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## Concept of "Deity, Man and Universe: A Comparison between Western Weltanschauung and Holy Quran

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### **Abstract**

The Islamic worldview and the Western worldview are two distinct philosophical frameworks that shape the way individuals and societies perceive and understand the world around them. The Islamic worldview is based on the belief in one God, Allah, and the revelation of the Quran to the prophet Muhammad PBUH. It emphasizes the importance of submitting to the will of Allah Almighty and following the teachings of the Quran and the Sunnah of Holy Prophet Muhammad PBUH. The Islamic worldview also stresses the interconnectedness of all aspects of life and encourages individuals to seek knowledge and engage in social justice.

The Western worldview, on the other hand, has been shaped by a long history of philosophical and scientific inquiry, including ancient Greek philosophy and the Enlightenment. It places emphasis on individualism, reason, and empirical evidence as the basis for understanding the world. The Western worldview values progress, innovation, and scientific discovery, and places a high importance on individual freedoms and human rights. Despite their differences, both worldviews share common values, such as the importance of morality, justice, and compassion towards others. They also share a belief in the importance of seeking knowledge and understanding the world around us, albeit through different methods and approaches.

**Keywords:** Weltanschauung, Quran, Universe, Kant Imam Ghazali, Philosophy, Islam

### **Introduction:**

Weltanschauung is a German word that refers to a comprehensive worldview or perspective on life. It encompasses a person's beliefs, values, attitudes, and understanding of the world and the meaning of existence<sup>1</sup>. A Weltanschauung provides a framework for interpreting experiences and making decisions about how to live<sup>2</sup>.

Weltanschauung can be shaped by many factors, including cultural background, religion, education, personal experiences, and individual philosophical beliefs. It can also change over time as a person's experiences and understanding of the world evolves.<sup>3</sup>

Islamic philosophy, like all philosophical traditions, deals with the concept of Weltanschauung, or worldview. Many Islamic philosophers have written about the nature of reality, the meaning of life, and the proper way to live. Here are a few prominent Islamic philosophers and their views on Weltanschauung: Al-Farabi (870-950), Ibn Rushd (Averroes) (1126-1198), Al-Ghazali (1058-1111) These are just a few examples of the ways in which Islamic philosophers have thought about the concept of Weltanschauung. Islamic philosophy is a rich and diverse tradition that continues to be studied and debated to this day<sup>4</sup>.

In Western philosophy, the concept of Weltanschauung has been discussed and debated by many thinkers, including Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Martin Heidegger. In contemporary usage, the term is often used to refer to the shared beliefs and cultural values of a particular group or society.

Al-Ghazali was a philosopher and theologian who lived in Persia. He believed that the ultimate goal of human life is to attain union with God and that this is achieved through the pursuit of knowledge and spiritual development. He argued that a person's Weltanschauung is shaped by their beliefs about the nature of God and the purpose of human existence<sup>5</sup>.

Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher, defined Weltanschauung as a comprehensive worldview or view of life. According to Kant, a person's Weltanschauung is shaped by his experiences, beliefs, values, and understanding of the world. He believed that Weltanschauung is an essential component of human life and helps individuals make sense of their experiences and make decisions about how to live<sup>6</sup>.

Islam, being a divine guidance from Almighty, also has its own Weltanschauung. It provides a comprehensive worldview for its followers based on its teachings and beliefs. The Islamic Weltanschauung is centered around the belief in one God (Allah) and the guidance provided by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through the Quran. The Islamic Weltanschauung encompasses all aspects of life, including social, political, and economic aspects, and provides guidance for how Muslims should live and interact with the world<sup>7</sup>.

In comparison, both Kant's philosophy and Islam provide a comprehensive worldview for their followers. While Kant's Weltanschauung is based on reason and experience, the Islamic Weltanschauung is based on faith and divine guidance.

