

# Scientific Postmortem of God Virus in Cixin Liu's Novel, 'The Three-Body Problem': An Islamic Critique

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**Abstract:** Cixin Liu's Novel 'The *Three-Body Problem*' has future predictions against all the world religions and ideologies apart from the scientific worldview. Experimental data from science about our observable universe may lead the youth generation towards Nihilism. Traditional moral values that youths learn from their cultures can be affected due to the influence of the scientific worldview. This research uses qualitative methodology. Content analysis is ensured for Cixin Liu's novel, 'The *Three-Body Problem*' to understand the potential mental and spiritual crisis among youths due to the influence of the scientific worldview. This research finds that despite having challenges from different religions and ideologies, the scientific worldview has its foundation to refute all religious and ideological deliberations. This research also tries to formulate Islamic responses to encounter the scientific worldview that surfaces from Cixin Liu's unique masterpiece work. This article urges to be promising for youths of the 21st century as they face different ideological challenges.

**Keywords:** Cixin Liu, Three-Body Problem, Muslim Youths, Scientific Worldview, Pessimism, Islamic Worldview, Nihilism, Christopher Marlowe, God Virus, Scientism, New Atheism.

## 1. Introduction

"And Faustus vows never to look to Heaven,  
Never to name God, or to pray to him,  
To burn his Scriptures, slay his ministers,  
And make my spirits pull his churches down." [1]

One of the bravest terminated students from the University of Cambridge was uttering something that challenged the entire religious and political institutions of England during the 16th Century. Christopher Marlowe was killed at the age of twenty-nine. Marlow, above, lamented through the spirit of Faustus in scene VI (The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus)

Why are we even studying or teaching at university if we still cannot speak our mind? What is the role of a university if truth needs to be hidden under the veil of ignorance? You know what you are saying is sincere hypocrisy, yet you have decided to

remain silent because it is associated with your survival. The fear that saved our ancestors is saving us till today, yet the truth needs to be revealed. Is there something called academic prostitution? Academic prostitution means you are silent even though you know that what you are teaching is simply not aligned with truth. We are talking about specifically religion and science problem. The burden of proof is problematic. Both sides are completely dissatisfied. The spark that Copernicus helped to ignite is growing up and up. There is no ending for the evolution of scientific knowledge.



Fig. 1. Depiction of Christopher Marlowe's Last Day of Life Source: <https://bowienewsonline.com/2016/05/christopher-marlowe-killed-in-tavern-brawl/>

Interesting examples we have witnessed in the West e.g. 1. Galileo was forced to confess that the earth is static, and the Sun uncle is revolving around the earth since the earth is the center of our universe. 2. Darwin was being bullied as monkey since he explained how the diversity in species could evolve from primordial soup. 3. Nietzsche was labeled as sadomasochist when he spoke that 'God is Dead'. 4. S. Freud turns the

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invention of God from lack of sexuality like sons and daughters not having sex with father and mother. Our ancestors suffered for this trauma by ending up killing father as enemy and projected God like mythology gradually 5. Communism tries to manipulate Darwinism to get into power as we have witnessed in Soviet Russia 6. World religions started to reconcile with scientific discoveries as we have noticed the trend till today.

Yet, advanced physics, chemistry and biology are directing towards opposite direction negating almost all religions and ideologies apart from the scientific worldview. The experimental data itself predicting towards Godlessness as if starting from elementary particle, everything in this universe bear witness against the existence of God. As if the entire world has started to create conspiracy to eliminate God from the literature of the visible universe. As if the scientific worldview is aligned with the teaching of Bhagavad Gita even though the scientific worldview is highly misleading for youths. Bhagavad Gita states:

“Whoever wishes to worship whatever form with faith, on him I bestow immovable faith. He who, endowed with this faith, desires to propitiate that form, receives from it his desires because their fulfillment has been decreed by me (7:21-22). The Sanskrit is a bit tricky to untangle, but Prabhavananda no doubt has put it best: “But it does not matter what deity a devotee chooses to worship. If he has faith, I make his faith unwavering. Endowed with the faith I give him, he worships that deity, and gets from it everything he prays for. In reality, I alone am the giver.” [2]

The teaching of the Bhagavad Gita perfectly aligns with the Islamic doctrine of Tawhid because Islam exclusively subscribes with the oneness of Allah; whereas the scientific worldview can be considered as diverting from fundamental Truth, but those youths would not be able to trace their blunder as they are devotee of the scientific worldview.

