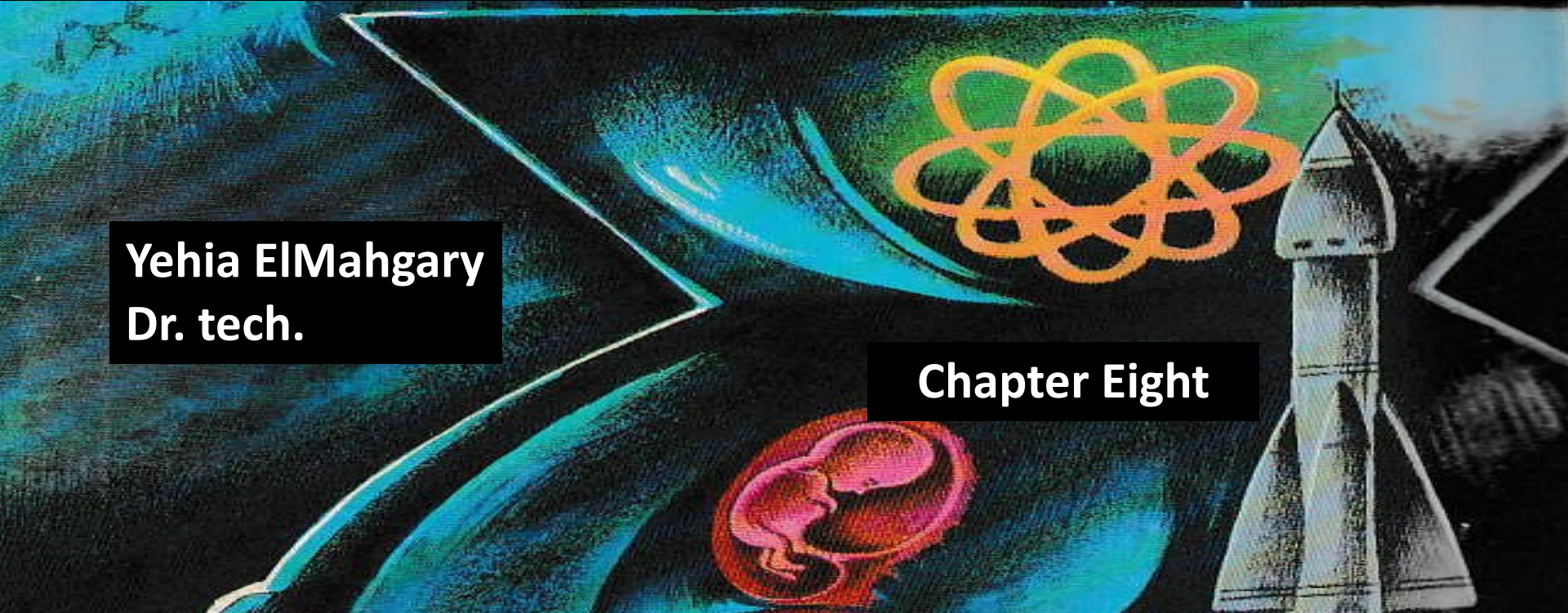


Verses of Qur'an in the niche of Science

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Chapter Eight



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious the Most Merciful

Chapter Eight

Free Will and Predestination

The Verses of Qur'an

❖ **And say the truth from your Lord. (الكهف 29)**

Whosoever wills, let him believe and whosoever will let him disbelieve. (18/29)

❖ **إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ لِلنَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ ۚ فَمَنِ اهْتَدَىٰ فَلِنَفْسِهِ ۚ وَمَنْ ضَلَّ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهَا ۚ وَمَا أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِوَكِيلٍ (الزمر 41)**

Verily we have sent down to you the book for mankind in truth. So whosoever accepts the guidance, it is only for his own self, and whosoever goes astray, he goes astray he goes only for his own loss. And you are not a guardian over them. (39/41)

❖ **يُثَبِّتُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِالْقَوْلِ الثَّابِتِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ ۚ وَيُضِلُّ اللَّهُ الظَّالِمِينَ ۗ وَيَفْعَلُ اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ (ابراهيم 27)**

Allah will keep firm those who believe, with the word that stands firm in this world and in the Hereafter. And Allah will cause to go astray those who are wrong-doers /polytheists, and Allah does what He wills. (14/27).

