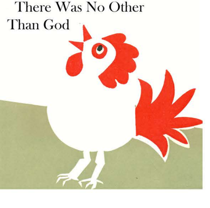
Once Upon a Time There Was No Other Than God



Once Upon a Time
There Was No Other Than God

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Contents | Page

Introduction by authors
Ducks (1) 11
Ducks (2) 13
Kid 16
Chicken 21
Kitten 23
Electric Wire 27
Fatemeh 32
Truthfulness 37
Cat and Chickens 41
Thirsty Dog 43
A flower 48
Walking in the Garden 53
Photographic Camera 58

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Introduction by authors

Religious books which have, so far, been compiled for teaching to schools, have dealt mainly with various regulations of cleanliness,defilement,explanation of prayer and fasting and etc and none of them have argued about theology in details.

Whereas if one does not believe in God, religion will not make sense to him, as the holy prophet of Islam was primarily calling people to God in saying,"Oh!Say there is no God except Allah to be saved."

For this reason, the preparers destined to compile an independent book about theology in order to make God familiar to children by childish language and manner. Several stories have been collected in this book to make clear this point that:

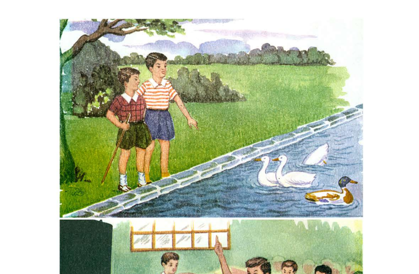
"In creation of universe knowledge and prudence have been used."

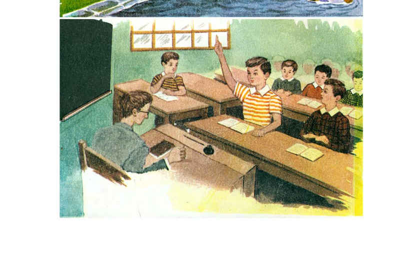
For example, when we say,' Duck feather does not wet.' We mean duck itself does not have ability and intelligence of making its feather fat. Therefore an intelligent thing has to provide it with this in order to enable it to survive on water and swim.

Additionally, breast feeding of children of animals, transfer of insects from fathers to children, heading of trees and all of these are beyond intelligence and capability of creatures; consequently an intelligent thing must have contribution which is God.

Thus, we require all respected parents to real carefully all stories in advance bearing in mind the rationalistic points which can be used as proof of the existence of knowledge in creation of creatures to explain them to students.

A few stories about prey and righteousness have been brought. Because many people by heart and internal connection which sometimes appears by being suffered from troubles and their removal and doing good works can realize an especial power, upper than ordinary powers is present thereby they believe in God. Therefore teachers by examples and witnesses can possibly describe this subject to students in details.





Ducks (1)

Once Mahdi and Ali went to a garden for a walk where some ducks were in a pool. Mahdi saw the ducks are not wet as much as they go under water or put their heads in the water and the water slides down like pearl beads down and slide on their colorful feathers.

Mahdi was really surprised, because he had already seen that whenever pigeons and sparrow wash themselves in water their feathers get wet.

He turned to Ali saying,

"Why do not they get wet no matter how much they go under the water?"

Ali looked at ducks and said, "You are right, their feathers are not wet but I do not know why. Let us go and ask the farmer.

The farmer was a wise man; he thought for a moment to answer the boy's question. Then together with children they went and stood beside the pool, saying, "You are right but I do not know the answer and whoever does not know something must not say nonsense. You had better ask your teacher."

The children decided to ask their teacher the next day.

Questions:
1) Where did Mahdi and Ali go?
2) What did they see in the garden?
3) Why the duck's feather doesn't get wet in the water?

Ducks (2)

Next day in the classroom Mahdi got up and described what he had seen and asked,

"Why duck's feathers don't get wet in water?"

The teacher liked Mahdi's question and said, "In feather is oily and wouldn't become wet. Not only duck but also all birds which swim in the water have oily feathers, otherwise their feather becomes wet and heavy, as a result they cannot easily swim or fly any longer.

I have personally seen when it is raining heavily. Pigeon, sparrow and crow whose feathers become wet fly hard and with difficulty. "

Ali got up and asked, "Who has made duck's feathers oily?"

