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Dear Brothers in Islam !

Assalam Alaikum wa Rahmatu-llah wa Barakatuh

There are, as you know well, a lot of prodigious beautiful A-yats which mention natural objects and phenomina in the Quran. Islam is overwhelmingly interested in nature. That is quite unique among the worldwide great religions. The Quran is full of references to nature.

Thus Muslims find Allah's will, power, intentions, grace and mercy in various natural phenomena. They are delighted to look at the camels, the sky, the mountains and the earth. They look carefully ! Because there are SIGNS of Allah in those things ! Not only in those things, but also in the heavens and earth, in the creation of man, in the crawling things, in the alternation of night and day,.....,in the turning about of the winds there are SIGNS of Allah ! Verily in all natural objects and phenomena, including creation of human beings, there are SIGNS of Allah !

Well, then, are those things (not including human beings) no more than the containers of SIGNS of Allah ? Are they mere recipient objects which receive and contain SIGNS of Allah ? By no means ! The Quran says :

① [ Dost thou not perceive that all creatures both in heaven and earth praise God, and the birds also extending their wings ? Every one knoweth his prayer and his praise, and God knoweth that which they do. ]

{Sura 24, Ayat 41} (Two words underlined are originally italicized. Trans. by G.Sale)

② [ And the THUNDER uttereth his praise, and the Angels also, for awe of Him: and he sendeth his bolts and smiteth with

them whom he will while they are wrangling about God !  
Mighty is he in prowess. ]

{Sura 13, Ayat 14(Fluegel 13)} (Trans. by J.M.Rodwell)

- ③ [ To Allah submits whosoever is in the heavens and in the earth willingly or unwillingly, and likewise do their shadows in the mornings and the evenings. ]

{Sura 13, Ayat 16(Fluegel 15)} (Trans. by M.Z.Khan)

In Islamic thought, all creatures in heaven and earth praise God. How on earth do they praise ? For instance, the birds praise God extending their wings ! Every one knows his own prayer and his own praise.

Not only all creatures in heaven and earth, but also the THUNDER utters his own praise ! Yes, even SHADOWS submit to Allah ! (I clearly remember reciting this Ayat for the first time and being deeply moved to tears.)

The essence of all created things consists in praising Allah and submitting to Allah. In that essential point, human beings and other creatures (including even thunder and shadows) are all brothers and sisters one another; man praising and submitting on the ground with his shadow in his own manner, birds praising and submitting in the sky in their own manners, thunder praising and submitting in the sky again in his own manner, and fishes praising and submitting in the water in their own manners.

As long as the birds in Islamic lands praise Allah flying and extending their wings, then, why not the birds in Japan ? Is there any difference between your birds and ours ? As long as the thunder in Islamic lands utters his praise, why not the thunder in Japan ? Is there any difference between your thunder and ours ? As long as the shadows in Islamic lands submit to Allah in the mornings and the evenings, why not the shadows in Japan ? Is there any difference between your shadows and ours ? Verily Islam is universal. As long as you find the Islamic phenomena in your lands, we must find exactly the same Islamic phenomena in ours.

Yes, Islam is not heterogeneous for us Japanese at all. In other words, Islamic universality itself never consider Japanese religious sentiment to be heterogeneous. As long as Islam is universal, it must hold true in Japanese religious heart. Verily it is so universal that we Japanese, and you Brothers, all human beings were born as Muslims; only being unaware of it on our part.

Dear Brothers in Islam ! In a Far Eastern country remote from Makka al-Mukarrama, in a small city, at a small college, I keep studying Islam, with untiring zeal, with ever increasing interest !

Assalam Alaikum !