the next footsteps if there are extraterrestrial life out there. How to find exo-planets?

The simple answer for non-science background is rainbow analysis. We know in general that light spectrum causes rainbow. This is the magic of sunlight. No miracle works in it. For astro-scientists, they use transit method (transit spectroscopy) to analyze light, "Once light is captured, it can be probed to reveal the composition of exoplanet atmospheres. Think of a prism: shine white light through it, and it splits the light into a rainbow spectrum. Scientists can read the color bands of this spectrum like a bar code, revealing which molecules are present" [5]. There are few ways to capture exoplanets for astrophysicist like gravitational lensing and direct image.

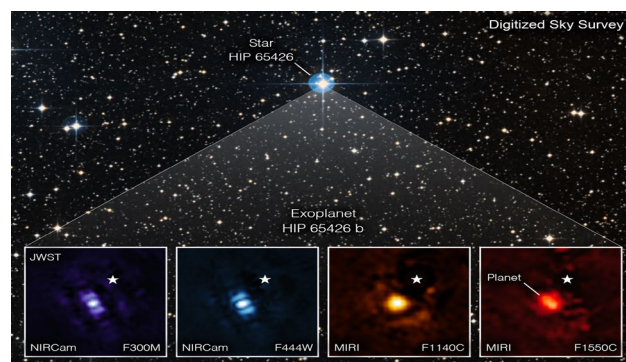


Fig. 2. The first direct image of an exoplanet from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)

Source: <https://science.nasa.gov/exoplanets/how-we-find-and-characterize/>

The question is how this exo-planet related to atheism or philosophical discussion. In fact, this is the point of scientific worldview. Again, Copernicus heliocentric world is necessary to pin point the idea. Heliocentric worldview was against biblical view of earth centric universe. The earth is not center of universe or to extend the topic, Humans are not central theme of the universe. That means there can be other earthlike planets out of trillion planets and there are other life forms living in those exoplanets. Hence, in Christian theology the concept of vicegerent of humans on this earth, especially regarding this earth or humans coming from Adam and Eve as especial creature, is nothing more than mythical stories of past. Similarly, be it Abrahamic religions or other religions have no truth about life and universe other than wishful thinking. Sigmund Freud has related religious beliefs with sexuality, but science deals in a different way. The way scientific worldview deals with religious narratives is highly sophisticated and philosophical and it is hard for common students and teachers to grasp the real implication of scientific worldview. That's why Salman Rushdie is declared to be killed whereas nobody even discusses about scientific worldview because it is beyond their comprehension. Even engineers or science teachers are ignorant of this simple fact simply because they only deal with one area of science and have a tendency to stick to their cultural garbage. Afterall, who wish to get disturbed by fellow members in society. Everyone wants a peaceful life. When strong political party wins in a country, the opposition is automatically losing ground to speak up in developing countries. Also, there is an issue of imprisonment and harassment for opinions from opposition party. Even if the scientific worldview seems to make sense to a science student or teacher, he or she dare not share views or opinions with the rest because they would not grasp the point anyway. It is better to keep silent. So, religions can work perfectly for them as necessary lie to survive. Nothing more than that.

4. Why Evolution Matters for the Scientific Worldview

From the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) to James Wes Space Telescope, we again return to Darwin. Evolution is not only working for species, rather it works from multiverse theory to our universe. Let's look at this picture to understand the history of evolution of our visible universe from scientific worldview.

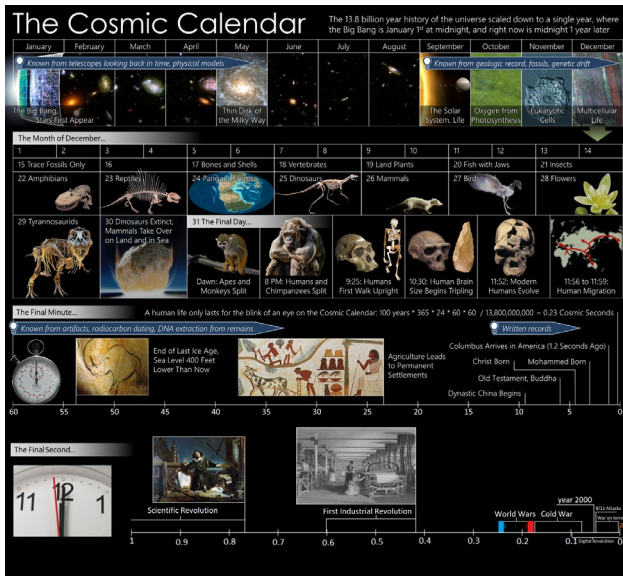


Fig. 3. Is atheism possible from the history of evolutionary universe from scientific worldview?

Photo Credit: Category: Cosmic calendars. Retrieved from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Cosmic_calendars

Evolution requires billions of years since it is very slow process. Hence, it is very complex to understand before any conclusion. That’s why the debate is still ongoing in scientific community itself, but it is very difficult to quit this theory. It is no longer Darwin alone rather all scientific community need to work together to investigate the matter. We cannot go back in time or we can neither live billion years to observe the phenomenon but we have artificial models to experiment within limited time as Large Hadron Collider does create an atmosphere like Big Bang. Obviously, these models are not perfect as nature but even if little success is visible, there is a chance for positive prediction supporting scientific worldview. In other words, God of the gap is replaced by new experiment.