This is the whole point of discussion in the novel ‘*The Three-Body Problem*’; and this is the major error of the 21<sup>st</sup> century as Islamic Worldview would stress vehemently on this point. Think about an International race competition in which the best athletes around the world participated. When all started running, at the game one person gets the first position by competing with others. Scientific Worldview has the same tendency and has become first champion among all other religious and philosophical ideas. When someone becomes first on TV, it is hard to reject for all nationalities to refuse the loss. In cricket or football, we love Argentina or Brazil, yet in last world cup, Argentina got the final cup. All the world had to agree with fate regardless of their race. Same thing applies to the scientific worldview in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is very complicated and complex problem just to negate and bypass the facts like previous centuries. It was easy in the past in fact, but now it is a different story due to the advancement of technology. Obviously, orientalism or western hegemony does matter, however, science has very unique way to bypass every single ideology. Experimental data brings back the prediction of the unconscious thought that humanity urged to hide and forget. Allah has never existed and will never exist. The Bookworms youth generation may end up with pessimism which may lead

them to committing suicide. Even though they are able to adapt themselves, they will completely negate the possibility for the existence of God. This is going to be the major marvel of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Three-Body Problem brings that exact same message. Science, Philosophy and Religion can be imagined as Three-Body Problem for this research paper.

Covid-19 Pandemic was the most remarkable example of how viruses can spread across the world and almost everyone can get affected from viruses. Dr. Darrel Ray, psychologist and lifelong student of religion, accuses God as virus in Humans’ evolutionary brain in his book, “*The God Virus: How Religion Infects Our Lives and Culture*” [3]. What role does guilt have in the spread of religion? Why do so many religions place such a high value on sexual restraint? Why are people so nervous and anxious about dying and death? How does religion permeate so much politics, society, and daily life? Ray discussed all these concerns based on evolutionary psychology.

We people of 21<sup>st</sup> century live with a multicultural mindset now with the help of internet and technology. We humans have access to almost every knowledge. A 30-second short video on YouTube or other social media is to summarize the entire philosophy of Nietzsche perhaps. The theory of relativity is explained in a 30-second short video clip on YouTube. The youth generation is the main user of the internet. Despite having age regulation, almost everyone can watch porn video so long you have a cell phone with internet connection. The regulation that government and websites are taking not effective at all to some extent. Knowledge is being produced almost every day. Millions of information is injected into social media. The unique contents are being produced. Students are busy reading and debating on fake news. What about scientific advancements and its philosophical development? Yes, the majority of people are busy with consumerism. Yet is there any danger to our religious beliefs? Some of us are from Hindu background. Some are Christians, some are Jews, some are communist, some are capitalist, some are environmentalist, some are Muslims. All the youths have equally access to latest scientific breakthroughs. Even if we cannot study our dream subject, ‘Astrophysics’, we can stick to with the News from NASA and other astronomical organizations. Our favorite science fiction movies and series are on Netflix.

The first book in the Remembrance of Earth's Past trilogy, written by Chinese science fiction author Cixin Liu, is titled *The Three-Body Problem*. This article will explore the novel, ‘*Three-Body Problem*’.

Based on this novel there was Netflix series. In March 2024 the first season came out. This research would do content analysis method for the novel ‘*The Three-Body Problem*’. There will have exploration from Islamic literature to find out how Islam deals with scientific predictions for non-existence of God [Allah].

## 2. “*The Three-Body Problem*” Novel Analysis to Comprehend the Scientific Nihilism

As of we are writing this research USA President Donald Trump was attempted to shoot to death [4]. He survived luckily. Naturally people of USA would vote for Trump as most of them

are emotionally attached to nationalism. People around the world and World leaders would show their sympathy for Trump.