❖ **يُضِلُّ بِهِ كَثِيرًا وَيَهْدِي بِهِ كَثِيرًا ۚ وَمَا يُضِلُّ بِهِ إِلَّا الْفَاسِقِينَ (البقرة 26)**

He misleads many, and many He guides thereby. And He misleads thereby only those who are wrong-doers/rebellious (2/26)

❖ **إِنَّ هَذِهِ تَذْكِرَةٌ ۚ فَمَنْ شَاءَ اتَّخَذْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا ، وَمَا تَشَاءُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا (الإنسان 29-30)**

Verily this (Quranic Verse) is an admonition, so whosoever wills, let him take a Path to his Lord. But you cannot will, unless Allah wills. Verily, Allah is Ever All Knowing All Wise (76/29-

30)

The Relativity of Free Will and Predestination

❖ If some one asks “is Japan located in the East or in the West?” We have to ask him “Relative to Europe or US?” Japan is at the East of Asia and Europe, but at the west of US. Similarly, if some one asks “Has the human free will or is he



predestinated?” we have to ask him “Relative to who, to the human himself or to the Creator?”

❖ As relative to the human himself (with the exception of a few events like death, accidents and illness) he has a complete Free Will. The Creator has provided him with the free will, gave him a mind and a heart to think and decide, ordered him through His messengers to do good deeds and avoid bad ones, and left him after that to choose without pressure or coercion.

❖ But relative to the Creator, human seems to be predestinated, as He knows before our birth, the path each one of us will take, and He sees us following that path, even though each step is taken by our own free will.

❖ Thus the answer to the question whether human is predestinated or has a free will is that he has free will with respect to himself, but he is predestinated with respect to the Creator.

The Responsibility of the Free Will

وَقُلِ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ طَفَمَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيُؤْمِنْ وَمَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيُكْفِرْ (الكهف 29)

“And say the truth from your Lord. Whosoever wills, let him believe and whosoever will let him disbelieve.” (18/29)

This is the most important test of the free will; to believe or not. People after that split into believers and non believers.

❖ God Almighty has promised to guide the believers, **“And whosoever believes in Allah, He guides his heart” (64/11),**

“And they are guided unto goodly speech and they are guided to His path” (22/24).

❖ We have a beautiful example in the people of the cave. **“We narrate unto you their story in truth: Truly they were young men who believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance” (18/13)**

❖ And if they combined their believe with good deeds , they will be rewarded them Gardens of delight in Paradise. **“Verily those who believe, and do deeds of righteousness, their Lord will guide them through their Faith; under them will flow rivers in the Gardens of Delight (Paradise).” (10/9)**



What about the Non-Believers

”إِنَّ لَمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكَ فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّمَا يَتَّبِعُونَ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّنِ اتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ بِغَيْرِ هُدًى مِنَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ“ (القصص 50)

But if they answer you not (believe in Islamic Monotheism), then know that they only follow their own lusts. And who is more astray than who follows his own lust, without guidance from Allah? Verily Allah guides not the wrongdoers/polytheists (28/50)

”ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ اسْتَحَبُّوا الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا عَلَى الْآخِرَةِ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ“ (النحل 107)

That is because they loved and preferred the life of this world over that of the Hereafter. And Allah guides not the people who disbelieve (16/107)

So when they turned away, Allah

”فَلَمَّا زَاغُوا أَزَاغَ اللَّهُ قُلُوبَهُمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ“ (الصف 5).

turned their hearts away. And Allah guides not the people who are disobedient (61/5)

”إِنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَا يَهْدِيهِمُ اللَّهُ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ“ (النحل 104)

“Verily! Those who believe not in the signs of Allah, Allah will not guide them and theirs will be a painful torment (16/104)

The message we get from these verses is that our Lord doesn't guide wrongdoers, polytheists, disbelievers, rebellions and those who are disobedient, who selected that path by themselves.

It doesn't end here, but God Almighty will lead astray the polytheist, the disbelievers and the disobedient. ”كَذَلِكَ يُضِلُّ اللَّهُ مَنْ هُوَ مُسْرِفٌ مُرْتَابٌ“ (40/34) Thus Allah leads astray him who is

doubtful polytheist ”كَذَلِكَ يُضِلُّ اللَّهُ الْكَافِرِينَ“ Thus Allah leads astray the disbelievers (74/34)

Is there a way for non-believers to faith

❖ We now know from the verses of the last slide that our Lord leads astray the polytheist, the disbelievers and the disobedient (into the same path they chosed by themselves). Is there a way for them to find the righteous path? The following verses tell us that their will wouldn't be enough to guide them, and God Almighty's will should come first, and He should first allow them to find the right path. **إِنَّ هَذِهِ تَذْكِرَةٌ ۖ فَمَنْ شَاءَ اتَّخَذْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا ، وَمَا تَشَاءُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا (76/29 – 30)**

Verily this is an admonition, so whoever wills, let him take a path to his Lord. But you cannot will, unless Allah wills. Verily, Allah is ever all-knowing all-wise. It is not for any person to believe, except by the Leave of Allah, and He will put the wrath on those who are headless.

