History of Truth
the Truth About God & Religions
(1)
In Search of God

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1. In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

2. All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the ‘Alamin (mankind, jinns and all that exists).

3. The Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

4. The Only Owner (and the Only Ruling Judge) of the Day of Recompense (i.e. the Day of Resurrection)

5. You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything).

6. Guide us to the Straight Way

7. The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger (such as the Jews), nor of those who went astray (such as the Christians).

(Quran 1:1-7)
DEDICATIONS

To The God of the universe.

Thank You for showing me Your way.

Allah, I bear witness that there is no god but You.
Allah, all Praises are to You for Your Glory, Mercy and Bounty.
Allah, please accept this humble effort and forgive me for my shortcomings.
Allah, help me to disseminate this knowledge to those who need it.
Allah, help me to live as a Muslim and die as a believer.
Allah, bless anyone who seeks the truth and Your way.

My Lord! Bestow on them (my parents) Your Mercy as they did bring me up when I was young.

Amen.
The History of the Truth
about God and Religion
Translation of Al-Azhar’s approval for publishing this book

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

AL - AZHAR
ISLAMIC RESEARCH ACADEMY
GENERAL DEPARTMENT

For Research, Writing & translation

Dr. Adel Mahmoud Elsaie

May Peace be upon you and the mercy and blessings of Allah.
Following your request for examining and reviewing your book:
“History of Truth, The Truth about God and Religions.”
We would like to inform you that this book follows Islamic beliefs and
can be published at your expense.
Please ensure the utmost accuracy of the verses of the Quran and the
Prophetic Sayings.

May Allah guide your steps.
May Peace be upon you and the mercy and blessings of Allah.

General Manager, Department of Research, Writing & translation.
Throughout time immemorial, man has been in search of the truth. The truth, relative to physical phenomena and spiritual experiences, has led mankind to a winding course. Sometimes, confusion and disorientation of the principles of life, unfortunately, can taint this course. Religion and philosophy are the historical vehicles for the search of truth. While religion presents the Divine aspect of the purpose of life, philosophy is a human attempt to gain a higher intellectual knowledge of oneself, morality and the underlying meaning of life. The current tendency to separate science and religion imposes disgraceful restrictions on science to achieve even more prosperous horizon. This book incorporates theology, natural sciences and philosophy in an attempt to satisfy the eternal quest for the search of the ultimate truth.

It is easy to go through life avoiding difficult questions about our origin and our destiny. It is easy not to talk about dying, or why people suffer. However, life would not be the same if there were no questions and answers. It is important to have an accurate understanding of our origin and yes, its pursuit is worthwhile. Everyone needs a sense of identity, purpose and personal goals. This is impossible without a sense of origin. What a person believes about human origin will condition that person’s life style and affect one’s ultimate destiny. Our origin goes back, perhaps, tens of thousands of years and our destiny takes us from the present time to eternity. Although our life on this earth spans through, perhaps, 60 or 70 years, we are heavily involved with this short time while neglecting our origin and destiny.

Sometimes we have very interesting and yet vital questions that linger in our minds:

• Why do humans suffer and how can one be happy?
• What is the purpose of this life?
• What will happen to us after death?
• Does God exist?
• Were we created or did we evolve from apes?
• Why do we have this huge universe?
When one asks these questions to anyone, one gets different answers such as:

- I do not care and I just want to enjoy my life.
- Leave me alone. I am trying to survive.
- I do not know. I never thought about that.
- I know that God exists, but I am confused with all those religions. I do not know which one is right. I will try to live a good moral life and that is it.
- I know that God exists, but I am not really doing a good job in preparing myself to meet Him. Maybe I will do that when I retire and have more time.

Only a small percentage of people know why they exist and they are living their lives the way it is supposed to be. Those are the people who understand their priorities in life and act accordingly. Those are the people who appreciate human knowledge and know its limitation. Those are the people who realize the difference between science and reality. Einstein said "One thing I have learned in a long life - that all our science, measured against reality, is primitive and childlike... Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind" (1941).

In the present time, it seems that science and technology have an answer for everything. Consequently, many people may tend to think that they know everything. If you ask one of those persons about life and how it started, the answer will be quick and most likely will be: life started as an organic substance that came to earth through a comet that collided with earth billions of years ago. Life after that evolved according to Darwin, (1809 - 1882). Ask him again about human behavior and he will start referring to Freud, (1856 - 1939). Then, most people tend to think that we know all the answers about everything. The reality is that we know very little about few things. And if you don’t believe this statement, just ask a pharmacist how aspirin works, a brain surgeon how the brain works, or a psychoanalyst how we dream.