The teacher turned toward the students and said, "Who can answer this question?"

One of them said, "Their owners."

The teacher replied, "The ducks in the sea have no owners to make their feather oily."

All the students kept quiet and the teacher said, "The God who has created all creatures has provided them with oily feathers to enable them to swim and fly readily."

Questions:
1) What did Mahdi ask and what the teacher said?
2) Who has made duck's feathers oily?

Kid

One day on holiday Mahdi's and Ali's parents took them to a village nearby. Once they arrived, they started playing.

In one side there was a meadow which some cattle and sheep were grazing. The children came to see them. They ran after kids and lambs and wanted to hug them, but they couldn't catch them. The shepherd caught a few kids and gave one to each child.

The kids were very beautiful and naughty. The children intended to take them home, but the shepherd said, "They are still babies and they need their mom to feed them. They can make a lot of trouble for you as well as themselves."

Suddenly the shepherd ran to a side after a moment called the children. When they arrived, they saw that one of the goats has given birth and it was licking its baby.

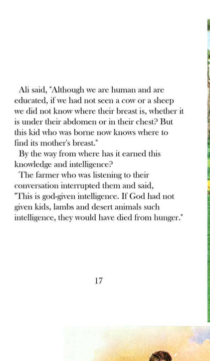
The kid could not easily stand on its feet, but after a few minutes it went to its mother's breast and started drinking the milk.

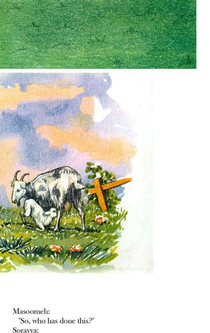
Mahdi turned toward Ali and said,"Ali! Look at this kid which is borne now. Look how it is drinking from its mother's breast. How does it know that the mother's breast is under abdomen and has milk in it?"

Ali said, "Although we are human and are educated, if we had not seen a cow or a sheep we did not know where their breast is, whether it is under their abdomen or in their chest? But this kid who was borne now knows where to find its mother's breast."

By the way from where has it earned this knowledge and intelligence?

The farmer who was listening to their conversation interrupted them and said, "This is god-given intelligence. If God had not given kids, lambs and desert animals such intelligence, they would have died from hunger."





Chicken

Masoomeh:

"By the way, why does chicks walks as soon as it comes out of its egg, but not the crow's chicks and sparrow until they find feather?"

Sorayya:

"Because crow and sparrow make their nest on trees and if they walk and run once they come out of egg they will fall down and die."

Masoomeh:

"Do you want to say crow and sparrow themselves have understood that their chicks must not walk and move?"

Sorayya:

"No. It is not true because they do not have intelligence and understanding."

Masoomeh:

"So, who has done this?"

Sorayya:

"I think God has given crow, sparrow and hen everything they need since their creation. Because he is aware of everything and knows if, chicken of crow and other birds and animals that make their nest on tree, walk, they will fall down.

Therefore God has created their feet somehow that they cannot move it at first, but hen chicken is not facing such danger, so it walks as soon as comes out of the egg."

Questions:
1) Do crow and sparrow chickens walk once they come out of egg?
2) What will happen if they walk?
3) Does hen chicken walk once it comes out of the egg?
4) Why does God has created crow chicken in a way that cannot walk

Kitten

Mahdi had gone Mohammad's home, one of his classmates, on Friday.

Mohammad told Mahdi,"Our cat has given birth to three beautiful and nice kittens. Let us go and watch them."

Mahdi said Ok and together they went to see them.

The cat was asleep and kittens were feeding from the Mom's breast. They watched them for a while.

Mahdi wanted to cuddle one of them.

Mohammad said, "Do not do that. Kitten does not like to be cuddled."

Mahdi asked, "Why is it's mother's breast filled with milk once it gives birth to kitten?"

Mohammad said, "Because kitten has no tooth and cannot chew food, the best food is milk."

Mahdi said, "Cat is not aware of such things such as preparing milk for its kittens which cannot chew food."

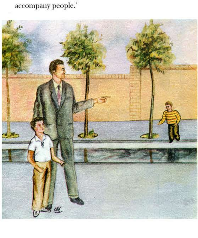
Mohammad's mother who had come for a reason and was listening, answered,"Yes, it is obvious that cats or animals wisdom does not reach this, even if it does, they will not be able to bring milk to their breast.

