

# THE 5D THINKING NEWSLETTER

A UNIQUE APPROACH TO READ THE UNIVERSE



**Special read:** *Trekking in the Hills* by Dr. Colin Turner

## **SNEAK PEAK OF WHAT'S INSIDE:**

- *5D Thinking on the Earth's Structure*
- *Pitter Patter* by Aisha Al Owais
- *A New Institute*
- *Existence & Meaning Program with nearly 150 graduates*

## **Book Review:**

**A Rare Earth**

by Peter D. Ward and Donald Brownlee



Welcome to the twelfth edition of  
**The 5D Thinking Newsletter!**

**Dear Subscriber,**

Welcome to the twelfth edition of the 5D Thinking newsletter!

In this issue, you can read Dr. Colin Turner's reflections on the world's physical and metaphorical paths inspired by a recent hiking trip to the Cumbrian hills. You can also explore the 5DT approach to the formation of the Earth and its layers in our first Earth Science feature "The Earth's Structure".

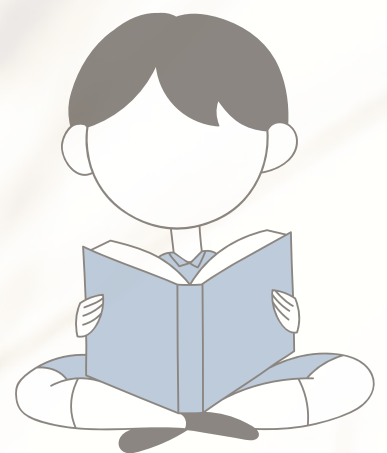
In this edition, you can also read Saba Irshad Ansari's fascinating blog article on the life of honeybees "Honeybees and their Golden Syrup" and my review of Peter D. Ward and Donald Brownlee's famous book "Rare Earth". For a thought-provoking reflection on the phenomenon of rain, be sure to read "Pitter Patter" by Aisha Al Owais.

We also have two great pieces of news to share: 1) the praise of the new graduates of the Meaning and Existence program 2) the establishment of a new institute in the USA on the integration of knowledge.

Remember, you can unsubscribe at any time by clicking on the link at the end of the newsletter. We hope to continue to inspire you with the Five Dimensional (5D) Thinking Approach to education.

On behalf of the 5D Thinking Team,

Nadine Kamal



# 5D Thinking Approach to the Earth's Structure

*Our planet Earth is the only planet in our Solar System to have oceans of water on its surface and oxygen in the air. Its layered structure is uniquely designed to support life in all of its various forms. In this chapter, we explore the layered design of the Earth using five consecutive dimensions of thought:*

In the **first** dimension, Analytical Thinking, we study the Earth's three main layers: the outermost crust, the mantle in the middle and the innermost core. We also explore the formation of the Earth's magnetic field.

Next, in the **second** dimension, Analogical Thinking, we compare the design and function of the Earth to that of an elegant palace and reflect on the construction of the International Space Station, mankind's "miniature planet".

Then, in the **third** dimension, Critical Thinking, we reflect on the construction of a building like a skyscraper. We learn that from experience, it takes knowledge, power and will to bring certain materials together in the construction process. We need experts with knowledge and experience in various fields to work together as a team to construct a skyscraper.

In the **fourth** dimension, Meditative Thinking, we explore the hidden messages in the construction of the elegant palace we call Earth and reflect on the attributes of the Earth's Creator.

Finally, in the **fifth** dimension, Moral Thinking, we reflect on the value of Earth and realize that we do not possess ultimate control of the planet. We can only harness our ability to make use of its bounties to meet our needs. We learn to express gratitude to our Creator for His plentiful gifts.

To read more about the 5DT approach to the Earth's structure, please click [here](#)

# *Pitter-Patter*

*Aisha Alowais*

While sipping your hot cocoa on a cold winter evening, or enjoying a piece of fruit on a tropical island, you hear a tapping on the window, which then becomes a pitter-patter sound. You move towards the window, draw aside the curtains, and observe those beautiful raindrops greeting you with a smile in droplet form. Without rain, water mediums would dry out, fertile land would wither, plants would die, and ultimately humans too, ending life on Earth. To further understand the value of rain and better appreciate it, let us have a five-dimensional reflection on this phenomenon.

To begin with, rain is liquid precipitation, meaning that it is water falling from the sky. Clouds are made of water droplets. Within a cloud, water droplets condense onto one another, causing the droplets to grow in size. As this continues to happen, the droplet gets heavier and heavier. When the water droplet becomes too heavy to continue floating around in the cloud, it falls to the ground.