One of the top priorities of everyone in this life, regardless of one’s wealth or social status, is to make one’s house comfortable. The English language provides the word "home" to emphasize a feeling of comfort, security, peace and love in a house. Humans spend a lot of time and energy to change a house into a home. If someone plans to move to another house, he usually reserves his energy and money for the next house.
However, everyone knows that all our homes are temporary and sooner or later everyone will move to another house or home called "the grave." Should we not be wise and invest a little bit in making sure that this grave is a home? Should we not make sure that this home will have "light and heat"? Would we not like to have this grave as a piece of paradise? Ancient Egyptians dramatized this concept 5000 years ago. They did not just build graves; they built pyramids. The fourth dynasty pharaoh Khufu (also known as Cheops) built the great pyramid of Giza, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, as his tomb. The pictures of this tomb do not do the pyramid any justice. This pyramid is much larger than anyone would think. It covers 13 acres and contains more than 2 million blocks of stone, (Lacovara & Millar, 2004, p. 40). This proves that what the ancient Egyptians experienced in their daily life was just as important as what awaited them beyond the death's gate. They firmly believed in an afterlife that was not all that different from the normal life. This concept of ensuring comfort in the afterlife, although practiced by polytheists, had its root in the original monotheist religion, perhaps by Enoch (Prophet Idris in Arabic). Some scholars believe that Prophet Idris was the same as the ancient Egyptian god Osiris.

The questions, that everyone should ask, are:

- Should I invest heavily in a home that I will live in, perhaps, for tens of years, or in the home that I will live there for, perhaps, thousands of years?

- How can I make this home for thousands of years extremely comfortable?

The Quran goes one step further than that by labeling life in the grave as only a visit, which indicates a short stay, compared to eternity.

Over thirty years ago after graduation from college, I found myself thinking about religion and God. I wanted to search for the ultimate truth. I wanted to know the true purpose of life. Taking answers for granted from someone was not good enough for me. I wanted to "feel" the answers and not just "know" them. I wanted to have a strong faith based upon logic. A few times during prayer, I was wondering if I was just following a ritual. How do I make sure that God exists? How do I achieve strong belief? And, how do I know that I am following the right religion? My religion tells me that it is the true religion. This is also the same for Christianity,
Judaism, Buddhism and the rest of the religions. I want to be sure that I am following the right religion. Humans have choices to select a religion, but they cannot control the consequences of their choices. Consequently, I started my search with an open mind and a total objectivity.

I started reading books that addressed the existence of God. To my delight, I found an Arabic book about God and the modern sciences written by Dr. Abdel-Razek Nofal. This book had a great effect on me throughout my life because it convinced me that God truly exists. This can be demonstrated by the numerous examples that show the perfect balance in the universe and the intricate design of the earth, its atmosphere and its different life forms. Then I asked myself the next basic question; what is the right religion? I read about Moses, Jesus, Buddha and Confucius. I excluded Judaism since it is not a universal religion and not just anyone can be Jewish. It is hard to believe that God, the Ultimate Just, has chosen only about 15 million Jews as His people at the present time and the 6 billion gentiles on Earth have no chance for salvation. A Muslim has to believe in Moses, his message, his miracles, as well as the Jewish and all other prophets. This makes the original Judaism included in Islam. I read the Bible and the Quran. I had so many troubles with the Bible. My first problem was the eternal confusion of the mystery of the trinity. Is God one, or two, or three? My Christian friends told me that God is one. But there is a statement in the Bible that says that Jesus ascended to heaven and sat on the right hand side of God. This makes them two separate beings. I was told that they are two but they are one and I just had to have faith. Every time I discuss this subject with my Christian friends, we found ourselves involved in a Byzantine argument where no conclusion could be reached. It is interesting to note that the term Byzantine argument was coined in the second century AD, when Christians argued about the nature of God as compared to the nature of Jesus.

Next, the last words of Jesus on the cross are very confusing. First, there are four different versions of the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This raises major questions about the accuracy of recording a Holy Book. These verses are part of a Christian doctrine of divine inspiration. If God had inspired these four gospel writers, why did God inspire them to record different words? These verses are not just different words, but totally different concepts. It seems that the closest statement should be the one that Jesus said in his own Aramaic language: *Jesus cried with a loud voice saying Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?“*(Matthew 27:46, &
Mark 15:34, though it is Eloi instead of Eli in Mark,) which means “God, God, why have you abandoned me?”

It is hard to believe that Jesus said that God abandoned him. There are three possibilities:

- **He said that.** Then, why did the son of God think that his father abandoned him? Jesus told the disciples that he would die and rise from the dead in three days. He knew that he would die and be resurrected, so how can that be called abandonment? If he is the son of God that came to save humanity with his blood, so how can that be called abandonment? If he knew his mission in life, so how can that be called abandonment? This statement simply contradicts all the New Testament. Many Christian scholars have the same trouble justifying this statement.

- **He did not say that.** This means that Matthew and Mark were not accurate and God did not inspire the Gospels because God would not allow any inaccuracies.

- **The man on the cross was not Jesus!** This may seem at first sight as an unreasonable idea. But if we know that the same sentence, word for word, exists in the songs of David, Psalm 22.1, one may be tempted to suggest that the man on the Cross was a Jew asking God for help from his Old Testament.