Fig. 2. Donald Trump is surrounded by US Secret Service agents as he is helped off the stage at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, July 13, 2024  
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/14/world-reacts-to-shooting-at-trump-campaign-rally>

Marxism and other ideologies do try to manipulate in a similar way using human emotion. Science does not work that way. Emotional manipulation would not work for experimental data. Let's imagine a student doing PhD in mechanical and his father died and hence he requested to university since my father has died and I have no means to survive here, and I am just middle of my PhD. Please consider giving me a PhD. This is nonsense and a stupid application in the first place. To get a PhD in Engineering, that student must need to provide experimental data that is able to execute and run successfully. No matter what the state of mind for this student is, he must be able to come in lab and work and get his data to conclude his research. This research will have textual analysis to understand this problem. The very first text that Cixin Liu marvelously created the scene by distinguishing science from communist ideology via dialectical strategy. In fact, this is a very disgusting manipulation of science that different ideological thoughts tried to manipulate. Physics professor at the novel negated that cult:

"Should philosophy guide experiments, or should experiments guide philosophy?" Ye's sudden counterattack shocked those leading the struggle session. For a moment they did not know what to do. "Of course, it should be the correct philosophy of Marxism that guides scientific experiments!" one of the male Red Guards finally said. "Then that's equivalent to saying that the correct philosophy falls out of the sky. This is against the idea that the truth emerges from experience. It's counter to the principles of how Marxism seeks to understand nature." Shao Lin and the two college student Red Guards had no answer for this. Unlike the Red Guards who were still in junior high school, they couldn't completely ignore logic." [5]

Marxism and other philosophical or religious ideologies should not guide the experiment. The first atomic bomb on Japan can be politically correct for USA, but this should be the case. The power is in the hands of politicians, and they manipulate science because the funding is coming from the population. This is where the problem starts. Let's read next text of Cixin Liu on Big Bang and its relation to the development of the scientific worldview negating the existence of God:

"Maybe in the future this theory will be disproven. But two

great cosmological discoveries of this century—Hubble's law, and observation of the cosmic microwave background—show that the big bang theory is currently the most plausible explanation for the origin of the universe." But the freshness of the theory attracted the most intelligent of the four girls, who couldn't help but ask, "Time began with the singularity? So what was there before the singularity?" "Nothing," Ye said, the way he would answer a question from any curious young person. He turned to look at the girl kindly. With his injuries and the tall iron hat, the motion was very difficult. "No ... nothing? That's reactionary! Completely reactionary!" the frightened girl shouted. She turned to Shao Lin, who gladly came to her aid. "The theory leaves open a place to be filled by God." Shao nodded at the girl...She raised her hand, still holding the belt, and pointed at Ye. "You: you're trying to say that God exists?" "I don't know." "What?" "I'm saying I don't know. If by 'God' you mean some kind of super consciousness outside the universe, I don't know if it exists or not. Science has given no evidence either way." Actually, in this nightmarish moment, Ye was leaning toward believing that God did not exist. This extremely reactionary statement caused a commotion in the crowd. Led by one of the Red Guards on stage, another tide of slogan-shouting exploded. "Down with reactionary academic authority Ye Zhetai!" "Down with all reactionary academic authorities!" "Down with all reactionary doctrines!" Once the slogans died down, the girl shouted, "God does not exist. All religions are tools concocted by the ruling class to paralyze the spirit of the people!" "That is a very one-sided view," Ye said calmly" [6].

Since all religions are false and religions are tools to oppress mass, Marxism should be promoted. This is also problematic for physics Professor Ye. This is because similar to nationalism like USA bombed Japanese, Marxism also misuses this Godlessness to manipulate science. This is like previously religions manipulated science, then, nationalism manipulated science and then Marxism tries to manipulate science. Now let us look 3<sup>rd</sup> text from the novel on the point of pessimism due to the prediction of Godlessness and Suicide among scientists:

"Wang took from the envelope a thin, irregularly shaped sheet exuding a faint fragrance—not paper, but birch bark. A single line of graceful characters was written on it:

All the evidence points to a single conclusion: Physics [God] has never existed, and will never exist. I know what I'm doing is irresponsible[suicide]. But I have no choice.

There wasn't even a signature. She was gone. "Physics ... does not exist?" Wang had no idea what to think." [7]

Cixin Liu was a genius for portraying those lines from science literature. The following text predicts the contemporary threats for youngsters across the planet,

"...So many bookworms have already killed themselves..." [8]

This pessimism would be a worldwide phenomenon when the traditional cult would be realized as completely false projection. Christians and Muslims are majority in current status quo. Imagine majority of Muslim youths come to realize this scientific prediction. This is going to be devastating for religious faith. This is dangerous for every single faith ever born

on this planet. Let's read the very next text of Cixin Liu:

