

MAN – THE CONSCIOUS, FREE-WILLED, INTELLIGENT ROBOT (*ABD*) OF ALLAH

Allah created man to serve Him. Man is addressed by Allah as “*abd*” meaning robot (servant).

“I created *jinn* and man only to serve Me.” (Q. 51:56)

The Arabic word *abd* is synonymous with the English word *robot* (servant). The origin of this word may be traced to the Czech play ‘Rossum’s Universal Roboters’ of the 1920s in which human workers were portrayed as ‘robots’ (‘*robota*’ in Czechoslovakian means servitude). A robot is a programmed machine designed to perform desired physical tasks. It is essentially a computer with three additional features namely, sensors (which receives data from the environment), microprocessors (which transform data into information) and actuators (or muscles, which control the energy requirement). “Robot” is the very same name Allah gave to human beings also.

Man alone is bestowed with mind (*qalb*), which is a processor having free-will (freedom to take decision and act) and which imparts consciousness to the body. In the entire universe, therefore, man alone has awareness of the world around him and can act as he likes and no other creature can. The rest of the universe is made of totally programmed and unconscious systems.

By providing the *qalb*, Allah wants us to accept Him willingly as the only God and submit to Him. So every human being is under test in this life. Those who believe in Him and submit to Him in this life will be selected as His obedient robots to be deployed in Heaven – the earth of the next universe (to be created).