❖ The solution for those polytheist and non-believers to find the righteous path, is mentioned in another verse. **Verily! Allah will not change the condition of a people as long as they don't change their state. (13/11)** **إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ**

❖ Thus only when a polytheist or a non-believer thinks to repent, he/she has first to change themselves and is ready to believe in the monotheism of Islam and worship the One Creator. Then He will accept their repenting as He forgives all sins, **Despair not from the mercy of Allah: verily, Allah forgives all sins. Truly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful (39/53)**

The fallacy of the unbelievers

God Almighty told us that the unbelievers will play with words
سَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا لَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا أَشْرَكْنَا وَلَا آبَاؤُنَا وَلَا حَرَمْنَا مِنْ شَيْءٍ كَذَلِكَ كَذَّبَ
Those who took partners with our Lord will say If Allah had willed we would not have taken partners with Him nor would our fathers, and we would not have forbidden anything (against His will). (6/148).

❖ The fallacy here is that they said, “If God had willed we wouldn’t have taken partners with Him.” If they had said, “If God had willed He could have guided us to the right path,” that would have been the truth, as the selection of the wrong path comes through the person’s will, but the selection of the right path comes as inspiration from God.

❖ The same message we find in other verses. First comes the invitation, “And follow the best of that which is sent down to you from your Lord”. Then comes the warning, “before the torment comes upon you, then you will not be helped.” Third the regret that God didn’t guide him, “Or he should say, ‘if only Allah has guided me I should indeed have been among the pious.’” Finally, the request of the impossible, “Or lest he should say when he sees the torment, ‘If only I have another chance, then I should be among the Good-doers.’” (39/55 - 58)



Fate and destiny



Human never knows anything about fate and destiny, and often he mixes between fate and destiny, and those actions which depend on free will. The non-believers used to blame the Prophet (pbuh) about the mishaps that occurred to them. God Almighty corrected to them that things that considered destiny are all from our Lord, “وَأِنْ تُصِيبْهُمْ”

حَسَنَةً يَقُولُوا هَذِهِ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ وَإِنْ تُصِيبْهُمْ سَيِّئَةٌ يَقُولُوا هَذِهِ مِنْ عِنْدِكَ ۗ قُلْ كُلُّ مِّنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ

And if some good reaches them, they say, “This is from Allah”, but if some evil befalls them, they say, “This is from you (Mohammad)”. Say, “all things are from Allah”, so what is wrong with these people that they fail to understand any word? (4/78)

On the other hand, when a person uses his free will and gets good result, it is from his Lord, and he has to be grateful for his Lord that He guided him. But if he gets evil consequences, he has to blame himself as he made the wrong choice.

Whatever of good reaches you is from Allah, but whatever of evil befalls you, is from yourself. And we have sent you as a Messenger to mankind, and Allah is sufficient as a Witness. (4/79)

Summary of Chapter 8

- ❖ We explained in the beginning of the Chapter that Free Will and Predestination are relative issues. With respect to the human, we find that he has free will in all his actions, most important of which is the selection between to believe or not to believe. وَقُلِ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ ^طفَمَنْ (الكهف 29) **“And say the truth from your Lord. Whosoever wills, let him believe and whosoever will let him disbelieve.”** (18/29). God Almighty promised to guide the hearts of the believers, (التغابن 11) **“And whosoever believes in Allah, He will guide his heart”**, (64/11) and to enjoy the Gardens of Paradise, **“إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ** (الكهف 107). **“Verily, those who believe (in Islamic Monotheism) and do righteous deeds, shall have the gardens of Paradise for their entertainment.”** (18/107).
- ❖ If the human selects not believe in the revelation and the Qura'nic verses, God Almighty will not guide them, and they will suffer from severe torment, **“إِنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَا يَهْدِيهِمُ اللَّهُ** (النحل 104) **“Verily those who believe not in the revelations/verses of Allah, Allah will not guide them and theirs will be painful torment.”** (16/104). The solution for those polytheist and non-believers to find the righteous path, is mentioned in another verse. **إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ** (13/11) **“Verily! Allah will not change the condition of a people as long as they don't change their state.”** (13/11)

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