“Ding nodded. “I have no direct connection with the Frontiers of Science, but it is famous in academia. Its core goal is a response to the following: Since the second half of the twentieth century, physics has gradually lost the concision and simplicity of its classical theories. Modern theoretical models have become more and more complex, vague, and uncertain. Experimental verification has become more difficult as well. This is a sign that the forefront of physics research seems to be hitting a wall... “Members of the Frontiers of Science want to attempt a new way of thinking. To put it simply, they want to use the methods of science to discover the limits of science, to try to find out if there is a limit to how deeply and precisely science can know nature—a boundary beyond which science cannot go. The development of modern physics seems to suggest that such a line has been touched.” “Very good,” General Chang said. “According to our investigation, most of the scholars who committed suicide had some connection with the Frontiers of Science, and some were even members. But we've found no evidence of the use of illegal psychotropic drugs or techniques akin to the psychological manipulation of religious cults. In other words, even if the Frontiers of Science influenced them, it was only through legal academic exchanges... Through her, I met a few other physicist friends, all members of the Frontiers of Science, some Chinese, some foreign. When I talked with them, all the topics were ... how do I put this? Very radical. They all involved the question that Dr. Ding just described: What is the limit of science? “Initially, I didn't have much interest in these topics. I thought of them as only an idle pastime. My work is in applied research, and I don't know much about these theoretical matters. Mainly, I was interested in listening to their discussions and arguments. All of them were deep thinkers with novel points of view, and I felt that I was opening my mind through the exchanges. Gradually, I grew more interested. But all our talk was limited to pure theory and nothing else. They once invited me to join the Frontiers of Science. But if I had done so, attending the discussions would have turned into a duty. Since my time and energy were limited, I declined.” [9]

Here Cixin Liu tries to say that it is impossible to trace the problem directly. The disease of consciousness from the scientific worldview develops in such a way that it lies in extremely bottom line, and nobody will have any trace because those youths suddenly committed suicide. They are the most geniuses among nations.

### **3. Islamic Assessment against the Concept of God Virus in Evolutionary Psychology and Cixin Liu's Scientific Thought on the Non-existence of Allah**

“And ‘remember’ when Luqman said to his son, while advising him, “O my dear son! Never associate ‘anything’ with Allah ‘in worship’, for associating ‘others with Him’ is truly the worst of all wrongs.” [10]

The concept of God [Allah] is not virus for Islamic literature. The very concept of Oneness of Allah is the very fundamental teaching of Islam. After explaining the events with Prophet Ibrahim regrading idol worship with their community, The

Quran states,

“Surely in this is a sign. Yet most of them would not believe.” [11]

Quranic stories are considered as signature for the existence of Allah who is the owner of everything in between heavens and earth. Now the problem of evolutionary psychology on how the concept of God came over generation as virus. Islam has different point of view. Prophet Muhammad(pbuh) says the concept of one God in our innate nature was there, “No babe is born but upon *Fitra*. It is his parents who make him a Jew or a Christian or a Polytheist.” [12]

In Islamic tradition, it is not fear of losing father or mother (Not being able to have sex with father and mother by social taboo) created God in our innate nature (unconscious mind) as Freud says. This is also not fear of nature in the evolutionary human psychology from attacking enemies in jungle created the projection of God as evolutionary psychologists would argue. Rather Islam is very clear about the real existence of Allah, and it is innate for every human as prophet Muhammad(pbuh) says. The Quran states,

“On that Day, Allah will give them their just penalty in full, and they will ‘come to’ know that Allah ‘alone’ is the Ultimate Truth.” [13]

The Quran also states, “And ‘remember’ when your Lord brought forth from the loins of the children of Adam their descendants and had them testify regarding themselves. ‘Allah asked, ‘Am I not your Lord?’ They replied, ‘Yes, you are! We testify.’ ‘He cautioned, ‘Now you have no right to say on Judgment Day, ‘We were not aware of this.’”[14] Hence, it is not limited to evolutionary psychology in terms of material perspective, rather there is the spiritual dimension of evolutionary psychology which would last till the day of judgment in Islam. The Quran and other scriptures were revealed to bridge the gap as reminder for all of humanity, “Surely this is a reminder. So let whoever wills take the ‘Right’ Way to their Lord.” [15] The Quran also indicates about the person who would remember all small and big actions in his worldly life by reading the recorded book on the day of judgement. The Quran states, “And the record [of deeds] will be placed [open], and you will see the criminals fearful of that within it, and they will say, “Oh, woe to us! What is this book that leaves nothing small or great except that it has enumerated it?” And they will find what they did present [before them]. And your Lord does injustice to no one.” [16]