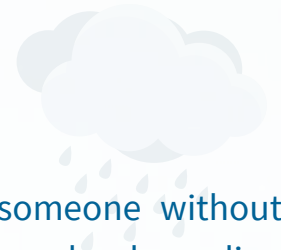
In addition to its importance to living things on Earth, it is also responsible for depositing most of the fresh water on the planet. It helps provide suitable conditions for many types of ecosystems, as well as water for hydroelectric power plants and crop irrigation. For such reasons, some countries opt for cloud seeding due to lack of rain.

Let us compare rainfall to artificial rainfall, also known as cloud seeding. While rainfall nourishes lands and revives plants, cloud seeding is in fact harmful to the environment. It can lead to acidification of the oceans, ozone layer depletion, and an increase in the levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Moreover, cloud seeding is also a costly method while genuine rainfall is completely free of charge. Although cloud seeding is the work of humans, it relies on certain suitable atmospheric conditions to work. This means that only clouds that are capable of rain are the ones that would respond well to this effort. Here, one realizes that no matter how far science and technology gets, it can never be a match with the Creator's creativity.



# Pitter-Patter

*Aisha Alowais*



On a second note, what does it take to induce artificial rain? Can someone without knowledge in environmental science and chemistry contribute to the cloud seeding process? Cloud seeding is a process to create artificial rain. Here, chemicals like silver iodide, potassium iodide, and dry ice are sent to the atmosphere using helicopters or planes. These particles attract the water vapor in the air, leading to the formation of cumulonimbus clouds and finally, rain. It generally takes half an hour to produce rainfall using this method. Modern-day cloud seeding was launched in the lab of noted surface scientist Irving Langmuir at General Electric in 1946. His colleagues Vincent Schaefer and Bernard Vonnegut discovered that silver iodide could transform supercooled water vapor into ice crystals at temperatures of  $-10$  to  $-5$  °C. Do you think it would have been possible for animals to create such a process? How about the atoms themselves? Would they be able to come together in a certain way to cause clouds to rain? Just as the invention of cloud seeding required a great deal of knowledge and experience, natural rainfall too must have a Creator behind it. Nature cannot randomly cause clouds to rain. Moreover, while rain nourishes living things on Earth, artificial rain can alter weather conditions in neighboring regions.

Is it possible that the two hydrogens and one oxygen atom knew that they would result in water if they came together? How could nature on its own cause water to evaporate and condense? In fact, the formation of rain depends on many factors at micro and macro levels. Perhaps, it depends on the entire universe at various degrees of interconnectivity. Thus, there must be a Creator with Infinite knowledge and wisdom to make this happen. There must be a Maker aware of how rain is essential to creatures on earth. In fact, He says:

***Do not the Unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of creation), before we clove them asunder? We made from water every living thing.***

***Will they not then believe? - 21:30***

Water in its various forms, whether rain or snow, is one of the many signs that point to the Maker's infinite knowledge and flawless creation. It becomes like a great teacher giving moral lessons. As Rumi says, we shall "Be like the sun for grace and mercy. Be like the night to cover others' faults. Be like running water for generosity. Be like death for rage and anger. Be like the Earth for modesty."

Our Creator blessed us with eyes to observe those beautiful raindrops on the windowpane, and ears to hear the mesmerizing pitter-patter rain song. He blessed us with skin to feel those droplets, and reflect on them. Isn't it amazing how He made this droplet a reason for plants to grow and for humans to live? Shouldn't we be grateful to the Maker for these many gifts? Should we not praise the Maker of such amazing gifts? How would you live if your land dried out one day? How would your plants grow if you had no source of water? Indeed, we should show the utmost appreciation for the valuable gift of rain through the use of good words and fine deeds. We should not despise rainy days only because they interrupt our plans. We should appreciate such a wonderful atmospheric phenomenon.

# Trekking in the hills

*Dr. Colin Turner*

And He has set upon the earth mountains standing firm, lest it should shake with you; and He has placed roads and rivers there so that you may be guided. (16:15)

Life, and the world in which it is lived, is filled with ways and paths, with roads and passageways. These ways and paths are both literal and metaphorical, and we cannot avoid them. There are ways which take you from A to B, from 'not having' to 'having', or from having to not having. There are paths which lead you from loss to gain or from gain to loss; from little to much, or from few to many. Or from little to less and from few to even fewer. Just moving from one point to another brings about change, and change is always quantitatively or qualitatively better or worse than the point from where one starts. Stagnation and inactivity mean nothing for human beings: to move is to move forward or to move backwards, to fly higher or to descend lower. And movement is continuous.

Since our lives are predicated on constant movement, on endless motion and flux, we are constantly treading some path or other. I was thinking about this a lot when we were trekking in the Cumbrian hills, where it is all too easy to get lost and lose one's way. Wherever one is, one is on a path to somewhere and something. And since we cannot do anything by ourselves or for ourselves, our Creator is the one who places paths and ways before us so that we can choose. Those paths are there ultimately put there by Him in order to test us and, in response to our requests for guidance, to help us either advance along a path, or, if our desire is for the forbidden, to enable us to move further away from the truth.

