The Quranic God

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The Quranic God

When God talks about Himself as a Being, He describes Himself as One, Unique, and Uncaused Cause, to Whom you find no comparison in the universe or in your imagination.

> Proclaim, "He is the God, (who is) One (and Unique). The God, (who is) Absolutely Independent (the Uncaused Cause.) He neither begets, nor is born. And there is none like Him." [Quran 112:1-4]

> No vision can comprehend Him, but He perceives all visions. He is the Subtle, the Aware. [Quran 6:103]

One God?

God is ONE. But what is the meaning of it? God is not something that we can see with our eyes and count. We know God through His creation. If there were multiple gods, each would have different opinion about running the affairs of the universe. This would have led to chaos and disorder in the universe. You do not need any degree or diploma to understand this simple concept.

Had there been gods besides Allah within the heavens and earth, both would have been ruined ... [Quran 21:22]

Since there is no second God to override or modify the rules, the laws created by One God never change. But, the concept of 'no change' implies restrictions on wandering capricious Will. Has God imposed restrictions on Himself to not change? Let's see what the Quran says about it.

, "To whom belongs all that is in the heavens and earth?" Say, "To God, [Who] has prescribed for Himself grace ("mercy") [Rahmah] ..." [Quran 6:12]

He has made it "mandatory" on Himself to provide [Rahmah]. He has similarly placed other restrictions on Himself.

Those who accept the Message and live upright. There is good news for them in this world and in the Hereafter. God's Words never change ... [Quran 10:63-64]

Nor does anyone else has the power to change His rules. Nor can one escape from His rules.

Completed is the Word of your Lord in truth and justice. None can change His Words. He is the Profound Hearer, the Knower. [Quran 6:115]

… None can alter His Words. And you will find no refuge other than Him. [Quran 18:27]

God is so uncompromising in His decisions, He does not deviate a bit, let alone make a complete replacement or His laws.

Nay, no change you will ever find in the *Sunnah* @{qxp| (behavior, laws) }@ of God, and no deviation you will ever find in the *Sunnah* @{qxp| (behavior, laws) }@ of Allah. [Quran 35:43]

God has created unwavering rules not only for the physical, but for the human life (*Nafs* / "soul") and social life as well.

That was the *Sunnah* @{qxp| (behavior, laws) }@ of God among those who lived before. And never will you find any change in God's *Sunnah* @{qxp| (behavior, laws). [Quran 33:62]

Even a God's messenger has no power to change any of these rules.

Messengers before you were denied and opposed … There is none to alter the Words @{qxp| (Decisions, Decree) }@ of God … (remember they would still not believe) even if you were able to seek a tunnel in the ground or a ladder to the sky and bring them a miracle (on your own) … So, do not be among those who are swayed by ignorance @{qxp| (about the free will.) }@ [Quran 6:34-35]

God wants His servants to reflect and make free choices. See [Quran 2:256] and [Quran 10:99]

God's Expression [*Sunnah*]

We do not anticipate God's actions [*Sunnah*] in the same way we do for humans, such as walking, talking, and eating, etc. So, what is the meaning of "God's Words and His [Sunnah]?"

God either talks through His messengers via His Books, or through His Creation - the universe and its laws.

His Laws in Theory (Words of God = *Kalimaatillah*) and His Laws in Practice as implemented in the Universe (Actions of God = *Sunnatillah*) complement each other and do not contradict. Once He decides on something, He does not change His Mind. Humans change their mind. God is not a human.

See, how He invites us to see Him through His observable universe:

God is the One Who causes the grains and the seeds to split and germinate (according to His Sunnah.) He produces the living from the dead, and the dead from the living. **Such is God**. (This is how never changing Sunnah of God works.) Where are you headed in bewilderment (looking for miracles?) [Quran 6:95]

The consistent laws of seeds germination allow humans to learn agricultural techniques for their benefit. If God changed the rules for seeds germination at random, people will still be living in caves. Just like there are laws for the life of new plant from an apparent dead stone like seeds, and vice versa, human life and death also follows certain rules.

Not only on earth but also in space, everything (planets, sun, and stars) follows His prescribed fixed laws. If they did not follow consistent laws, navigation and tracking would be extremely difficult.

… (He has appointed) the sun and the moon [to run their well-calculated courses [Quran 10:5]] for calculation. [So that they become a means of calculating time for you [Quran 10:5]] . **Such is the Design** of the All-Powerful, the Knower. [Quran 6:96]

He is the One Who has made the stars to guide you through the darkness of the land and the sea. We have scattered Our signs [throughout the Universe] for people who use their knowledge @{qxp| (about never changing natural laws) }@. [Quran 6:97]

Just as everything in the universe follows God's rule, so does the evolution of life.