It is interesting to note that Christian theologians introduced a branch called Apologetics to provide answers to criticisms against Christian beliefs. Apologetics started early in Christian history to resolve many contradictions in the New Testament. It is no secret that the word Apologetics came from the Latin word "apology" and the Greek origin "Logos." Some apologists suggest that Jesus said all the above versions. This is in spite of the fact that no single Gospel included all the four versions. Analyzing the Apologetics reasoning of the above four versions of Jesus’ last word does not present a satisfactory argument. Also, recent Apologetics advocates that historical and archeological evidences support early Christian history. That is a fair statement. However, historical and archeological evidences support the historical Jesus only and cannot be extended to support the Christian belief about the nature of Jesus. In the New Testament, Jesus always presented himself as the "son of man." He never said that he was the son of god. Forty years later, Paul made him the
"son of god," and in the first Ecumenical Council of Churches. 325 AD, Athanasius made Jesus of the same Divine "substance" as that of God.

The three monotheistic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam originated in the Middle East. Islam and Christianity share many common beliefs and history that no other two religions may claim to share: Oneness of God, Day of Judgment, resurrection from the dead, eternal afterlife and the moral values of peace, freedom and justice. While there are differences between Muslims and Christians about the nature of Jesus, (Pbuh i.e. Peace be upon him) there is no disagreement in the Middle East about the Name of God, or the status of many of the common prophets in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Noah (Pbuh), Abraham (Pbuh), Moses (Pbuh) and Jesus (Pbuh), are also prophets in Islam. The Quran declares Mary as the holiest woman ever (Chapter "Surah" 3, verse "Ayah" 42) - not Muhammad's (Pbuh) mother, daughter, or wife. One complete chapter in the Quran is devoted to Mary with her name as the title of chapter 19. The Bible does not give Mary the same honor. The Quran mentions Jesus and Mary 34 times and Muhammad 4 times.

Arab-speaking Christians and Muslims recognize Allah as the only name of God. Any Arab-speaking Christian, when asked about the name of God, would answer Allah! The English Old Testament starts with: "In the beginning, God created the heaven and earth."The Arabic Old Testament starts with: "In the beginning, Allah created the heaven and earth." The name of God throughout the Arabic Old and New Testament is Allah.

It is ironic that the Western Christians are unaware of the name of God of their Arabic brothers. The differences in the stature of the prophets in Judaism, Christianity and Islam involve only Jesus and Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Them. Jews do not recognize Jesus and claim that he was a false Messiah and Christians do not recognize Muhammad and claim that he was a false prophet.

Moreover, some Christians may feel that the Quran has satanic origin, God forbid, because the Quran does not recognize the divine nature of Jesus (Pbuh). This is a false notion. Satan is rejected and accursed in many verses in the Quran. Also, Muslims have to seek the protection of God from Satan every time they recite the Quran.

After extensive reading and thinking, I became convinced that Islam is the righteous religion and Islam has the answer to all our social, economic
and judicial troubles. That is when I decided to write this book with the only motive to make the truth known.

To try to reach answers about vital questions, assumptions and criteria have to be adopted. The guidelines followed in reaching conclusions in this book are as follows:

1. This book is for anyone, from any faith, who seeks the truth.
2. Not a single attempt was intended to offend any faith, or lack of, for that matter.
3. The search for knowledge should be approached with an open mind, heart and soul and that search should not decrease or stop.
4. Our logical approach is real and meaningful with no deception or arrogant ideas.
5. Divine Creation is not subjected to any or all the laws of physics.

In the present time, there are serious challenges to monotheism:

1. High-powered scientists armed with tremendous marketing tools, promoting atheistic concepts that a layman has no way of challenging.
2. Global education system that fails to stimulate a comprehensive thinking process, but rather introduces subjects such as history, physics and life sciences in a fabricated form to exclude God from our lives. Again, students have no way of challenging their teachers.
3. Overwhelming western culture that promotes fake images of success. Again the layman anywhere on earth has no chance but to accept the western image for success.

Having watched all that, I feel compelled to agree with John Calvin, the Protestant theologian, who said:

"I would be a coward if I saw that God’s truth is attacked and would remain silent without giving any sound," (Filson, 2006, p. 9).

I tried to study the approaches taken by the true scientists, such as Newton and Einstein, along the history of humanity. I admired tremendously their reasoning and logic because their goal was knowledge for the sake of knowledge and not for business, publicity, or marketing by twisting facts. Accordingly, this book represents a scientific attempt to answer the following questions:
1. Does God exist?
2. Should there be a universal religion and what is that right religion?
3. How can one be constantly sure that his or her conclusion is accurate?