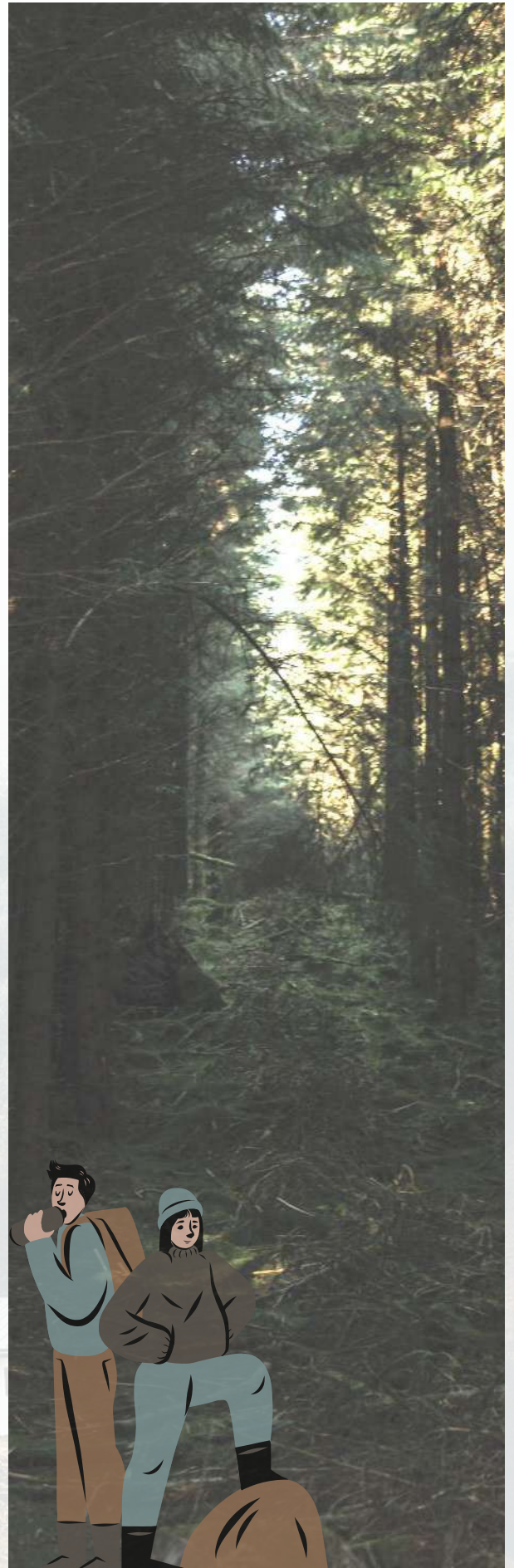


# Trekking in the hills

*Dr. Colin Turner*

The fact that God creates metaphorical paths and roads for us is shown by the reality of physical paths and ways in this world. In the wilds of Cumbria, there are countless paths which criss-cross the mountains and the valleys. These paths were carved out of the landscape in order to help people in their daily search for sustenance. There are paths which used to lead to mines or quarries, where people would dig for silver or copper; there were paths which linked villages together, allowing different communities to interact with each other; and there were paths that were meant only for sheep or goats – difficult paths which often led to dangerous cliffs and precipices. There are paths which sometimes took the walker into unknown territory; paths that were full of danger, and which sometimes ended in death.

The existence of physical roads and paths in the hills and valleys points to the existence of spiritual roads and paths. For, “as above, so below; as below, so above.” What is true of the visible world is also true of the unseen realm. That which pertains to the physical also pertains to the metaphysical. And so during these past two weeks, as we moved along the paths which wind through the mountains of Cumbria, we were reminded of the paths that we take through life, and of the fact that every step we take demands of us a decision: do we advance in the name of God or do we ‘progress’ in the name of the self and the whims of the evil-commanding soul? Do we tread His path or do we go ‘our own’ way, according to our own rules and criteria?

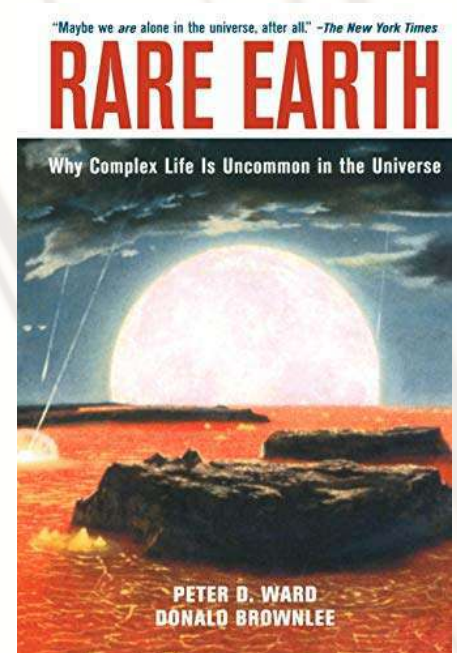


## Book Review:

### Peter D. Ward and Donald Brownlee's "Rare Earth" *by Nadine Kamal*

"Rare Earth" is a classic read, a book to begin with before exploring other publications on astrobiology. Astrobiology, the study of life in the universe, is a relatively new field and one that has experienced rapid acceleration in the last few decades- much like what occurred in the field of Genetics after the discovery of DNA in the mid 1900s.