These are God's works, because he knows kitten has newly been borne and is unable to chew food, as a result, has created breast for mother and has arranged it somehow to make milk ready once kitten is borne.

Questions:
1) Whose home Mahdi had gone to and what did he see?
2) Why must a child drink milk?
3) What happens if child eats chewable food?
4) Who has put milk in mothers' breast

Electric Wire

Father said, "Mahdi, go and take this child to the other side of the road. God likes those who help and accompany people."



"Dear mother, yesterday when my father and I were walking in an alley, my father said that God likes those who help others and a few days ago, you too said that God likes us to be kind and good-nature.Mother, how do you know there is a God? If there is a God, why can't we see him?"

His mother laughed and said, "Look out of this window to find out whether the wire has electricity or not?"

Mahdi looked at the wires and left the room.

After a couple of minutes he returned saying yes they have.

Mother said, "Where did you go?"

Mahdi said, "I went to alley and looked at bulb where I found it on, so I knew it has electricity."

Mother said, "But you could look at it from this window, so why did you see the bulb in the alley?"

Mahdi said, "Since electricity is not seen in wire you have to look the bulb."

Mother laughed and said, "You understood well, there is electricity in wire, but it is not visible; likewise there is a God but he is not visible."

Mahdi said, "I did not see electricity in wire but by lighted bulb I knew there is electricity. You did not see the God, so how did you know he is present?"

Mother said, "We, too do not see God with eyes, but we realize that there is a power in this universe which is God by wisdom and management which have been used in the creation of universe."

Fatemeh

Mahdi:

"Father, when my classmate, Masoud, came here this afternoon he was angry. I asked why he is angry and he said that he wanted to go to cinema this afternoon but his father didn't agree and said that the film had not been made for children and is harmful for them."

I told him father's and mother's wisdom is more and you have to respect and obey them.

He replied, "Parents sometimes say something which kids don't like to listen. I like cinema very much and I like to go."

Father:

"In your opinion, does your mother like your small sister, Fatemeh?"

Mahdi:

"Yes, she likes her a lot."

Father:

"How do you know she likes her?"

Mahdi:

"Because I see whenever she is ill, my mother feels sad. Right a few days ago, when she was sick, my mother was crying for her.

Father:

"Have you seen your mother to quarrel with her and prevent her from doing something?"

Mahdi:

"Yes, in her illness, as doctor said she must not eaten bread that she liked, my mother was not giving her saying if you eat, your illness develops, but she was not listening and she was crying."

Father:

"In your opinion, what does Fatemeh think? Does she not think the mother is not good enough to her as result does not give her bread? Don't you think she would say that she is nonsense?"

Mahdi:

"Yes, she might think so, but she is wrong, by contrast because mother likes her, she does not want her to eat bread to develop her illness."

Father:

"Parents' words to their children are like refusals to give bread to Fatemeh in illness. You understand eating bread is harmful for Fatemeh, but Masoud does not know adults ' films are harmful for children."

"Tomorrow in school tell him parents who keep stay awake for bringing up and looking after their children and terribly sorrow for their uneasiness and illness and try hard day and night to make them comfortable, how do they say something which is not benevolent and sympathetically."

Truthfulness

Once Mahdi and his father went for a walk. On their way they saw two kids playing. One of them said do not lie, God takes you to hell.

Mahdi's father went forward and said, "Do not say so; God will not take anybody to hell. Your lie will do so."

When they left them Mahdi told his father, "I did not understand what you said. What do you mean by saying lie will lead human to hell?"

Father said, "What happens if someone eats poisonous food or drug?"

Mahdi said, "He will become poisoned and ill."

Father said,"OK, What happens if one eats healthy and fortified food?"

Mahdi replied, "His conditions will be healthy and are strengthened."

Father said, "Sin and good deed are like this. If someone makes a sin, it is like taking poison. Of course, the poison will make him ill .If you do well, it is like eating healthy and fortified food and of course you will be in good and healthy conditions."

"Therefore God will not take lier to hell, but lie itself does, because God is kinder to people than parents. He never wants badness for us, but he guides us like a doctor who gives a hygienic instructions. For example, he says not to drink icy water after hot tea or to brush teeth every day. So does God who wants us to do some duties to be in comfort in this world as well as next world."