The first question is the most difficult one if we do not know where to look. Therefore, the first question is answered by examining the known facts about the universe and life. The introduction of these subjects is presented in simple contexts and not just pure scientific abstracts. The divine Law of Repetition is introduced. This law simply states that because common guidelines exist in all living organisms or physical objects, then the Designer or the Creator of all living and non-living objects is the same. With humility and open mindedness, we should believe that God exists. He, then, has to make somehow this existence known to everyone. Some people adopt an arrogant idea of believing in god, but not in any organized religion or any messenger of god. These people may think that god should communicate directly with them and they have reached the level of the prophets. How else will they know what god wants from them. Examining the monotheistic religions that believe in One God is followed. Next, one conclusion should become obvious after that: because God is one, then there should be only one religion for the entire universe at any time and any places. This is the essence of monotheism. This is accomplished by establishing criteria for accepting a religion and then applying these criteria on the three Abrahamic “monotheistic” religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

It is important to note that I am not writing this book as a biologist, cosmologist, physicist, or theologian. I am writing this book as a human being searching for the truth and purpose of life. In doing so, I am following two religious commands in Islam; first to seek knowledge and second to spread knowledge. Also, I would ask you to consider the contents of this book with an open mind because this information could prove to be of greater importance to you than you might yet realize.

In writing this book, technical information has to be introduced and could not be avoided. I tried to make the presented information simple and readable for average readers. Also a glossary section is added to present definitions of technical or religious terms.
This book is an attempt of recording the Truth, which is one of the Names of God and is mentioned in the Quran 226 times. It is not about faking lies about Moses, Jesus, or Muhammad (Peace be upon them), who are loved, honored and respected by all Muslims. Some Jewish and Christian "scholars" made it their business to spread unsubstantiated lies about the life of Muhammad and to quote obscure references or preach half the truth. The main references in this book are the Bible and the Quran, thus it should be easy for the readers to check these references. Also, a good part of the information on Christianity in this book was obtained from Christian authors and friends. Allah addressed mankind to get to know each other, Surah 49, Ayah 13. Consequently, as a Muslim I had to form my ideas about Christianity from its sources. That is something most of the critics of Islam never tried.

Religion is a serious business. In the present time, there is a statement that declares all religions lead to One God. Well, I do not accept that. I cannot believe that worshiping a cow or a statue leads to one God. Humans make choices everyday in their lives but they cannot control the consequences of those choices. It should be a matter of utmost wisdom for everyone to think and plan for the Day of Reckoning. Our faith will lead us to our destiny. Everyone in every faith should be prepared to face God, the Ultimate Judge. Humans will be asked about their faith and will have to acknowledge the truth, regardless of their faith. This Day of Judgment is like a court scene, where the Judge knows all, even more than people can tell. As such, this book is also my attempt to do my best to search for God and a religion. I started researching and writing this book in 1992. I believe that this time is well spent since this book can be my defense on the Day of Judgment. I will beseech God:

"I did not ignore the important questions about my origin and my destiny. I tried, I thought, I researched and this is the best within my capacity."
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Years ago on a Christmas day, my granddaughter Dannah asked me a question: how can God be baby Jesus? Then she started laughing. This was the intuition of a 5 years old girl. Since then, she has been asking me a lot of questions about God and religions.

May God bless my daughter, her husband Bilal, Telecommunication Engineer, M.Sc. in Telecommunication from SMU and my granddaughters: Dannah, Daliah, Devalah and Denah who will be InShaa Allah the harbinger of Islam in the new age.

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• To all who contributed – my undying gratitude.
• To all who seek the truth – my unfaltering encouragement.
NUMBERING SYSTEM

During the course of this book, a simple convention of a numbering system will be adopted that allows us to use a very large and very small numbers to be written in a compact form. The very large numbers will be used to describe the universe, while the very small numbers will be used to describe atoms and cells. The system used is called the exponential system. Let us begin with everyday numbers: since \(10,000 = 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10\), it is written as 1E4, which means 1 multiplied by 10 four times, or 1 followed by four zeros. The letter E refers to the exponential system.

A million = 1,000,000 or 1E6
A billion = 1,000,000,000 or 1E9
A trillion = 1,000,000,000,000 or 1E12

Very small numbers are written in an analogous way. One millionth (that is 1 divided by 1 million) will be written as 1E-6, or 0.000001.
One billionth = 0.000000001 or 1E-9
One trillionth = 0.000000000001 or 1E-12

There is a price for such compactness. It is easy to forget the difference between 1E4 and 1E8 since both are large numbers or the difference between the small numbers 1E-4 and 1E-8. Let us not forget that the difference between the above two sets is 10,000 or 1E4, which is a big number.

If we accept that the size of the observable universe is 1E26 meters and the size of the smallest part of an atom is 1E-14 meters, then, the ratio of the largest to the smallest known sizes is 1E26/1E-14, or 1E40. This is 1 followed by 40 zeros or 10 thousand trillion trillion trillion times!

The human brain cannot even come close to comprehending these huge or tiny numbers. But they exist. Similarly, one cannot attempt to grasp the concept of the eternal, limitless, omnipotent, omniscient and Mighty God. But He exists.
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The Holy Bible Website: http://bible.crosswalk.com All Versions.

The Holy Bible Website: http://www.scripturetext.com All Versions.

