

## Storythme Oneness of God

Created by Nasirat from Reading Jamaat, UK



Narrator: Today we will be listening to a class discussion between an Ahmadi R.E teacher and children from various religious and non-religious backgrounds.

## They will be discussing the Islamic belief in the Oneness of God.

The characters in this role play are:

- Miss Ahmad (the teacher)
- Pari (a Hindu student)
- Eve (a Christian student)
- Emma (an Atheist student)

**Teacher**: Today we are going to be having a class discussion about the **Islamic belief in God**. So, feel free to make any comments or ask any questions.

So, in Islam, Muslims believe in only one God.

**Pari**: Only one God! How can they survive with just one God? In Hinduism we have so many gods and goddesses.

**Christian student**: Yes, I read somewhere that Hindus have something like 33 million gods.

**Pari**: That's a misinterpretation; but we do have many gods, one for every aspect of life.



**Teacher**: So, Muslims believe God created the world, mankind, animals, and everything else.

**Atheist**: Hmm, I don't even believe in God, so I can't imagine one God being so powerful and creating everything alone!

**Teacher**: Well in the Holy Book called the Holy Qur'an, which Muslims believe is the actual word of God, it says:

In Chapter 2: verse 256

"Allah – there is no God but He, the Living, the Self-Subsisting and All-Sustaining. Slumber seizes Him not, nor sleep. To Him belongs whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the Earth'



**Atheist**: I'm confused how can people know what the words of God are and make a book out of it?

**Teacher**: That's a good question! So, Muslims believe that an angel called Gabriel would come to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and relay the message of God to him which was over the space of 23 years. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) would memorise the revelations and repeat them to his companions who would write them down and memorise them. This was later compiled into a single book known as the Holy Qur'an.

**Christian student**: Oh, I've heard of the angel Gabriel, he is the one who came to Mary and informed her that she was going to have a baby. Is this the same angel?

**Teacher**: Yes exactly! Both Mary and Jesus (pbuh) are mentioned in the Holy Quran in many places. In fact, there is a whole chapter named after Mary.

**Christian student**: Really? I thought only Christians believed in Mary and Jesus.

**Teacher**: Muslims believe in all the prophets sent by God, including Prophet Abraham, Moses and Jesus, but they also believe that prophet Muhammad (pbuh) came after Jesus (pbuh). They believe he was the chosen prophet who came to re-unite the whole of mankind with the One and only Creator, God: who they refer to as Allah.

Pari: In Hinduism we believe in only one God too, we call him Brahman.

**Atheist:** Ok, now I'm really confused because didn't you just say you believe in many gods?

**Pari**: Yes, but Brahman is our main God, and all others are different expressions of Brahman.

**Christian student**: In Christianity we believe in the trinity: the father god, the son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. All three are referring to the one same God though, as we believe Jesus Christ is our Lord.

**Teacher**: In Islam it is a sin to associate any partners with Allah.

Although 101 attributes of Allah have been mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, He still does not have any image or shape that can be seen by the physical eyes.

**Pari:** Well, we have something physical that we can see, we have statues in our homes and in our temples.

**Atheist**: I don't mean to be rude or anything, but I find all this stuff about God or gods too confusing and it's even more difficult to believe in something you can't see.

**Teacher**: Well, many people dismiss the idea of believing in God, but I think it's important for us to explore and learn about God just like we humans explore and learn about many other things in the world and beyond.

One of the main reasons Atheists give for not believing, is that science can't prove the existence of God. For them, any truth not backed up by science is no truth at all.

Atheist: Yes, that makes sense to me.

**Teacher**: But the God in Islam can't be explained by this type of evidence, it just wouldn't work. As He isn't a physical being, so this method of investigation wouldn't suit Him.

For example, to observe the inner workings of cells, a telescope won't do.

Our approach must be tailored to the object in question.

According to Islam, God is not a thing. He is not a physical object.

Rather, He is taken to be the Creator and Sustainer of all physical things.

It is obvious that the Creator of the universe cannot physically be the universe,

He is beyond matter, energy, space, and time, so cannot be confined within them.

For such a Being, searching for physical evidence is entirely inappropriate.

**Christian student**: So, does that mean, science can't prove the existence of God?

**Teacher:** Mainstream science confirms that a lack of direct evidence for something does not mean it doesn't existence.

For instance, physicists now believe that about 95% of the universe is completely hidden to us. It cannot be physically detected by any of our most sensitive instruments.



Everything that we can see, feel, and detect is just 5% of the universe. The rest is dark matter and dark energy. It's existence has only been deduced from its effect on what we can see and feel.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be on him), who was the founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, said "it is not in the power of man to comprehend all the activities of the Divine as they are above reason, intellect and imagination."

Christian student: Yes, that's true.

**Teacher:** Neither science nor logic has all the answers to the mysteries that surround us.

Atheist: Yes, I agree but that doesn't prove the existence of any God.

**Teacher:** I think we all agree that lack of knowledge about things does not necessarily mean that they do not exist.

Did you know, there are some people that believe that this universe was created just by chance. Muslims don't agree with the 'by chance' theory.

They say that logically there must be a main cause which results in other things: an effect always comes about from a cause. And that prime cause is God Almighty.

The concept of intelligent design, the workings of the universe and the structure that we see is so perfect that it can only have occurred, exist, and be sustained if there is an intelligent Being that takes care of those affairs and that Being ought to be God.

For example, the Earth that we live on, scientists explain to us that it is the perfect size, with the perfect balance and gravity holds roughly 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, 0.97% argon and carbon dioxide, 0.04% trace amounts of other gases and water vapour. A few percentage points out and we would all be destroyed.



The Earth is located at the perfect distance from the Sun.

If any closer we would all burn up, any further away and we would all freeze.

If we look at the stars, the planets, sun etc.

And then the creation of day and night, everything fits so nicely in a finely woven net.

Our universe is made up of about 90 different atoms; each atom further consists of other finer particles.

With just the slight variation in the number of the positive and negative electrical charges

A variety of elements come into being, like the earth, the sea, the sun, the stars, the moon, etc.

So, let's take the example of water, it is made of hydrogen and oxygen, these two elements of contrast properties combine together to form water. Scientists fail to explain why two contrast elements combine to form an entirely new thing.

According to Islam there is no argument left but to admit that the Creator willed so and thus it came into being.

**Atheist:** Well, it does make a lot more sense to me now. It would be good to talk more on this topic as I found it really interesting.



**Teacher:** Oh, I'm glad to hear that, it's always good to hear different viewpoints and learn about one another's beliefs. That way we can be sure that when you believe in something you have explored all other options.

Thank you for sharing all your thoughts.

All: Thank you Miss.