The authors define the Rare Earth Hypothesis "the paradox that life may be nearly everywhere but complex life almost nowhere" as one that cannot be tested since it would require space travel to distant stars. Although, by their own admission, they cannot test their hypothesis, the authors go on to cite the following conditions for complex life to exist on Earth:



The Sun needs to produce a stable, consistent level of energy output.

The planet needs to sustain a sufficient level of oxygen for complex life to survive (it is estimated that it took 2 billion years to do this).

The planet needs to be of a specific size, chemical composition, and be positioned a certain distance from the Sun.

Earth needs to have a very low asteroid impact rate (otherwise life would be wiped out).

Earth needs to have a moon of considerable size compared to its own to stabilize its tilt.

Earth needs to have a plate tectonics feature- a key requirement for life. Plate tectonics are a global thermostat and are needed to produce the magnetic field and promote biodiversity on the planet (Earth the only planet in our solar system to have such a feature).

Our solar system's position and movement in the Milky Way galaxy need to be designed in a way to keep the solar system out of a region with a high comet influx rate.

The solar system needs to be positioned in a region where its movement is mainly within the plane of the galaxy (as opposed to its spiral arms).



## Book Review:

Peter D. Ward and Donald Brownlee's "Rare Earth"

*by Nadine Kamal*

The mass of the Milky Way galaxy our solar system lies within is just right- enough to have sufficient metal content to support the existence of complex life.

The planet needs to be shielded from exploding stars- supernovae. Our planet is protected from supernovae by the very fact that there aren't very many stars in our vicinity. An exploding star has the capacity to exterminate life within a one light-year radius (6 trillion miles).

The authors argue that because simple forms of life can exist in very hostile environments, such as in deep-sea rifts where temperatures can reach 200 degrees Fahrenheit, then simple life can probably exist elsewhere in the universe. They assert that the existence of extremophiles that are adapted to extremely high or extremely low temperatures, or highly acidic, basic, or saline environments, is strong evidence for this notion. The authors also state that "life can exist well above and below the temperature range (32 - 212°F) that allows for the existence of liquid water at a pressure of 1 atmosphere, the conditions found in what has been called the habitable zone." Thus, they assert, the original concept of what constitutes a zone habitable for life is now obsolete.

There are multiple points in the book where the reader can marvel at the intricacy of the creation of our planet, such as the provision of just the right amount of carbon to sustain life. If our earth happened to be carbon-rich for example, it would likely have a crust comprised of graphite and an interior made of diamond and silicon carbide. The presence of these compounds would not allow for volcanic eruptions or even weathering processes to occur.

The authors go to great lengths to describe the origin of life on the planet referring to a model that asserts that the "cradle of life was clay or pyrite crystals". They demonstrate why they believe that life may have originated on Earth or that our planet may have been "infected" with life "from elsewhere". They then attempt to use evolutionary history theories as a basis to model the formation of life forms on other planets.

## Book Review:

### Peter D. Ward and Donald Brownlee's "Rare Earth"

by Nadine Kamal

It was obvious that the authors were not free from the influence of Darwinian ideology when tracing the origin of life, but somehow they achieved their ultimate. However, the authors' premise that the existence of life as we know it was down to the mere involvement of "material, time, and chance events" left me puzzled. What surprised me was that although the authors' research is teeming with evidence against the earth and solar system existing by mere 'chance', the authors do not clearly acknowledge the presence of an All-Wise Creator. They argue that "if some god-like being could be given an opportunity to plan a sequence of events with the express goal of duplicating our "Garden of Eden", that power would face a formidable task"- outright undermining the power and intelligence of the First Cause. Then again, in their own words, the authors are "like 2-year-olds, just beginning to comprehend the immensity, wonder, and hazards of the wide world." Unlike 2-year-olds however, the lens through which they see the world might be a little blurry.

In summary, this book is filled with examples of why conditions on our planet need to be just right for complex life to exist. It makes you appreciate the incredible odds of existing as a human being at this point in space and time. In the words of Lewis Thomas,

*"Statistically, the probability of any one of us being here is so small that you'd think the mere fact of existing would keep us all in a contented dazzlement of surprise".*

The odds of life emerging purely out of chance and so-called natural forces is not small. It is literally impossible. Indeed, such a claim is an insult to the Creator of life just as it would be to the great engineers and scientists who worked on the International Space Station(ISS) if we claimed that "there is a small chance that we might get a structure like ISS purely out of random collusion of its raw materials." Any reasonable person would intuitively reject such a claim. Thus, our mere existence in a palace like Planet Earth is something that could never be possible without The Infinite Power to whom we should be eternally grateful.