Cat and Chickens

One day Mahdi asked his father, "Dear father our teacher was talking about obeying parents' instructions today. He was saying it is obligatory for children to listen to their parents' talks and respect them and anybody who does not behave so is sinful."

His father replied,"Yes.It is right."

Mahdi asked, "Why must children obey their parents?"

Father said, "Have a look at this hen. When the cat comes to its chickens, she invades and distances it from its chickens. Do you know why?"

Mahdi replied,"Yes, because she likes her chickens and wants to protect them from cat invasion."

Father said, "All animals behave so toward their children; when they are in big or small jeopardy, they attempt to move them away, so is human. When knows his children are in danger will quickly stop it. Because parents' wisdom are more than children and realize better badnesses and goodnesses, children must listen to their talks to be away from uneasynesses and dangers."

Thirsty Dog

Mahdi told his father when he came home, "Dear father, Soheila was washing her hand today, suddenly slipped and fell in the pool. Her mother was not at home, but their neighbor who was an old woman throws herself in the pool and brought her out."

His father said, "Do you think their neighbor has done a good job?"

Mahdi replied,"Yes, she has. But it was cold and she caught cold and is ill."

His father said, "My dear son, in such occasion's one must not have in mind the trouble of cool or heat or what will happen. It looks as though something is pulling him there.

Human does not calculate for doing well and sometimes puts his own life in danger. It is very likely that someone gets a bread or food in hardship and he is hungry but he gives it to a poor person or an animal like cat or dog.

He benefits nothing but his affinity to good work encourages him to do."

Mahdis' father from his father quotes that he had listened one of the great ones went to Qom with his fellow travelers. The weather was hot, the time about noon and the way was a few miles to destination. One of his servants who were a butler stays behind and misses the caravan and looks a thirsty dog is following him which is exhausted due to heat and thirst.

He feels that he can quench the thirsty dog by his water.

He pities it and decides to give it some water but he notices that he has nothing but his own master's cup. If he quenches it in this cup, he will punished severely and might be kept in jail, exile and all sorts of privations lifetime.

Nevertheless, he cannot tolerate and gets off giving it some water and then reaches himself to caravan. This butler man who was promoted to top jobs says that since then world's conditions changed to him and all his difficulties solved. Everything became easy to him, looking like something or someone helps me. Of course, I had no doubt God's opinion is with me for doing well to that animal. I progressed as much as I could reach ministry from butlery and servant."

Mahdi's father continued, "Although, if someone does well might benefit in this world too, but we have to do well only for God's satisfaction and happiness and must not expect a reward. We have only to know God likes benefactors."

Someone found a thirsty dog
He found it absolutely exhausted
That good nature made his own hat bucket-like
When he tied his turban as thread
He well tried and attempted
And gave the thirsty dog water
The prophet informed that, all his
Sins were forgiven

A Flower

On a holiday day Mahdi, his parents and his brother went to a garden for a walk. In their way back, Mahdi wanted his father to return sooner because he had not done his homework.

His father said, "Why did not you bring your bag to do your works in garden."

Mahdi said, "I was to do them when we returned."

Father said, "You have to do your works first, and then play. Otherwise you get tired and cannot write your homework.But if you do your homework first then play, whenever you remember you have nothing else to do, you will get happy."

Anyway they returned home earlier and he began his work.

When he was looking for his pencil in his bag, he saw a piece of paper on which there was a painting of a very beautiful flower. He wondered a lot and took it to his brother saying,"Look, I found this painting in my bag, but I do not know who has put it there."

Hassan said, "Maybe you have painted it, but you have forgotten."

Mahdi said,"No, I have not."

Hassan said, "What do you think to yourself?"

Mahdi said, "I first thought perhaps Ali, who was ill today and did not come with us to garden, has painted it. But I knew he did not go to school and is unable to paint. It must be an expert's work. Have a look, how beautifully he has painted the branches, leaves and the flowers. When you see you think it is really an actual flower."

While they were talking, their mother came in and gave Mahdi a piece of paper.

When Mahdi read the paper suddenly said, "Did I not say it was painted by an expert; look, Hassan my uncle came to see ill Ali and he painted this for me and put it in my bag."