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**Weltanschauung approaches:**

There are many approaches to developing a weltanschauung, and they can vary depending on factors such as culture, religion, and personal experience. Some common approaches include:

1. Religious or spiritual: Drawing on the beliefs and values of a particular religion or spiritual tradition.
2. Rational or scientific: Building a worldview based on logic, reason, and empirical evidence.
3. Existential or phenomenological: Emphasizing personal experience and subjective perception to create a unique worldview.
4. Cultural or social: Shaping a worldview based on the norms, values, and traditions of a particular culture or society.
5. Postmodern or deconstructionist: Questioning traditional worldviews and seeking to create new ones by deconstructing language and cultural norms.<sup>8</sup>

**Weltanschauung approaches according to Islam:**

In Islam, there are a few key Weltanschauung approaches that are commonly emphasized:

1. Tawhid: The oneness and unity of God is a central concept in Islam, and a Muslim's worldview is grounded in the belief that everything in the universe is created and sustained by God.
2. Qur'anic worldview: Muslims view the Qur'an as the word of God, and it is the primary source of guidance for their worldview. Muslims also draw on the example of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a model for ethical behavior and values.
3. Akhirah: Muslims believe in the afterlife and see this life as a test or trial, with the ultimate goal of attaining paradise in the hereafter. This belief has a significant impact on a Muslim's worldview and approach to life.
4. Social justice and compassion: Islam emphasizes the importance of treating others with compassion and justice, and Muslims are encouraged to be active in working towards a fair and just society.
5. Submission to God: The word "Islam" itself means submission to God, and a Muslim's worldview is shaped by the belief that all aspects of life should be in accordance with God's will and guidance<sup>9</sup>.

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**Weltanschauung approaches according to West:**

In the Western philosophical tradition, there have been many different approaches to developing a Weltanschauung, but some of the most significant include:

1. Rationalism: Emphasizes the role of reason and logic in understanding the world and developing a worldview. This approach has its roots in ancient Greek philosophy, particularly the work of Plato and Aristotle.
2. Empiricism: Emphasizes the role of experience and observation in understanding the world and developing a worldview. This approach has its roots in the work of British philosophers such as John Locke and David Hume.
3. Existentialism: Emphasizes the individual's subjective experience and personal freedom in creating a unique worldview. This approach emerged in the 20th century and was popularized by thinkers such as Jean-Paul Sartre and Martin Heidegger.
4. Postmodernism: Emphasizes the contingency and instability of meaning and values, and seeks to deconstruct and challenge traditional worldviews. This approach emerged in the latter half of the 20th century and has been associated with thinkers such as Jacques Derrida and Michel Foucault.
5. Pragmatism: Emphasizes the practical consequences of beliefs and values in developing a worldview. This approach has its roots in the work of American philosophers such as Charles Peirce and William James.

**Weltanschauung approaches according to Polytheism:**

Polytheism refers to the belief in and worship of multiple deities or gods, and as such, it is not a singular philosophy or worldview. There have been many different forms of polytheism throughout history and across different cultures, and each has its own unique approach to developing a worldview. Some possible Weltanschauung approaches in polytheistic belief systems might include:

1. Mythology: Many polytheistic belief systems are based on rich mythologies that explain the nature of the gods, their relationships with each other, and their interactions with the world. These myths can shape a worldview that emphasizes the importance of certain values or ways of living.
2. Animism: Some polytheistic belief systems view all things in the world as imbued with a spiritual essence or energy. This worldview can emphasize the interconnectedness of all things and the importance of living in harmony with the natural world.

3. Ritual and worship: Polytheistic belief systems often involve regular rituals and practices that are designed to honor the gods and maintain a relationship with them. These practices can shape a worldview that emphasizes the importance of tradition, community, and personal connection to the divine.
4. Syncretism: In many cases, polytheistic belief systems have incorporated elements of other belief systems, either through cultural contact or as a result of migration or conquest. This can result in a worldview that combines elements of multiple belief systems, and that emphasizes the importance of adaptability and flexibility in religious and philosophical thinking<sup>10, 11</sup>.