And He is the One Who initiated you from a single life [cell]. Then @{qxp| (in the process of evolution) } @ He appointed stages, from one station to the next destination. (Thus, goes on the journey of life.) We explain Our Messages for people who use their insight. [Quran 6:98]

Why God Cannot Have a Son?

The universe is only an expression of God's unchanging Attributes. If He has set a rule for procreation through a father and a mother, then even God cannot have a Son because He does not have a mate.

If God wanted, He could have created a Son without a Wife, but His argument is not that He cannot create a Son; His argument is that He does not have a Wife and He cannot violate the law for having a child, which requires two parents. God does not change His *Sunnah*.

Wonderful Originator of the heavens and earth; @{maroon| how can He have a son when He never chose for Himself a mate? }@ He creates all things (in accordance with laws) and He is the Profound Knower of all things and events. [Quran 6:101]

What About The Virgin Birth?

How could Mary have a son without a mate if the God Himself cannot have a son without a mate? God never changes His Laws in the Universe. (Three of the four gospels mention Joseph the Carpenter as the father of Jesus.)

Did Jesus Have a Wife and Children?

His laws do not change for his messengers either. The job of a messenger is to convey the Message. The results (reckoning) will be according to God's rules that never change for anyone.

We did send Messengers before you, and appointed wives and children for them. It was not given to any Messenger that he could bring a sign @{qxp| (the requital they hastened for) }@, but it came according to God's Law of Respite [also 7:34]. For every rise and fall, there is a written law [Quran 13:38]

All Messengers were mortal human beings [3:144] and they conveyed God's Revelation as commanded. Please note that 'all' of them had wives and children and think of Jesus!

(O Messenger) whether We show you what We promise them, or cause you to die before that, your duty is to convey the Message. And the reckoning is Ours. [Quran 13:40]

Laws for Human Life (Psyche)

Natural laws govern the physical world, and we discover them through observation and reasoning. However, there is another set of laws that govern the non-physical world, such as the psyche, self, or "soul," and these laws also follow a structured system. These psychological laws govern how individuals' behaviors impact their inner selves (the *Nafs*) and, in turn, influence larger societal outcomes.

The laws in the non-physical world, like the natural laws, are fixed. Actions driven by lowly desires pollute and degrade the Nafs, leading to spiritual ruin, while good actions nourish and purify it, paving the way for personal and societal flourishing. The Quran highlights the importance of nourishing the Nafs:

And (regarding) the *Nafs* … Successful is he who nourishes/grows it. And failure is he who ruins/pollutes it. [Quran 91:7-10]

As some natural laws are more complex than others, so too are the laws in the non-physical realm. Human free will plays a pivotal role in making this system ultra-complex. Free will adds layers of unpredictability and choice, which shapes the course of individual lives and societies. However, free will does not exempt individuals from the consequences of their actions; it only allows for the freedom to choose actions.

Consider the analogy of a weather system. Countless factors contribute to the specific weather conditions at any given moment. A small change in one factor can radically alter the prediction. This unpredictability does not suggest that weather laws are non-existent, but rather that our understanding of the system is limited. Similarly, the psychological laws governing human behavior and societal outcomes are not always fully predictable due to the complexities introduced by free will.

Despite the complexity, everything in nature, except free will, follows fixed laws. Free will may allow a person to make choices, but it does not grant them control over the consequences of those choices. For example, one may choose to shoot a gun, but no matter how strong their will, they cannot undo the death caused by their action. Similarly, a leader has the freedom to speak their mind, but they cannot control the ripple effects of their words within a society. Their utterances may inspire change, for good or ill, based on the collective psyche of the people.

The Role of Free Will

The existence of free will is crucial in understanding responsibility and accountability in society. Legal systems, moral standards, and social contracts are based on the assumption that humans have the ability to choose their actions. Without free will, the concepts of right and wrong become meaningless, as individuals would not be able to choose between them.

Some neurologists argue that our actions are initiated before we consciously become aware of them, suggesting that free will does not exist. This argument primarily addresses reactionary actions that occur in high-stress or time-sensitive situations, where individuals act based on ingrained habits or instincts. While this might be true in some cases, it does not invalidate the concept of free will. Over time, habits can solidify, but we are still responsible for cultivating these reactions and for choosing whether to act upon them.

Not all actions are reactionary. In many situations, we have ample time to reflect and make decisions based on reason, rather than reflex. This capacity to deliberate and choose is what distinguishes human behavior from mere instinct or reaction. Therefore, while certain actions may be automatic, we maintain the power and responsibility to shape our actions and, by extension, our inner selves (the Nafs) over time.

Conclusion

In both the physical and psychological realms, fixed laws guide outcomes. While free will introduces complexity into the system, it does not exempt individuals from responsibility for their actions. The laws governing the *Nafs* emphasize the importance of nurturing good qualities while avoiding those actions that degrade the soul. Ultimately, the choices we make shape not only our inner selves but also the broader fabric of society.