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*Please note the author condemns any offense of the Prophets of God in any of the above references.*
WEBSITES

Quran websites:

http://www.usislam.org/books/free_islamic_books.htm Read and download Quran in many languages.

http://www.qurancourses.com/ Learning of Quran and Hadith is the foremost duty of every Muslim.

http://www.searchtruth.com/list.php Read and listen to The Quran in many languages

http://www.reciter.org/ Welcome to the Electronic Reciter version 2.0. Click on the English, French, or Arabic text in the box below to select the interface language and launch the program:

http://quran.muslim-web.com/

http://www.alketab.com/default.asp The Holly Quran Website - 26 translations

http://www.tvquran.com/ Quran on TV from Palestine

http://www.quran4u.com/ Listen, Read, Quran & Tafsir


http://www.quranexplorer.com/quran/

http://www.quranflash.com/#

http://www.quranway.net/


General Islamic Websites

http://www.usislam.org/ A comprehensive Dawah and educational Website in 57 languages.

http://www.elsharawy.com/ Arabic Website of Sheikh Elsharawy

http://www.elqubessi.mohdy.com/ Arabic Website of Sheikh Ahmad Elqubessi

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Search engine of different versions of the Bible. Read Carefully and you will know Islam is the Truth.

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http://www.islamtomorrow.net/ Chistian Bishop & Preacher & German Diplomat & Cat Stevens & others.
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**Converts to Islam**

http://www.usislam.org/converts/converts.htm Priests, Rabbis and missionaries, Famous Converts To Islam, Videos

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http://convertstosum.org/ Multi-National Muslim Committee, Christians.

http://www.thetruereligion.org/converts.htm Christian priests and missionaries and many others who have discovered the one true religion.

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http://www.islamtomorrow.net/ Christian Bishop & Preacher & German Diplomat & Cat Stevens & others.

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http://www.why-christians-converts-to-islam.com/A very good web site by brother Frank, who is a new convert to Islam.


Scientific Miracles in Quran

http://www.usislam.org/90scien.htm The Scientific Miracle

http://www.miraclesofthequran.com/index2.html Modern Science Reveals New Miracles of the Qur’an


http://www.harunyahya.com/ Many scientific and Islamic books by Harun Yahya.

http://www.55a.net/, The Quran Miracles Encyclopedia web Site


http://www.quran-m.com/ The Quran Miracle Encyclopedia.
GLOSSARY

Allah: The name of God of all Muslims and Christians in the Middle East.

Acid: A corrosive substance that releases protons in water. By definition, all acids measures less than 7 on the pH scale.

Algae: A large and varied group of single cell organisms that carry out photosynthesis and do not have specialized tissue structure. The cell contains a nucleus in which genetic material is stored.

Amino acid: An organic compound consisting of standard nine-atom section and a distinctive atomic side chain. Certain kinds of amino acids are the building blocks of proteins.

Amphibian: A cold-blooded vertebrate animal adapted to both water and land. Baby amphibians remain in water and adults live in land.

Anthropology: The study of man based on the comparative analysis of and subsequent generalization about his physical and behavioral characteristics.

Archaeology: The study of man's past on the basis of the tangible remains of his activity and of the surviving effects of these activities.

Asteroid: A small, rocky, airless body that orbits a star.

Astronomical unit: The average distance between the Earth and the Sun and a unit useful in studies of the solar system. Its accepted value is 149,597,870 kilometers (92,955,807 miles).

Astronomy: The science of measuring the motion and position of stars, planets and other astronomical bodies.

Atmosphere: A gaseous shell surrounding a planet or other body.

Atom: The smallest part of a chemical element that can take part in any chemical reaction and still retain its identity. All atoms consist of a nucleus and one or more orbiting electrons.

Ayah: (plural Ayat) (Arabic) Sign, parable. In the Quran, the manifestations of God in the world, or one verse in the Quran.

Bacterium: A member of many species of microscopic single-celled organisms.

Big Bang: According to a widely accepted theory, the universe started 15 to 20 billion years ago, when the universe began expanding from a state
of infinite density.

**Binary star:** A pair of stars in orbit around each other.

**Biochemistry:** The branch of chemistry that deals with the chemical processes of living organisms.

**Biosphere:** The totality of a planet's living things and their habitats.

**Black hole:** A region of space-time in which there is such an immense concentration of material within a small volume that matter and energy cannot escape.

**Brown dwarf:** A star with such a low mass—less than 0.08 times the mass of the Sun—that thermonuclear reactions cannot take place inside it.

**Buddha:** (Hindi) The enlightened one. The title applies to the numerous persons who have attained nirvana (q.v.) but it is often used of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism.

**Carbon:** A chemical compound found in all living matter on Earth and notable for its tendency to form multiple bonds.

**Cell:** A basic functional and structural unit of living matter. A cell is capable of growth, reproduction and the excretion of wastes.

**Comet:** An asteroid-size body of dusty ice that travels in an elliptical orbit around the sun.

**Constellation:** A grouping of stars to form a shape or a pattern. This grouping into constellations does not imply any physical connection among them.

**Cosmic background radiation:** Microwave radiation peaking at a wavelength of 1 mm, which is visible at the same intensity all over the sky. It is taken to be the cooled remnant of the primeval fireball of the hot Big Bang that started the universe.