# REFLECTION TIME

## *A Savage Person & Palace*

A wild savage entered a palace that had been built in an empty desert and completed and adorned with all the artifacts of civilization. He cast an eye over its interior and saw thousands of well-proportioned and artistically fashioned objects. Out of his incivility and lack of intelligence, he said: “No one from outside had a hand in this, one of the objects from inside must have made this palace together with all of its contents,” and he started to investigate. But it did not appear possible even to his uneducated intelligence that anything he had looked at could have made those things.

Later, he saw a catalog in which had been written the plan and program of the palace’s construction, an index of its contents, and the rules of its administration. For sure, the catalog too, which was without hand, eye, and tool, like the rest of the objects in the palace, was completely lacking the ability to construct and decorate the palace. But since he saw that in comparison with all the other things, the catalog was related to the whole palace because it contains the relevant information and plan, he was obliged to say: “There, it is this catalog that has organized, ordered, and adorned the palace, and has fashioned all these objects and set them in their places.” He transformed his crudeness into ludicrous delirium.



# REFLECTION TIME

## *A Savage Person & Palace*

Thus, exactly like this comparison, a barbarian who subscribed to Naturalist thought, which denies God, entered the palace of the universe, which is infinitely more well-ordered, more perfect, and everywhere full of miraculous instances of wisdom than the palace in the comparison. Not thinking that it was the work of art of the Necessarily Existent One, who is outside the sphere of contingency, and shunning that idea, he observed a collection of the laws of divine practice and an index of divine art, which are like a slate for writing and erasing of divine determining in the sphere of contingency, and like a constantly changing catalog for the laws of the functioning of divine power which are extremely mistakenly and erroneously given the name 'nature,' and he said:



These things in the palace require a cause and nothing else appears to have a relationship with everything that this catalog has. It is true that reason will in no way accept that this unseeing, unconscious and powerless catalog could carry out this creation, which is the work of an absolute lordship (rububiyyah) and requires infinite power. But since I do not recognize the Eternal Maker, the most plausible explanation is to say the catalog made it and makes it, so I shall say that."

To which we reply: You mistaken unfortunate! Your foolishness exceeds anything imaginable! Lift your head out of the swamp of nature and look beyond yourself! See an All-Glorious Maker to whom all beings from particles to planets testify with their different tongues and to whom they point with their fingers! Behold the manifestation of the Pre-Eternal Inscraper, who fashions the palace and who writes its program in the catalog! Study His decree, listen to the Qur'an! Be delivered from your delirious raving!

source: [23rd Flash, the Flashes by Said Nursi](#)

# Honeybees and their Golden Syrup

by *Saba Irshad Ansari*



The other day, while watering plants in my backyard, I spotted some honeybees humming around our Passionfruit flowers. This was the first bloom of the Passionfruit vine we planted recently. As I observed them for a while, I noticed they have already built a hive concealed in the depths of one of the trees nearby. The honeybees were the tiny ones, known as dwarf honey bees or *Apis florea*. The delicious honey they are designed to produce makes them more welcoming as opposed to their distant cousins from the same order (i.e., Hymenoptera), the Yellow Paper Wasps being more common in the Indian region. This was obviously not my first sight of a beehive – we live in the countryside where beehives are very common in forest areas. What sparked my curiosity about the honeybees this time was the fact that although we have had an Arabian Jasmine vine in the backyard for ages which blooms in abundance every summer, but we barely ever noticed honeybees around it. So, it seems, the honeybees found the Passionfruit flowers' nectar sweeter than the Arabian Jasmynes'. This shows that they pick and choose which area to build their hive in according to the availability of the sweetest flowers.

The honeybee is an insect from the family Apidae, and the genus *Apis*. There are seven known honeybee species worldwide. Out of the two sexes, the females are subdivided as the queen and the worker bees, whereas the males are known as drones. Every beehive is ruled by a queen bee who is responsible for laying eggs and keeping track of the population by controlling the fertilization of eggs. The worker bees do all the work which includes housekeeping, feeding the queen and larvae, and secreting wax for the construction of combs to give the hive its shape. When worker bees get older, they venture out of the hive to collect nectar and pollen. In the process of collecting nectar and pollen, they help transfer pollen from one plant to another, thereby contributing a lion's share to the ecosystem through pollination. These social insects live in a colony and are known to convey messages to their fellow bees through dance movements.

