

Why Won't you Think?

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إِنَّ شَرَّ الدَّوَابِّ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الصُّمُّ الْبُكْمُ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ

*Truly, the worst of all creatures in the sight of Allah are the deaf, the dumb, those who **do not use their reason/think**.*

Qur'an 8:22

Consider this verse carefully, Allah is telling us that the **worst** creatures are the ones that do not reason.

أَمْ تَحْسَبُ أَنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ يَسْمَعُونَ أَوْ يَعْقِلُونَ ۚ إِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا كَالْأَنْعَامِ ۗ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا

*Or do you think that most of them **hear or reason**? They are like livestock. Rather, they are [even] more astray in [their] way.*

(25:44)

There can be no excuse for giving up your right to think for yourself. The consequences of switching off your critical faculties are absolutely terrifying, not just in the next world, but in this world. In this world you end up wandering astray like livestock, or herded in your ignorance by those who are evil, or otherwise.

What to Think About?

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا

And do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge. Indeed, the hearing, the sight and the mind, one will be questioned about all these.

Qur'an 17:36

The simple answer is that you should think about anything that is a guiding element in your life. What you work at, what set of beliefs you hold on to, any movements you join and so on. There are consequences in all such things, not just for you, but for others. If you do not know or understand why you are doing it, do not do it.

In terms of specifics, the Qur'an is greatly deserving of deep consideration.

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ ۚ أَمْ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا

*Will they not, then, **consider** the Qur'an, or are there locks on [their] minds?*

Quran 47:24

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ ۚ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا

*Will they not, then, **consider** the Qur'an? If it had been from [any] other than Allah, they would have found within it much contradiction.*

Qur'an 4:82

أَفَعَيِّرَ اللَّهُ أَتْبَغَى حَكَمًا وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْكِتَابَ مُفَصَّلًا

"Shall I then seek a Ruler other than Allah? When He it is Who has revealed to you the Book (Qur'an, which is) distinctly detailed"

(6:114)

We must read and consider the Qur'an, with enough depth to allow us to find contradictions. There are none, however, we must consider it with such depth so that if there were any, we would find them. The Qur'an is a detailed text, and in reading and considering it, it must be analysed in detail.

لَوْ أَنْزَلْنَا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ عَلَى جَبَلٍ لَرَأَيْتَهُ خَاشِعًا مُتَصَدِّعًا مِّنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ وَتِلْكَ الْأَمْثَالُ نَضْرِبُهَا لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

*If We had sent down this Qur'an upon a mountain, you would have seen it humbled and coming apart from fear of Allah. And these examples We present to the people that perhaps they will **think**.*
Qur'an 59:21

كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِّيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

*[This is] a blessed Book which We have revealed to you, that they might **reflect upon** its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded.*

Qur'an 38:29

In many places in the Qur'an we are reminded to think, consider and reflect on the Qur'an as well as the physical universe. These are not just 'by the way' recommendations; they are important guidance from Allah. There are severe consequences to not taking the time to consider the Qur'an, this is because if you do not read and think on its contents, then the Qur'an no longer acts as guidance, it is no longer the criterion in your life, rather, it becomes merely a book to be looked at and respected. It's guidance cannot then properly reach your heart and soul through the conduit of your mind. All you are left with is following what others tell you about it...

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ لآيَاتٍ لِّأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ
الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَاطِلًا
سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ مَن تُدْخِلِ النَّارَ فَقَدْ أَخْزَيْتَهُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ

Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day are signs for those of understanding.

*Who remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying] on their sides and **give thought** to the creation of the heavens and the earth, [saying], "Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You [above such a thing]; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire.*

Our Lord, indeed whoever You admit to the Fire - You have disgraced him, and for the wrongdoers there are no helpers.

Qur'an 3:190-192

أَوَلَمْ يَتَفَكَّرُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ مَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ النَّاسِ بِلِقَاءِ رَبِّهِمْ لَكَافِرُونَ

*Do they not **contemplate** within themselves? Allah has not created the heavens and the earth and what is between them except in truth and for a specified term. And indeed, many of the people, in [the matter of] the meeting with their Lord, are disbelievers.*

Qur'an 30:8

Thinking about the creation of Allah is extremely important, as in the analysis of its intricacy and design are the signs pointing to its creator. Just ignoring this study and taking things for granted allows for irrational thoughts on the origin of the universe and of humanity to develop in the minds of unthinking Muslims. Namely, the ideas of cosmological and biological evolution specifically, and materialistic philosophy in general. These ideas, which by their very nature and purpose are designed to deny Allah have negative implications in both the practical and spiritual aspects of those misguided by these ideas.

Following Others

Perhaps the greatest reason that people switch off their minds, is that they give away their responsibility to think to others, whether out of fear, laziness, conformance or profit. The reality is this, if something is important, and your soul and its eternal destination is quite possibly the most important thing you can imagine, then you **must** take the responsibility to think deeply about what it is you are living by. If you give that responsibility to someone else, that means that you trust that person or people with your eternal soul. Is there anyone you trust that much?

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا أَلْفَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا أَوَلَوْ كَانَ آبَاؤُهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ

*And when it is said to them, "Follow what Allah has revealed," they say, "Rather, we will follow that which we found our fathers doing." Even though their fathers **did not think**, nor were they guided?*

Qur'an 2:170

بَلْ قَالُوا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِم مُّهُتَدُونَ

وَكَذَلِكَ مَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ فِي قَرْيَةٍ مِّن نَّذِيرٍ إِلَّا قَالَ مُتْرَفُوهَا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِم مُّقْتَدُونَ

Rather, they say, "Indeed, we found our fathers upon a religion, and we are in their footsteps [rightly] guided."

