

SCIENCE, REASON AND CONSCIENCE: A PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNEY FROM THE CHAIR TO THE CREATOR – 19

The Believer's previous words had left a profound resonance in the minds of everyone in the room. The Deist, in particular—who acknowledged the Creator as the architect of the universe but rejected the notion of constant intervention—had become the central focus of the discussions. Drawing once again from Bediüzzaman Said Nursi's profound analogies, the Believer took the floor to explain that the order in the universe is not merely a system set in motion at the beginning but **one that requires continuous conscious intervention**.

As the Deist grew increasingly contemplative in response to these explanations, he quietly gazed at the Believer, almost as if driven into an inner reflection. The Believer, responding with a wise smile, began to speak.

Believer: Let us reflect once more through the words of Bediüzzaman... Should the watchmaker simply wind up the clock and then step aside as a passive observer? Or must he remain present at all times, ensuring the clock's flawless operation by maintaining its order?

With these words, the Believer aimed to delve deeper into the Deist's view that "God created the universe and then left it to run on its own." He intended to elaborate on his belief that everything in the universe is sustained by constant divine intervention. This time, rather than engaging in a purely theoretical discussion, he sought to use vivid analogies to open a clear door of wisdom in everyone's mind. For he knew that while the mysteries of the universe might seem as simple as the workings of a clock, they concealed a much deeper wisdom and order behind them.

The Believer continued:

Believer: Bediüzzaman, in another statement, says:

"A scribe brings ink, a pen, and paper. Would it be easier for him to write the book himself, directly and intentionally? Or would it be easier for him to invent a writing machine—more intricate and labor-intensive than the book itself, designed solely for producing that one book—place it within the ink, pen, and paper, and then command the mindless machine, 'WRITE!' while abstaining from any further involvement? Wouldn't such a scenario be a hundred times more challenging than simply writing the book himself?"

This statement takes Bediüzzaman Said Nursi's critique of Deist thought to a more advanced level. The analogy emphasizes that the order and creation in the universe are not limited to the initial act of creation but rather require constant supervision and conscious intervention. Let us break down both scenarios step by step using logical reasoning.

As the Deist listened to these examples, the thoughtful expression on his face deepened. His gaze drifted into the void, his mind wandering between new questions and explanations. The impact of the words was so profound that he seemed unable to detach himself from these contemplations, as though he were trying to untangle an invisible knot. Meanwhile, the Agnostic's expression of uncertainty shifted to one of intense curiosity. With a faint look of astonishment and wonder, he unexpectedly broke the silence:

Atheist: The analogy of the “*watchmaker*” has given me something to think about. If such a complex system truly requires constant intervention, does that mean our scientific explanations would also need to account for this conscious intervention? Would this imply that we have to redefine the boundaries of science? We've always said that everything operates according to natural laws, ***but now it seems even those laws themselves cannot function without conscious involvement.***

This statement caught everyone's attention. The Agnostic nodded silently in agreement with this unexpected remark, his curiosity piqued as he eagerly awaited the Believer's response. The Believer looked at the Atheist with a calm but pleased expression, as if sensing that this line of questioning marked a step forward in the dialogue.

Believer: “Your words lead us precisely to a deeper explanation,” he said. “Another example from Bediüzzaman offers a clearer answer to these questions.

The Agnostic, with a hesitant expression, spoke up:

Agnostic: If that's the case, it seems evident that there must be a constant power behind the consistent functioning of natural laws. But how can we be certain that this power is actively involved?

As he asked the question, it was as though he was searching for an answer within himself. Everyone in the room, sensing the profound depth in the Believer's explanations, focused intently on what would be said next. This was no longer just a debate; it had become a process of constructing new thoughts within each individual's mind.

Believer: To understand whether this order sustains itself or requires constant intervention, let us consider Bediüzzaman's second example:

STEP 1:

“A scribe brings ink, a pen, and paper. Would it be easier for him to write the book himself, directly and intentionally?”

THE WRITER DIRECTLY WRITING THE BOOK

At this stage, the analogy¹ of a writer directly writing a book is used to emphasize the necessity of a creator's continuous intervention.

