Our galaxy (the Milky Way), with its diameter of 100,000 light years and its approx. 300 billion stars, reaches a dimension that is very difficult for us to imagine. In spite of its size, it is only one of the 100 billion galaxies supposed to exist in the visible Universe.

The Universe: Perpetually mobile?

1.4 The Universe: Perpetually mobile?

If one considers the unimaginable size and structure of outer space, many questions come to mind: What moves the moon around the earth? What moves the earth around the sun? What moves the sun, with its solar system, around the center of the galaxy? Physicists know, and it is indisputable, that the earth moves around the sun on
2.8.1. The Theory of Evolution and God?

The theory of evolution is no substitute for God's Creation, but it is an explanation for the Laws of God that prevail in nature. In other words: it does not explain how species evolve, but rather it describes the system of laws God applied in developing these species. Intelligent design\(^1\) described herewith points to the fact that the laws of nature created by God do not function by themselves, because they are dependent upon God's knowledge and God's intention. The evolution of successive "versions" of species is a description of the fact that God invents a new and creative design for his creatures in each environment.

*The evolution of the horse: a work of art in each version*

Instead of simply being in awe at God's creativity in designing and creating millions of living creatures and plants, the theory of evolution explains that God continuously shows His creativity by designing and crafting different "versions" of each such species.

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1 At this point, one must address the possible confusion of the term "intelligent design" with the so-called "intelligent design movement" as a form of creationism, from which this book wishes to separate itself. Creationists deny the theory of evolution, which is clearly affirmed here, and which does not contradict the Islamic theology of Creation. Hence, creationists also have a different explanation and concept of Creation itself. Intelligent design only takes place within the framework of Islamic belief.
of the sun in relation to its distance from the earth. Planets need the gravitational force of the sun in order to remain in their orbits, and the sun equally needs the center of the galaxy, and so on.

Each item is linked to the other, and is dependent on it, so that it would be inconceivable to think that the different parts of the Universe could have emerged from different sources.

3.3 Independent Power and Knowledge

The creator that could craft a galaxy must possess almighty power and endless knowledge, and thus He is completely independent of any kind of help from other possible supplementary deities.

In ancient times, some people believed that the sun was the greatest form of existence in the Universe.

Thus, they made it into a deity, and they worshipped it.

Nowadays we know that the sun is only a little star amongst billions of stars in the Universe.
C. To Love God or to Fear Him?

When one hears of “Jahannam (Hell)” in Islam, one wonders: Where is God’s mercy? Should I love God and hope for His Jannah (Paradise), or must I now fear Him?

Surely in Islam, God is the most merciful and the most love-worthy one. He loves us and He does not want to hurt us\(^1\). Moreover, He wants to admit us to Jannah\(^2\), where we can lead a much more blissful life\(^3\). He knows our weaknesses\(^4\), and therefore he does not demand from us to be sinless people.\(^5\) He has opened the

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Islam handles human impulses and needs in a practical fashion and it recognizes that the human longing for love and sex was created with the intention of God. In order to preserve the benefits of sex, its practice was only allowed within a specific framework: marriage.

For in marriage:
1. Family cohesion is preserved, the gradual shrinkage of population is prevented, and further negative influential factors on family are reduced.
2. Women are preserved from sexual exploitation.
3. Children are protected and they grow up in a largely stable family atmosphere.

“And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put between you affection and mercy. Verily in that are indeed Signs for those who reflect.”

The Quran, 30: 21

Islam encourages all Muslims to marry, and the Prophet said:

“He who loves my manners and ways should accept my Sunnah (living practices), and marriage belongs to them.”(1)

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After living creatures complete the lifetime that God has established for them and fulfill their mission, the time comes when they are released from their tasks in life.
1.1 The Caravan of Humanity

The caravan of humanity on the way to Janna was led by hundreds of Prophets from all nations throughout history. Amongst them was Prophet Abraham, who guided the caravan at a specific time according to a specific map. Afterwards, Prophet Moses took over the leadership with a new version of the map, and this is also how we perceive the role of Jesus. Finally, God sent Prophet Muhammad as the last leader with the “newest” version:

“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of God, and the last (end) of the Prophets”

_The Quran 33:40_
3 Women

3.1 The Status of Women in Pre-Islamic Cultures

The magnitude of the change experienced by the position of women through Islam can only be evaluated if one also takes a look at the role of women in other cultures. Like we will see, we are confronted with times of oppression, exploitation and defenselessness of women in a world dominated by men. This disparity between both genders is mostly rooted in the texts of the Holy Scriptures, or in the centuries-old culture of a nation, which push(ed) women into such a situation.
4 Religion, State and Civilization

Throughout history, we can see two different experiences in relation to the union of state and religion:

- In Europe, the Church was in conflict with science and emancipation, and it was allied to dictatorships. At the time of the Enlightenment (17th and 18th centuries) it came to a bloody revolution against the ecclesiastic and governmental powers, with the purpose, amongst
one finds in almost every library in the West books on Islam. Many authors attempt to either attack or glorify the religion to the highest degree. Most of these books are not written by experts. At the same time, bad translations of texts can lead to misunderstandings, which are adopted by the media and present an incorrect image of Islam.

As a result, the West understands Islam differently from Muslims in Islamic countries, where people obtain their Islamic knowledge from traditional sources such as imams and Islamic schools.

This informative book objectively presents Islam as it is understood by “traditional imams”, and offers its reader an authentic, comprehensive, deeper insight into Islam.

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Before and during his studies of the Islamic Law at Al-Azhar University of Cairo, he wrote and published several books in different languages about Islam, history, economics and geography. For his book “The way of the true life“, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in Ireland in 2002. Since 2003, Hemaya has pursued his function as an imam and as a community adjudicator concerning personal matters for Muslims in Germany, where he was also involved in intercultural dialogue.

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