

2. Divine Purpose of Creation

Knowledge of the purpose of an object is a pre-requisite to understand it holistically in the right perspective. The understanding of the object will be imperfect and erroneous if the purpose is not known. This is true for the universe also. The knowledgebase we generate about the universe and human life in science is not only incomplete but is also misleading as it lacks information on the purpose of creation. We will be able to develop true knowledge of the universe and man only if we know the purpose of creation. We cannot arrive at the purpose of the universe through speculation and scientific experimentation. The knowledge of the purpose is with the Creator alone. He alone can provide that information. Allah reveals that information not through science but through His Book – the Quran. The Quran is the only source that reveals to us the divine purpose of creation. The atheist scientific community however argues that the universe was not created but it originated by chance with no purpose to serve. The Creator addresses the atheists and unbelievers in clear harsh terms.

وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاءَ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا بَاطِلًا ۗ ذَلِكَ ظَنُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ۖ فَوَيْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنَ النَّارِ

38:27 Not without purpose did We create the sky, the earth and all in between! That is the impression of the unbelievers. So woe to the unbelievers from the (punishment of) Fire!

وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا لَاعِبِينَ ۚ مَا خَلَقْنَاهُمَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

44:38-39 We had not created the skies, the earth and all in between as (idle) sport. We created them in truth (with purpose). But most of them do not understand.

وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ ۗ وَإِنَّ السَّاعَةَ لَآتِيَةٌ ۖ فَاصْفَحِ الصَّفْحَ الْجَمِيلَ

15:85 We had not created the skies, the earth and all between them except for just ends. And the Hour will surely come. So you excuse (their faults) beautifully (O Prophet!).

مَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ۗ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا عَمَّا أُنذِرُوا مُّعْرِضُونَ

46:3 We created the skies and the earth and all in between in truth (i.e., with purpose) and for a fixed term. But those who reject Faith turn away from what they are warned of.

خَلَقَ اللَّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ ۗ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ

29:44 Allah created the skies and the earth with truth (i.e., with purpose). Verily in that is a sign for the believers.

Allah conveys the purpose of creating man and the universe through the following verses.

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

51:56 I have created *jinn* and man only to serve Me.

The purpose of creating man and *jinn* by Allah is to serve Him. Allah uses the word *abd* to describe *jinn* and man. *Abd* in Arabic means servant. In computer parlance the word *abd* means robot. Way back in 1920, Karel Capek, Czech playwright, portrayed human workers as ‘robots’ (‘robota’ in Czechoslovakian means servitude) in his play ‘Rossum’s Universal Roboters’. It is from this word, man’s latest technological marvel, robot, derives its name. Verse 51:56 reveals that man is created by Allah as His servant (*abd*). Therefore, the Arabic word *abd* technically means robot. Human beings endowed with

intelligence, consciousness and freewill (freedom to take decision) are created to serve Allah as His vicegerents on planet Earth (Q. 2:30 quoted above).

The earth mentioned in verse 2:30 refers to the earth of the next permanent universe (Q. 14:48, 21:104-105) where human robots are intended to serve Allah forever. It is that earth (and not the present earth) which is described in the Quran as the Garden (or Heaven) that will be inherited by Allah's selected human robots. See the following verses:

يَوْمَ تُبَدَّلُ الْأَرْضُ غَيْرَ الْأَرْضِ وَالسَّمَاوَاتُ وَبَرَزُوا لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ

14:48 The Day the earth will be changed to a different earth and so will be the skies, and they (human robots) will appear before Allah, the One, the Irresistible.

يَوْمَ نَطْوِي السَّمَاءَ كَطَيِّ السِّجْلِ لِلْكِتَابِ كَمَا بَدَأْنَا أَوَّلَ خَلْقٍ نُعِيدُهُ وَعَدَّا عَلَيْهَا إِنَّا كُنَّا فَاعِلِينَ وَأَقْدَمْنَا فِي الزَّبُورِ مِنْ بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ أَنَّ الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ

21:104-105 The Day We roll up the sky like a scroll rolled up for books! As We originated the first creation, so shall We repeat it – a promise binding on Us. Truly shall We fulfill it. Before this, We wrote in the *Zaboor* (the Book given to Prophet David) after the Reminder (*Taurat* given to Moses) that My righteous servants will inherit the earth (Heaven).