**Cosmic rays:** Atomic particles, mostly protons, of very high energy moving through space.

**Cosmic string:** A thin string of trapped energy left over from the earliest moments of the Big Bang, with immense mass per unit length. Cosmic strings may have acted as seeds for the formation of galaxies, clusters and superclusters.

**Cosmology:** The study of the universe as a whole, including its large-scale structure and movements, origin, evolution and ultimate fate.

**Cosmos:** The universe; also, a mathematical or scientific model of the
universe.

**Chromosomes**: The chainlike structure within the nucleus of the cell that carries genes.

**Cytoplasm**: The liquid material found in the region outside a cell’s nucleus.

**Deuterium**: A form of hydrogen having one neutron and one proton in its nucleus. Also known as heavy hydrogen.

**DNA** (Deoxyribonucleic acid): A complex organic compound found in all life on Earth and is responsible for the storage of genetic information. A DNA molecule consists of two parallel chains on nucleotides. DNA is named for the sugar deoxyribose, which it contains.

**Doppler shift**: A change in wavelength caused by the motion of either the emitter or the observer.

**Double star**: Stars appearing as a pair because they are close to each other in the line of sight.

**Electron**: A negatively charged particle that normally orbits the nucleus of an atom, but may exist in isolation.

**Element**: One of just over 100 substances that cannot be reduced by chemical means to simpler substances.

**Elliptical galaxy**: A galaxy, ellipsoidal in shape, composed primarily of stars with little gas and dust.

**Energy**: The ability to do work, where work is defined as the ability to move mass through space. Life and machines require energy.

**Entropy**: A measure of the energy existing in a system that is unavailable for use. A physical system exhibits increasing entropy until it reaches equilibrium. Entropy is sometimes said to be a measure of disorder.

**Enzyme**: One of many proteins that accelerate or otherwise affect biochemical reactions without themselves being changed.

**Escape velocity**: The velocity that a body must reach if it is to escape into space from a celestial body. For the Earth it is 11.18 km/sec, while for the Sun it is 617.3 km/sec.

**Eucaryote**: A cell containing a nucleus in which genetic material is stored.

**Evolution**: According to evolutionists, changes over generations in organism’s inheritable characteristics.

**Fossils**: The remains of ancient forms of life preserved in the earth’s crust.
Frequency: The number of cycles per second. In electromagnetic radiation, frequency is obtained by dividing the speed of light by the wavelength. It is measured in Hertz, or simply Hz.

Galaxy: A celestial island of stars, dusts and gases.

Gene: A complete unit of biochemical information that specifies the series of amino acids needed to make up a particular type of peptide chain, which in turn form part of a protein.

General relativity: A theoretical account of the effects of acceleration and gravity on the motion of bodies and the observed structure of space and time.

Gentile: (Hebrew) One who is not Jewish.

Goy: (plural goyim) (Hebrew) Non-Jews or Gentiles.

Grand unified theory (GUT): A theory that aims to unify the four basic forces of nature, i.e. strong, weak, electromagnetic and gravity forces. At the Big Bang, these forces were unified.

Gravity: The mutual attraction of separate masses; fundamental force in nature.

Graviton: The messenger particles of gravity in theories of quantum mechanics.

Halo: A glowing ring around a celestial body such as the Sun and Moon. The term is also used to describe material around our galaxy.

Homo Sapiens: The primate species to which human beings belong, characterized by a brain of about eighty five cubic inches and by a language and tool-making abilities.

Hubble constant: The ratio of speed of recession of galaxies to distance. At present, there is some doubt about its value, which is thought to be between 17 and 30 km/sec. per million light years.

Hydrocarbon: One of the large numbers of organic compound made up exclusively of carbon and hydrogen atoms. Seven types of hydrocarbons have been detected in space.

Idolatry: The worship of a human or man-made entity instead of the transcendent God.

Inertia: The resistance of a body to change velocity. The inertia of a body equals its gravitational force.

Inflation: According to theory, a sudden expansion in space that occurred
10E-35 seconds after the Big Bang.

**Infrared:** A band of electromagnetic radiation with a lower frequency and longer wavelength than red light. Most infrared radiation is absorbed by the Earth’s atmosphere, but certain wavelength can be detected from Earth.

**Inorganic:** A chemical compound that does not include both carbon and hydrogen atoms. Also may refer to matter that is not and never has been alive.

**Invertebrate:** An organism without a backbone.

**Ion:** An atom that has lost or gained one or more electrons. A neutral atom has an equal number of electrons and protons, giving it a zero net electrical charge.

**Ionosphere:** An ionized atmospheric layer. The Earth’s ionosphere occurs at altitude of 35 miles and higher.

**Islam:** (Arabic) Surrendering to the Will of God.

**Isotope:** One of two or more forms of a chemical element that have the same number of protons but a different number of neutrons in the nucleus.

**Kepler’s Laws:** Three laws governing the orbital motion of planets. The first law which states that planets move in elliptical orbits with the Sun at one focus of the ellipse.

**Light year:** An astronomical distance unit equal to the distance light travels in a vacuum in a year, almost six trillion miles (6,000,000,000,000 miles).