# Honeybees and their Golden Syrup

by *Saba Irshad Ansari*

Bees have a very complex system inside their bodies. They have a separate stomach to store nectar and several small spines on their legs for attaching the pollen grains. After collecting nectar by making several trips outside the hive, foraging worker bees go back to their hive and deliver the nectar to the indoor honey-making bees. The nectar is then transferred from one mouth of an indoor bee to another, chewed and mixed with enzymes until the moisture content of the nectar decreases. When the moisture level reaches about 20%, the nectar is transformed into honey. Interestingly, if the temperature of the hive is high enough (32.5°C), the process by which nectar is transferred from one bee to another is skipped altogether because the level of evaporation in the hive is sufficient to reduce the moisture content of the nectar on its own. It is at this stage that the final product is dropped into one of the cells of the honeycomb. It gets dried out even further with the action of the bees' flapping wings until it reaches the desired consistency, and turns into a viscous golden syrup-like liquid called honey. The cell is then closed with the beeswax to protect it from dust or rain. In a life span of 6 or 7 weeks, a honeybee is only able to produce a very small amount of honey, about half a teaspoon. It is estimated that 300 honeybees are required to make about 450 grams of honey in three weeks' time.

Honey is not only known for its nutritional value but also for its healing properties. It has been widely used for centuries for medicinal purposes. Lately, health awareness has led to an increased demand of honey making it costly. Honey was used by the ancient man as a sweetener before the invention of sugar. Sugar, being a late discovery, is known to have been produced for the first time in the northern parts of India around the first century AD. Initially, sugar was extremely expensive and was considered a luxury but with the technological advancements beginning in the early 16th century and the establishment of sugar mills, it became cheaper and gained popularity among the poor masses. It is only after achieving marvelous technological feats that man has been able to produce other derivatives of sugar such as jams, corn syrup, molasses, maple syrup, etc. Scientific research continues to explore more convenient and cheaper ways to produce sugar.

Having said that, it is clear that we require knowledge for producing sugar. Sugar mills are equipped with excellent machinery which has made its production easy, fast, and cheap to meet the demand at a larger scale. Does it not make us wonder how come honey is the work of uneducated bees? How do they produce something so perfect which, if stored in clean glass jars at a certain temperature cannot spoil for several years? From where did the bees learn the art of honey-making? Who could have possibly given an insect the ability to produce such a sweet golden syrup which is considered a superfood not just for humans but for some animals as well? Who has created these tiny intelligent and smart creatures? Who inspires them? And if the creatures are so amazing, how amazing can their Creator be? What are the signs hidden underneath the presence of honeybees?

# Honeybees and their Golden Syrup

by *Saba Irshad Ansari*

All of these questions are pointing to the Creator whose Attributes the honeybees manifest. The presence of honeybees should compel us to pause for a while and ponder on the amazing skills which their Creator has bestowed them with. The Almighty has created them for a purpose, and that purpose is much bigger than the production of honey. The purpose is to engage man to use his critical ability and question the existence of their Creator, the Creator of the world and the universe, and to recognize the might of the Almighty, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate, the Bestower, and the Best of Fashioners. He is the One who has inspired the bees with the knowledge and art of producing honey. The fact that honeybees are connected to the sun and the flowers points out to their interconnectedness with nature. This interconnectivity illustrates that the Maker of one thing is the Maker of everything. The fact that all honeybees behave in similar ways bears testimony to the Divine Unity and Oneness. Thus, apart from the exoteric meaning, the bees depict an esoteric meaning behind their existence within which are hidden the answers for those who think, ponder, and question.

Honeybees are a very sweet gift indeed. We have a lot of moral lessons to learn from them. They are the best example of a teamwork. They teach us the value of consistent hard work and perseverance. The queen bee displays leadership qualities and the worker bees follow her dutifully. Quite interestingly, worker bees choose a new queen if the old queen bee becomes weak or disappears for some reason because it is only under her supervision that all bees can perform their duties properly. The complex anatomy of a honeybee, the environmental role it plays, the astonishing process of honey making, and much more, manifest the signs of their Creator who is Merciful enough to bestow us with this amazing gift. These are all signs for those who wish to ponder and are eager to learn the Divine Truth. When we learn the esoteric meaning behind their existence, we realize the power of the Almighty and succumb our ego to Him. The acknowledgement of the All Powerful makes us humble and reminds us to stay grounded. It teaches us to be kind and compassionate towards our fellow creatures.



## News Corner:

### Existence and Meaning Certificate Program Summer 2021

With a slogan of “reading the universe like an elegant book”, the Existence and Meaning Certificate program completed its fourth round of classes. The program was offered for the first time in Summer 2020 through two courses. Then, it was reoffered in Fall 2020 as a set of three courses. In January 2021, an intensive version of the program was delivered to nearly 50 educators and researchers. The program was offered for the fourth time in Summer 2021. In total, nearly 150 people have participated in the lecture series so far. The application is currently open for Fall 2021 with an offering of three courses (two of which are being delivered for the very first time).