### **The impact of Weltanschauung approaches on society:**

The impact of Weltanschauung approaches on society can be profound, as they shape the way individuals and groups view the world, their place in it, and their relationships with others. Here are some ways in which Weltanschauung approaches can impact society:

1. Values and ethics: Weltanschauung approaches can shape the values and ethics of individuals and groups, influencing how they make decisions, treat others, and interact with the world around them.
2. Social and political structures: Weltanschauung approaches can impact the development of social and political structures, including laws, governance, and systems of social organization.
3. Identity and belonging: Weltanschauung approaches can shape individual and group identities, providing a sense of belonging and connection to others who share similar worldviews.
4. Conflict and cooperation: Weltanschauung approaches can either contribute to conflict or facilitate cooperation and understanding between individuals and groups.
5. Cultural practices and traditions: Weltanschauung approaches can influence the development of cultural practices and traditions, such as religious or spiritual rituals, artistic expression, and forms of social interaction.

In short, Weltanschauung approaches play a significant role in shaping society, from individual behavior and belief to broader social and political structures.

### **Impact of Weltanschauung approaches on an individual's life:**

Weltanschauung approaches can have a significant impact on an individual's life, as they shape the way a person understands the world and

their place in it. Here are some ways in which Weltanschauung approaches can impact an individual's life:

1. Beliefs and values: Weltanschauung approaches can shape a person's beliefs and values, influencing how they make decisions, treat others, and navigate the world around them.
2. Sense of purpose: Weltanschauung approaches can provide a sense of purpose and direction for an individual's life, helping them to find meaning and fulfillment in their actions and pursuits.
3. Relationships: Weltanschauung approaches can shape how an individual interacts with others, including their family, friends, and community. It can influence their approach to social norms, customs, and expectations.
4. Well-being: Weltanschauung approaches can impact an individual's mental and emotional well-being, providing comfort and support during times of stress, challenge or adversity.
5. Personal growth: Weltanschauung approaches can help individuals to reflect on their own experiences and understand themselves better. It can also provide a framework for personal growth and development, both spiritually and psychologically.

In short, Weltanschauung approaches can impact an individual's life in many ways, shaping their beliefs, values, relationships, and personal growth.

## **Concepts of Weltanschauung**

### **Concept of Deity:**

A deity is a supernatural being, such as a god or goddess, is worshiped by those who hold the belief that it has power or control over a certain part of the world.

Deity translates literally as "divine nature." It was first used by philosopher Saint Augustine, whose thoughts had a significant impact on the development of Western Christianity. Deity is derived from the Latin word deus for "god." Deities are said to have an eternal goodness and strength as part of their divine essence<sup>12</sup>.

A deity is, according to C. Scott Littleton, "a person with powers greater than those of ordinary humans, but who interacts with humans, favorable or unfavorable attitude, in ways that carry humans to new levels of consciousness, beyond the grounded preoccupations of regular existence"<sup>13</sup>.

### **Concept of "Deity" from an Islamic Perspective:**

In the Monotheism, the concept of deity is centered around the belief in one all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-Gracious God, known as "Allah" in

Arabic. The term "Allah" has no plural or gender which shows its exclusivity when compared to the word "God". The Islamic concept of God is based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH and the revelations he received from God as recorded in the Holy Quran. Muslims believe that Allah Almighty is the sole creator of the universe and all that it contains. As mentioned in the Holy Quran:

"Allah is the Creator of all things, and He is the Guardian and Disposer of all affairs. To Him belong the keys of the heavens and the earth: and those who reject the Signs of Allah, - it is they who will be in loss."<sup>14</sup>

And reminds the falsity of all alleged gods:

"Say: 'Do ye then take (for worship) protectors other than Him, such as have no power either for good or for harm to themselves?'"<sup>15</sup>

"He is the First and the Last, the Evident and the Immanent: and He has full knowledge of all things."<sup>16</sup>

and that He is the Sustainer and governor of all things and nothing is comparable to Him.

"Say: He is Allah, the One; Allah, the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten, and there is none like unto Him."<sup>17</sup>

He is also seen as merciful and compassionate, and as the ultimate source of justice<sup>18</sup>. In Islam, the concept of God is central to the faith and shapes all aspects of the Muslim Weltanschauung. Muslims are taught to seek knowledge of God and to live in accordance with His will, as revealed in the Holy Quran and the example of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH. Through prayer, worship, and righteous action, Muslims believe that they can draw closer to God and attain spiritual fulfillment. The Islamic concept of God is one of the defining features of the faith and has a profound impact on the lives of Muslims, shaping their beliefs, values, and actions.

