

FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

The Jigsaw Puzzle of Life: An Islamic Perspective

By: Mohd Abbas Abdul Razak October 5, 2026



As an honoured creation,

human beings stand

on the highest pedestal in God's hierarchy of creation.

The moment the soul enters

the developing human body,

man is touched by the spark of life

human emotions,

angelic attributes,

some evil inclinations,

and divine attributes

bestowed by God.

Thus, human beings are created

with qualities that enable them

to rise above the ordinary

and fulfil a higher purpose in life.

Yet, human existence

is not free from inner struggle.

Born with mixed emotions,

man is pulled throughout his existence

by two conflicting desires:

to be good

elevates him to higher stations

in the sight of God.

But when evil overtakes him,

he becomes a tyrant,

an arrogant transgressor,

unethical and cruel

to his fellow human beings,

and a destroyer of flora and fauna.

Such behaviour is contrary

to the ideal for which man was created

and entrusted with the role

of God's vicegerent-

the one who administers

and preserves the Earth.

Yet, instead of fulfilling this trust,

pollutes the environment,

and causes destruction

to the natural world.

Despite the chaos in the world,

the Islamic way of life

calls humanity towards a philosophy

that regards human life

as meaningful,

All-encompassing,

and filled with compassion

for fellow human beings

and other forms of life

on this planet.

Islam teaches humanity

to live a balanced life,

and the Hereafter.

One's time should be shared

between performing religious duties,

taking care of oneself and one's family,

and helping relatives

and others in need.

In this sense,

the good life is not simply

a life of worldly enjoyment,

but a life guided by

Responsibility,

Balance,

Compassion,

and a sense of purpose.

At the heart of this philosophy

*man worships only God
and not any other object in nature.*

*The God of Islam
is neither born
nor does He have a family.*

He is omniscient,

*Omnipotent,
and omnipresent.*

*Allah is His proper name,
and He is known
by His beautiful names and attributes
mentioned in the Qur'an.*

*In contrast to the pantheist philosophy
that says,
"God is everything,*

"Everything belongs to God."

He is the First

and the Last.

He existed before everything else

was created.

Therefore,

in the pursuit of a good life

in this world,

one should not neglect

his relationship with his Creator.

In the life of a Muslim,

God occupies an important position.

Muslims are taught

to include God

in their equation of success

*Simply put,
God becomes the central piece
of the jigsaw puzzle of life.*

*Without God,
life becomes meaningless
and less fulfilling.
The different aspects
of human existence
may appear as separate pieces
of the puzzle.*

*But it is their relationship with God
that gives them coherence
and meaning.*

*Ultimately,
the good life in Islam*

Nature,

and fellow human beings.

A Muslim should live a decent life,

upholding fairness and justice,

while avoiding all inhuman acts

and corruption on God's earth.

In the jigsaw puzzle of life,

God is not merely one piece

among many.

He is the central piece

that gives meaning

to all the other pieces.

Without God,

man would not be able

to fully comprehend

*man is better prepared
to face all the trials
and tribulations of life.
Rather than being distracted
by the ephemeral things of this world,
man comes to understand
that his life here
is a testing ground
for the Hereafter.
For whatever happens in life,
whether good or bad,
Muslims believe:
**"From God we came, and to Him is our eventual
return."***

(The views expressed are those of Dr. Mohd Abbas Abdul Razak
from the Department of Fundamental and Interdisciplinary
Studies, AHAS KIRKHS, IIUM, and do not necessarily reflect the
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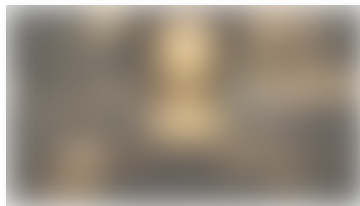
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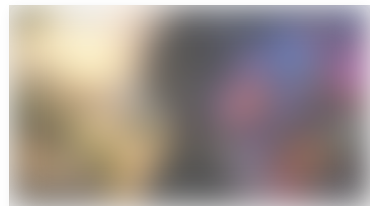
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