Shoaib Ahmed Malik desperately try to reconcile Islam and Evolution using Imam Ghazali’s strategy by talking about Adamic exceptionalism [6]. However, it seems he is not trying take into consideration the entire process of evolution in which God of the gap must be replaced no matter what interpretation theologians from West and East bring about. This is indeed a desperate attempt, yet Malik is better than those academicians who act stubborn, blind and deaf.

5. Why are Religions Wrong from Scientific Worldview?

Now we have turned into sociology, psychology and the history of homo sapiens. 1000 of religions are out there. Even in the Amazon jungle, we have witnessed indigenous form of religious beliefs. Humans created Allah and Gods mentally to survive, not the other way around according to modern fields of knowledge. If Darwinian evolution of man from lower species are taken into consideration in modern anthropology, the confusion started to arise. Hinduism in India is still strange practice for scientific community. How as a scientist would justify his or her stance rationally? Yes, sophistry can be always used to prove existence of God or religion, but as soon as a

scientist returns, the question remains unanswered in deep down. A scientist may not go to church, Mandir or Mosque, yet he stare at those worshipping places in ultimate sadness. The extreme form of pessimism (nihilism) of a science student would not be realized by common people.

6. What is the Crisis of Dealing with Scientific Worldview from Islamic Point of View?

Even if Islamic academics formulate answers or speak against scientific worldview, they themselves know that their stubborn answers would not be implemented in any non-Muslim countries. Islamization of knowledge by IIIT, for example. It can satisfy certain Muslim academics perhaps but they themselves know that they are lying using sophistry. Evidence is missing as set by scientific epistemology. Citing religious scriptures like Bible, Vedas or Quranic verse is not acceptable in the epistemology of science. The solutions for Islamization agenda are nothing other than lamentation of a blindman. It is like a group of men is paid before election to advocate a certain party in village. This group of men sit together in stall and order tea and gossip together and advocate biasedly to that party. Those people are quite aware of the default of their party, yet they keep silent and talk only positive things about the party because they are paid. Is there any sincerity in them? Let’s say in this stall, the son or daughter of that party’s leader enters and advocates for the party. This makes sense of having sincerity perhaps, yet both sincerity as well as advocating of these groups of people are vain if the party had default in last few years. People would not vote no matter how strong advocacy is taking the ground. Not only Islamic academicians, almost all religious minded academicians are against the proponents of scientific worldview as we have witnessed among Christian academicians in West. This is not abnormal though because it is supported by evolutionary psychology perhaps as understood from scientific worldview. Our brain is belief making machine after all. Even though we know that the girl has default, yet we love and commit suicide as shown in romantic literature like Shakespeare’s ‘Romeo and Juliet’.

So, for the proponents of the scientific worldview, Islamic answers from scholars are simply fraud and stubbornness. What is the point of answering from an Islamic perspective then? Yes, we can satisfy by answering like *Tablig Jamaat*. The point of *Dawah* is to convince and get guidance for the preacher himself at the first place. In that sense, it is appropriate to formulate an answer. However, that is not the answer unfortunately following scientific epistemology.

Is silence the only way to deal with scientific pessimism?

7. Concluding Remarks: Is Scientific Nihilism an Optimistic Nihilism?

These are the tears of things,
and the stuff of our morality
cuts us to the heart.

- Virgil

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

(PROVERBS 18:2)

Krauss uses those words in his book, "*The Greatest Story Ever Told-so far: Why are we here*".

A young student noticed a beautiful girl in university. He saw for a glance, and he fell in love like love at first sight. When he knew about the girl later e.g. the girl is a daughter of prime minister. The girl even is married with the son of president. Yet he desperately went to talk with the girl someday just to express his thought. The girl listened attentively, and she replied indicating the social construct; and, after all, the girl really loves the son of president desperately. The young student understood the deep-rooted social context and left the place.

When I [Maruf] go to level 4 at library at International Islamic University Malaysia, I find books on so many mathematical calculations. I become desperate thinking how science students deal with such boring calculations. I studied science in Dakhil and Alim (Equivalent to O level and A level). When I used to make mistakes doing one math, I had to repeat few times until I get the correct answer. You get either 0 or 10 in math exam. There is no middle ground here.

Unfortunately, the phenomenon that I experienced in library is not new. Ghazali also commented on this abstract thought as absurd. However, Parvez Hoodbhoy (a scientist from Pakistan) criticized Ghazali with one quotation:

Al-Ghazali, who was persuaded of this, sternly admonished a young scholar for his attachment to abstract knowledge saying:

O youth, how many nights have you remained awake repeating science and poring over books and have denied yourself sleep. I do not know what the purpose of it was. If it was attaining worldly ends and securing its vanities and acquiring its dignities and surpassing your contemporaries and such like, woe to you and again woe.