How many deities a religion worships can help classify it. Religions that practise polytheism accept more than one deity, whereas monotheistic religions only acknowledge one deity. Henotheistic faiths recognize only one supreme deity while acknowledging multiple deities as different manifestations of the same divine principle. Non theistic faiths reject the idea of a supreme, everlasting creator deity but may acknowledge a pantheon of gods who experience life, death, and rebirth just like everyone else<sup>19</sup>.

### **Concept of "Man" in Kant's Philosophy:**

Concept of man according to Immanuel Kant:

Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher, had a unique view of the concept of man. According to Kant, human beings are unique in that they have the capacity for rational thought and the ability to make moral decisions. He

believed that this capacity for rationality sets humans apart from all other creatures and gives them a special place in the world<sup>20</sup>.

Kant argued that human beings are both physical beings and moral beings, and that these two aspects of their nature are inextricably linked. He believed that human beings have a duty to use their reason and make moral decisions, and that this is what gives meaning and purpose to their lives.<sup>21</sup>

Kant also believed that human beings are autonomous, meaning that they have the ability to make choices and determine their own actions. He argued that this autonomy is an essential aspect of human dignity and that it should be respected and protected by society<sup>22</sup>.

In conclusion, Kant's view of the concept of man is one in which human beings are seen as unique, rational beings with the capacity for moral decision-making and the ability to determine their own actions. This view has had a significant impact on subsequent philosophy and has been discussed and debated by many philosophers since Kant's time.

### **Concept of "Man" according to Imam Gazali:**

Imam Al-Ghazali, a prominent 11th century Persian philosopher and theologian, had a nuanced view of the concept of man<sup>23</sup>. According to Al-Ghazali, human beings are created by God and are endowed with both a physical and spiritual nature. He believed that the purpose of human existence is to achieve a state of closeness with God and to attain eternal happiness in the afterlife.

Al-Ghazali viewed human beings as both physical and spiritual creatures, and believed that they have a unique role to play in the world as servants of God. He argued that human beings are responsible for the use of their reason and their actions, and that they will be held accountable for these actions in the afterlife<sup>24</sup>.

In Al-Ghazali's view, the physical and spiritual aspects of human beings are in a constant state of tension, and it is up to the individual to navigate this tension and strive to achieve a state of balance. He believed that this balance could be achieved through the pursuit of knowledge, the practice of self-reflection, and the cultivation of virtuous habits.

In conclusion, Al-Ghazali's view of the concept of man is one in which human beings are seen as both physical and spiritual creatures with a unique role to play in the world as servants of God. He believed that the ultimate goal of human life is to achieve a state of closeness with God and to attain eternal happiness in the afterlife.

### **Concept of "Man" From an Islamic Perspective:**

The status of "Man" according to Islam is of a slave (al-'abd) and He is His vice-gerent on earth (khalīfat Allāh fi'l - ard.)



"It is He who has appointed You vicegerent on the earth and exalted some of you in rank above others, so that He may test you by means of what he has given you."<sup>25</sup>

and he is the crown of creation (ashraf al-makhlūqāt)

"Surely We have honoured the children of Adam. We have put the land and the sea under their control, given them sustenance and have exalted them above many of those whom We have created"<sup>26</sup>

but he has not evolved from the lower forms of life. He is not an animal which happens to speak and think but a being who possesses a soul and spirit created by Allah Almighty.

"Then He fashioned him (man) in due proportion and breathed into him His

Ruh (Soul created by Allah for that person); and He gave you hearings (ear)

sights (eyes) and hearts. Little is the thanks you give".<sup>27</sup>

"It is Allah who takes away the Souls at the time of their death, and those that

die not during their sleep. He keeps those (souls) for which he ordained death

and sends the rest for a term appointed. Verily, in this are signs for people who

think deeply".<sup>28</sup>

He enjoys a dignity and nobility from Allah Almighty and is superior to other creation of Almighty. And it is he who determines his final destination.