Elements of the Analogy:

- **The Writer:** Represents a conscious creator who establishes and sustains the order of the universe.
- **Ink, Pen, and Paper:** Symbolize the material elements and natural laws in the universe. The writer using these tools to produce the book demonstrates how the creative power operates in the universe through natural laws, referred to in Islamic literature as "**Adatullah**" or "**Sunnatullah**."

These terms refer to the immutable laws established by God in the universe. These laws are divine principles that govern the order and functioning of creation. In the Qur'an, this concept is expressed through the term "*Sunnah*." For example, in Surah Al-Ahzab, verse 62, it is stated:

"You will never find any change in the way (Sunnatullah) of Allah."

This verse underscores the continuity and unchanging nature of God's laws.

Examples of Adatullah:

- **Natural Laws:** Physical laws such as gravity, buoyancy, and the combustive nature of fire are immutable laws established by God. A law like gravity operates within an orderly and continuous system. The functioning of this system requires oversight and intervention, much like every word written by a writer requires their control.
- **Biological Processes:** Processes such as photosynthesis, reproduction, and growth are manifestations of Adatullah. For instance, an insect like a bee follows precise rules to produce honey, but these rules are not self-imposed; rather, they reflect a planned and conscious design.
- **Social Dynamics:** Principles such as hard work leading to success, idleness resulting in failure, justice uplifting societies, and oppression leading to their downfall are examples of Adatullah in societal contexts.
- **Astronomical Order:** The movement of planets and stars in precise orbits. This is highlighted in Surah Yasin, verse 38:

"And the sun runs its course for a term determined. That is the decree of the Almighty, the All-Knowing."

This verse emphasizes that celestial movements are governed by the orderly laws set by God. Modern astronomy also reveals that the movements of planets and stars in fixed orbits are vital for the stability of the universe.

- **The Book:** Represents the orderly structure of the universe, created in accordance with natural laws.

Logical Steps:

In Bediüzzaman's analogy, the example of a writer directly writing a book illustrates the necessity of the creator's ongoing involvement in the universe. This perspective can be supported through the following logical steps:

1. The Necessity of Direct Intervention:

Deists argue that a creator set up the universe and then withdrew, allowing it to operate autonomously through natural laws. However, Bediüzzaman's analogy highlights that such an order cannot sustain itself without continuous intervention. Just as a book is written meaningfully through the writer's direct involvement and oversight, the universe's intricate and dynamic systems require constant regulation.

A writer ensures that every word, sentence, and paragraph in a book follows a meaningful sequence. This process demands the presence of purpose and consciousness. Similarly, **every element of the universe working in harmony necessitates constant regulation.** If the universe were left unattended to operate solely through natural laws, its delicate and dynamic structure could not be expected to sustain itself by chance. For everything to remain meaningful and orderly, continuous, conscious intervention is essential.

The Believer, while delivering these profound explanations, turned his gaze toward the Atheist. It was as if he was implying that these words held a special meaning for him, that he needed to grasp these ideas more deeply than the others. When the Atheist noticed this look, a contemplative expression settled on his face, as each sentence from the Believer seemed to open a new door, forcing him to confront his beliefs directly.

After a brief pause, the Believer shifted his gaze to the Agnostic, as though to convey that the truth embedded in his words had now gained undeniable clarity. The Agnostic, without breaking eye contact with the Believer, appeared lost in a cascade of deep thoughts. Each analogy seemed to sharpen the idea of the consciousness and order behind creation in his mind, laying bare the impossibility of such an intricate and dynamic system forming by chance.

Encouraged by the silence and the intense attention in the room, the Believer continued his words with even greater sincerity.

Believer: Let us continue with the logical explanations in this stage of Bediüzzaman's analogy:

2. The Writer's Conscious and Continuous Action

Deism asserts that divine intervention occurred only at the beginning, after which the universe operates independently, driven solely by an initial force. However, in Bediüzzaman's example, the proper writing of a book depends on the writer's intervention and control at every stage. **A book can only achieve meaningful coherence through deliberate involvement.**

The idea that the order observed in the universe can sustain itself is as illogical as claiming that a book can write itself. For a book to be written, the writer must continuously guide the process with intent; otherwise, the mere presence of ink, a pen, and paper cannot produce a meaningful work. Similarly, the universe's ability to

function and maintain its precise, dynamic systems is impossible without constant divine intervention.

