



Research Paper

Creation of the World: Analysis and Criticism of Stephen Hawking's Views Based on the Foundations of the Islamic World

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Abstract

Stephen William Hawking, British astronomer and physicist, published the book "The Grand Design" in 2010 and explained how the universe was created from nothing. In this regard, he believes that there is no need for a creator for the creation of the world and its continuation, and the laws of physics explain how the world of matter is created from nothing and self-made. Therefore, he rejects philosophy and considers the laws of nature and physics to be the only way to know the world. However, Muslim philosophers and theologians addressed the issue of the creation of the world hundreds of years ago and gave a comprehensive and complete answer to this issue by using the Quran and hadiths. Among these philosophers, Mulla Sadra has proved the existence of God and the way of creation of the world with rational reasoning and Quranic evidence. The essence of God is the main goal and the active cause of the creatures and the creator of the whole world. This research first expresses Hawking's arguments with a descriptive-analytical and comparative method, and with a critical view, compares them with the opinions of Islamic philosophers. This study also examines the systematicity of the universe and the role of God in the world of creation with rational and Quranic evidence.

Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

The creation of the world is a question that has always been the focus of many people

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throughout history and everyone has paid attention to this issue with his own view and opinion and tried to answer the question of the creation of the world. The publication of books such as *The Language of God* by Francis Collins, *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins, *God The Failed Hypothesis* by Victor Stanger, *The Story of God* by Robert Winston, and several other books caused public's interest and attention to this issue. Therefore, each of the thinkers tried to answer the challenges facing these issues according to their own thought system. Stephen Hawking is one of the biggest and most famous scientists in physics. In his book -"History of Time"- he discusses about the origin of the world and investigates the creator of the world. He began challenges about God and the Creator of the world in his other book called "Grand Design", saying that only the laws of physics can provide a true explanation of how the universe was made, but his opinion is in contradiction with Islamic cosmology and verses and traditions. Islamic philosophers and theologians, from the beginning of Islam until now, have always been inspired by the verses of the Qur'an to rationally explain this issue.

The questions raised in this research are: Which of these opinions are correct and best answer this question of creation? Are the laws of physics the cause of the creation of the world or did an almighty God create the world? What is the cause of these different opinions?

Stephen Hawking says that the laws of nature itself can be the cause of the creation of the world. He believes that the world is made of nothing, and if a god can be assumed for the world, it will only be the motive of nature. He considers natural and physical laws to be the reason for the creation of the world and by accepting the principle of uncertainty, he denies the law of causality, does not accept the cause-and-effect relationship between beings,

and believes that everything is made of matter.

Therefore, according to him, the Big Bang is the moment of the creation of the universe, and before that, there was no space and time. He imagines an imaginary time and considers the events before the Big Bang to be related to that time he presents hypothesis M and says there may be countless universes like ours and parallel to ours. Finally, he predicts the end of the world and says that when the gravitational force between the planets disappears, they will fall on each other and the world will come to an end. However, this kind of creation of the world is incorrect in Islam. This issue has been raised in the form of *Creatio ex nihilo* and the existence of God is considered completely self-evident and without the need for proof. However, there have always been people throughout history who denied the existence of God and did not consider a being necessary for the origin and creation of the world.

2. Research Method

The research method in this study follows a descriptive-analytical and critical approach, and the data was collected through the library method.

3. Research Findings

This research discussed in detail the foundations of the Islamic world about the creation of the world and rejected Hawking's opinions. By using rational and Quranic proofs, the current study investigated the orderliness of the world and the role of God in the world of creation.

4. Conclusion

After studying Hawking's opinions regarding the creation of the world, the existence of God, and the end of the world, and by presenting Quranic reasons and studying the opinions of Islamic theologians and philosophers, the following results were obtained:



God is the cause of the world and the creation of the world means *Creatio ex nihilo*, not creation from nothing, and these two bases are very different. None of Hawking's views means quantum fluctuations in a cosmic vacuum, which is full of particles and includes quantum fluctuations. Therefore, creation from nothing has no meaning because there are always particles that make quantum fluctuations. But the creation of things from nothing means that before the creation of the world, there was nothingness. God willed and created the world with his absolute power and placed it on the path of achieving perfection so that everyone can achieve that ultimate perfection according to their capacity until God orders the dismantling of this world and worldly life to come to an end.

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Authors' contribution

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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