In addition, when we follow Islamic narrative, we can comprehend that Adam(pbuh) was the very first man who was a monotheist and polytheism would come in later generations and different prophets were sent to remind that innate nature on Oneness of Allah. Idol worship or polytheism is the origin from monotheism. That's how evolution actually works. However, oriental narratives sometimes subscribe to polytheism first which is absurd. There is a famous narration by Imam Bukhari regarding the origin of idolatry:

... Ibn Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “All of the idols among the people of Noah appeared among the Arabs later. They were the names of righteous men among the people of Noah. When they passed away, Satan inspired in their people



to build statues in the places they used to sit and name them by their names. They did so and they were not worshiped until the first generation passed away and knowledge was lost; then they were worshiped.” [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukḥārī- 4636][17]

The way the projection of God in human minds is described by Western narratives, the Islamic worldview has a completely polarized worldview because Islam has its strong and long root foundation following major world religions. The truth comes from the same source, but these are humans who have corrupted teaching and live at their stubbornness. The Quran says, “Similarly, whenever We sent a warner to a society before you ‘O Prophet’, its ‘spoiled’ elite would say, “We found our forefathers following a ‘particular’ way, and we are walking in their footsteps.” [18] Ibrahim(pbuh) build the Kaaba as the house of Allah to worship, but we have seen in history how this house was filled with hundreds of idols when prophet Muhammad(pbuh) was born.

As for evolutionary of the universe from singularity to inflationary as indicated in Cixin Liu ’s Novel for no signature of Allah. The inflation theory for space is quite thought provoking as if transcendental and immanent being is blowing something for space to spread in the fastest speed ever known within second. We can imagine someone blowing air in the balloon.



Fig. 3. Inflation of our Universe during Big Bang can be Envisioned from Blowing Air inside Balloon. Though the exact duration of the “Inflationary Period” is still unspecified, scientists often use  $10^{-33}$  Seconds approximately  
Source: <https://www.youramazingplaces.com/5-techniques-blow-balloons-parties/>

The Quran mentions, “Have those who disbelieved not considered that the heavens and the earth were a joined entity, and then We separated them and made from water every living thing? Then will they not believe?” [19]

Strictly, this verse is not to flatter like academic prostitutes; rather the above verse is to understand ourselves about the position of Islam regarding the creation of the universe. I [Maruf] discussed about nothingness and Absolute in my previous article for the existential concern about our universe from Nothing and the Absolute [20]. Allah SWT boldly declares in the Quran regarding initiation, being and becoming, “All it takes, when He wills something ‘to be’, is simply to say to it: “Be!” And it is!” The problem is, for contemporary secular modern thought, the Quran speaks about *Jahannam*(hell) and *Jannat* (heaven) and there are 7 layers of heaven (we cannot know). When the experimental data so far, we have at our hands cannot prove or disprove those Quranic claims since it is not under current observable universe and

mathematical calculation based on experimental data. The mass tendency, Youths, goes towards disbelief due to the dominance of the scientific worldview. However, the answer is very simple, if Allah is the real existence, nothing is impossible. We humans are like blind men describing how elephant look like while none of us are able to describe what exactly the elephant look like.

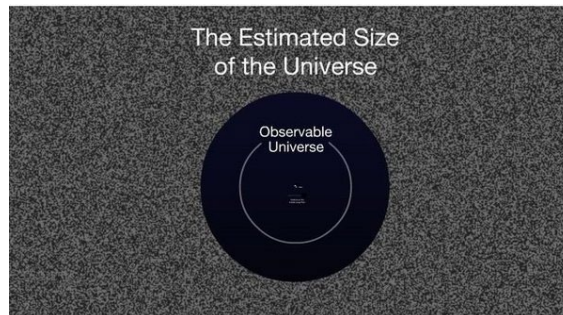


Fig. 4. The observable universe is 41.5 billion light-years in all directions from the “center”. How is this possible if the universe really has no center?  
Source: <https://www.quora.com/The-observable-universe-is-41-5-billion-light-years-in-all-directions-from-the-center-How-is-this-possible-if-the-universe-really-has-no-center>