And similarly, We did not send before you any warner into a city except that its affluent said, "Indeed, we found our fathers upon a religion, and we are following in their footsteps."

Qur'an 43:21-23

It is made clear here that this trend of 'following our forefathers' is a massive obstacle to true guidance. It is the obstacle that all messengers had to deal with.

And to be clear, this is not just an issue of "such and such who is respected says I should do this so I am doing it", it is a case of being misled into believing that what you are being told to do and believe is actually the guidance of Allah.

وَإِذَا فَعَلُوا فَاحِشَةً قَالُوا وَجَدْنَا عَلَيْهَا آبَاءَنَا وَاللَّهُ أَمَرَنَا بِهَا قُلْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَأْمُرُ بِالْفَحْشَاءِ أَتَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

And when they committing evil, they say, "We found our fathers doing it, and Allah has ordered us to do it." Say, "Indeed, Allah does not order immorality. Do you say about Allah that which you do not know?"

Qur'an 7:28

We should aim to make it a foundational point in our lives to know what Allah has said, first hand, and to thereby know when a falsehood is attributed to Allah.

'Following our father's footsteps' as a concept can be rephrased for the many specific cases that fall in this category. I was only: -

- Following my parents
- Following the way of my community
- Following my Priest
- Following my Rabbi
- Following my Imam, Sheikh and Scholar
- Following the leaders of my community
- Etc...

Whatever way you phrase it, it all ends up the same. You are following (blindly or not) and you have willingly given up your responsibility to think and consider for yourself.

We have a specific and important example in this regard from the Qur'an: -

اتَّخَذُوا أَحْبَارَهُمْ وَرُهْبَانَهُمْ أَرْبَابًا مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَالْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا لَّا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ سُبْحَانَهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ

They (Jews and Christians) have taken their religious scholars and monks as lords besides Allah, and [also] the Messiah, the son of Mary. And they were not commanded except to worship one God; there is no deity except Him. Exalted is He above whatever they associate with Him.

Qur'an 9:31

How were the religious scholars and monks taken as lords beside Allah? We know they are not and were not worshipped as God by the Jews and Christians, we however also know that the church/priests and Rabbis fashioned themselves as the interpreters and explainers of the revelation. And from the Qur'an, we know this was a task they failed for selfish reasons.

Do you know any other major religious group that willingly gives away its right to consider and think about its religion and its guidance to figures of authority?

وَإِن تُطِيعُوا أَكْثَرَ مَن فِي الْأَرْضِ يُضِلُّوكَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ إِنْ يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَإِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَخْرُصُونَ

And if you obey most of those upon the earth, they will mislead you from the way of Allah. They follow not except assumption, and they do nothing but conjecture.

Qur'an 6:116

The Consequences of Not Thinking

وَقَالُوا لَوْ كُنَّا نَسْمَعُ أَوْ نَعْقِلُ مَا كُنَّا فِي أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ

*And they (those in hell) will say, "If only we had listened or **reasoned**, we would not be among the companions of the Blaze."*

Qur'an 67:10

وَلَقَدْ ذَرَأْنَا لِجَهَنَّمَ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ وَالإِنسِ ۗ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ لَّا يَفْقَهُونَ بِهَا وَهُمْ أَعْيُنٌ لَّا يُبْصِرُونَ بِهَا وَهُمْ آذَانٌ لَّا يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا ۗ أُولَئِكَ كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ ۗ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْعَافِلُونَ

And We have certainly created for Hell many of the jinn and mankind. They have hearts (minds) with which they do not understand, they have eyes with which they do not see, and they have ears with which they do not hear. Those are like livestock; rather, they are more astray. It is they who are the heedless.

(7:179)

What the majority think is rarely the best criteria by which to judge the truth of something, especially when it comes to the guidance of Allah. The majority are often heedless and easily misled by evil people.

Who's Responsibility?

إِن كُنتُمْ مِّن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا آتِي الرَّحْمَنِ عَبْدًا
لَّقَدْ أَحْصَاهُمْ وَعَدَّهُمْ عَدًّا
وَكُلُّهُمْ آتِيهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَرْدًا

*There is no one in the heavens and earth but that he comes to the Most Merciful as a servant.
He has enumerated them and counted them a [full] counting.
And all of them are coming to Him on the Day of Resurrection **alone**.*

Qur'an 19:93-95

فَإِذَا جَاءَتِ الصَّاعِقَةُ
يَوْمَ يَفِرُّ الْمَرْءُ مِنْ أَخِيهِ
وَأُمِّهِ وَأَبِيهِ
وَصَاحِبَتِهِ وَبَنِيهِ
لِكُلِّ امْرِيٍّ مِّنْهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ شَأْنٌ يُغْنِيهِ

*But when there comes the Deafening Blast
On the Day a man will flee from his brother
And his mother and his father
And his wife and his children,*

For every man, that Day, will be a matter to occupy him.

Qur'an 80:33-37

On the day of judgement, you will be alone before your lord. Your scholars and leaders, your lecturers and family and whoever else will not be there to answer for you, they will be busy answering for themselves. Ask yourselves, have you studied and thought in preparation for the greatest test that is the day of Judgement.