

DR. TAWFIK HAMID

ISLAMIC THINKER AND REFORMER, AUTHOR OF INSIDE JIHAD BOOK, AND FOUNDER OF MODERN COMMENTARY OF THE QURAN

Dr. Tawfik Hamid is an Islamic thinker and reformer, and one-time Islamic extremist from Egypt. He was a member of a radical Islamic organization Jamaa Islameia JI (of Egypt) with Dr. Ayman al-Zawaheri who later became the second in command of Al-Qaeda. After being radicalized in the JI (approximately thirty-five years ago), he had an awakening of his human conscience, recognized the threat of Radical Islam, and started to teach modern peaceful interpretations of classical Islamic core texts.

Dr. Hamid is the author of *Inside Jihad: How Radical Islam Works; Why It Should Terrify Us; How to Defeat It.* The book *Inside Jihad* has been recommended by many experts in the field of countering radicalism including two former CIA Directors, senators, members of Congress, security experts, and many others.

Dr. Hamid has appeared on shows spanning the spectrum from CNN to Fox News and C-SPAN, and his articles and op-ed pieces have appeared in publications such as *The Wall Street Journa*l, *The New York Daily News, VOA, France 24, RT* (Russia Today), and the *Jerusalem Post*. Dr. Hamid's comments have also appeared in The *Washington Post, Foreign Policy magazine, USA Today, The Huffington Post, the National Journal*, and *Wired* magazine. Dr. Hamid has also appeared hundreds of times on *Al Jazeera* TV Channel (Arabic) and other major Arabic news and media.

Dr. Hamid has been a guest speaker at many reputable private and governmental forums – both within the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Hamid has spoken and testified before: the US Congress (House Armed Service Committee); the Future Summit at the invitation of President Shimon Peres; numerous Department of Defense (DoD) offices at the Pentagon; the Special Operations Command; the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI); the National Security Agency (NSA); the European Parliament; the New York Academy of Science, and many others.

Dr. Hamid obtained his medical degree in Internal Medicine from Cairo University and a master's degree in Cognitive Psychology and Educational Techniques from The University of Auckland School of Medicine and Health Science, New Zealand. Dr. Hamid is recognized for developing one of the most innovative Cognitive Psychology models, the Multidimensional Learning Model.

Dr. Hamid's recent Facebook page (in Arabic), Media, provides a peace-promoting commentary and understanding for the Quran. The page has garnered over two million "followers" from an Arabic speaking audience. Furthermore, major Arabic newspapers have published major articles about Dr. Hamid, in the field of countering radicalism and violent extremism.

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Decoding the Divine

DR. TAWFIK HAMID

I still remember the very first moment I realized the existence of God—the moment I grasped the precision, grandeur, and magnificent ingenuity of this awe-inspiring Creator in fashioning the strands of DNA.

I remember pondering how—through a specific, coded sequence—God creates the wings of butterflies, the plumage of peacocks, the shells of sea creatures, and countless other living things.

I wondered how the genetic code—the arrangement of four chemical bases along DNA strands—could determine that I am a human being.

I recall sitting with an egg, contemplating how, within a short span of time, the white and the yolk transform into bones, a heart, kidneys, a liver, eyes, and a nervous system. How does the content of that egg turn into a chick, duck, parrot, snake, crocodile, turtle, or any other creature?

My mind would turn to the beautiful wings of butterflies, and marvel at how a caterpillar hardens its exoskeleton into a chrysalis, only to be transformed within it into something as exquisite and vibrant as a butterfly.

This reached a climax when I studied biochemistry in medical school and delved into the depths of existence. At that time, my true intellectual challenge was how to engage with friends who denied God's existence. I arrived at three points that convinced me that logical reasoning inevitably leads to this magnificent universe.

The first point is that I refused to employ double standards. If I acknowledge the existence of a maker for my iPhone, then—by the dictates of truth, fairness, and logic—I must also acknowledge the existence of a Maker for this universe. If I am to be honest, I must apply the same yardstick consistently. Is it fair to apply the principle that complex objects require a maker to everything except the universe itself? Intellectual integrity demands that I apply the same principle in all cases.

The second point is the creation of the human soul. I might be able to conceive of a small piece of material transforming or evolving into a chair, but it's impossible for me to imagine how a soul could be created within that chair that enables it to love, to hate, to perceive its surroundings, and even to interact with them!

The third point concerns the atomic nucleus. Basic physical logic suggests it should be impossible for an atomic nucleus to be filled with protons; since they are positively charged, they ought to repel one another rather than cluster together within a nucleus—unless a Creator intervened, decreeing that these positively charged protons should congregate within atomic nuclei, defying the forces and rules of electrical repulsion. One might argue that there are attractive forces—generated when protons are in extremely close proximity, as they're within a nucleus—that prevent them from repelling each other. True, that is correct! But the question then becomes: who set them in motion—contrary to the standard laws of physics—to bring them close enough together for these attractive forces to emerge?