Walking in the Garden

When Friday arrived, Hassan, Mahdi, Ali and their parents together went to the same garden where they had gone last week.

It was very nice and pleasant place. They spread carpet under trees and sat down. This time the children had brought their bags as their parents advised.

They started doing their homework.

Whenever they got tired from reading or writing, they played for a while and again returned to their works. When their works finished, they went for a walk with their fathers.

In other side Mahdi saw a small pine tree beside a big one. The trunk of small pine was a bit bent to right side.

Mahdi turned his face to father and said, "Why has this tree bent to right side, whereas pine tree rises straightly. It looks like someone has bowed it to that side?"

Father said,"No, nobody has bowed it, but it has bent itself, because like us who need weather and sunshine for life, most of plants need too. That is why this small tree has bent itself to right to reach its leaves to sunshine. Otherwise its leaves would have stayed under big tree."

Mahdi said," Does tree have intelligence to realize sunshine is necessary? Or has eye to appreciate which side the sun is?"

Father said, "Tree does not have wisdom and intelligence like human being, but God has created it in a way to bow itself toward sun and fresh air whenever sunshine and weather are little."

Mahdi wondered and after little thinking said to Hassan, "Trees and plants actually have no wisdom and intelligence. Therefore these are God's work."

Hassan said,"Yes, it is so. These things make us understand world have a God. Likewise when you saw a painting, you said an intelligent and literate one must have painted it, because it is not feasible by an illiterate.

When one sees these realizes a wise and intelligent thing has created this tree like this, to be able to bow toward sunshine and fresh air and that thing is God."

Photographic Camera

One day, Mahdi, Hassan and Ali had gone to Masoud's home and were playing as Masoud's elder brother came in and took some photograph. When the children returned to home, the elder brother, Mahdi, wanted their father to buy them a camera.

His father agreed ,but since he was too busy, did not have enough time to buy it.Everynight, as the father was coming home, they were asking him whether he has bought it or not.

As their father saw they terribly like a camera and he might not have enough time to buy it, quickly went to their uncle and wanted him to do it.

He accepted. Children became happy and day and night were going to him, asking whether he has bought it or not.

Some days passed and their uncle too could not buy the camera.

The children got angry and disappointed and did not go to him any longer. One day their uncle came home and called them to give them the camera he had bought.

They became extremely happy and were asking themselves what happened our uncle bought the camera today, whereas we did not tell him anything about camera.

Mahdi said, "After prayer today morning, I prayed and wanted God our uncle buys camera."

Their mother who was hearing their speech, enjoyed Mahdi so much and told them,

" God is kinder to us than parents and if we obey him and truthfully want something he will give us."

Ahmad said,"Mother, it is some days I have wanted God to give me a knife. Why does he not give?"

Mother replied, "If you want me to give you a knife, I would not too, because it will cut your hand and it is harmful to you , so is God more, because he is kinder than mother. So much as you pray to get something bad from God, he would not give you."

Some days ago, Mahdi's brother, Ali, got ill. A doctor was called on for him. They took the prescription and bought some drugs. They gave him gradually as doctor had said. At night his fever raised. He was groaning and Mahdi who was staying with him in one room pity him and became very upset and saw anything mother says he, too repeats unaware.

Anyway Mahdi fell asleep. Early in the morning, when he woke up, saw his mother praying after prayer.

Mahdi went beside pool and got woozo and prayed. Then asked his mother, "Dear mother how is Ali?"

She said,"Godwilling he is fine."

Mahdi said,"Mother, what does pray mean?"

His mother replied, "My dear son, since childhood I was looking whenever my mother's or father's work got in trouble, they were praying and requiring God to remove that trouble. Since then whenever my work gets hard or I find a problem I pray to God."

Mother continued, "I and all, who know God, see whenever our work gets in trouble in this world; whenever we get absolutely disappointed only one person helps us to removes our trouble and he is God.

When we are alone in our room or when there is nobody with me beside the vegetation in a garden, I feel He is with me."

Mahdi said, "Maybe you think so."

His mother replied, "How is only an imagination and thought whereas I have wanted Him several times and He has given me. Everybody must do this, not a single time, but several times to make sure who is God and what effect does the praying have on us."