Since science and mathematics are built on the foundation of abstract thought, and human curiosity is the fountainhead of disinterested and 'useless' enquiry, Al-Ghazali's warning is certainly not an encouragement to study these subjects [7].

The evolution of science in human minds is taking place for thousands of years. Only recently we get the realization when science is interfering the existence of Allah, *Vogoban* or God or any supernatural interpretation. Ghazali finds mathematics and science as absurd because he was obsessed with religious teaching as well as he was unaware of optimistic nihilism against so called divine revelations. The existence of Allah is a scientific question in 21st century and there is no role of religious texts to interfere in this matter since religions represents ignorance of natural reality of our universe.

The absurd feeling may also come to people who have lacking in understanding of modern technological work in West. Lawrence M. Krauss in the chapter entitled '*Gothic Cathedrals of Twenty-First Century*' expresses his amazing feeling on scientific works as thus:

Physicist Victor Weisskopf was the fourth director general of CERN, between 1961 and 1966, and he likened the great accelerators of that time to the Gothic cathedrals of medieval

Europe. In thinking of CERN and the LHC, the comparison is particularly interesting. The Gothic cathedrals stretched the technology of the time, requiring new building techniques and new tools to be created. Hundreds or thousands of master craftsmen from dozens of countries built them over many decades. Their scale dwarfed that of any buildings that had previously been created. And they were built for no practical reason than to celebrate the glory of God. The LHC [Large Hadron Collider] is the most complicated machine ever built, requiring new building techniques and new tools to be created. Thousands of Ph.D. scientists and engineers from hundreds of countries speaking dozens of languages, and hailing from a background of at least an equal number of religions, were required to build the accelerator and the detectors that monitor it-taking almost two decades to complete the task [8].

Krauss is happy because he sees the beauty of science that Ghazali was missing in his time. Krauss is a theoretical physicist, and he sees how humanity puts effort to test theories. The discovery of Higgs boson subatomic particle is the remarkable event in 21st century. Only people who understand scientific worldview can grasp the profound message of our universe. This is like our universe is communicating and expressing the beauty of it that universe conceals for billions of years.

LHC found the Higgs Boson particle which confirms the existence of Higgs Field. Peter Higgs received the Nobel Prize as a result. The traditional question like why something is rather than nothing? Science seems to step forward to answer this type of question. The concept of Allah or *Vogoban* who created our known universe seems to eliminate one after one as scientific advancement is progressing. So, what is the explanation so far from the scientific community to explain the entire process of existence from nothing to something.

In mystical teaching, we learned how from the Absolute everything evolved till today. However, scientific community explains in different way based on scientific data and mathematics. Scientists propose models for possibility except model from God's intervention; because it is possible to explain the existence of our universe without any supernatural explanation. This is the biggest blow of science in 21st century against religious scriptures.

Avijit Roy explained in detail in his book, *Shunyo-Theke-Mohabissho* [9], how something can come from nothing without any divine intervention. The evolution of thought in scientific community is described in detail. Quantum Physics is necessary to explain the nature or characteristics of nothing. Quantum physics have concepts like Quantum Vacuum, Quantum Field, Quantum Gravity etc. Higgs field is also important to understand how virtual particles appear and disappear and how particles gain weight through the interaction of Higgs field. Then, the inflation theory after big bang. Those theories and explanations are to provide natural way for the existence of our universe without any supernatural explanation. The concept of positive and negative charge as equal and zero to indicate that no external force like God is necessary for the existence of our universe. The nature is self-sufficient for existence from non-existence.

Scientific Nihilism is strange perhaps and difficult to grasp, but it has implication for upcoming future generation. Enlightenment in science means eliminating the traditional teaching gradually. Let's draw an example, Saudi Arabia is promoting *Wahabism* as extreme form of practicing traditional Islam and India like BJP Government is promoting Hindu supremacy. Both seems politically and religiously correct. However, as scientific development is advanced, the youths are introduced with scientific worldview, the disenchantment would naturally come to young minds. Religions are nothing more than old traditions. The serious efforts of old generation for religious conspiracy are mere corruption and deception for young generation because they are convinced through scientific literature that religions are created for survival of human race like laws. There is nothing more than that. No truth exists within these religious teaching about after life. Knowing any ultimate truth about the universe is impossible. Each epistemology has defect be it scientific, philosophical or religious. Every epistemology is skeptical at the end of the day. That is scientific nihilism perhaps because when a person observes from scientific worldview, he may end up developing pessimistic tendency when it is about knowing our universe. We have observed flaws in religious teaching. Then, we have witnessed the fall of Aristotelian logic in Islamic and western world. Now the scientific worldview is dominating and will lead perhaps in 21st century. The beauty of science is that it confesses ignorance and try and move forward to find the truth. That is the major

difference of scientific epistemology from the rest of epistemologies. What about Islamic epistemology then? Or can Muslim academicians and leaders dare to confess their ignorance at the first place?

In addition, the very troublesome and thought-provoking question now is perhaps what are the steps Muslim Academicians and Leaders would take for future Muslim youths at this juncture across Muslim societies?

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