

11 Lack of understanding and lack of learning

Last time we mentioned two concepts as to why people make mistakes in their belief: ghuloo - which means taking something to excess - and taqleed – which means following someone or something unquestioningly.

In this email, we will mention two more concepts.

The first is lack of reflection and pondering over the universe around us.

This is an argument that is used repeatedly in the Quran.

The beauty of the universe, both on a large scale (the planets, the stars, the size of the galaxies, the setting of the sun, the mountains, etc) and on a minute scale (the structure of atoms and cells, the functioning of the cells in the brain) etc – Muslims believe that all of these things are evidences that Someone has created them.

The Quran mentions:

**Indeed in the creation of the heavens and the earth,
and in the alternation of night and day,
and the ships which sail through the sea with that which is of benefit to mankind,
and the water which Allah sends down from the sky and makes the earth alive
after its death,
and the living creatures of all kinds that He has scattered therein,
and in the veering of winds and clouds which are held between the sky and the
earth
(there) are indeed signs for people of understanding.**

Surah Baqarah (the second surah) ayah 164

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The second idea is lack of importance given to learning.

Sadly in many parts of the Muslim world very little attention is paid to teaching people about the fundamental aspects of Islam. So generations of children grow up without having much understanding of Islam, not knowing the basics – so how can a house be firm and strong when its foundations are weak or non-existent?

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NEXT TIME:

We will begin to talk about tawheed – the belief in the Oneness of God – in particular, with regard to His uniqueness in Creating, Sustaining and Controlling the Affairs of the Universe.

We will see how this is a belief that is found throughout all communities in all times.

This belief is called Tawheed ur Ruboobiyah – the Oneness of Allah in terms of His Lordship.