**Logos:** Cosmic reason, used in ancient Greek philosophy, as the divine source of order and intelligibility.

**Magnetosphere:** The region around a planet in which its magnetic field is the dominant magnetic influence.

**Mammal:** A hairy, warm-blooded vertebrate animal that nurses its young. Almost all mammals bear their young alive, rather than in eggs.

**Membrane:** A flexible structure that encloses a cell, organelles within a cell, or other tissue. A membrane consists primarily of layered protein and fats.

**Metabolism:** The biochemical processes that convert energy to a form useful for life.

**Meteoroid:** A small metallic or rocky body found in space. A meteoroid
entering a planet's atmosphere is called a meteor. Meteors often burn up in the atmosphere; those that reach the surface are called meteorites.

**Milky Way**: A hazy band of light crossing the entire sky in both northern and southern hemispheres. So named after its appearance, it is now known to be caused by myriad of stars as well as dust and gas. It is a spiral galaxy and our solar system exists close to the tips of one of the arms of the spiral.

**Molecule**: The smallest unit of an element or compound that retains its properties. A molecule may consist of a single atom or, more commonly, two or more atoms bonded together.

**Monotheism**: The belief that the universe is created and governed by one God.

**Moon**: One of a planet's natural satellites, generally no smaller than ten miles in diameter. There are more than 50 known moons in the solar system.

**Mutation**: According to evolutionists, a random, inheritable change in the genetic pattern of an organism

**Natural selection**: According to evolutionists, the evolutionary process in which well adapted species survives and increase in numbers while poorly adapted species become extinct.

**Nebula**: A cloud of dust or gas in space. Nebulae can be dark or bright, diffuse or compact.

**Neuron**: A specialized cell that transmits information through electrochemical signals. Neurons are distributed throughout a body in a neural network.

**Neutron**: A constituent of many atomic nuclei that has no electric charge with a mass just a little greater than a proton.

**Neutron star**: A massive star near the end of its life. It degenerates to tightly packed neutrons.

**Nirvana**: (Hindi) Literally "cooling off" or "going out" like a flame; extinction. Term used by Buddhists to denote the ultimate reality, the goal and the fulfillment of human life and the end of pain. It is impossible to define in rational terms but belongs to a different order of experience.

**Nous**: Mind or reason, used in ancient Greek philosophy, as the principle of divine reason.

**Nova**: Meaning "new", this is an aging star which suddenly flares up in
brightness—perhaps by 10,000 times—and so suddenly appears in the sky. The flare up lasts for days or weeks at the most and then sinks back to its original brightness over months or years.

**Nucleic acid**: One of the complex organic molecules, including DNA and RNA that store and transmit genetic information.

**Nucleolus**: A small body within the cell’s nucleus. Its function is not clearly understood but may be related to the synthesis of RNA.

**Nucleotides**: One of the chemical units that makes up a nucleic acid such as DNA or RNA. A nucleotide consists of a phosphate, a sugar and a base, all bonded together.

**Nucleus**: The massive center of an atom composed of protons and neutrons and orbited by electrons. Also, a membrane-enclosed structure within a eucaryotic cell that contains genetic material.

**Open universe**: A universe that expands forever.

**Orbit**: The path of an object revolving around an astronomical body. Also, the path of an electron around the nucleus of an atom.

**Organic**: Pertaining to a compound made up of carbon and hydrogen and possibly other elements as well. All life contains organic compounds. The term may also refer to living or once-living material.

**Ozone**: A three-atom form of oxygen. Earth’s stratosphere includes an ozone layer that absorbs dangerous ultraviolet radiation.

**Paleontology**: The study of the life forms that exist in the past.

**Peptide chain**: A linear organic compound consisting of up to several hundred amino acids linked together. Proteins are composed of one or more peptide chains.

**Phosphate**: A type of inorganic compound. Some phosphates join to sugars and bases to form nucleotides.

**Photoelectric effect**: The emission of electrons by certain metals, such as selenium, when exposed to electromagnetic radiation.

**Photon**: The quantum particle of light and the messenger particle of electromagnetic radiation.

**Photosynthesis**: The biochemical process that converts light to chemical energy and glucose. Photosynthesizing organisms typically consume carbon dioxide and hydrogen and release oxygen as a by-product.

**PH scale**: A measure of acidity or alkalinity, with values ranging from 0,
for extremely acid, to 14, for extremely alkaline. A neutral compound has pH value of 7.

Planck era: Theoretically, the very brief time after the Big Bang and up to the Planck time. Conditions during the Planck era cannot be explained by the current physics.

Planck's constant: A number whose value is important to the equations of quantum mechanics; equal to the ratio of a photon’s energy to its frequency.

Planck time: Theoretically, a time equal 10E-43 second after the Big Bang, after which the universe would have followed the known physical laws.

Planet: A large, nonstellar body that orbits a star and shines only with reflected light.

Plasma: An ionized gas consisting of ions and electrons moving freely. Plasmas are affected by electric and magnetic fields and are to be found in stars and interstellar gas.

Primate: The highest order within mammals, including apes and man.

