

5. Objections to the religious viewpoint on the innateness of religion have no basis and reveal a misunderstanding of this viewpoint, the reality of religion, human nature, and the perfection which suits humans.

## A Comparative Study of Religiosity: Religious Viewpoint and Atheist Allegations

Sheikh Lubnān al-Zein

This essay discusses the origin of religion and compares between the religious viewpoint which maintains the divine source of religion and the inherent status of religiosity in humans, and on the other side atheist allegations which claim that religion is man-made and trace human religiosity to intellectual, psychological, social and economic factors. The following points summarize the main contents of this essay:

1. Like other creatures, human beings are endowed with a natural instinct which drives them to fulfill their needs and avoid harm. Humans also possess a *fitra* (natural inclination) toward religion.
2. This *fitra* is divinely inspired and guides humans to a way of life with a specified goal, and encompasses all human beings.
3. The *fitra* guides humans to the principles of religion in general, but leaves humans with the duty of gaining more specific information and completing their knowledge of religion.
4. Atheists have proposed several theories to explain the origin of religion, but these theories do not exceed being baseless claims. Evidence actually proves that humans are inclined to religion due to their divinely-created *fitra*.

from a desire to emphasize a personal idea without checking or revising it. These fallacies are numerous and completely contradict with established scientific methodologies which are applied in all sciences. It is evident that atheists apply these methodologies on everything except facts which lead to belief in God.

## Neo-Atheism and Scientific Fallacies

Nour al-DÎn Abu Lihya

When we consider the following points: the emergence of materialistic and positivist philosophies, their outlook to the epistemological history of mankind and their division of history into three phases (theological, metaphysical, scientific positivist), their ridicule of the two initial phases and adoption of the scientific phase only, and their call to refrain from seeking the First Cause of the universe, it is pertinent to explore the scientific credibility of these atheist propositions -especially the allegations of neo-atheists. Do these claims truly rely on the scientific method? Do these atheists possess sufficient scientific knowledge, and do they commit the same mistakes which they themselves attribute to believers?

It has become clear through our search for an answer to these questions that the so-called scientific explanations of atheists which strive to separate the universe and life from God are nothing more than major unscientific and unrealistic fallacies. The first fallacy which atheists fall prey to is the fanciful and unreasonable mode of thought which they employ in their research and theories. This leads them to jump to conclusions before considering the premises, or to disregard the conclusions and misinterpret them when they contradict their intentions. This fallacy leads to further fallacies which they employ as a foundation for their research which is devoid of rationality or objectivity, and which arises

# Mechanisms of Confronting Theoretical Atheism: Fundamental Prerequisites

Hassān Abdullah Hassān

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ملخص ملف العدد

This essay aims to present a methodology for the establishment of mechanisms which confront deviations -such as theoretical atheism- in our religious societies. This methodology is based on the establishment of an explanation for the designation “theoretical atheism” (in the light of linguistics and philosophy), the specification of the most important foundations of the chosen methodology, and the establishment of four important prerequisites to confront theoretical atheism.

These four prerequisites are as follows: utilizing the expertise of reformative thought, renewing the foundations of *‘ilm al-kalām* (while enforcing the means of educational and intellectual confrontation with the appropriate culture), providing a religious upbringing for youth (since preservation of doctrines is better than treatment), and establishing centers of research which monitor deviations in Arab societies and inspect their driving sources (with a consideration of the nature of these sources, the intellectual trends they follow, and their method of action) for the purpose of preparing an intellectual map which facilitates awareness of this situation and effectively dealing with it.

Mechanisms of confronting theoretical atheism: fundamental prerequisites  
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## A Survey of the Origin s and Background of Modern Arab Atheism

Māzen Abu Dayya

This essay discusses the origins and background of atheism in the Arab world and inquires after its causes. It first defines the concept of atheism and presents its historical development from the era of Greek philosophy with natural philosophers such as Anaximander and Thales. Secondly, it refers to the emergence of atheism in the Arab world during the Abbāsīd Caliphate, and the appearance of the term *zindīq* during this period which was first associated with Manichaeism and later with the opponents of the reigning caliph as clarified by ‘Abd al-Raḥmān Badawī. Thirdly, it discusses atheism in modern Europe and illustrates an aspect of Hobbes’s view on religion which resulted in his accusation with heresy.

This essay proceeds to present some atheist philosophies such as Marxism and Existentialism, followed by examples of atheist writings in the modern Arab world, the discussion of some of their contents, and the analysis of their hidden background. It then clarifies the reason behind the presence of atheism in the Arab world and concludes with a number of points which are deemed necessary to confront atheism in this region.

Under the heading: “Religious and Scientific Refutation of Theoretical Atheism”, this issue of *Majalat al-Ḥayāt al-Ṭayyiba* discusses the topic of modern theoretical atheism, its implications, the means of confronting it, and the refutation of its allegations in the light of religion and modern scientific theses. This topic has been discussed in four essays as follows:

➤ **Religious and Scientific Refutation of Theoretical Atheism**

1. A Survey of the Origins and Background of Modern Arab Atheism
2. Mechanisms of Confronting Theoretical Atheism: Fundamental Prerequisites
3. Neo-Atheism and Scientific Fallacies
4. A Comparative Study of Religiosity: Religious Viewpoint and Atheist Allegations

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