Besides the material elements existing in the inorganic matter, plants and animals, there in the nature of man exists a Divine and angelic element also. Man is a mixture of what is natural and what is extra-natural, of what is material and what is not material, of body and soul:

"Who made all things good. And He began the creation of man from clay. Then He made his seed from a draught of despised fluid. Then He fashioned him and breathed into him of His spirit."<sup>29</sup>

### **Concept of Universe:**

In the Western worldview, there are different explanations for the origin of the universe, but the most widely accepted scientific explanation is the Big Bang theory. The Big Bang theory is the prevailing cosmological model that describes the origin and evolution of the universe.

According to this theory, the universe began as a singularity, an infinitely hot and dense point, around 13.8 billion years ago. The singularity then rapidly expanded and cooled, and the universe continued to expand and cool, leading to the formation of matter, galaxies, stars, and planets.

The Big Bang theory is supported by a wealth of observational evidence, including the cosmic microwave background radiation, the observed abundance of light elements such as hydrogen and helium, and the observed large-scale structure of the universe<sup>30</sup>.

In addition to the scientific explanation, there are also philosophical and religious explanations for the origin of the universe in the Western worldview. For example, many people believe in creationism, the idea that the universe was created by a supreme being. There are also other philosophical and religious explanations, such as the idea of the universe being a self-contained, eternal entity that has always existed.

In conclusion, in the Western worldview, there are different explanations for the origin of the universe, including the scientific explanation of the Big Bang theory and various philosophical and religious explanations. The most widely accepted explanation is the Big Bang theory, which is supported by a wealth of observational evidence.

### **Concept of "Universe" from an Islamic Perspective:**

In Islam, the concept of the universe is understood as a creation of Allah, the one and only God. According to Islamic teachings, Allah created the universe and everything in it, including all living beings and natural phenomena.

"The Originator of the heavens and the earth. When He decrees a matter, He only says to it : "Be!" – and it is".<sup>31</sup>

In Islam, the universe is seen as a marvel of creation, with intricate design and purpose. Muslims believe that Allah created the universe and everything in it as a sign of His power and wisdom, and that the universe serves as a testament to His greatness.

"It is Allah who has created seven heavens and of the earth, the like of them. [His] command descends among them so you may know that Allah is over all things competent and that Allah has encompassed all things in knowledge."<sup>32</sup>

The Quran describes the universe as having a vast and complex structure, with the stars, planets, and galaxies all functioning according to precise laws and patterns set forth by Allah.

"Indeed, your Lord is Allah, who created the heavens and earth in six days and then established Himself above the Throne. He covers the night with the day, [another night] chasing it rapidly; and [He created] the sun, the moon, and the stars, subjected by His command. Unquestionably, His is the creation and the command; blessed is Allah, Lord of the worlds."<sup>33</sup>

Muslims also believe that the universe is constantly expanding

"The heavens, We have built them with power. And verily, We are expanding it".<sup>34</sup>

And that it will eventually come to an end, when Allah will bring about the Day of Judgment.

"The Day when We will fold the heaven like the folding of a [written] sheet for the records. As We began the first creation, We will repeat it. [That is] a promise binding upon Us. Indeed, We will do it".<sup>35</sup>

Holy Quran also approves the theory of Big Bang as it is mentioned:

"Have not those who disbelieve known that the heavens and the earth were joined together as one united piece, then We parted them? And We have made from water every living thing. Will they not then believe?"<sup>36</sup>

In addition to its physical aspects, the Islamic concept of the universe also includes the spiritual realm, where angels, jinn, and other spiritual beings reside.

"Do they not look into the realm of the heavens and the earth and everything that Allah has created and [think] that perhaps their appointed time has come near? So in what statement hereafter will they believe?"<sup>37</sup>

Muslims believe that the spiritual realm is just as real as the physical realm, and that it has a profound impact on our lives and actions<sup>38</sup>.

So in Islam, the universe is understood as a creation of Allah Almighty, and is seen as a marvel of creation with intricate design and purpose. The universe is seen as both a physical and spiritual realm, with the physical realm expanding and coming to an end, and the spiritual realm having a profound impact on our lives and actions.

In conclusion, both western philosophy and Islam provide a comprehensive worldview for their followers. While western Weltanschauung is based on reason and experience, the Islamic Weltanschauung is based on faith and divine guidance.

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