Prokaryote: A cell without a nucleus.

Protein: One of a class of complex organic molecules necessary to life.

Proton: A positively charged particle with about 2,000 times the mass of electron; normally found in the nucleus of an atom.

Pulsar: An astronomical object that emits extremely regular pulses of radio or other energy at intervals of several seconds or less. Pulsars are thought to be spinning neutron stars.

Quantum: A fixed packet, or quantity, of some physical property such as mass or energy.

Quantum mechanics: A mathematical description of the rules by which subatomic particles interact, decay and form atomic or nuclear objects. Classical mechanics does not apply on subatomic level.

Quark: The fundamental particle that forms all hadrons, or particles subject to the strong force. Six kinds are known. These are: "up", "top" and "charm" type with positive charges and "down", "bottom" and "strange" type with negative charges.

Quasar: Acronym for a quasi-stellar radio object. Quasars are starlike in appearance. They are now believed to be very distant objects, probably the cores of active galaxies.
Radar: A method of identifying the location or speed of a distant object by bouncing radio waves off its surface and measuring the interval before they return; also, an instrument used for this purpose. The term is an acronym for “radio detection and ranging”.

Radio: The least energetic form of electromagnetic radiation, having the lowest frequency and the longest wavelength.

Radio astronomy: The observation and study of radio waves produced by astronomical phenomena.

Red giants and supergiants: Bright red stars of large size, 10 to 100 times the diameter of the sun.

Relativity: A set of theories that describe how measurements are affected by motion and gravity.

Reptile: A cold-blooded, vertebrate, nonamphibious animal such as turtle, lizard, snake, or a crocodile.

Ribosome: An organelle that synthesizes proteins.

RNA (Ribonucleic acid): A complex organic molecule named for the sugar ribose, which it contains. RNA consists of two classes: messenger RNA copies genetic information stored in DNA and transfer RNA helps match amino acids to those genetic instructions.

Ribosome: An organelle that synthesizes proteins.

Satellite: A body that orbits another.

Silicon: The second most common element, after oxygen, in the Earth’s crust. It also makes up 7% of the matters in the universe.

Solar system: The sun and its associated system of planets, asteroids and other orbiting bodies; more generally, any star and the bodies that orbit it.

Special relativity: A theory showing that observers in uniform motion cannot perceive their motion and that all observers of such motion obtain the same value for the speed of light. From these two principles the theory concludes that measurement of distance, time and mass will vary depending on the motion of an observer moving uniformly in relation to the item being measured.

Species: The basic category of biological classification, consisting of similar organisms capable of interbreeding.

Spectrum: The array of colors or wavelengths obtained by dispersing light from a star or other source, as through a prism, Spectra are often striped with emission or absorption lines, which can be interpreted to
show the chemistry and motion of the light source.

**Star:** A self-radiating celestial body in which energy is generated in its central region by thermonuclear reactions.

**Steady state theory:** A theory that suggested in 1948 in which the universe never had a beginning nor will ever have an end but always remains in a steady state. After the discovery in 1965 of microwave background radiation in the universe, the Big Bang theory became dominant.

**Sufi, Sufism:** The mystics and mystical spirituality of Islam. The term was derived from the early Sufis who preferred to wear a coarse garment of wool (Arabic, Suf), favored by Prophet Muhammad.

**Sugar:** A simple carbohydrate. The sugar ribose and deoxyribose are found in RNA and DNA, respectively.

**Sunnah:** (Arabic) Practice. Those customs sanctioned by tradition to imitate the behavior and actions of the Prophet Muhammad.

**Supercusters:** A cluster of clusters of galaxies, some of which are as much as 360,000,000 light years in diameter.

**Supernatural:** That which is unexplainable in terms of the natural world or known facts.

**Supernova:** A star close to the end of its life that undergoes an explosion that ejects most of its material in space.

**Surah:** (Arabic) A chapter in the Quran.

**Symbiosis:** The close, interdependent relationship of two unlike organisms.

**Synapse:** A nerve cell connection point, through which electrochemical impulses are transmitted from one nerve cell to another.

**Tectonics:** The study of a planet’s crust, including its structure and processes.

**Ultraviolet:** A band of electromagnetic radiation that has higher frequency and shorter wavelength than visible blue light has. Most ultraviolet is absorbed by the Earth’s ozone layer.

**Van Allen belts:** Two regions in the Earth’s magnetic field or magnetosphere in which electrically charged atomic particles become trapped.

**Velocity:** The speed and direction of motion.

**Vertebrate:** An organism having a backbone.
**Wavelength**: The distance from crest to crest or trough to trough of an electromagnetic or other wave. Wavelengths are related to frequency; the longer the wavelength, the lower the frequency.

**X-rays**: Very short wavelength highly penetrating electromagnetic radiation. X-radiation from space is evidence of highly energetic reactions on celestial bodies.

**Yoga**: A discipline early evolved by the Indians, which “yokes” the powers of mind. By means of its techniques of concentration, the Yogi acquires an intense and heightened perception of reality, which seems to bring with it a sense of peace, bliss and tranquility.
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