

A photograph of a train at a station platform during sunset. The train is white with red and blue accents. The platform has a white tactile paving strip. The sky is orange and pink, and there are city buildings in the background. The text "How did we get here?" is written in a large, dark blue serif font at the top. The text "A little book." is written in a smaller, orange serif font at the bottom right. On the left side, there is a vertical text "STAPLES GO HERE" in a small, white, sans-serif font, with equals signs above and below it.

# How did we get here?

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book.

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And where are we?

**As you read this, I invite you to think alongside me: Imagine you wake up on a train, with only one stop at the end of its journey. You have no idea why you are on this train, or when it will end, and neither do your friends with you.**

**Would you do your utmost to find out how you ended up here? You might wonder: Who put us on this train? Where are we headed? Where did our journey begin? Or would you rather be complacent, sitting idly until the final stop?**

**This scenario is actually our reality. Each of us wakes up in this journey of life with only two certainties; We were created, and we will eventually die. But do you know how you came to exist here? Or more importantly - why?**





# A Quick thought experiment.

Imagine holding a ball above the ground. The ball can only fall once you let it go. Now, try to think of a single thing in this universe that doesn't rely on something else in order to act, just as the ball relies on you to drop it.

Take the rain falling from storm clouds, for example. Each droplet relies on the pull of the Earth to fall. The plant that drinks the water, and provides us breathable air? The plant relies on the sunlight to survive. A honeybee's heartbeat? The bee must be born, breathe, feed, and drink - all relying on other factors to just sustain its heartbeat.

Even the universe itself relies on its own creation to exist, with the laws of physics relying on each other until we arrive at a set of fundamental, "Grandfather laws." But these too must rely on something to be true.

If everything in the universe relies on something else, then we ultimately reach a point where there is only **one final point of origin** - something that doesn't rely on anything else. Otherwise, we would be caught in an infinite loop of dependence, which is logically impossible.

The ultimate point must be:

1. **Eternal**: It does not rely on time.
2. **Intelligent**: It does not rely on outside input to act.
3. **All-powerful**: It does not rely on anything for power.



= If these conditions are met, we are left with the conclusion  
= that there must be a **single, eternal, intelligent, and all-**  
= **powerful Creator.**

## Can there be multiple Gods?

S Here is another thought experiment: Imagine you have 2  
T beings with ‘absolute power’ in your local park. One wants  
A to create a grand towering willow tree, while the other  
P wants a delicate peach blossom tree in the same spot.

L There are 3 possible  
E outcomes:

S God 1 wins,  
and the willow  
tree stands tall.



God 2 wins,  
and the peach  
blossom  
tree appears.

G Neither wins, and no tree grows, leaving an empty plot of grass.

O In any scenario where there is a clear winner,  
the stronger being proves the other is not truly all-  
powerful, as one had to concede.

H In the case of a tie, **neither is all-powerful,**  
E as they are limited by the other.  
R  
E

= Therefore, logic dictates that there can only be one all-powerful  
= being, who created and sustains the universe. Now, can this be  
= the Trinity of Christianity? Can it be the thousand Gods of  
= Hinduism? None of these fit the description of a single, eternal,  
= all-powerful, intelligent Creator. Then what meets the criteria?

# Who is Allah?

Allah is the Arabic word for The God,  
meaning **The one and Only God** -  
The epitome of monotheism.

Allah is the single, all-powerful, all-knowing  
Creator and Sustainer of the universe.  
Islam is the religion of Allah, spread  
through all His prophets, including  
Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses,  
Jesus, and Muhammad  
(peace be upon them)

## So what exactly is Islam?

The word Islam means submission to the one True  
creator and sustainer, owner of the universe, Allah.

The Qur'an is the word of Allah, brought down  
through revelation of our final prophet Muhammad,  
peace upon him.



# Tawhid (Oneness of God)

At the heart of Islam is the fundamental belief in the absolute oneness and uniqueness of Allah. This means that Allah is the sole creator, sustainer, and ruler of the universe. Nothing resembles him, and he alone is worthy of worship. Rejecting any form of polytheism or association of partners with Allah.

## Intro: The 5 pillars of Islam

1. Shahada (Declaration of Faith) - the Shahada is the declaration of faith that states: "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah." This affirms belief in the oneness of Allah and the prophethood of Muhammad, peace upon him. It is the cornerstone of faith.
2. Salah (Prayer) - Salah is the 5 daily prayers that are performed throughout the day. These prayers emphasises discipline and glorify Allah.
3. Zakat (Charity) - Zakat is giving a portion of your wealth to those in need, purifying ones wealth and ensuring social responsibility. An obligation that reduces inequality.
4. Sawm (Fasting during Ramadan) - Fasting from sunrise to sunset is for self discipline, empathy for the less fortunate, and devotion to Allah.
5. Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca) - Every muslim with the means to do so makes pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime.

Muslims practice submission to Allah through sincere worship, righteous living, and moral responsibility.

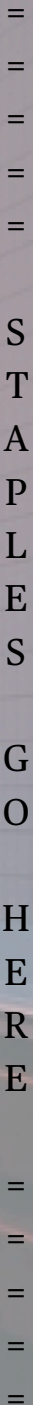


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