In the anonymous survey after the completion of the program, the participants of the Summer 2021 semester praised the program for its uniqueness and transformational aspect as follows:

“The 5d thinking will soon do revolutionary works and Nursi’s mana harfi approach is the best alternative to challenge atheistic elements of science. This approach must reach every corner of the world and it will be my ultimate pleasure if I could contribute something for this invincible project.”

“Very helpful and changed my worldview.”

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“My time at the lectures was all worth it. It literally introduced me to a new world and is life-changing to me and InshaaAllah I am will to dedicate the rest of my life to make others understand what is mana-i harfi and see the world through the lenses of Mana-i harfi.”

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“It helped me to think about the signs of Allah around me I learn a lot mostly from the lectures.

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“I must compliment the 5D Approach surely a lot to learn and blend in my intellect. Commendable job. But the need is to take these ideas further and elaborate extend discourse on them. So that it can penetrate the intellects of Muslim society and help shape our worldview.”

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“First time I attended such a wonderful program which was well organized by the 5D thinking. It ignited my thinking; I have several questions in my mind that this program provided the answers to those questions.”

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“I benefitted a lot as I was introduced to the Mani-i Harfi approach which is revolutionary. I think more courses on this pattern with improvements including other topics of rebuttal to atheistic secular minds.”

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“Makes you think and helps to open doors”



## News Corner:

### Existence and Meaning Certificate Program Summer 2021

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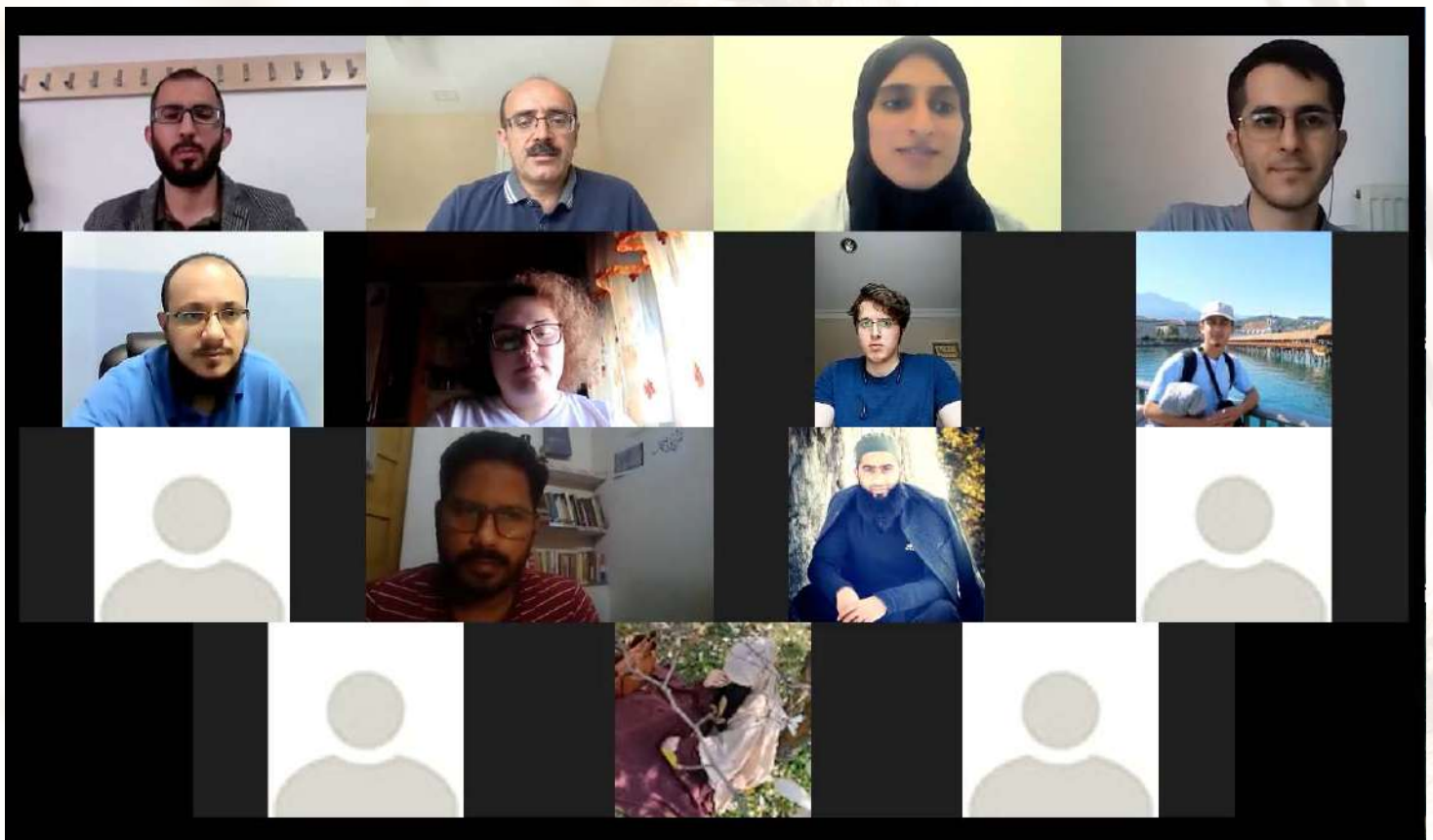
"The mana-i Harfi approach of Said Nursi was a new thing to me. I extremely benefited from the concept especially the stories and parables supporting the argument were remarkable."