3. Sustaining Order and Meaning

Deists explain the order in the universe as a result of the initial act of creation and assume that natural laws sustain this order autonomously. However, Bediüzzaman's analogy refutes this idea through the example of a writing machine. **The notion that unconscious natural laws can sustain order is as impossible as an unconscious machine writing a meaningful book on its own.**

If the Creator had established the universe at the beginning and then withdrawn, the delicate structures and intricate order of the cosmos could not continue. **The universe is not like a machine capable of writing a book without the intervention of its maker.** On the contrary, maintaining order at every moment requires continuous oversight and consciousness. Bediüzzaman argues that without constant creative intervention, the universe's order would collapse, and its continuity would be impossible.

According to Bediüzzaman, the order in the universe is not a simple structure that could be initiated and left to function on its own. Just as a book requires the writer's constant intervention to be written correctly, the sustained order of the universe depends on the ongoing control of a creator. If the universe were abandoned, its delicate, dynamic structures and systems would inevitably descend into randomness and chaos. Therefore, the idea that the universe can sustain its order independently is impossible.

The Believer took a deep breath and continued, as if intending to heighten the intensity of the room's atmosphere. His words echoed in the minds of everyone present, drawing all attention toward him. As he emphasized that the order in the universe points not only to a moment of creation but to an ongoing, perpetual care, his gaze swept across the room. It was as though his words were not only directed at the individuals but also spoken for the universe itself. This explanation, while pulling everyone into deep thought, aimed to illuminate all existence with the resonance of his words in the silence.

The Deist, Atheist, and Agnostic felt the thrill of hearing Bediüzzaman's profoundly meaningful ideas for **the first time**. Each of them experienced a sense of amazement and admiration, having never encountered the concept of a conscious intervention behind the order of the universe explained with such clarity. These expressions opened a new window in their minds, and though they remained silent, it was as if they were sharing their thoughts with one another. Their expressions revealed the profound impact of these words on them.

The Believer noticed their enthusiastic and awe-filled gazes, and a sense of satisfaction welled up within him. This interest and admiration encouraged him further, fueling his enthusiasm as he continued to speak. His words seemed to resonate in the minds of everyone present, planting the seeds of new thoughts and insights.

Believer: Bediüzzaman's words are not merely an analogy; they are an invitation to grasp the wisdom behind the universe. Just as the meaning of a book written by an author lies not only in its first word but in every single letter, the author must continuously intervene to ensure the coherence of those letters. In the same way, the ongoing order of the universe is not the work of an abandoned writing machine but of a conscious and purposeful Creator.

The silence in the room grew even more profound under the weight of these words. Everyone seemed to pause, as if on the verge of stepping through an unseen door. All eyes turned to the Deist, who lifted his gaze and looked at the Believer.

Deist: "Go on," he said, his voice heavy with the weight of inner conflict. "I want to better understand how this book is written."

Encouraged by the Deist's words, the Believer glanced at the others in the room. He was ready to delve deeper into the grand story of the universe's order. Yet, at that moment, he concluded his words with one final statement:

Believer: The great mystery behind everything can only be uncovered in the light of both reason and conscience. Now, let us try to understand the continuation of this story together in the next step.

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¹ **Analogy:** An analogy is a method of explaining and understanding a concept or situation by highlighting similarities between two different things. Unlike a metaphor, an analogy presents the comparison in a more detailed and structured manner.

For example, the statement "*The internet is like a library for finding information*" is an analogy. Here, a similarity is drawn between the internet and a library in terms of accessing information. Analogies are used to make concepts easier to understand and often serve an educational or explanatory purpose. Another example: "*The functioning of the brain is like the operation of a computer.*" In this sentence, the analogy explains how the brain and a computer process information in similar ways.