

## Chapter 3

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### DEVELOPMENT OF OBJECTIVE CRITERIA TO EVALUATE THE AUTHENTICITY OF REVELATION

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My proposition in a nutshell is the following:  
It is important for mankind to answer the “Big Questions”.  
Human intellect and science cannot answer these by bottoms up thinking, because most of these lie outside the reach of the intellect and the methods and reach of science.

To answer these questions, one needs outside help, from the designer and builder of the system itself i.e. top down knowledge direct from the Creator. Question arises; how do we know there is such a Designer/Creator? Answer is, of course we do not and cannot know, except if the Designer/Creator has thought it fit to answer that for us.

So our search boils down to see if such an answer exists. If so, where and how can we find the answer and determine its authenticity. This calls for a SETI-like search based on reason and evidence.

Revelation has claimed to be from just such a Designer/Creator. But there are umpteen claimants of revelation. Which of these, if any, is genuine and authentic?

Science has given us rational tests for practically everything from gold, diamonds, gravity to neutrinos. Why can we not devise tests for evaluating the authenticity of claimed revelations?

Just such an effort has been made by this author for a start, which has been published in the September 2008 issue of the journal *Zygon* which is reproduced here for the reader’s convenience.

You are invited, even urged, to study the proposed criteria and suggest ways of improving it. This cannot be a one person show, a

cooperative effort from keener minds of all faiths, or for that matter, no faith is needed to establish objective tests and yardsticks to answer this most basic of questions, which alone can allow us to answer whether or not there is a Creator and where can we find that guidance to answer our "Big Questions".