Not all human robots are going to be deployed by Allah as vicegerents on the next Earth (i.e., Heaven), but only the selected righteous human robots (Q. 21:105) will be admitted to Heaven. Since man is bestowed with freewill, he has discretionary freedom. He is at liberty to take decision himself. He can either accept Allah as his Master and obey His instructions or reject Him and His directions. This necessitates testing of human robots for their obedience to Allah prior to their deployment as His robots or servants. It is to test the human robots the present temporary universe was created by Allah.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ وَكَانَ عَرْشُهُ عَلَى الْمَاءِ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَلَئِنْ قُلْتُمْ إِنَّكُمْ مَبْعُوثُونَ مِنْ بَعْدِ الْمَوْتِ لَيُقُولَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنْ هَذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُبِينٌ

11:7 It is He who created the skies and the earth in six days. And His Throne was over water – in order to test which of you are best in conduct. But if you tell them you will indeed be raised up after death, the unbelievers will surely say this is nothing but obvious sorcery.

إِنَّا خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ أَمْشَاجٍ نَبْتَلِيهِ فَجَعَلْنَاهُ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا

76:2 Verily We created man from a mixed drop in order to test him. So We gave him faculties of hearing and sight.

وَخَلَقَ اللَّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ وَلِيُجْزَىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ

45:22 Allah created the skies and the earth with truth in order to recompense every soul what it has earned. And they will not be treated unjustly.

This temporary universe serves as the infrastructure facility for conducting the human robot testing. This universe will end on completion of the test programme and a new universe will be created. The present Earth, the habitat of human beings, serves as the human robot testing laboratory. It is on Earth Allah has provided all the necessary resources and means of livelihood for a fixed term, the test period. This was revealed to Adam and Eve while they were sent to this earth following their failure in the first test in Heaven.

قَالَ اهْبِطُوا بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُسْتَقَرٌّ وَمَتَاعٌ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ قَالَ فِيهَا تَحْيَوْنَ وَفِيهَا تَمُوتُونَ وَمِنْهَا تُخْرَجُونَ

7:24-25 He (Allah) said: “You (Adam and Eve) get down with mutual enmity among yourselves. And on the earth is your dwelling place and means of livelihood for a term (fixed). He (Allah) said: “Therein shall you live and therein shall you die and from there shall you be brought out (i.e., resurrection).

وَاللَّهُ أَنْبَتَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ نَبَاتًا ثُمَّ يُعِيدُكُمْ فِيهَا وَيُخْرِجُكُمْ إِخْرَاجًا

71:17-18 And Allah produced you from the earth in large numbers. Subsequently He returns you into it (the earth) and gets you out (from it again on the Day of Resurrection).

The present life on Earth is therefore test life for man. Allah has given this life to man as an opportunity to prove one’s voluntary submission to Him by living this life in accordance with His commandments. So, it is up to the individual to live accordingly and make his test life successful. This is made amply clear in the following verse.

وَهُمْ يَصْطَرِّحُونَ فِيهَا رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا غَيْرَ الَّذِي كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ ۖ أَوَلَمْ نُعَمِّرْكُم مَّا يَتَذَكَّرُ فِيهِ مَن تَذَكَّرَ وَجَاءَكُمُ النَّذِيرُ فَتَدْفِقُوا فَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِن نَّصِيرٍ

35:37 Therein (Hell) they will cry aloud (for assistance): “Our Lord! Get us out. We will do good deeds (and) not the (deeds) we were doing.” (Allah will reply:) “Had We not given you long enough life to think during that (period)?” And the warner (also) came to you. So you taste (the fruit of your deeds). There is no helper for the wrongdoers.

Death marks the end of the test life of an individual. After death we will be resurrected. Everything one does during the test life is being recorded in real time. That record forms the dossier of performance of an individual. This record will be handed over to the individual on the Day of Judgement following resurrection based on which Heaven or Hell will be awarded to him.

وَكُلُّ إِنْسَانٍ أَلْزَمْنَاهُ طَائِرَهُ فِي عُنُقِهِ ۖ وَنُخْرِجُ لَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ كِتَابًا يَلْقَاهُ مَنشُورًا ۖ اقْرَأْ كِتَابَكَ كَفَىٰ بِنَفْسِكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكَ حَسِيبًا
17:13-14 Every man’s fate We have fastened on his own neck. On the Day of Judgment We will bring out for him a book (i.e., record or dossier), which he will find wide open. (He will be told): “You read your record; sufficient are you today to assess your account.”

The earth of the next universe is the Heaven (or Garden) which Allah promised to His sincere devotees (who are successful in the test) where they will live forever.

وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقَنَا وَعْدَهُ وَأَوْرَثَنَا الْأَرْضَ نَتَّبِعُوهُ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ حَيْثُ نَشَاءُ ۖ فَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ

39:74 They (the successful human robots) will say: “All praises to Allah who fulfilled His promise to us and made us the inheritors of the earth (i.e., Heaven, which is the re-created earth) to dwell anywhere we like in this Garden.” How superb the reward of the (good) doers is!