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was an unlettered messenger who was born before the advent of modern science. Same case with other religious beliefs e.g. Prophet Ibrahim [Abraham], Musa [Moses], and Isa [Jesus] (peace be upon them all). The issue of spirit is negated in psychology, and possession of *Jinn*(ghost) is seen as a psychological disorder. This would be a thought-provoking concern for many youth learners and scientists, and we understand the contexts during early period that sometimes prophetic traditions are to encounter other Jews or polytheist cultures during his time based on the context e.g. what the Jews or polytheists practice Muslims should practice differently or opposite way. For example, singing song without the musical instrument, Friday as rest day instead of Saturday or Sunday, Alcoholic beverages prohibition, not eating pork etc. Sometimes, some Islamic traditions seem contradictory with latest scientific breakthroughs, but the intension of teaching Islam during prophetic period was to encounter other cultures during that time, not science. Hence, we have noticed the trend of new Quranic interpreters in the modern period like Syrian philosopher Muhammad Shahrouf or Fazlur Rahman who tried to bypass prophetic tradition to encounter modern thought.

#### 4. Conclusion

This research has sketched a possible outline from the novel ‘*The Three-Body Problem*’ on how contemporary pessimism may arise from the experimental data and affect the bookworm Muslim youths. The scientific prediction on non-existence of God may cause frustration worldwide among youngsters in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Muslim societies need to tackle with this issue seriously. No doubt that Islam is a universal lifestyle for whole of humanity. Be they Western, Middle East, African and Asian and another part of the world, Islam embraces and welcome every single soul because all of us are vicegerent of Allah SWT. Allah has dignified every single human soul with his challenge

against the Devil and angels. Allah says in the Quran:

“Remember when your Lord said to the angels, ‘I am going to place a successive human authority on earth.’ They asked ‘Allah’, ‘Will You place in it someone who will spread corruption there and shed blood while we glorify Your praises and proclaim Your holiness?’ Allah responded, ‘I know what you do not know.’ He taught Adam the names of all things, then He presented them to the angels and said, ‘Tell Me the names of these, if what you say is true?’ They replied, ‘Glory be to You! We have no knowledge except what You have taught us. You are truly the All-Knowing, All-Wise.’ Allah said, ‘O Adam! Inform them of their names.’ Then when Adam did, Allah said, ‘Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of the heavens and the earth, and I know what you reveal and what you conceal? And remember when We said to the angels, ‘Prostrate before Adam,’ so they all did—but not Iblis, who refused and acted arrogantly, becoming unfaithful.’ [21]

Therefore, we can conclude that every single human being is important to Allah as all of us are His vicegerent on this planet. Islam is here to establish a universal morality under one umbrella based on the Tawhidic paradigm. Our Lord is Allah. Like Kantian ethics, Islam has pure and practical reason to trust and hold the rope of Allah as our best guardian. Allah SWT says,

“And hold firmly together the rope of Allah and do not be divided. Remember Allah’s favour upon you when you were enemies, then He united your hearts, so you—by His grace—became brothers. And you were at the brink of a fiery pit and He saved you from it. This is how Allah makes His revelations clear to you, so that you may be rightly guided.” [22]

Indeed, the Quran has a promise for the entire humanity, “So be patient, for the promise of Allah certainly is true. And do not be disturbed by those who have no sure faith.” [23]. Hence, it can be concluded that pessimism from scientific worldview is a deception of knowledge.[24] Cixin Liu’s Novel ‘*Three-Body Problem*’ marvelously depicted the present concern of the scientific worldview regarding our human condition in this universe. However, Islam has still highly optimistic confirmation of the existence of Allah SWT who has revealed the Quran as the signature and guideline for the whole of humanity. No Christopher Marlow will evolve within Muslim societies if hypocritical leadership is replaced by the Optimistic and Reckless Muslim leaders from Youths who would only urge to serve none but Allah alone like the Orphan boy of Makkah [Muhammad (peace be upon him)], Abu Bakar (*Ra*) and Umar (*Ra*). Yet we Muslim youths are forced to subscribe the scientific nihilism like Einstein said once, “What really interests me is whether God had any choice in the creation of the world.” [25] The research paper will conclude with a quotation from one of the famous Hollywood movies, ‘*Nocturnal Animals*’, “Susan, enjoy the absurdity of our world. It’s a lot less painful. Believe me, our world is a lot less painful than the real world.” [26]

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