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"Overall classes teacher's delivery, methodology, examples, brain exercises and asking for reflections which made the classes more interesting and fruitful. The invincible teaching and 5d thinking were so much inspiring."

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"It was most effective for me even, it changed my thought process about me, worldview and God. it cleared my questions and doubts. It was interesting to learn about myself and God. How he created this world and what motive God has to create this wonderful world."



## News Corner:

# A New Institute Established: Institute of Integrated Knowledge (IIK)

In order to explore existence and meaning in a holistic way, Nursi Society has recently decided to establish an institute that integrates scientific and revealed knowledge. The institute has been named the "Institute of Integrated Knowledge (IIK)". The institute is officially registered in Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

The vision of IIK is defined as follows: "To become a center of academic excellence as a research and educational institution for individuals from different cultural and professional backgrounds to contribute to human flourishing based on interdisciplinary exploration and a holistic understanding of existence."

IIK's mission is: "to conduct teaching, research, and outreach activities to explore the meanings and purpose of existence and the human self by offering rigorous interdisciplinary academic programs and training opportunities for self-development, service to humanity, and the preservation of life on the planet earth in the light of both the Islamic scholarly and scientific traditions and the contemporary arts and sciences."

IIK will first begin offering online and hybrid courses within its vision and mission. IIK plans to engage in various activities as outlined below:

- Develop online certificate programs based on an integrated knowledge approach
- Develop a master's degree program in science and civilization studies
- Publish educational materials based on an integrated knowledge approach
- Publish academic articles and books based on an integrated knowledge approach
- Publish a refereed academic journal
- Organize annual academic conferences
- Develop holistic educational curriculum for the K-12 education
- Provide teacher training services
- Provide consulting services to Islamic schools
- Develop and publish digital content for social media
- Develop online courses through MOOCs websites such as Udemy
- Engage with the general public through seminars, conferences, and discussions

IIK will be run by an independent board consisting of seven highly qualified scholars. The board has elected Prof. Alparslan Acikgenc as the founding president of the institute. The institute's activities will be shared with the public through a website ([www.iiknowledge.org](http://www.iiknowledge.org)) which is currently being designed.

Program Starts  
on October  
18th, 2021

USKUDAR UNIVERSITY & INSTITUTE  
OF INTEGRATED KNOWLEDGE

# FALL 2021 ONLINE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

**EXISTENCE & MEANING:  
A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH**

**Application Deadline : October 8th, 2021**

The program is based on a multi-dimensional thinking approach to scientific knowledge, inspired by Muslim Scholar Said Nursi's mana-i harfi (other indicative) method of the universe like an elegant book.

#### **Program Courses:**

The program will consist of three Graduate level courses:

- 1) **RNK-PHIL 541:** Comparative Perspectives in the History of Philosophy
- 2) **RNK-PHIL 545:** Integration of Knowledge Through 5D Thinking Approach
- 3) **RNK-PHIL 544:** Reading Said Nursi Reading The Creation

The courses will be taught live via Zoom in 14 weeks starting from October 18th.

#### **Who shall apply?**

Anyone who is interested in an integrated approach to science, self, philosophy, education, and spirituality.

#### **Free Knowledge**

We believe that knowledge shall be free to set your potential free. However, if you also want to get a certificate or university transcript, we will charge a small fee.

Organized by



Risale-i Nur  
Research Platform

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[www.5dthinking.org](http://www.5dthinking.org)



**Leading Instructors:**  
*Prof. Alparslan Açıkgenç*  
*Prof. Colin Turner*  
*Prof. Necati Aydın*

**Guest Instructors:**  
*Prof. Edward Moad*  
*Prof. Yunus Çengel*  
*Ms. Nadine Kamal*  
*Prof. İbrahim Özdemir*  
*Prof. Mustafa Tuna*  
*Prof. Abdulaziz Berghout*  
*Prof. Hamidullah Marazi*

Click on the image below to view the YouTube clip on the COVID-19 topic through the 5D Thinking approach.



## **5D Thinking Newsletter Team**

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