In the light of these revelations, Allah’s mission may be summarized as follows. Allah created a conscious, intelligent and free-willed robot to serve Him as His vicegerent on the earth of a giant eternal universe. This free-willed robot is man. The creation of a robot system with freewill and consciousness is indicative of Allah’s intention to have a workforce that voluntarily accepts Him as the Master and submits to Him in all humility. Since man is endowed with freewill he can either accept Allah as his Master or reject Him. This necessitates testing of human beings for their voluntary

submission to the will of God. Only those human robots who voluntarily accept Him as their only Master and obey His orders during the test will be selected to serve Him. The present temporary universe was therefore created by God to provide the facility for testing human robots. The present Earth is the laboratory, a simulated environment representing, in a limited sense, Heaven – the final abode promised by Allah to the successful human robots. The life of human beings on this temporary earth is the test life. During the test life the performance of each individual will be recorded in real-time. At the end of the human robot testing programme, this universe will end and the next permanent universe will be created in continuation. The human robots will be judged individually by Allah based on their test records and the successful robots will be selected to serve Him forever in Heaven (the Earth of the next universe) as His faithful vicegerents. The others will get punishment in Hell. This is briefly the divine mission.

A hypothetical example of humanoid robot testing

Man is created by Allah as His robot (servant). A robot is a programmed machine designed to perform tasks desired by its master. It is essentially a computer with three additional features namely, sensors (which receive data from the environment), microprocessors (which transform data into information) and actuators (or muscles, which control the energy requirement). Much progress has been made in the field of robotics. Humanoid robot capable of walking, running, playing, climbing, etc. has been developed (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Honda Asimo robot

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASIMO> Accessed August 5, 2012.

The robots are programmed dedicated systems that can be put to work not only in factories and other places of interest but also in hostile environments where man dreads

to tread. The so-called humanoid robot, an artificial biosystem, which can move, sense and work based on a software is nowhere near the human biosystem in features and capabilities. The man-made robot system is comparable with an animal biosystem. Human biosystem is far beyond this level of sophistication. An artificial biosystem like robot can mimic man if it can learn (converting data into information consciously), speak, feel (emotions, pain, etc.) and most of all, take decisions and act on its own. As of today, man has not met his artificial counterpart.

Nevertheless, consider a hypothetical situation wherein man did succeed (God willing) in developing a humanoid robot system. Let us say, the system was developed to work in certain special environments like hospital, planet, etc. Since the system is provided with freewill, it is imperative that man tests not only its electronic and mechanical efficiencies but also its preparedness to obey its master and act willingly in the interest of its master. Needless to say, the obedience of the system to its master (man) and its wilful submission to him during the test period form the most crucial criteria for judging its worth and acceptability. This would necessitate real-time logging of the activities of the robot during its test period for evaluation later.

A genuine question may be asked in this context. That is, if the robots are programmed to obey their master, they would have functioned as slaves and thus obviated the need of testing. The question is justifiable only in human context because man is a created system and not creator. Creator is one who is not created but creates everything. The Creator alone can have ego and not the created. Any programmed system without freewill can act only as it is programmed. The entire universe with all its nonliving and living components excepting man is such a system. A 'programmed obedience' is quite different from the wilful voluntary obedience because in the latter case, the system is consciously admitting the authority and power of its master thereby satisfying the master's ego.

Coming back to the hypothetical humanoid robot testing by man, ideally the humanoid robots should be tested in a simulated environment corresponding to that of their future place of work where they will be deployed. For instance, if the humanoid robot is intended for use in underground mines, the robot should be designed to suit that environment, and the test laboratory should be similar to the mine environment. Further, the laboratory should provide all the necessary amenities and facilities for the sustenance of the robots during the entire test period. It is also important to convey to them by man the objectives of the test and what man expects from them. Man should also formulate for them rules and code of conduct for maintaining social harmony, justice and peace during the test period. The instructions and rules formulated by man as guidance to his test subjects during the test period are essentially what constitute their religion. The most efficient and effective method of conveying the religious messages would be through representatives selected from among the robots themselves.

Besides, man should also teach the robots how to use the facilities provided in the laboratory, how to utilise the raw materials available there for making things useful to them, how to repair the components and gadgets provided in the laboratory as well as their own repair. This knowledge would constitute their science and technology. The scientific and technological knowledge can also be transmitted to them through selected robots (i.e., scientists).

During the test period, man will be evaluating the performance of the robots on individual basis. Besides monitoring the activities of the robots, the activities of each robot can also be recorded in its memory. The memory storage thus forms the record of its performance during the test period which can be evaluated later by man. Only those who are found to have obeyed his instructions will be selected for serving him. This example of testing a hypothetical free-willed humanoid robots by man will help understand the mission of Allah with man and the universe He created.